

# Afoot and Afield Inland Empire

## Trip Updates

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This document contains updates to existing trips. It was originally provided as a bulletin board, but the board has been attacked by spammers and had to be taken down.

Please send your updates and corrections to [webmaster@afootafielde.com](mailto:webmaster@afootafielde.com).

# 1.1-Baldy

On October 5, 1945, Mt. Baldy was socked in by clouds. A southbound C46 Commando transport plane grazed the summit and tumbled into canyon below, leaving a trail of wreckage hundreds of feet long. The debris can still be seen a short distance from the Baldy Bowl Trail.

Half a mile after reaching the ridge (and half a mile south of the summit of Baldy), look for a sign post reading "Baldy Bowl Trail to Manker Flat" (GPS N34 17.002 W117 38.845 9438'). From this point, a poorly defined side trail leads down into the canyon to the southwest. If you follow the trail, you will soon find bits of wreckage. Continue down to reach the largest section of wing in 0.1 mile (N34 16.937 W117 38.943 9095').

For more information about the crash, see <http://www.qnet.com/~carcomm/wreck22.htm>

The ski hut is at N34 16.875 W117 38.316 8219'.

The Baldy Bowl is a popular snow climb and ski descent in winter when the scree and talus is well-covered. From the ski hut, continue up the trail a few hundred yards to a convenient point, then head straight uphill for the crest of the bowl. The couloirs at the top reach an angle of 35-40 degrees and can be icy; bring crampons and an ice axe.

## 1.4-Bear Flats

Old Glory, the world's largest Bigcone Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) stands near the start of this hike and is well worth a visit.

The tree stands 173' tall, is 91 inches in diameter, and is believed to be 600-700 years old. It can be seen about 100 yards below the trailhead parking, next to a cabin with an address of 6679. A sign next to the road points out the tree and offers more information.

GPS: N34 14.274 W117 39.611

# 1.5-Bear Ridge

A very early start is recommended in the summer because the switchbacks above Bear Flat are directly exposed to the hot sun.

Above Bear Flat, 16 long, steep switchbacks climb through the skeletal remains of scrub oak left by the 2008 Bighorn Fire before the trail reaches the first intact Jeffrey pines. The views of Icehouse Canyon and the surrounding peaks become more and more spectacular as you climb. Another 20 or so shorter switchbacks (and many minor wiggles) continue up to reach Bear Ridge, 1.4 hard miles and 1800' up from Bear Flat. This marks the halfway point of the climb.

Hike up the ridge, enjoying vistas of the San Gabriel Mountains in all directions. In another 1.0 mile and 1000' of climbing (near the 8400' contour), the ridge merges with a second ridge to the east rising from Lookout Mountain. Just beyond, dramatic views open up into Cattle Canyon to the southwest.

In 0.5 mile and 600' of further climbing, reach a section locally known as the Narrows, where the ridge drops steeply on both sides. The vistas on your left across the shear southwest face of Mt. Baldy are especially impressive.

The last 1.6 miles are more gentle, climbing the upper ridge and traversing across the southeast side of West Baldy to reach the high point of the San Gabriel Mountains. The forest gives way to lodgepole pines, which become ever more stunted by wind and ice as you climb until they vanish entirely on the bald summit.

# 1.6-Lookout Mountain

More details about the route from Cow Canyon Saddle.

The most direct way to the summit of Lookout Mountain climbs a steep ridge from the south. The route is 1.6 miles one-way and involves 2300' of elevation gain with about a 3-hour round trip. By all expectations, the south-facing slope at this elevation should be an impenetrable field of chaparral. Users have maintained a narrow path through the scrub oak. The route is steep, narrow, unstable in places, and quite strenuous, but nevertheless easier than the Bear Canyon approach in Trip 1.6. It could become extremely unpleasant if the vegetation is left unchecked for a few years. Springtime is a great time to go. The scrub oak and buckthorn bloom magnificently in April and May, followed by wildflowers in May and June. By summer, the route can be unbearably hot. Watch for rattlesnakes; I saw two when I scouted the trail.

This approach crosses private property owned by the Mt. Baldy Ranch RV Park. The property owners have agreed to allow hikers to pass in return for a modest parking fee. Please honor this arrangement and be respectful of the landowner so that hikers can continue to enjoy the privilege of using this route.

