



# Inspiration Point Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 2.1 miles Roundtrip

ELEVATION: 751'

ELEVATION GAIN: 311'

TYPE: Loop

HIKING TIME: 1 Hour



## Parking

Park in the lot right after the entrance kiosk. This lot tends to fill last and is closest to the trailhead. If you don't want to pay the \$12 entry fee (and support the facilities you will be using), you may park below the entrance of the park on Will Rogers State Park Road. You may have quite a hike just to get to the trailhead, however. Parents with strollers may want to park at the next lot past the house for closer access to the alternate trailhead at Point #15 below.



## Rest Rooms and Water

Rest rooms are located just east of the parking lot near the visitor's center.



## Trailhead

The trailhead begins on the eastern side of the parking lot. Climb the short hill and cross over the Rivas Canyon Trail.

An alternate trailhead at the north end of the grassy area in front of Rogers' House provides easier access to the Inspiration Point Trail for parents with strollers. Technically speaking, this alternate trailhead is the official start of the Inspiration Point Trail, and it avoids the moderately steep climb from the parking lot, but it is a further walk from the parking lot.



## Trail Junction 1

As you cross the Rivas Canyon Trail, continue uphill on a series of switchbacks marked with a white fence for just under .1 mile to Trail Junction 2.



## Trail Junction 2

The switchbacks end at the Inspiration Point Trail. You have climbed nearly 1/3 of your total elevation in about .1 of a mile from the parking area. From here the trail follows an easy uphill grade on a dirt fire road. In about .25 mile you will reach the first spur trail to the top of Inspiration Point.



#### Observation Point 1

About .1 mile from the last Trail Junction, you will come to the first of 3 observation areas with a benches. Views here include the Pacific Ocean, Santa Monica and downtown Los Angeles.



#### Observation Point 2

Another observation point with similar views.



#### Observation Point 3

The third of the three observation points lies just off the main trail. Views from the position take in parts of the Santa Monica Mountains.



#### Trail Junction 3

At roughly .66 mile you will reach the first of two access trails to the summit of Inspiration Point. This first spur trail follows a single-track use path through dense chaparral with a steep stair ascent just before the summit.

Parents with strollers or those not wanting to climb the stairs should stay on the fire road and continue for another .3 mile to the next spur trail at Trail Junction 5, otherwise turn right onto the single-track path.



#### Trail Junction 4

At about .1 mile on the spur trail, turn left into some very heavy underbrush to ascend a set of steep steps cut into the hillside. The steps will very quickly bring you to the summit of Inspiration Point.



#### Inspiration Point, 751'

The summit is a broad flat open space with fine views of the Los Angeles Basin, Pacific Ocean, Catalina Island and the Santa Monica Mountains. There are several picnic tables nearby for those who packed a lunch, but no shade. To continue your journey, follow the wide dirt path northeast to rejoin the fire road.



#### Trail Junction 5

The spur trail down from Inspiration Point will make a hairpin turn to the west and bring you back down to the fire road where you will turn right. A couple of hundred yards ahead you will see a park information sign. That is the direction you should be headed



### Park Information Sign

A park information sign marks the eastern terminus of the Backbone Trail, a 65-mile trail connecting Will Rogers State Historic Park with Pt. Mugu State Park. It also marks the boundary with Topanga Canyon State Park. Continue on the fire road for another .1 mile to the next trail junction.



### Trail Junction 6

This intersection offers a shortcut back to the Rogers' Ranch House, Visitor Center and parking lots. Otherwise, continue on the fire road as it winds along the western perimeter of a narrow canyon.



### Eucalyptus Trees

At 1.5 miles you will begin a slightly steeper descent back to the parking areas, passing through a stand of beautiful and fragrant Eucalyptus Trees with grand views of Los Angeles. Along the way are some notable patches of Prickly Pear Cactus.



### Trail Junction 7

At 1.9 miles the fire road rejoins the pavement as you re-enter the developed facilities of the park. Turn left onto the pavement. Directly ahead of you about .1 mile is a park information sign. Follow the pavement to the sign.



### Trail Junction 8

Trail Junction 8 marks the official start of the Inspiration Point Loop Trail, but of course, you're almost done! If you were hiking the trail with a stroller or wanted to avoid the initial climb from the parking lot, this is where you would begin the trail with its easy grade on the fire road.

If you're finishing the hike, you have three options at this junction. Continue uphill on the fire road to the switchbacks only to descend back to the parking lot, or take one of the two lower trails across the small white bridge. The lower trail on the left will take you to the Rogers Ranch House and Visitor's Center if you would like to explore that area; the lower trail on the right wraps behind the Rogers' Ranch House to the bottom of the switchbacks at the first parking lot and trailhead. The map follows the later trail.



### End of Trail

Congratulations! You have completed the 2.1 miles of the Inspiration Point Loop Hike. Now take some time to explore some of this historic parks other attractions, including a tour of Will Rogers home.