

Sturtevant Falls



OC HIKING CLUB

An Introduction to
California Streams and
Waterfalls

(or getting our feet wet)



Bring

- Quick-drying clothes (No cotton)
- Extra socks
- Hiking poles
- Water shoes, river sandals, or Crocs plus your boots
- A towel and keep it handy
- A seating pad or mat
- Waterproof your pack (pack gear in plastic bags)
- A padded case(s) for fragile gear
- Swimwear(optional)
- Water

South Fork Kings River, Kings Canyon



Be Aware!

- Hiking to water does not mean cool weather.
- Streams will make you slip; falls can make you fall.
- You may not find water when you get there.
- It may be too cold or too hot.
- Or too shallow or too deep.
- Or too fast or too slow.
- WATER IS SEASONAL
- CALL BEFORE YOU PLAN THE TRIP

Barker Dam, Joshua Tree 2008



Barker Dam, Joshua Tree 2009





Lucas Canyon

Where's the best place to cross?

Stream Crossings

- Logs and rocks are unstable.
- You cannot jump as far as you think.
- Muddy banks are slippery and unstable.
- Moss is slippery, too.
- Use poles.
- Change footwear to cross the streams.
- Can you hold your pack over your head? For how long?
- Swift water will knock you off your feet, undo pack straps; link arms, facing each other and walk in groups of 3.
- Plan to make long detours.

Dawn Mine



Deep Creek



Rainbow Falls



Featured Hikes

- El Dorado Nature Center
- Monrovia Falls
- Holy Jim Falls
- Icehouse Canyon
- Sturtevant Falls
- Switzer Falls

El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach



El Dorado Particulars

- DIRECTIONS: Take the 605 Freeway; exit at Spring St., East. Make a U-turn at Studebaker Road for entrance to the El Dorado Nature Center
- [El Dorado Nature Center](#)
- 7550 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
562-570-1745
- PARKING: Parking/entrance fee \$6.00. Opens at 8:30am on Saturday.
- DISTANCE: There are 1/4 mile, 1 mile, and 2 mile loops.
- DIFFICULTY: There is almost no elevation gain/loss; stroller friendly; bathrooms, benches, and water fountains are available along the route.
- ABOUT THE HIKE: The area is well shaded for much of the route.
- NOTES: This 102.5 acre oasis sits in a greenery of woodlands in the middle of Long Beach. Migratory birds in their wanderings have found a lakeside haven in the middle of urban sprawl in which to settle down for a moment of quiet.

It is offered to you as well, a place of trails canopied with trees where birds sing, where foxes turn up crossing the meadow ahead, where herons and egrets sit at bankside and paths lead away from the clamoring of the outside world.

Monrovia Canyon Falls



Monrovia Falls Particulars

- DIRECTIONS: Take the 605 Freeway North to the 210 Freeway West. Exit on Mountain Ave (right). Turn left on E. Foothill Blvd.; right on N. Canyon Blvd., turn right to stay on N. Canyon Blvd.
 - Monrovia Canyon Park
 - 1200 N Canyon Blvd
 - Monrovia, CA 91016 USA
 - Phone: 626-256-8282
 - PARKING: There are 3 main parking areas, off the lower (Entrance), middle (Cabin) and upper part (Nature Center) of the park road. Parking Fee is \$5. Upper parking lot opens at 8 AM; closes at 5 PM . **Parking can be a problem on weekends. Closed Tuesdays.**
 - DISTANCE: Bill Cull trail (3.4 miles RT) Three trailhead options give a range of distances from 1.5 miles round trip to 3.4 miles round trip.
- DIFFICULTY: Elevation gain/loss: 720 ft.
- ABOUT THE HIKE: Monrovia Falls is one of the most delightful waterfall experiences in the front range of the San Gabriels. At 30 feet tall, this year-around falls is not the biggest or most spectacular, but the splendid trail and picturesque scenery getting there makes the visit to the falls a real treat. And it's short: The trail leads through several plant communities: coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian. Along the hike you'll enjoy a canopy of coastal live oaks, canyon oaks, white alders, big leaf maple, and sycamore trees.
 - NOTES: POISON OAK!

