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San Pedro Highlights

Whites Point-Point Fermin Lighthouse-Cabrillo Aquarium-Friendship Bell

May 26, 2004, 9:30 AM

George Thomas' Hike (310) 831-6405

Trailhead Directions

Meet at the Royal Palms-White Point Park at the South end of Western Avenue. Proceed to the end of the 110 Freeway in San Pedro. Move to the far right side of the freeway as you exit. This will allow you to turn left on Gaffey Avenue and be prepared to turn right at First Street after only a few 100 yards. Turn left on Western Avenue and continue to the end of Western Avenue. Turn left and enter the Royal Palms Park on the right. There is no parking fee at the park on weekdays.

The Hike

White's Point Tide Pools

The hike starts by following the road down to the beach. Proceed south along the beach to the Tide Pools. This is a low tide so there should be good tide pools. What creatures did you find in the tide pools? Continue south along the beach for approximately a half-mile. At this point the beach going gets rough. A steep trail on the left will return you to Pasedo Del Mar Road.

Point Ferman Lighthouse

Continue South on Pasedo Del Mar Road for about 1.5 miles to Point Fermin Park. As you approach the park, stay to the right to precede along the coast. The lighthouse is normally open for tours only on Sunday afternoon between 1PM and 3PM. I have been working with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janis Hahn to see if we could have a special tour starting between 10:30 and 11:00. The tour entrance is on the side of the lighthouse facing the road. I'll have more details on the possible tour as soon as more information is available. We will have cookies overlooking the Pacific Ocean at the lighthouse.

Point Fermin Life Refuge & Cabrillo Aquarium

Leave Point Fermin Park to the north and turn right on Shepard Street. At the end of Shepard Street jog to the right then turn left in to Bluff Place. Turn right on the path to the beach several hundred feet before Cabrillo Beach toll entrance. Go north along the beach to enter the Point Fermin Life Refuge and Tide Pools. The tide will still be low and these are outstanding tide pools. (If we stay until midnight we may be able to catch the famous Cabrillo Grunion. Just kidding!!) After visiting the Tide Pools, return along toward Cabrillo Beach. After crossing the road from the tollgate, there is a nice picnic area with tables where we will have lunch. After lunch, continue thru the parking lot to the Cabrillo Aquarium. There is a minor charge at the aquarium of \$1 for seniors. When I checked it out there was nobody taking tolls. Maybe there is a donation box inside.

Korean Friendship Bell

Exit thru the tollgate and proceed to the right to Pacific Avenue. Turn left for a very short distance to 37th street. Turn right on 37th and proceed up the steep hill to the entrance to the Korean Friendship Bell. This bell was donated to San Pedro on July 4th 1976. The bell clapper is locked now and is only released for tolling the bell on special occasions. The view from the bell is outstanding. The easy way from the bell back to the trailhead is to return to the park entrance and continue down Pacific Avenue past Point Fermin Park. A shortcut to return, is by a short steep path north of the bell to the Joan Milke Flores Park. (This only saves about 0.2 miles.) Return to the trailhead via Pasedo Del Mar Road.

Summary

The total elevation gain during the hike is 320 feet over a distance of about 6.2 miles.