



Griffith Park Trail Run Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 4.55 Miles

ELEVATION: 1280'

ELEVATION GAIN: 720'

TYPE: Loop

HIKING TIME: 2 - 2.5 Hours

RATING: Strenuous 1st third, but becomes moderate to easy on the return

Directions to Trailhead

Mineral Wells Road at Griffith Park Drive, near the golf driving range.

Exit the 134 at Forest Lawn Drive and proceed .3 mile.

Turn right at the light onto Zoo Drive and proceed .2 mile.

Turn left at the stop sign onto Griffith Park Drive and proceed 1.3 miles.

Turn right into the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.

Trailhead is located on the dirt fire road at the entrance of the Mineral Wells Picnic Area. Rest rooms and water are available in the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.



Parking

Park in the Mineral Wells Picnic Area off Griffith Park Drive near the golf driving range.



Rest Room & Water Fountain

Rest Rooms and a water fountain are located in the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.



Trailhead

The trailhead is located at the entrance of Mineral Wells Spring picnic area. Here you will find three intersecting dirt fire roads. Take the very steep center road uphill for .45 mile to Amir's Garden. You may stop and explore the garden or make the hairpin turn to the right and continue for another .3 mile to the next trail junction. As you climb this ridge, look down to your left and see if you can spy the abandoned swimming pool at the Griffith Park Boys Camp.



Amir's Garden

A ruggedly cultivated garden with walking paths, picnic areas and a water fountain. Make the turn to your right and continue uphill.



Water Fountain

Amir's Garden water fountain is located in the upper picnic area.



Trail Junction 1

As you pass the water tank you will approach a T intersection. Turn left and continue uphill following the perimeter of the Toyon Landfill for .7 mile.

This section can get very muddy during rainy season with thick sticky clay that clumps to your shoes.



Bluff Cave

A weathered bluff has formed a shallow cave-like structure in the face of the rock.



Trail Junction 2

The dirt fire road ends at Vista del Valle Drive, a paved, but closed to vehicular traffic, roadway. Turn left onto Vista del Valle Drive and continue for .35 mile.



Trail Junction 3

Look for a set of concrete stairs heading down to a water tank. As you hike past the water tank the trail will become a single-track path. You can stick with the single-track or pick up the dirt fire road. The fire road is more level, but a little longer. The single-track will take you through heavy brush and a steeper decline. The distance is also a bit shorter. The trail guide will follow the single-track.



Water Fountain

There is a water fountain connected directly to the water tank at the base of the stairs. If you haven't already spotted it, the abandoned swimming pool can be seen from the back of the water tank.



Trail Junction 4

The single-track briefly converges with the fire road. A short distance ahead you will see the single-track veering off the road to the left. Continue on the single-track.



Picnic Table

A hidden backcountry picnic table makes a nice spot to rest.



Trail Junction 5

The single-track again crosses the fire road on a diagonal line. Continue on the single-track veering off to the right. Continue for the next .27 mile to the next junction.



Trail Junction 6

The single-track crosses the fire road for the last time. There is a park bench here with a fine view of the golf course and San Gabriel Mountains in the distance. Cross the fire road and continue on the single-track for .3 mile.



Scenic Views of Bee Rock

A number of nice views of Bee Rock and the surrounding mountains can be seen along this section of the trail.



Trail Junction 7

As you leave the single-track path you will find yourself back on the fire road. Turn left and continue for .7 mile, winding your way through the dense foliage of the park's lower slopes. The road is a series of rolling hills with several short, but steep climbs. If you prefer, you may walk along Griffith Park Drive for a more level hike.



Water Fountain

Fill up your water bottle in this small picnic cove as you prepare for the final section of the hike.



Trail Junction 8

Cross a dirt maintenance access road and continue for .15 mile.



Trail Junction 9

The fire road intersects with Griffith Park Drive and Camp Road. Cross Camp Road and continue .5 mile, traveling behind the golf club parking area, and curving to your left to follow Griffith Park Drive along the driving range.



End of Trail

Congratulations! You have completed the 3.5 mile Griffith Park Trail Run and returned to the Mineral Wells Spring picnic area. If you're not at Mineral Wells Picnic Area. . .you've done something wrong!