

**Zuma Canyon**

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**Trail Head:** Turn North off of PCH on Bonsall Dr. approximately 0.9 miles West of Kanan-Dume Road. Continue North on Bonsall for about a mile until it ends in a dirt parking lot. There are no rest rooms at the trailhead. (Note to drivers: coming out, Bonsall has no Eastward access onto PCH; you must take the small connector road, Rainsford Place, and come out via the stop light on Busch Dr.)

**The Hike:** The basic hike is a combination of essentially all of the well marked trails in the lower part of Zuma Canyon (a map will be supplied). The hike is estimated to be 6.2 miles with 500 feet of elevation gain, and comes complete with an option to satiate the tigers.

A short access trail leads to the Ocean View Trail which climbs to the East ridge above Zuma Canyon. It's a moderate grade and represents the majority of the basic hike's elevation gain. After first attaining the lower portion of the ridge a sign is encountered, and we have our first good panoramic view of Point Dume, which is due South. A couple of hundred yards brings us to a second sign at the junction of the Canyon View Trail and the Kanan-Edison (fire) Road. Tigers should continue up (and back) the overgrown fire road for a distance and time to their liking. For the record the Zuma Canyon connector trail is 1.3 miles past the junction.

A couple of hundred yards past the junction on the Canyon View Trail gets us to a small ridge and the hike's apex. It's a good place for cookies. Continuing on the trail returns us to the canyon floor and a right turn, and the Scenic Trail, gets us deeper into the canyon. The northward traveling Zuma Canyon Trail disappears about .7 miles past the last junction and modest boulder hopping of a couple of hundred yards gets us to a small dam. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, there was a small outlet waterfall.

Return down the canyon and turn right onto the Zuma Loop Trail. The optional higher ground mini-loop is recommended. Continuing down the trail we pass the cutoff to the Busch Dr. trail head, and are shortly back to our trailhead.

Party facilities are modest, and I expect we will all be pleased to stand in the shade of the trees, just South of the parking lot.