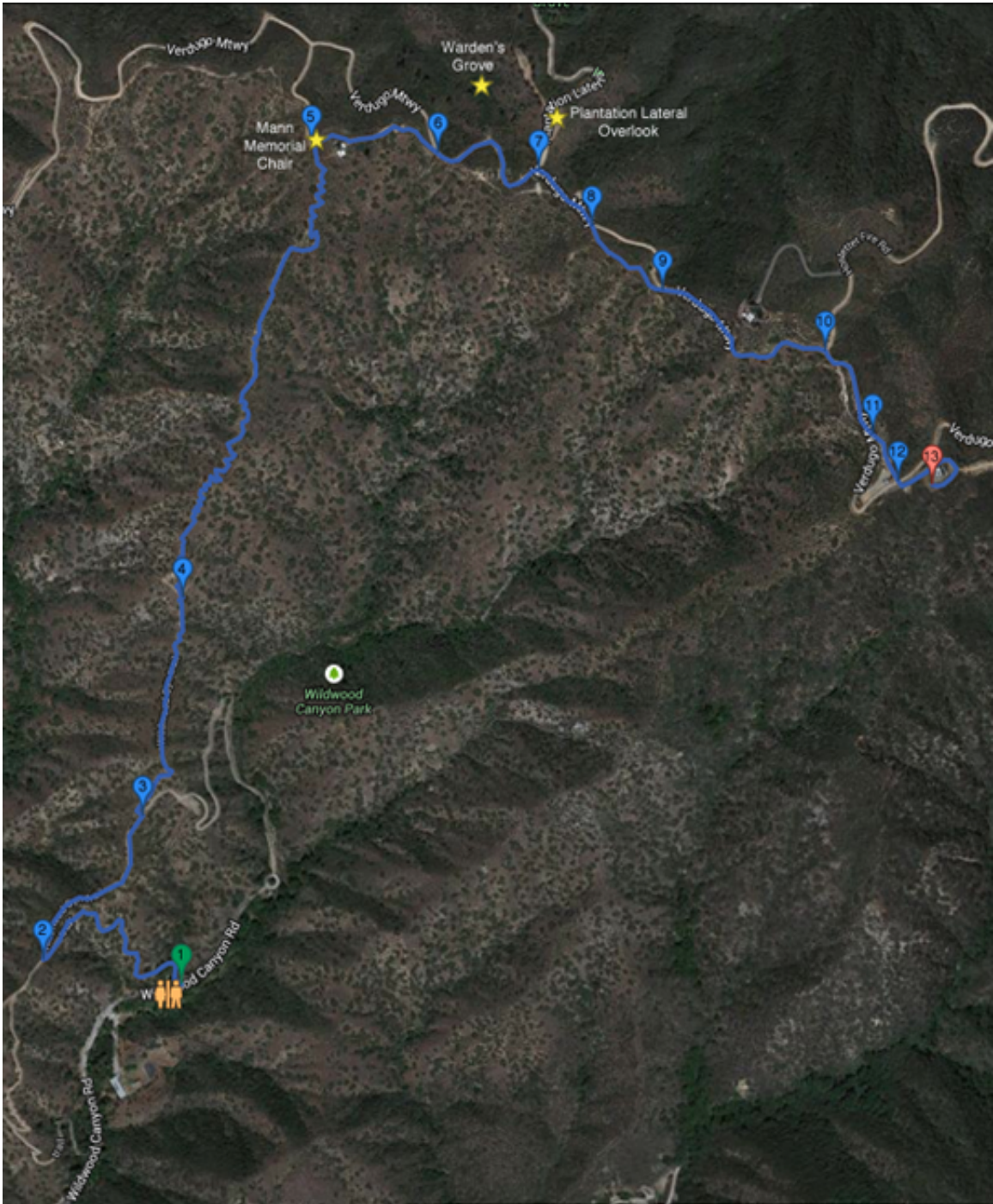


The Verdugo Peak Hike

by Hike-LosAngeles.com



Verdugo Peak Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 4.6 Miles Roundtrip

ELEVATION: 3,126'

ELEVATION GAIN: 1,532'

TYPE: Out-and-Back

HIKING TIME: 2.5 Hours

RATING: Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead

Wildwood Canyon Park
1701 Wildwood Canyon Road
Burbank, CA

When you enter Wildwood Canyon Park, drive about a half mile on Wildwood Canyon Road to the third stone arch on your left. The arch and nearby restroom facilities mark the trailhead. Park on your right.



