

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Mt. Zion

3,575

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

**Primary Route:** 5.5 miles, 1800' gain/400' loss one way, or 10 miles, 2100' gain Loop Trip. With Newcomb Peak the hike becomes 15 miles round trip, 3100'/400' loss

#### **Driving Instruction:**

Exit I-210 on Santa Anita Ave, drive 5 miles north to the end of the road at Chantry Flats. Ample parking in the upper and lower parking lots. During the rainy season the Chantry Flat Road is frequently closed, call the Ranger Station for information: (626) 574-5200

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

Follow the paved fire road downhill from Chantry Flats (elev. 2200') to Roberts Camp (elev. 1800'). Here the Lower Winter Creek trail turns left, but stay right and hike past some cabins to another trail fork. The trail straight ahead leads to Sturtevant Falls, on the left two trails lead into Santa Anita Canyon. The left one is the horse trail, the right one is the more scenic trail following the creek and giving you a view of the falls. After 1 mile, the two trails join, keep right. Soon you reach the Cascade Picnic area, then the shady Spruce Grove Campground. The trail climbs, at a fork (signed: Newcomb Pass) stay left and you see Sturtevant Camp, a church camp with several buildings. Just before entering the camp, turn left at a signed crossing, cross the creek on top of the dam, and continue for ¼ mile to a Y-fork. The right trail leads to Mt. Wilson, take the left signed trail to Mt. Zion. After 1 mile of uphill switch backs, a signed spur trail on the left takes you to the summit of Mt. Zion. On your return, you have several options:

1. Return the way you came.
2. Hike the popular loop: At the spur, turn left, downhill. After one mile you arrive at Lower Winter Creek. Again you have a choice:
  - A. Take the Lower Winter Creek Trail (left trail) past Hoegees Campground, along the creek with many crossings, to Roberts Camp, then 400' uphill the paved fire road for a total of 2 miles.
  - B. To avoid the paved uphill at the end, cross the creek, follow the Upper Winter Creek Trail, staying left at a signed trail (right) to Manzanita Ridge and Mt. Wilson, and continue to the end of the trail at another paved road. Follow this paved road downhill for ¼ mile to the Chantry Flats Picnic Area and the parking lot just below it for a total of 3 miles.

#### **Notes:**

There is ample water on this trip, but it should be treated. The Mt. Zion Trail, between Sturtevant Camp and Hoegees Camp, was abandoned about 1951 by the Forest Service. Starting in 1984 this trail was rebuilt by Sierra Club volunteers led by Charles Jones of Tujunga. In the early 1960's The L.A. County Flood Control Board together with the Forest Service decided to build 95 unsightly dams in the beautiful canyon to prevent erosion. These scars remain. At one time gold was found in the Lower Canyon, but not enough for miners to exploit. Adventure Pass required. Weekends are crowded. The pack station has supplies and is open weekends, so is the Ranger Station.

Original: Bob Wheatley 1986, rewrite: Gabriele Rau 1999, revised 2006