Follow the directions of Trip 2.8 to Cow Canyon Saddle. Turn right (north) and drive 0.3 mile to the Mt. Baldy Ranch RV Park. Turn right at a Y in the road and follow signs 0.1 mile to park by the general store. Pay a \$2 / vehicle parking fee. If the store is not open, deposit your fee in the mailbox by the door.

Walk back to the Y, where a sign reads "Marble Head Placer Claim No. 6 Est. 1853." (GPS N34 13.914 W117 40.270 4503'). Start walking north up the fire break on the ridge behind the sign. In 60 yards, look for a use trail on the left. Leave the fire break and follow this unlikely trail as it curves around to the west side of the ridge and climbs 0.8 miles to a saddle northwest of Peak 5896' (GPS N34 14.470 W117 40.110 5432').

Two ducked trails depart from this saddle. The trail to the right leads down into Bear Canyon. We take the trail to the left, which climbs northwest up the ridge directly to the summit of Lookout Mountain. The good use trail eventually becomes a fire break. When you reach a prominent gendarme blocking the ridge, bypass the rocks on the right, then rejoin the ridge. The upper portion of the trail becomes less distinct, braiding along multiple paths up steep loose scree past manzanita plants before abruptly reaching the flat summit.

## **1.8-Cedar Glen**

The end of the last full paragraph in the left column of page 36 should read "from Icehouse Canyon" rather than "from the Jackass Canyon."

# 1.9-Ontario Peak

## Alternative Finish

Shortcut Ridge descends from Kelly Camp to Icehouse Canyon, reaching the canyon 0.1 mile east of the wilderness boundary sign. It is flanked by Delker Canyon to the east and Lost Creek Canyon to the west. Descending the ridge on the return from Ontario Peak saves distance but likely increases time and effort. The upper part of the ridge is brushy in place, while the lower section involves easy scrambling on loose metamorphic rock.

From Kelly Camp (N34 14.033 W117 36.274 7832'), walk northwest, crossing a shallow draw. You may find traces of an old use trail here. Stay to the right (east) of the crest of the ridge to avoid brush for a short way, then contour left (west) onto the crest of the main ridge (N34 14.243 W117 36.460 7614'). Thread your way past chinquapin and berry bushes. The ridge soon steepens and you can enjoy impressive views across the cliffs of Lost Creek while plunge-stepping down scree slopes and meandering through pines. At times, you may find bighorn sheep tracks to follow. Stay left, with the Lost Creek drainage in sight; don't be lured onto the slopes on the right here. Lower on the ridge, scramble down some rock bands. Near the bottom, the ridge becomes quite rocky and it is easier to slide straight down the steep scree to the right (east) of the crest until you can reach the creek (N34 14.717 W117 36.608 6280').

# 1.13-Iron Mountain

Update to hiking description:

Hike north past the gate along the dirt road 0.5 mile to Heaton Flat Campground (GPS N34 14.511 W117 45.670 2015'). At a sign near the outhouse, turn right and follow the Heaton Flats Trail (8W16). Climb 1.3 miles up the canyon to the Sheep Mountain Wilderness boundary. Continue along the ridge through wall-to-wall chaparral for 2.4 miles. The trail climbs a hill with a good view of Iron Mountain's south ridge from a helicopter pad, then descends north to Allison Saddle at the base of Iron Mtn. (GPS N34 15.546 W117 43.379 4603'). The maintained trail ends here.

From the saddle, a miner's trail once contoured west toward Allison Mine. Faint traces are still visible along the steep hillside. However, our route leads directly north up a steep but surprisingly good climber's trail on the south ridge of Iron Mtn. The first 600' are some of the steepest. The trail briefly levels out, passing three minor bumps, then regains its unrelenting grade for the remainder of the long climb. Reach the summit 2.5 miles from the saddle (GPS N34 17.304 W117 42.801 8007'). If you are ever in doubt about the trail, stay on the crest of the ridge. As you ascend, the scrub oak and manzanita gives way to yuccas and then to a fine forest of pine and fir. The summit offers breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks and of the San Gabriel River's deep gorge.

