

703

Mar 31 -- Echo Mountain -- Richard Braun

Echo Mountain

Distance: about 6 miles

Elev. Gain: 1400'

Alternate:

Inspiration Point

Distance: 10 miles

Elev. Gain: 2800 feet

This is a repeat of Jack Robinson's hike # 590 of 18 Nov 2001. The trailhead is easy to find, exit the 210 freeway at Lake Avenue in Pasadena and drive north to the end of the road and park by the road. There is a shortcut for those coming from the west on the 210 (which is most everybody): exit at Arroyo in La Canada, turn left (north) to Woodbury, turn right (east) to Fair Oaks, turn left (north) to Loma Alta, turn right (east) to the end of the road which is the junction with Lake Ave. Park anywhere on either street. We'll have our refreshments right there.

The hike will begin at 9:30 for the hikers going either to Echo Mountain or Inspiration Point. As usual the hikers will probably gradually separate along the trail. I generally like to have cookies about one hour into the hike so the cookies will be split as needed. At the trail junction near Echo Mountain, any hiker may break off and go to Echo Mountain if they do not want to go higher - this includes your leader! The balance will proceed to Inspiration Point on the upper Sam Merrill Trail. Lunch for this group will be at Inspiration Point. They will return on the Castle Canyon Trail to Echo Mountain.

I recommend that those remaining at Echo Mountain have a leisurely lunch then spend an hour or so exploring the ruins. For example if you proceed about a hundred feet beyond the hotel steps to the east you will come to the site of the chalet and an informational monument.

You might also visit the sites of the observatory and reservoir. It's much more pleasant at Echo Mtn than at the cars. The Inspiration point hikers come back to Echo Mountain on a trail that can be viewed from Echo Mountain for quite a while. You could wait until they come into view and still have a good head start back to the cars.