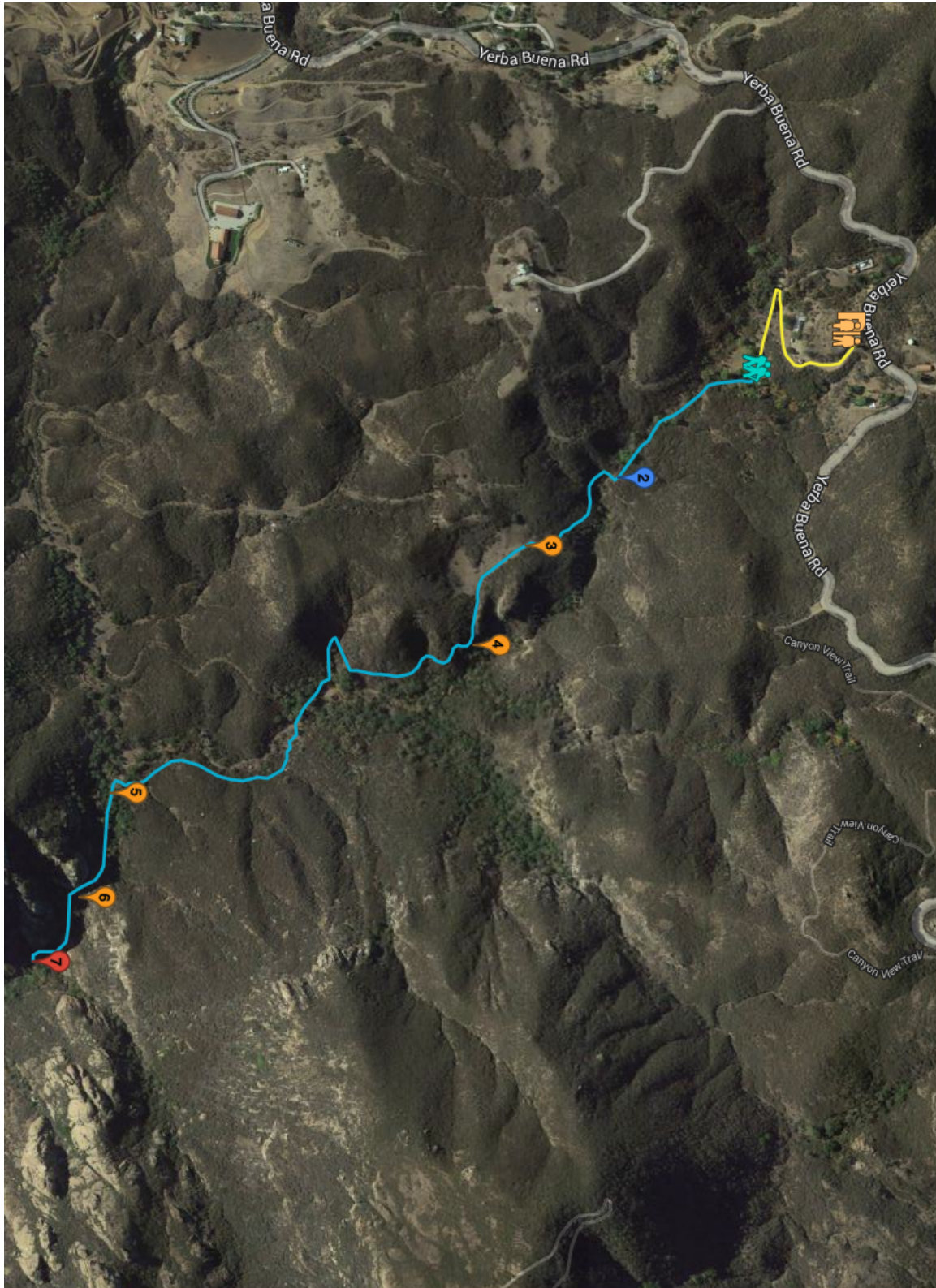


The Grotto Hike

by Hike-LosAngeles.com



The Grotto Hike Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 2.6 Miles Roundtrip , plus .5 mile to and from upper parking area (3.1 miles total)

ELEVATION: 1080'

ELEVATION GAIN: -580'

TYPE: Out-and-Back

HIKING TIME: 1.5 Hour s

RATING: Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead

Circle X Ranch

12896 Yerba Buena Road

Malibu, CA 90265

Take the PCH Highway through Malibu. Turn right up Yerba Buena Road (alongside Neptune's Net Restaurant) and continue for 5.5 miles until you arrive at the Circle X Ranch Ranger Station (on the right). Park here and follow the signs to the trailhead.



Parking

Day use parking is located at the campground host building. Overflow parking is located down the hill below the host building. Rest rooms and a water fountain are available in the parking area. Follow the signs down the dirt road to the left of the host building to the trailhead.



Trailhead

The trail begins .25 mile below the parking area.



Trail Junction 1

About a quarter mile into the trail you will reach the junction with a trail coming down from the Yerba Buena Road above. Turn to your right and continue down the wooden steps.



Open Clearing

The trail opens up to a wide clearing with great views of the surrounding mountains.



Canyon View

Just after the clearing you'll find great vantage point to look down into the canyon.



Oak Clearing

The trail opens up into a large clearing shaded with overhanging oak.



Boulder Field

The creek bed gives way to a tumble of boulders above and behind the grotto. You will have to scramble down the boulders to find the grotto. This area is steep and small children should be discouraged from attempting the climb down. Dogs are not permitted past this point.



The Grotto, End of Trail

Congratulations! You've found the Grotto, a semi-circle-like cave with a small pond. During the rainy season, a small waterfall tumbles down the interior of the grotto.