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Temescal Peak Loop Hike

January 23, 2002. Norm Maclean

This hike, scheduled for January 23, 2002, starts from the Trippet Ranch Visitor Center of the Topanga Canyon State Park. You get there by driving North on Topanga Canyon Blvd. from Pacific Coast Highway to the town of Topanga. Valley residents can drive South on Topanga Canyon Blvd. from highway 101. Turn East on Entrada Rd. and follow the signs to Topanga State Park. They only collect entrance fees on weekends when I checked Dec. 27th.

From the parking lot, take the fire road East and up the hill. At 0.3 miles you see the Santa Ynez trail (don't take it). Continue on the road about 1.0 more mile to Eagle Junction, where the road splits and the trail to Musch Camp takes off. Take the right hand road (Backbone Trail), and continue past Eagle Spring to Hub Junction, about 1.3 more miles, where you meet the Temescal Ridge Fire Road. Continue South on this road about 0.5 miles where you see the Backbone Trail to Will Rogers State Park (don't take it). Continue about 0.1 more miles to the trail to Temescal Peak summit, about 0.1 mile more and 150 feet higher. We eat lunch at Temescal Peak.

Return to Hub Junction (0.7 miles). Take the alternate trail back to Eagle Junction that goes near Eagle Rock (1.3 miles). At Eagle Junction, take the trail to Musch Camp (1.1 miles). This is shady most of the way. At Musch Camp, cross the paved road, and continue on the trail, being alert for the left hand branch that returns to the Triplet Ranch Visitor Center (1.0 mile).

Total milage is 3.3 miles to the peak and 4.1 miles returning, with an elevation gain of about 926 feet. Those who want shorter hikes can turn around at either Eagle Junction or at Hub Junction.

For those of you who like to plot, here is the data.

Location	Elev	Miles
Trippet Ranch Parking Lot	1200	0.0
Santa Ynez Trail (don't take it)	1400	0.3
Eagle Junction	1660	1.3
Hub Junction	1980	2.6
Rogers Road (don't take it)	2000	3.1
Temescal Peak	2126	3.3
Hub Junction	1980	4.0
Eagle Junction	1660	5.3
Musch Camp	1310	6.4
Trippet Ranch Parking Lot	1200	7.4