

August 3, 2011 - Chilao to Mount Hillyer - Patricia Forbess

Distance: 6.8 miles

Elev. Change: 1250'

Trailhead Directions:

Drive north on Hwy 2 (Angeles Crest Highway) from the 210 Freeway to mileage paddle 50.60. Turn left into Chilao Campground road. At 0.25 miles turn left down the road with the sign "Chilao Picnic area – Angeles National Forest" it is just past the road to the Visitor Center. Drive another 0.25 miles and park next to several picnic tables on the left. There are rest rooms at the Visitors Center and at our picnic table trailhead.

The Hike:

At 9:30 we start hiking up on a short trail, which connects to the Silver Moccasin Trail. After 0.5 miles we cross the road and continue north on the Silver Moccasin Trail using switchbacks to gain a slope covered with pines and chaparral. At 1.1 miles from the road and the edge of Horse Flats Campground we turn left and follow a path to the Mt. Hillyer trailhead and a sign indicating 2 miles to the summit. Proceed up the trail past clusters of manzanita, scrub oak and Jeffrey Pine to a complex of very large boulders. Some like to stop here for cookies. From here we proceed to the rounded summit area.

(The rabbits generally turn left here and go about 0.3 miles to a fire break and better view.)

After the summit, the trail continues north until we reach the Santa Clara Divide Road where we will have lunch. After lunch we proceed down the road .5 miles to the Horse Flats turnoff. At this point we follow the road 0.7 miles to Horse Flats where we left the Silver Moccasin Trail.

(Or **the rabbits** can continue another 0.4 miles to the spur leading to Bandido Campground where we connect to the Silver Moccasin Trail, and after another 0.6 miles we get to the Horse Flats trail junction.)

In either case we retrace our route 1.6 miles down to the party at the picnic tables.