

Crystal Cove State Park - El Moro Canyon Hike (Newport Beach area of O.C.)**May 1, 2013****Leader: Bob Singer Distance: Approx. 8 mi. Elev. Gain: Approx. 1000 ft.****Directions:** Valley: south on 101, I-5 south, 55 south, 73 south, Macarthur south. See below.

South Bay: south on 405 to 73, south on 73 to Macarthur Blvd. south to PCH. Left on PCH about 4.1 miles. Look for a brown sign saying El Moro Canyon on the right. Turn sharp left at the light to El Moro School/Crystal Cove Visitor Center turn off. Turn right at the stop sign into the Visitor Center parking lot.

Parking and Restrooms: There's a good size parking lot by the Ranger Station/Center. Parking fees are now \$15/vehicle. This is a State Park fee, so an annual State Park pass would allow avoiding the fee.

Restroom facilities are available at the Ranger Station. Only one small portable toilet unit was visible along my scouting hike (at Deer Creek Campground), so don't count on facilities along the main hiking paths.

Base Line Hike: From the Visitor Center/Ranger Station entry door, turn right and up to a closed yellow metal gate on the right side. This is the trailhead. I will try to obtain and hand out an El Moro Canyon Backcountry map. We follow the "No Name Ridge" Trail (which includes, in order, "No Dogs Road", left on "Poles Road", right (east) on "No Name Ridge Road", continue on "Ticketron", and continue left on "Deer Canyon Trail"). Along the way, you'll pass the "West Cut Across" trail (at 1.3 miles from the trailhead) which some of you could use to descend steeply to the Moro Canyon trail for a shorter hike. Along the Deer Canyon Trail we pass, and could stop at, the Deer Canyon Campground, which is 3.0 miles from the trailhead, and which has two picnic tables and a single port-a-potty. Continue on Deer Canyon Trail for 0.5 miles until you see the gate to a paved road (the San Joaquin Toll Road) just outside the park boundary. Just prior to this gate, turn right onto the "Fence Line" Trail. Hike for about 0.5 miles until you turn right at "Slow N' Easy" Road. (Note that OTP jackrabbits could choose to continue on Fence Line until Missing Link Trail and then Moro Ridge Trail which ultimately ends at El Moro Canyon Trail, where the main hike is at.) On "Slow N" Easy" Trail, hike about 1.0 - 1.2 miles until El Moro Canyon Trail. **Do not** (before this point) turn right at an unmarked intersection with a good trail. There's a "You are here" sign at the intersection with the El Moro Canyon Trail, and make a sharp right turn onto this trail. This trail pleasantly passes along the canyon and has nice segments of vegetation, oak and sycamore trees, birds, and even a limestone or sandstone mini-cave. The hike along El Moro Canyon Trail, until return to the Ranger Station is about 2.6 - 2.9 miles, including about 1.2 -1.5 miles to the Poles Road junction and 1.4 miles return to the Ranger Station past some closed trailer parks and the school area.

Refreshments: Will be at a group of picnic tables above the restroom facility to the right of the Ranger Station.

YOU ARE HERE

YOUR LOCATION IS INDICATED BY
THIS MATCHING RIVET ON THE MAP



Please protect your park.
Enjoy only these
designated trails.

