

Topanga State Park - Trippet Ranch to Cathedral Rock
February 13, 2008

Lois Piper hike leader

Hike start time: 9:30 AM

Distance: 7 miles roundtrip

Elevation: 900 feet gain and loss

Terrain: Combination fireroad and trail

Directions: From Topanga Canyon Blvd, just north of the town of Topanga, turn east on Entrada Road. Once on Entrada Road turn left at every street intersection, 1.1 miles to the entrance of Topanga State Park. There is a fee for parking. Restrooms at the parking lot.

The Hike: Take the trail up the hill from the parking lot. This intersects with a fireroad. Turn left at this intersection and walk up a gentle grade, initially in the shade of Coast Live Oak trees - later along an open ridge. Continue on the road for about 1 mile to a fork, Eagle Junction; take the left fork of the fireroad and continue uphill, noting the view of Eagle Rock ahead. Make a short side trip on the back side to climb up Eagle Rock. Continue east on the road, passing Penny Road entering from the left, until reaching and intersection with three roads, called "The Hub." First is Fireroad 30 on the left, then Temescal Fireroad, then Eagle Spring Fireroad which we will take later. Go south on Temescal Fireroad about 1/2 mile to the intersection with Rogers Road on the left. Continue a short distance south of this intersection, leave the road and climb Temescal Peak, the highest point in the Park, 2126 feet. Return to "The Hub" the same way you came. Turn left and go to Eagle Spring which is a year round spring. Then continue west on the road until coming to Eagle Junction. Cross the road to the west side where you will find the Musch Ranch Trail. Continue south on the trail heading down through the chaparral. The chaparral quickly gives way to quiet oak glens, moss covered rocks and a stream that flows after each rain. Cross a little meadow, pass the pond, and you have arrived at the parking lot where the after hike party will be held.

Easier hike: Distance: 4 1/2 miles roundtrip, elevation gain 700 feet. Take the fireroad to Eagle Junction and on to Eagle Rock. From there return to Eagle Junction and take the Musch Trail. At Musch Ranch is a picnic area with tables and a restroom. From there it is 1 mile to the parking lot where the after hike party will be held.