

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Temescal Peak

2,126'

Location: Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga State Park
Maps: Topanga State Park Map
Topo: Topanga 7.5

Route 1: 5 miles, 1,800' gain one way

Driving Instruction, route 1:

- From PCH in Pacific Palisades turn right on Sunset Blvd.
- After driving 0.5 miles turn left on Palisades Drive, continue for 2.4 miles, turn left on Vereda De La Montura.
- Proceed for 0.2 miles to the end, where there is a gated community. The signed trailhead is on the right side. Park on the street.

Hiking Instructions, route 1:

- Hike through the gate on a paved path and across the creek. The now unpaved trail follows the creek bed with several crossings through a beautiful lush canyon with caves in sandstone cliffs.
- After a mile a spur trail leads right to the Santa Ynez waterfall, about ½ mile away. Continue on the main trail.
- Soon the trail climbs steeply through open chaparral to the ridge above Trippet Ranch and reaches the Eagle Spring dirt road.
- Turn right (North-East) for 1.5 miles to the signed Eagle Junction. Here you have a choice:
- You may take the Eagle Spring Road or the Eagle Rock Road, both join again at the Hub Junction, the distance is about the same (1.4 miles).
- More interesting is the Eagle Rock Road. Soon you reach Eagle Rock, fun to climb with spectacular views.
- After climbing it, return to the road and to the Hub Junction, where four roads meet (an outhouse is here).
- Take the Temescal fire road to the South. After a few minutes you pass Cathedral Rock, another fun rock to climb.
- Continue south on the fire road. In about ½ mile, soon after a trail turns left (East) to Rogers SP, look for the Backbone Trail on the left side. Take it for a short distance, until you are leaving the trees.
- Walk up left to the peak, marked with a paddle marker. This is the highest point in Topanga SP with excellent views!
- Return to the road. Continue past a gate, then to a signed crossing: Trailer Canyon Fire Road Michael Lane, to the right. Now you drop back down for 2.5 miles and 1300' loss.
- Turn right on Michael Lane and walk ½ miles back to your car.

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Route 1 Alternate (Trippet Ranch):

3.7 miles one way, 1150'/250' gain

Driving Instruction, route 1 Alternate:

- From 101 frwy at Topanga Canyon Blvd in Woodland Hills, drive South on Topanga for about 8 miles to Entrada Dr. A sign directs you to turn left on Entrada for Topanga State Park.
- Or, from Pacific Coast Hwy, drive North on Topanga for about 5 miles to Entrada Dr.
- Go east on Entrada for 1.2 miles to the entrance to the State Park (Trippet Ranch). Pay parking fee, currently \$8 per car, and park near the east end of the lot. There are a few (free) parking places on Entrada Dr. just outside the park entrance.

Hiking Instructions, route 1 Alternate:

- Hike east uphill along a wide path that soon intersects the East Topanga Fire Road.
- Turn left and hike along this fire road for about 1.5 miles to the junction with the Eagle Fire Road and the Musch trail.
- Continue as in **route 1** to the summit.
- Return the way you came. For a longer (by about 1 mile) diversion on the return take the signed Musch Trail and take it for 2 miles back to the Trippet Ranch parking lot, passing the Musch Camp along the way.

Alternate Routes:

- The "Hub" can be reached from the south end of Reseda Blvd (from 101 frwy). This is about a 3.7 mile one way hike. Park at an entrance to Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park (fee).
- From Will Rogers State Park follow the signs to Inspiration Point, then to the beginning of the Backbone Trail. After 5.3 miles on the Backbone Trail, this part also called Rogers Trail, meet the above Fire road. Turn left for 0.2 miles to the trail that leads to the peak.
- The peak can also be hiked via Trailer Canyon, Michael Lane (see return above): 1300 gain, 8 miles RT. From Vereda De La Montura turn right on Michael Lane, go uphill about 0.5 m and park near the driveway on the left going up to Trailer Canyon.
- The peak can also be reached starting at Topanga State Park, or from the Temescal Canyon Conference Center (10.5 miles round trip, 1800' gain).

Notes:

- The Chumash Indians used to call their sweathouses 'temescal'.
- No water on trail, but at Trippet Ranch (detour to get there).
- Lots of mountain bikers.
- No shade except in the canyon, but interesting rock formations and great views of the San Fernando Valley and the ocean.

References: Milt McAuley: Hiking Trails in the Santa Monica Mountains

Original: Ralph Turner, February 2002, rev. 2004, 2009