

Fall Creek Trail OTP Hike

April 19, 2000, 9:30 AM

Ron Forbes' Hike

Distance 8 miles (optional 6 miles)

Total Elevation Loss/Gain 2050'/2050'

Trailhead Directions

From the Foothill Freeway (210) drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to Clear Creek Junction, then left on the Angeles Forest Highway past the junction of Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Just after passing through the tunnel park on the left side at **Hidden Springs Picnic Area** which is at mileage paddle 17.96. The Valley gang could come up Big Tujunga Canyon Road from Sunland to the Angeles Forest Highway. If some of you want to shorten the hike (the same elevation gain though) we can leave a car or two at the Fall Creek fire road at mileage paddle 9.18 on Big Tujunga Canyon Road three quarters of a mile before the junction of the Angeles Forest Highway.

Features

Threading the steep, north wall of Big Tujunga Canyon above Big Tujunga Reservoir, the Fall Creek Trail offers unique vistas of Big Tujunga's Narrows and the looming "skyline" beyond -- Josephine and Strawberry peaks.

The Hike

We start the hike at Hidden Springs Picnic Area. After walking along the road for 300 yards north we get to the start of the trail. It goes up along a small canyon (North Fork Mill Creek) a short distance and then veers left along a brushy hillside. After gaining some elevation, the trail levels, contours for another mile, and then begins dropping steadily into Big Tujunga Canyon. We're almost never out of sight or sound of the curling ribbons of asphalt and traffic below, but at least the trail smells of wilderness and wild chaparral. The sun-warmed slopes reek of pungent yerba santa and sage. While you're descending, enjoy the view up the V-shaped gash of Big Tujunga's Narrows to the east.

At 3.8 miles, the trail ends at a junction of dirt roads. The left branch leads 200 yards east to Fall Creek Trail Camp where we will have lunch.

After lunch we will retrace our route back to Hidden Springs Picnic Area. If we have left transportation at the trailhead at Big Tujunga Canyon Road, some may want to shorten the hike back, (which has about 300 feet less elevation gain) by fording the creek and continuing west on the fire road that crookedly ascends Big Tujunga Canyon's steep south wall. On the way up, look across the canyon to see water shooting (or dribbling) down a moss-covered ledge in Fall Creek. After 2 miles the fire road ends, hopefully where we left cars.