Hikers have also described tough routes up Iron from Allison mine and from the north:

[http://www.summitpost.org/trip-report/3 ... ution.html](http://www.summitpost.org/trip-report/3...ution.html)

<http://www.summitpost.org/route/297109/north-ridge.html>

## 1.14-San Antonio Ridge

This update includes an expanded description of the ridge traverse from Baldy to Iron. This direction is substantially easier (4000' less elevation gain), and is also more enjoyable because it involves climbing, rather than descending, the most interesting terrain between the Gunsight Notch and Iron.

From the summit of Mt. Baldy, walk 0.4 miles west to West Baldy (GPS N34 17.226 W117 39.247 10010'). Begin the arduous descend of the west ridge. The upper section involves weaving between stunted lodgepole pines on the north and thickets of buckthorn and manzanita on the southern edge of the ridge while walking on unpleasantly shattered rock. Traces of use trail may assist you in finding the easiest way. The lower section becomes more enjoyable walking beneath the sugar pines and white firs. In 1.4 miles, reach a saddle marking the east end of San Antonio Ridge (GPS N34 17.613 W117 40.219 7958'). The ground is flat enough to bivouac here, though no water is available except perhaps snowmelt.

Follow the ridge west, wading through some unavoidable patches of buckthorn. In 0.6 mile, reach Bump 7903'. Descend to a 7387' saddle, then climb back up to Bump 7758' in another 1.1 miles. The ridge becomes rockier and drops into the awesome Gunsight Notch in 0.3 mile (GPS N34 17.391 W117 42.019 7352'). The easiest way into the notch is straight down the ridge, climbing through the branches and roots of a gnarled oak.

The next stretch of the ridge is magnificent. Although the steep, shattered rock looks intimidating, it is easier and more solid than it might appear. Climb straight up the gorgeous arete (3rd class) on the west side of the notch and continue up the steep knife-edge ridge. Somebody has invested a surprising amount of effort cutting back the scrub, making the walking more pleasant. Ascend a false peak, then make the short final jaunt to Iron Mountain, 0.8 miles from the notch.



# 1.15-Icehouse Saddle from Lytle Creek

(This is a revised trip description with more detail after a rescout of the trail.)

Directions: From Interstate 15 between the 210 and 215 freeways, exit north on Sierra Ave., which becomes Lytle Creek Rd. Proceed 5.2 to the ranger station, where you can pick up your wilderness permit. Continue 1.7 miles, then turn left on Middle Fork Rd., which soon becomes the fair dirt Forest Road 2N58. In 2.9 miles, reach the trailhead parking at the end of the road beside an outhouse. (N34 15.222 W117 32.423 3955')

This trip takes the back way up to Icehouse Saddle. It follows the middle fork of Lytle Cree past three pleasant trail camps before making the steep climb to the saddle. A herd of bighorn sheep roam the crumbling canyon walls. Chickadees sing from the trees and wildflowers decorate the trail. You are much more likely to find solitude on this side of Icehouse Saddle, though the trail camps are favored by Boy Scout troops.

The trail leads west climbing onto the slope north of the creek, passing yuccas and scrub oak. This part of the canyon burned in the catastrophic Grand Prix fire of 2003. The chaparral is growing back on the north side of the creek, but the toothpick forest on the south side will take decades to recover. After climbing some switchbacks, round a corner and reach an unmarked junction in 0.6 mile. The old trail to the left descends to Stone House Trail Camp. (N34 15.098 W117 33.080 4403') In another 0.8 mile, reach a second junction with the old trail leading back to Stone House. By now, you have passed the end of the burn area and entered a forest of live oak and bigcone Douglas fir.

In 1.1 mile, turn left and cross the Middle Fork to reach Third Crossing Trail Camp. (N34 15.239 W117 34.280 5194') (This would have been your third creek crossing if you had taken the old trail.) The section near the creek crossing is somewhat indistinct; look for a rock-lined trail resuming at the campsite.

The trail now switchbacks up onto a ridge and joins a southern tributary of the Middle Fork above a spectacular section of narrows. (Some canyoneers enjoy making a technical descent of this gorge.) It crosses some scree and talus slopes with poor tread and reaches Commanche Trail Camp in 1.5 miles. (N34 14.549 W117 34.805 6132') The camp is beautifully situated beneath oaks, firs, incense cedars, and ponderosa pines. The choice and spelling of camp names is curious as the Comanche Indians lived east of the Rockies.

