

Mount Lowe Trail Guide

by Hike-LosAngeles.com

DISTANCE: 3.2 Miles Roundtrip

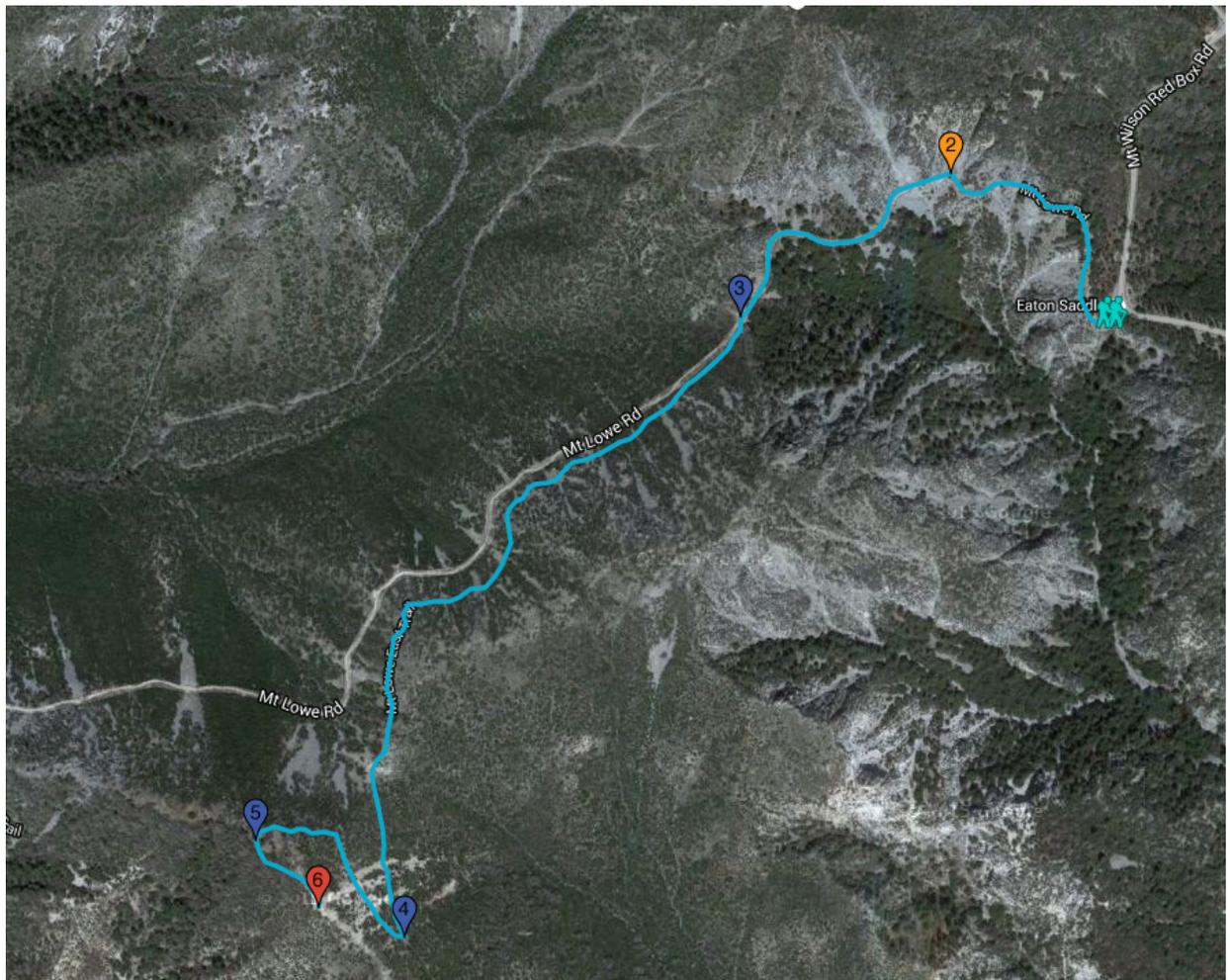
ELEVATION: 5,603'

ELEVATION GAIN: 383'

TYPE: Out-and-Back

HIKING TIME: 1.5 Hours

RATING: Mostly easy, but with a moderate push at the end



Directions to Trailhead

Eaton Saddle
Mt. Wilson Red Box Road
Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles, CA

Take CA-2 East for 13.9 miles from the 210 north of Pasadena. You will pass the Clear Creek Information Center and the Switzer Campground. Turn right on to Mt. Wilson Red Box Road and continue for another 2.3 miles to Eaton Saddle. Park on either side of the road. The trailhead is located at the gate on the western side of the road. There is also a great view of the interior San Gabriel Mountains on the eastern side of the road to kick your hike off with.

Trail Guide Locators



Park on either side of Mt. Wilson Red Box Road. There is a great view point for photos of the San Gabriels on the east side of the road.



The trailhead is located on the bottom corner of the parking area on west side of Mt. Wilson Red Box Road. Pass around the gate and proceed approximately .25 mile on the Mt. Lowe Road fire road to the Mueller Tunnel. The first half mile of this trail to Trail Junction 1 is relatively easy with a nice view down Eaton Canyon to the San Gabriel Valley



Constructed in 1942 the Mueller Tunnel passes through a short portion of the souther flank of San Gabriel Peak. Pass through the tunnel for approximately 66 yards and continue on the Mount Lowe Road for another .25 to Trail Junction 1.



Passing a perforated pipe you will reach a small plateau with several trail options. For this hike, veer left and begin climbing uphill on the Mount Lowe Trail East, which is marked with a sign. As you begin to ascend, the Mount Lowe Road should drop away on your right. From here the trail becomes a rocky, narrow single-track and is moderately steeper, but is still pretty easy hiking. Continue for .75 mile to Trail Junction 2.



Trail Junction 2 (1.26 miles)

Crossing over a rocky ridge with some nice views, you will begin to ascend the eastern flank of Mount Lowe just below the second trail junction. When you reach the trail junction, marked with a metal sign, hairpin hard to your right and continue uphill for .2 mile to the next trail junction.



Trail Junction 3 (1.46 miles)

Mount Lowe Trail West rises up on your right to connect with the Mount Lowe Trail East at Trail Junction 3. You can turn right and climb a short, moderately steep trail directly to the summit or continue straight through the trail junction on a slightly longer, but much easier grade circling around to the south side of the summit.



Mount Lowe, 5,603' (1.6 miles)

Congratulations! You've reached the summit of Mount Lowe at 5,603'. From here are great views of Mt. Disappointment, San Gabriel Peak, Mt. Markham, Mount Wilson, the San Gabriel Valley, Downtown Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean. The summit also holds several relics from the giddy days of the Echo Mountain Resort and the Mount Lowe Alpine Railway. These are the hitching posts for horses tourists would ride up from Ye Alpine Tavern some 2.5 miles away, now the location of the Mount Lowe Campground, and the viewing tubes that help visitors to identify various peaks and landmarks. A placard with historical information on Professor Thadeus Lowe and the Echo Mountain Resort is located near the hitching posts on the upper summit. A bench near the viewing tubes on the lower summit provides a resting place before making your return journey to the parking area.