Trailhead, Parking, Rest Rooms & Water

The trailhead is located at the third stone arch on Wildwood Canyon Road. Restroom facilities and water are available at the trailhead. Parking is located directly opposite the trailhead.

Pass through the arch and follow the trail around the rest rooms for .3 miles to Trail Junction 1. The steepness begins to reveal itself quickly as you climb above the oaks and sycamores of the picturesque canyon toward the rawer lower ridge of Wildwood Canyon Trail.



Trail Junction 1 - Wildwood Canyon Trail

The access trail you have been climbing intersects with the Wildwood Canyon Trail. Make a hard right turn and continue uphill for another .2 mile the Vital Link Trail Junction located on the left side of the trail.

As you make this ascent, you will get your first glimpses of the San Fernando Valley and Griffith Park in the distance as Wildwood Canyon falls away below you.



Trail Junction 2 - Vital Link Trail

A stone pedestal with a map embedded in it marks the start of the Vital Link Trail to the upper

ridge. Make a hard left onto the Link Trail and continue uphill for 1 mile. If you thought the trail was steep to this point, it's about to get a whole lot steeper! Much of the elevation you will accumulate on this hike happens in this section through a series of tight switchbacks zigzagging up the mountain. The foot rails you see along the path are less for safety than for trying to keep people on the switchbacks. **DO NOT CUT SWITCHBACKS.** Doing so damages the trail and causes erosion. Besides, you chose this trail for the challenge and cutting is cheating!



Trail Junction 3 - Alternative Trail

At this junction you have the option of continuing to the right for a more moderate climb or huffing up the steep switchback to the left. Going to the right will add about .2 mile to your hike, but if you're looking for a small break in the climb, it might be worth considering.



Trail Junction 4

The brutal part of the hike is over; it's pretty much all smooth sailing from here. If you need to catch your breath, the Willie Mann Memorial chair is a few steps away and is a good place to sit and take in the views before continuing.

When you're ready to head for the summit, follow the trail past the radio facility and continue across a concrete slab. Just after the slab the trail will briefly become a single-track and descend to meet up with the Verdugo Motorway. From this point until you reach Verdugo Peak you will have sweeping views of the Crescenta Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains.

You can also pick up the Verdugo Motorway at the Willie Mann Chair, but I prefer to stick to the single-tracks where possible and the following directions reflect that. The single-track will offer more varied terrain, whereas the motorway will be flatter and more even.



Trail Junction 5 - Warden's Grove

At the junction with the Verdugo Motorway, a dirt fire road, you will bear to the right for approximately .2 mile. The pine trees you see to your left are part of Warden's Grove, planted in the 1930s.



Plantation Lateral Overlook

This side trip to the overlook provides a nice respite from the sun with shade provided by several

large trees and bench. The overlook provides the only shade along the ridge and is a nice place for a picnic. Hiking to and from the overlook will add .2 mile to your total mileage.



Trail Junction 6

Veer to your right onto a single-track trail along the top of the ridge. This is a short trail of only about .1 mile, but it gets you off the fire road for a little more rugged feel. If you prefer not to make the slight climb, you may stay on the fire road.



Trail Junction 7

Rejoin the Verdugo Motorway and continue .2 mile to the intersection with the Hostetter Fire Road.



Trail Junction 8

At the intersection, turn right and continue approximately .1 and look for the single-track trail veering off to the left.



Trail Junction 9

Veer off the fire road onto the single-track trail heading up toward the antenna installation for about .05 mile. You may also continue on the Verdugo Motorway, which will bring you to the backside of the antenna. The single-track is a shortcut.



Trail Junction 10

Cross the Verdugo Motorway and up onto the paved road. Follow the paved road around the concrete structure to a makeshift bench at the summit of Verdugo Peak.



End of Trail, Verdugo Peak, 3126'

Congratulations! Enjoy the view. To return to the trailhead simply retrace your steps.