

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Echo Mountain

3,207

Location: L.A. County, North of Altadena
Maps: Angeles National Forest Map
Topo: Mt. Wilson 7.5, Pasadena 7.5

Primary Route: 3 miles o/w, 1,400' gain

Driving Instruction:

Exit I-210 in Pasadena on Lake Ave and drive north to the end of Lake Ave. at Loma Alta, about 3.5 miles. Try to park on the non-residential side of the street.

Hiking Instructions:

A stone sign marker at the east side of the "L" intersection marks the beginning of the Sam Merrill Trail (elevation 1801'). Follow the trail east along the fence, then across the shallow canyon and up the switchbacks starting on the east slope of this canyon. This well maintained and traveled trail will take you in 3 miles to the summit of Echo Mountain. Return the way you came.

Notes:

No water is available on the trail but at times water is available at the top. Also see John W. Robinson "Trails of the Angeles" Hike #24.

Echo Mountain is of great historical interest. It was the upper terminal of the Mt. Lowe incline railway and the lower terminal of the 3.5 mile trolley line to Mt. Lowe tavern, also the location of the Echo Mountain House and an observatory. All of this was promoted and built in the 1890's under the direction of Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, Civil War balloonist and inventor. Fires, floods, the elements and economics have wiped it all away. The railway was last to go – in the great 1938 flood. Structural foundations, the remains of the power house, trolley grade and service pits can still be seen. The Forest Service has developed a tree-shaded picnic area.

There are several other routes leading to Echo Mountain, this is a popular peak.

Suggested Readings:

"The San Gabriels" by John W. Robinson, Golden West Books 1977

"Mount Lowe – The Railway in the Clouds", by Charles S. Seims, Golden West Books 1976

Near-by Peaks: Mt. Muir

Original: Bob Wheatley 1986