Holy Jim Falls



Holy Jim Falls Particulars

- **DIRECTIONS:** Take the 5 Freeway and exit El Toro Road. Take El Toro east towards Saddleback or Silverado Canyon. El Toro turns into Santiago Canyon Road. Make a right on Live Oak (Cook's Corner). Park at the dirt parking area on the corner of Live Oak Canyon (aka Trabuco Canyon) and Trabuco Creek Road. Trabuco Creek Road is a dirt road leading to the Holy Jim Trailhead. Parking area is on the left side of the road (if you are heading south on Live Oak) immediately after Trabuco Creek.
- **PARKING:** An Adventure Pass and a high clearance vehicle are required; you must drive on 5 miles of rough, poorly maintained dirt road from the highway to reach the trailhead.
- **DISTANCE:** This is a 2.5 miles out-and-back hike with 200 ft. elevation gain.
- **DIFFICULTY:** The trail may be overgrown at times and requires some stream crossings.
- **ABOUT THE HIKE:** This is the most popular hike in the Santa Ana Mountains ending with the cool grotto with the 15 foot waterfall.
- **NOTES:** Holy Jim was actually named for the settler, Cussin' Jim Smith. Trabuco Ranger District-U.S. Forest Service-(909) 736-1811

Icehouse Canyon



Icehouse Canyon



Icehouse Canyon Particulars

- **DIRECTIONS:** Take the 57 North to the 210 East. Exit left on Baseline and make a nearly immediate right on Padua, right again on Mt. Baldy Road. The Mt. Baldy Visitors Center is on the left in Mt. Baldy Village. Proceed to the intersection of Mt. Baldy Road and Icehouse Canyon; turn right and park in the lot.
- **PARKING:** An Adventure Pass is required; they are sold locally at the Mt. Baldy Visitors Center and the trailhead parking lot.
- **DISTANCE:** The stream runs parallel to the trail for approximately 2 miles; stop at any of the numerous pools
- **DIFFICULTY:** This is an uphill hike, at approximately 6000 ft.
- **ABOUT THE HIKE:** Wilderness permits are required; they may be obtained free at the Mt. Baldy Visitors Center (909) 982-2829.
- **NOTES:** Go on a weekday if possible; this is the trailhead to the Icehouse Saddle in the Mt. Baldy Recreation Area - the gateway to Mt. Baldy, Cucamonga Peak, Ontario Peak, and many others.
- The weekend crowds are horrendous. Parking is impossible then, even when going early.
- The trail views consist of elfin forest and brook, rustic cabins, shaded watershed.

Sturtevant Falls



Sturtevant Falls



Sturtevant Falls Particulars

- **DIRECTIONS:** Take the 210 Freeway West; exit on Santa Anita North to road's end (Chantry Flats)
- **PARKING:** You will need an Adventure Pass to park. Arrive early, parking is a problem on weekends. There is an upper and lower level and you may pay a fee to park at the mule park station in lieu of an Adventure Pass.
- **DISTANCE:** 3.5 miles round trip, out and back trail
- **DIFFICULTY:** Approx. 500' of elevation gain/loss. Trail starts and ends on steep ¼ mile section of unshaded asphalt road.
- **ABOUT THE HIKE:** On this hike we'll visit a popular and beautiful waterfall while hiking underneath oak woodlands most of the way. There will be a little bit of stream crossings and some boulder hopping, but you should be able to manage to keep your feet dry.
- **NOTES:** Dogs are welcome on this hike, and I'm sure your canine companions will have fun. The National Forest Service mandates that they be on 6-foot leashes. Chantry Flats Forest Service 626-574-5200

Switzer Falls



Switzer Falls



Switzer Falls Particulars

- DIRECTIONS: Take the 210 Freeway West; exit on Highway 2, the Los Angeles Crest Highway in La Canada/Flintridge, continue over 10 miles to the Switzer picnic area. On right.
- PARKING: You will need an Adventure Pass to park at the Switzer Falls parking area.. Arrive early, parking is a problem on weekends.
- DISTANCE: 10 miles round trip, out and back trail
- DIFFICULTY: Elevation Gain: 1400 ft. Hike Time: 5 hours+ Some extended areas of sun exposure; stream crossings required; some steep sections; some sections of poor, rough trail
- ABOUT THE HIKE: This hike is to one of the most pleasant sections of the San Gabriel mountains. The stream is lined with oaks & alders with water cascading over granite rocks into several different pools.
- NOTES: Wooded streamside trail, waterfalls, small cascades, lovely pools, deep canyons. Los Angeles River Ranger District: 818.899.1900.

John's Meadow



Deep Creek



Tenaja Falls



Rainbow Falls



Lower Rainbow Falls



Lower Rainbow Falls



Horsetail Falls, South Lake Tahoe



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Whitney Portal



Whitney Meadows



Whitney Meadows



Outpost Camp

