

Mt. Thom Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 3.3 Miles
ELEVATION: 2440' (approximate)
ELEVATION GAIN: 1516'
TYPE: Combination Loop/Out-and-Back
HIKING TIME: 2 - 2.5 Hours
RATING: Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead

Brand Park Library
1601 West Mountain Street
Glendale, CA 91201

Exit the 134 at San Fernando Road and head north/northwest for .7 mile. Turn right onto Grandview Ave and proceed for 1.3 miles. When you reach W Mountain Street, the park entrance will be directly in front of you. Drive to the end of the cul de sac. As you make the left around the cul de sac, turn right onto the side driveway and into the parking area.

Trailhead is located in the picnic area behind the library, opposite the fire hydrant. Rest rooms and water are available at the trailhead.



Trailhead

Trail begins in the picnic area behind the library directly opposite the fire hydrant. There are several trails beginning at this point. Pick the one moving uphill and to the left for approximately .03 mile.



Trail Junction 1

The short segment you were on dead ends with a perpendicular trail. Turn left and continue heading uphill for just under .2 mile.



Trail Junction 2

From here to the overlook (halfway to the summit) the trail will divide and come together numerous times. It doesn't matter which you take as they will all arrive at the same place. Vistas are better from the lower trail, but if in doubt, stick to the wider, main trail. Proceed around .4 mile to the next junction near the base of the overlook.



Trail Junction 3

As you reach the base of the overlook, look for the trail to the left. This is a more gradual incline that will loop you around to the backside of the overlook. If you prefer, you can take the very steep trail directly to the overlook by continuing straight and heading for the trees.



Trail Junction 4

At this fork, bear right and continue uphill .1 mile.

On your return, you will again bear right at this junction to return to the parking area.



Trail Junction 5

Make the sharp hairpin turn to the right and continue uphill .1 mile to the overlook. On the return trip, make the hairpin turn to the left.



Brand Library Park Overlook

Great views and benches to rest weary feet. After you've taken in the views, loop back to pick up the long white trail you see heading to the top of Mt. Thom. This is the Firebreak Trail.



Trail Junction 6

This begins the .7 mile, very steep and very slippery firebreak up to the Las Flores Motorway just below the summit of Mt. Thom. This firebreak is mostly exposed rock with a thin layer of sand. Shoes with good tread are mandatory.



Trail Junction 7

The firebreak dead ends at the Las Flores Motorway. Bear to your left and continue uphill .2 mile to the Beaudry Motorways. Keep the telephone pole at the junction in mind for your return trip. It marks the top of the firebreak. If you miss it you'll continue walking downhill on the Las Flores Motorway and end up very far from your car.



Trail Junction 8

The Las Flores Motorway intersects with the Beaudry S and Beaudry N Motorways and the access road to the antenna array on Mt. Thom. Excellent views of the Crescenta Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains to the east and the San Fernando Valley to the west from this intersection.

Make a hairpin turn to the right and continue up the access road .05 mile to reach the summit of Mt. Thom.



Summit, Mt. Thom, 2,440'

Congratulations, you've made it to the summit of Mt. Thom. The access road ends at a gated area protecting the antenna array atop Mt. Thom. Do not enter the gated area. Enjoy the views!

If you look north, you will see a flat concrete structure about .1 mile away. This is a great place to sit and recuperate before beginning your return trip.

On your return trip from the summit, make the hairpin turn to your left onto the Las Flores Motorway and continue downhill.

Or, to continue to the concrete structure, proceed north on the Beaudry N Motorway for about 300 feet and make a hairpin turn to the left and continue for another 50 feet.

When you're ready to leave, make your way back down the Las Flores Motorway to the Firebreak and continue down to the Brand Library Overlook. Returning down the Firebreak can be hazardous as the trail is steep and the slick rock is covered in fine sand. Use caution on your descent.



Trail Junction 9

Just before you reach the Brand Library Overlook, make the hairpin turn to your right.



Trail Junction 10

At the next junction take the hairpin turn to your left and continue down to the loop trail.



Trail Junction 11

On your ascent, you came up on the trail to your left. For the descent, turn right and continue downhill for .15 mile keeping an eye out for the next junction coming in on your left.



Trail Junction 12

Watch for this junction on your left. It drops down pretty quickly and is easy to miss if you're not paying attention. Follow the ridge down for about .3 mile.

If you miss this junction, the trail you're on will bring you back to the parking area, but it has a very steep drop at the end and puts you in a gated maintenance area for the city of Glendale. It's a pain. Make the turn.



Trail Junction 13

Cross the pavement and continue downhill for about .1 mile. This wooded area is meandering and crisscrossed with trails. Keep to the larger path and keep moving downhill. It should bring you out at the top of the parking area by the forestry monument.

If you get turned around, just keep moving downhill and to your left and you'll come out near the library.



End of Trail