The last part of the trail is the toughest, climbing 1.7 miles to Icehouse Saddle. Along the way, you can enjoy the dramatic views of the rugged canyons as they abruptly drop to the San Andreas Fault. Return the way you came, or follow any of the other four trails radiating from Icehouse Saddle (see Trips 1.7-1.11).

## VARIATION

The three trail camps along the way are great backpacking destinations.

## 2.9-Sunset Ridge

### VARIATION

Sunset Ridge can also be accessed via a steep fire break from the saddle at the top of Evey Canyon (see Trip 2.6). This is the shortest way up to the antennas on the ridge.

From the saddle at the top of Evey Canyon where a road leads to Potato Mountain, look for a narrow path on the north side of the main road (GPS N34 10.148 W117 42.011 2978'). The trail overlooks the creek and passes some gooseberry bushes. In a few yards, it gains the ridge near a partially buried concrete water tank. A fire break leads up this ridge. At the time of this writing, the fire break was brushy and washed out in places, but still quite passable. Good boots and a trekking pole are helpful. It meets the Sunset Ridge fire road near the east end of the second prominent switchback southwest of the antenna farm. A small cairn may mark this spot (GPS N34 10.359 W117 42.471 4057').

## 2.12-Etiwanda Falls

Corrected Trip Stats

Distance: 3.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 800'

Driving directions: From the 210 Freeway in Rancho Cucamonga, exit north on Day Creek. Drive 2.1 miles as Day Creek leads north and then east. Turn left (north) on Etiwanda Ave. and proceed 0.4 mile to the trailhead parking at the end of the road.

The old dirt road loop shown on the map southwest of the falls is overgrown and not recommended.

The North Etiwanda Preserve (NEP) officially opened in October 2009. The preserve now features a 3.2 mile loop trail (600' gain) with interpretive signs explaining the significance of the area, including the critical alluvial fan sage scrub habitat, the geology, the Native American, Spanish, and early agricultural history, and the regional water supply system. The preserve is open to hikers and cyclists, but dogs and horses are prohibited to protect the habitat. The first 0.6 mile of the NEP loop coincides with the first leg of the Etiwanda Falls approach. At the crossroad near the Etiwanda Creek bluffs, the NEP loop turns left (west), while the Etiwanda Falls path continues north.

The NEP loop includes spurs to the Etiwanda Creek overlook, a gauging station in Day Creek and a fantastic overlook atop an earthquake scarp. Adding all these spurs brings the trip to nearly 5 miles. Most of the junctions are well marked, but the loop does path several unmarked side roads. When in doubt, stay on the most heavily used track. Several picnic shelters are scattered along the path.

The County of San Bernardino developed outstanding interpretive signs placed liberally along the loop. Unfortunately, at the time we scouted the preserve two weeks after the grand opening, many signs had already fallen down or been damaged by rain. We hope that permanent replacements are soon in place.

For more information and a trail map, see

<http://www.specialdistricts.org/2/nep/trail.htm>

# 3.1-Deep Creek Hot Springs

More detail on the variation via the Pacific Crest Trail:

This route is 12 miles out-and-back with 800' of elevation gain.

The USGS map does not accurately portray the PCT near Arrowhead Lake Rd. The PCT crosses Highway 173 where the highway turns to dirt, 0.6 miles east of Arrowhead Lake Rd. Follow the PCT northeast for 0.8 mile. After passing Point 3353, the PCT fords Deep Creek. This crossing can be difficult because the creek is, well, er, deep. It then leads east 0.4 mile up onto the dam to the spillway at the east end.

Some hikers access the PCT by hiking 1.2 miles across the dam to the spillway on the east end, where a sign marks the PCT. This avoids the need to ford Deep Creek.

Switchback up steeply beyond the spillway, then follow the PCT east as it contours above Deep Creek. In another 1.8 mile, reach an unmarked fork on the right that descends to some granite ledges and cliffs overlooking waterfall. This would be a splendid site in the spring if not for all the graffiti on the rocks. The cliffs are very exposed.

In 1.1 mile, cross a bridge arching gracefully over Deep Creek. Climb to the south side and continue 2.0 miles to the hot springs.



