

**HIKE 66**

ROGERS RIDGE  
from Will Rogers State  
Historic Park

Maps: Topanga, topo  
Will Rogers State Park  
Distance: 5½ miles  
Elevation: 1300' gain and loss  
Terrain: Trail, very steep with poor  
footing at times  
Time: 2½ hours  
Trailhead: Will Rogers S.H.P.

This hike combines exercise with a bit of nostalgia. Will Rogers bought the ranch in 1922 and it became a state park in 1944. The house and grounds are preserved as they were. Although Will was astride a horse when he travelled these trails I believe no one had a closer feel for this land.

Reach the trailhead by driving north on Will Rogers State Park Road from Sunset Blvd 4.6 miles from the Pacific Coast Hwy in Pacific Palisades. A fee is charged for parking. If you come by RTD bus, get off at the Evans Rd stop on Sunset Blvd. A trail leads into the Park.

Hike north along the trail near the tennis courts west of Park Headquarters. The trail goes uphill onto the ridge overlooking Rivas Canyon and passes close to Inspiration Point, then forks left beginning a steady uphill climb.

The trail is steep in places, and rocky. Shade is rare so wind and sun play an important part in your comfort. The ridge you are on separates Rustic Canyon on the east from Rivas Canyon on the west; as you go higher, the canyon views and the ocean scene are spectacular. The trail levels out comfortably on top with some slight up and down as you go from one little peak to another. A trail breaks right and goes to the floor of Rustic Canyon. Farther on, as you start up a slight rise, a trail angles off to the left into Rivas Canyon. Take this trail and follow along the east slope of the canyon. Staying on this road takes you to the head of Rivas Canyon and the saddle overlooking Rustic Canyon. This is the turnaround point of the hike. A 4-trunked Oak tree provides a

sheltered spot to rest and relax. Rogers Road leaves this point going north toward Trippet Ranch and deeper into Topanga State Park.

Return to Will Rogers State Park by picking up the ridge trail east of the point where you came up the road. There will be a few short uphill stretches, but it is mostly downhill to the parking lot.

