

The Canals of Venice
February 3, 2010

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Approximate length: About 6 miles - Wear street shoes.

Elevation Change: <100 feet Cum

Trail Head: 28th St. and Dell, Venice, CA.

Come west on Washington Blvd almost to the end (at Venice Pier), turn right on Dell and park.

Parking: Street parking is recommended. There is paid parking at the Venice pier lot. Parking in shopping centers is not recommended because of the possibility of being towed.

Venice California originally was to be a copy of Venice, Italy, canals and all. The original 16 miles of canals were dug in 1904 under the direction of Abbot Kinney. Man and mule worked around the clock to dig the canals in time for the grand opening of Venice on July 4, 1905. By the twenties, the automobile had made its mark and was here to stay. The canals were not practical for the horseless carriage. In 1929 the majority of the canals (those north of Venice Blvd.) were filled in and converted to roads.

In the sixties the remaining canals were home to beatniks and artists which soon gave way to the hippies. Rock bands and pot parties were the norm. Jim Morrison of The Doors called the canals home during the sixties. As real estate prices sky-rocketed in the late seventies, the houses along the canals were remodeled and homes were built on the numerous vacant lots. Soon the affluent home owners replaced the artists and Bohemians.

In 1994 after nearly thirty years of talks, Los Angeles refurbished the six remaining canals for \$6,000,000. Some of the most beautiful homes on Los Angeles' West Side line the canals maintaining a unique community atmosphere. The canals today provide a sense of serenity that Venetians and tourists alike greatly appreciate.

Refreshments at the trailhead.