Bridge over Deep Creek

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Yet another route, maintained by volunteers, leads to Deep Creek Hot Springs from the south. This 6-mile round-trip is shorter than the PCT and avoids the problem of fording Deep Creek when coming from Bowen Ranch. The undulating trail has 1900' of elevation gain: 600' on the way to the creek and 1300' on the steep, shadeless return. It is not recommended in the summer. The trail is well-defined and easy to follow but does not appear on the Lake Arrowhead USGS map. Sections are steep and loose, so good boots and a hiking pole are handy.

The trail starts at a bridge where Highway 173 crosses Kinley Creek, 2.5 miles north of Grass Valley Road and the Rock Camp Forest Service Fire Station (N34 19.081 W117 11.753 4364'). If the highway turns to dirt, you have gone 0.2 mile too far north. There is ample parking on both sides of the highway, and many vehicles can be found here on a pleasant weekend.

Look for the trail on the northeast side of the road. The trail immediately passes a gate with a sign reading Bradford Ridge Path to Deep Creek. Round a corner and look left for a waterfall on Kinley Creek. The follows Kinley Creek. The 1999 Willow Fire ravaged more than 60,000 acres including almost everything along this trail, but look for the "Unburned Acre" where you can still see mature oaks as they once stood. Scrub oak and

other chaparral are resprouting. Mature pines along the creek bottom also survived the inferno.

In 0.7 mile, the trail begins climbing steeply out of Kinley Creek. In another 0.7 mile, cross a minor saddle and start descending into a drainage leading down toward Deep Creek. In 0.4 mile, reach a junction by a gap in an old fence (N34 20.192 W117 11.072 4131'). A very steep side trail to the right shortcuts down, but the main trail leads straight down the ridge to the north and intersects the PCT in 0.4 miles at the toe of the ridge (N34 20.503 W117 10.898 3716'). Turn right and follow the PCT 0.5 mile to Deep Creek Hot Springs.

If you wish to return via the shortcut, it leaves the PCT at the first canyon west of the hot springs (N34 20.346 W117 10.772 3575'). Follow the canyon bottom southwest, then leave it and climb the steep sandy trail back to the fence.

## 4.6-Sugarloaf Mountain

Variation:

Sugarloaf can be reached from Green Canyon, as shown on the map on p. 92. This is a 10-mile round trip with 2000' of elevation gain. The trailhead is reached from Highway 38 about 3 miles southeast of Big Bear City. At mile marker 038 SBD 45.75, turn southwest onto Forest Road 2N93 (directly across from Hatchery Rd.) Follow 2N93 for 1.3 miles as it passes multiple side roads. Park at the signed Sugarloaf Trail by the Green Creek crossing.

A jeep road once led up Green Canyon, but the track has deteriorated into a rocky trail. Follow the trail southeast along the creek for 1.8 miles to a cairn and sign. A jeep road leads east to rejoin 2N93 at the gate mentioned in the main driving directions, but this trip continues southeast for 0.4 mile to the four-way junction mentioned in the main trip description. Turn right (west) and join the main trail, which leads 2.5 miles to the summit.

Variation:

An old trail, shown on the USGS 7.5' Moonridge map, leads to Sugarloaf from the undulating western ridge. The trail crosses the Bear Mountain ski resort and is no longer maintained by the Forest Service, but it receives enough use to remain passable. This trip involves 2800' of elevation gain and is 9 miles out-and-back.

Permission from the ski resort is required to use this route. To reach the trailhead from Highway 18 near the east end of Big Bear Lake, turn right on Moonridge Rd. In 0.9 mile, turn right on Clubview Dr., which leads past the lifts. In 1.3 mile, reach the top of the paved road. Veer left onto Forest Road 2N10. Follow it 1.3 miles, past some junctions, to a major signed junction. Turn left on 2N06. In 0.7 mile, turn left on 2N21. Follow it 0.3 miles to a locked gate at the edge of the ski area, and park where you do not block the gate.

Hike up the road along the top of the ski area. At various forks, take the road that leads west near the top of the ridge. In 1.6 miles, reach the end of the road at Bear Mtn., the highest point in the ski area (8805'.) This point is called Sugarlump on the USGS map. Descend west along the ski boundary markers to a saddle, where traces of the old trail become evident. Follow the trail up and around another bump and down to a second saddle at the head of Sand Canyon, 1.1 mile from Bear Mtn. Some hikers bypass the ski area with a cross-country ascent up the canyon to this point (see below). Continue west toward Sugarloaf. About 700' below the summit, the trail becomes faint or vanishes. Walk straight up the steep slope to the summit, 2.8 miles from Bear Mtn.

