

Temescal Canyon to Skull Rock and beyond
Santa Monica Mountains
November 7, 2007

Hike leader: Rich Frederick
Start time: 9:30 am
Distance: 4.4 (loop) or 5.4(to skull rock) or 7 miles
Elevation: about 1100'
Terrain: Oak- and Sycamore-shaded canyon, chaparral,
rocky, steep trail in parts
View: excellent view of the coast and city on a clear day

Direction to trail head:

From Los Angeles head west on the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) to its end and continue north on Pacific Coast Highway. Turn north (right) on Temescal Canyon Road and drive 1.1 miles, cross Sunset Blvd. and into the parking area for Temescal Gateway Park.

From 405 Fwy, go west on Sunset Blvd. to Pacific Palisades and turn right into Temescal Gateway Park. There is a parking fee. Street parking along Temescal Canyon Road is a possibility if you don't mind walking a few hundred yards up and across Sunset Blvd.

The hike:

Walk up the canyon on the landscaped path past the restrooms. The footpath soon crosses a branch of Temescal Creek. Continue through the canyon. The path ascends moderately to another footbridge and a close-up view of a small waterfall. The path steepens and climbs westward up Temescal Ridge to a signed junction with Temescal Ridge Trail. Continue uphill a half-mile to Skull Rock. The rock is a great place for our cookie break, to rest, admire the view and cool off.

Some might want to turn around here, the others can continue for a mile or two, have lunch at the radio towers and then return via the Ridge Trail to the parking lot.

Hope to see many of you!