



# Eaton Canyon Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 3.6 Miles Roundtrip  
ELEVATION: 1,463'  
ELEVATION GAIN: 486'  
TYPE: Out-and-Back  
HIKING TIME: 2 Hours  
RATING: Easy

## Directions to Trailhead

Eaton Canyon Nature Center  
1750 N Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107

From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Sierra Madre Boulevard/Altadena Drive. Turn left (north) at the first light (Altadena Drive) and go 1.6 miles to the park entrance. From the 210 Freeway westbound, exit at San Gabriel Boulevard/San Marino. Turn right (north) at the second light (Altadena Drive) and go 1.5 miles to the park entrance. The trailhead is at the north end of the parking lot.



Trailhead

The trail begins at the north end of the Nature Center Parking Lot. Proceed north .18 mile to the Eaton Wash.



Trail Junction 1

When you reach the Eaton Wash cross .05 mile to the opposite bank and continue to the dirt fire road directly ahead.



Trail Junction 2

Once you have crossed the wash, turn left on the wide dirt fire trail and continue for approximately 1 mile to the next junction. This section is hard packed dirt and you will see joggers and parents with strollers enjoying the sunshine and finding small pockets of shade for picnics.



Land Slide

Just before the next junction you will pass a debris field from a land slide that took out 50 yards of the Wilson Toll Road above you. The road has been repaired and since reopened for non-vehicular activities.



### Trail Junction 3

Just past the land slide debris field a smaller use path veers off the main trail and descends back into the wash. Take this use path and cross under the bridge. If you miss this turn and find yourself on the concrete bridge looking down into the wash, backtrack to the debris field and look for the use path.



### Wilson Toll Road Bridge

Once you cross under the concrete bridge, the landscape changes dramatically with more leafy trees and shrubs. At this point you are venturing directly into the canyon and will occasionally boulder hop across the small stream that flows from the falls. During summer and fall this stream may dry up completely. Though the path is still relatively flat, stroller use is not recommended past the last junction, though I have seen parents give it the old college try. From here, the trail climbs gently for roughly .5 mile to the base of the falls.



### Eaton Canyon Falls, 40'

Congratulations! You've made it to Eaton Canyon Falls. The falls run just about year round, but late winter and spring have the best water flows. The small pool at the bottom of the falls is perfect wading and cooling off on hot days. Weekends during the summer do get crowded, so make it a weekday hike if you can.

When you have finished enjoying the falls, retrace your steps to return to the parking lot. The best part of the return is it's all down hill.