Variation:

Many local hikers reach Sugarloaf's west ridge from Sand Canyon to bypass the ski area. An intricate network of trails has developed in this area. This route is only 5 miles round trip, but involves 2400' of climbing on steep use trails.

From highway 18 near the east end of Big Bear, turn right onto Moonridge Rd. Make a left onto Sand Canyon Rd. Follow the road until it turns into the good dirt Forest Road 2N27. Proceed 0.8 mile to a hairpin turn and park at a small turnout.

Before starting, look south and identify the lowest saddle on the ridge at the head of Sand Canyon. Your goal is to navigate the unsigned paths to reach this saddle. The trail leads south up the canyon through a gap in a fence. In 0.2 mile, reach a T junction. Turn right, go 15 yards, then turn left at a cairn. A well-used trail continues south, paralleling the draw. It is also possible to walk directly up the draw, but the path is cluttered with vegetation. As the canyon steepens and narrows, the use trail merges into the dry creekbed. Stay right at a fork in the canyon near the top and work your way up to the ridge, 0.9 mile from the trailhead. If Sugarloaf is your goal, turn left and continue 1.7 miles as described above.

# 4.8-Grand View Point

## Revised Trip Description

Grand View Point, high on the ridge above Big Bear Lake, offers an unobstructed view across the Santa Ana River Canyon to the tall summits of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. A somewhat confusing network of trails leads up from the Aspen Glen picnic area to the point. Go on a clear day when you can fully appreciate the vistas. This whole ridge south of Big Bear is laced with fire roads and single track trails that draw mountain bikers from across Southern California.

Follow the Pineknut Trail (1E01) from the east end of the parking area. In 150 yards, stay left at a fork. The trail leads over a rise and down into a willow-choked draw, 0.6 miles from the start. The trail has been rerouted in this area; stay on the well-used new trail, although the old spurs soon rejoin the correct trail. Switchback up beneath the shade of the Jeffrey pines, white firs, and black oaks. This area is particularly lovely in October when the oak leaves turn golden. In another 0.8 mile, reach an unmarked and easily overlooked junction (see the variation below).

The main trail continues straight (south) and crosses Forest Road 2N08 in 0.5 mile. It then levels out, passes Deer Group Camp, and parallels 2N08 to reach Forest Road 2N10 at the top of the ridge. Cross the road and follow the signed trail 0.3 mile southeast to the clearing on Grand View Point. Return the way you came, or pre-position mountain bikes on 2N10 for an exhilarating ride down the dirt roads.

### VARIATION:

An unmarked trail loops around from the junction near the start to the junction before 2N08. It offers an alternative path on the return trip, or a 3.3 mile family-friendly loop from the picnic area. The trail passes many unmarked spurs that test your navigation skills; remain on the most heavily used path.

## 4.9-Champion Lodgepole

The Siberia Creek Trail leads 1 mile to Gunsight Notch (GPS N34 13.005 W116 59.013 7448'). This is a pleasant walk through the forest along the creek and is definitely recommended for those looking for a longer stroll. The notch is a gap between boulder piles. Siberia Creek tumbles down the gully beyond the notch. The trail continues south. In 0.3 miles, it reaches a sign indicating that the trail is not maintained beyond this point.

Some portion of the trail beyond was reportedly obliterated by an avalanche. The bottom portion of the Siberia Creek Trail intersects Trip 4.12 (at N34 12.300 W117 00.667 5348') and is definitely passable. If you explore the stretch in between and have more information about its condition, please email us an update.

## **4.12-Siberia Creek Trail Camp from Seven Pines**

The trailhead is signed Siberia Creek Trail (1W10).

This trail was reportedly cut back by a trail crew in Fall 2008. Nevertheless, branches of buckthorn have already grown across the trail by April 2009, making travel unpleasant in places. I also encountered numerous ticks, which are most common in the spring time.

The Camp Creek Trail (1W09) is brushy but passable from Siberia Creek Trail Camp up to Snow Valley.

