

Gabrielino Trail - Chantry Flat to Spruce Grove Camp

Leader: Joan Schugel

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Directions: From the Foothill Freeway (I-210) in Arcadia, exit on Santa Anita Canyon and proceed 6 miles north to Chantry Flat. Park in the large lot. The signed trailhead is located across the road from the lot.

The Hike: Descend on the paved fire road, part of the Gabrielino Trail, into Big Santa Anita Canyon. At the bottom of the canyon you'll cross a footbridge near the confluence of Big Santa Anita and Winter Creeks. Here a small sign commemorates Roberts Camp, a resort camp founded in 1912. Owner Otto Roberts, another canyon booster really "sold" the charms of the canyon to those in need of a quiet weekend. As you follow the path up canyon along the oak and alder-shaded creek, you'll soon determine that the canyon "sells" itself.

The trail passes some private cabins and reaches a three way trail junction.

Option to Sturtevant Falls-

Continue straight ahead. You'll cross Big Santa Anita Creek, then re-cross where the creek veers leftward. Pick your way along the boulder-strewn creek bank a final hundred yards to the falls. The falls drop in a silver stream fifty feet to a natural rock bowl. Return the same way you came. (3.5 miles RT; 500' gain)

Option to Spruce Grove Camp: Two signed trails lead toward Spruce Grove. The leftward one zigzags high up the canyon wall while the other passes above the falls. The left trail is easier hiking while the right trail heads through the heart of the canyon and is prettier. Either trail is good walking and they rejoin in a mile.

After the trails rejoin, you'll continue along the spruce-shaded path to Cascade Picnic Area. You can call it a day here or ascend another mile to Spruce Grove Trail Camp. Both locales have plenty of tables and shade. Return the way you came. (8 miles RT; 1400' gain)