The Siberia Creek Trail (1W04) leading toward Champion Lodgepole has been cleared of brush near its junction with 1W10. However, a trail crew reportedly found it completely obliterated by an avalanche and chaparral higher up and that section is likely impassable. The upper part of 1W04 is reportedly passable as far as Gunsight Notch.

## 5.14-Santa Ana River Trail

An obscure segment of the Santa Ana River Trail continues east from the Heart Bar area, linking with sections of the Pacific Crest Trail and nearly-defunct California Riding and Hiking Trail to form a 5.7-mile loop with 1100' of elevation gain. The trip follows jeep tracks and lacks a well-defined destination, but it is attractive to equestrians staying at the nearby group campgrounds.

It is unclear why this section of dirt road is designated part of the SART or why it abruptly terminates in the middle of nowhere.

From the Big Meadows trailhead, continue south on 1N05 for 0.2 miles to another sign for the Santa Ana River Trail, just before the road makes a sharp right turn. Park in a large turnout.

The path is an old dirt road leading southeast (N34 08.936 W116 46.241). It immediately forks. Stay on the right fork, which is marked as a difficult jeep route. Walk up the valley through an open forest of Jeffrey pine and white fir. The track makes a sharp switchback and climbs steadily. In 1.6 miles, stay right at an unmarked fork. In another 1.1 miles, reach a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail (N34 07.923 W116 44.993).

The road continues to meet 1N05, but this loop turns left on the PCT and follows it east 0.7 mile along a ridge to a saddle overlooking Mission Creek. Turn left again at a signed junction with one of the surviving segments of the California Riding and Hiking Trail. Follow this path down along Heart Bar Creek. Sections of the trail were once a jeep track, but the track is now closed to motorized vehicles. In 2.0 miles, reach a signed junction with another dirt road. Turn left and follow it 0.3 mile back to the trailhead.

## **9.6-Marion Mtn. Trail**

Update to 2nd paragraph:

In 0.4 mile, it crosses a dirt road. The road leads left (north) to Marion Mtn. Campground near site #11. Continue up the main trail. In less than 0.1 mile, pass an unmarked trail on the left leading down to a water tank by the campground. Shortly after, cross the dirt road a second time at a signed junction. Two trails continue on the far side of the road. The one on the left is our trail. The one on the right leads 2.8 miles down to Stone Creek Campground.

## **9.7-Webster Trail**

The start of Pine Cove Rd. is not portrayed quite accurately in the map on page 172. However, the driving directions are accurate. Pine Cove Rd. turns to good dirt before reaching the junction with 5S10 and 5S09.

## **12.15-Pinyon Trail**

An unmarked footpath starts at a cairn 1.1 miles from Palm Canyon Dr. (N33 35.698 W116 28.776 3827'). It leads north 0.3 mile to the west end of Pinesmoke Rd. (N33 35.880 W116 28.652 3860'), offering convenient access for residents of the area.

# 13.1-Ladder Canyon

## VARIATION:

Instead of taking the first easy exit from Ladder Canyon, continue up the canyon to its end. Two more ladders just before the end surmount small cliffs. At the end of the canyon, a trail leads up and right to join the crest of the ridge. Turn left here and hike toward the radio towers.

## VARIATION:

Little Painted Canyon is not as dramatic as Big Painted Canyon, but nevertheless makes an enjoyable walk if you are a repeat visitor. Enter Little Painted Canyon by turning left instead of right at the saddle at the end of the ridge. Follow it downhill all the way back to the trailhead.

If you wish to ascend Little Painted Canyon instead, it is the major canyon leading northwest from the Trip 13.1 parking. Stay right at each of three major junctions. At the top, exit right to reach the saddle.

# 15.1-Black Rock Canyon Panorama Loop

The start of this trip was recently rerouted. The trip is now 6.5 miles.

The National Park Service now recommends starting at the Black Rock Backcountry Board (see Trip 15.2). The trail leads east for 0.1 mile, then joins a sandy wash leading south. In another 0.1 mile, pass a sign on the left for the California Riding and Hiking Trail. In 0.5 mile, pass a sign on the left for the Short Loop Trail. In 0.1 mile, come to a 4-way junction. The Burnt Hill Trail goes left. A connector to the West Side Loop and the upper campground goes right. This trip continues south along the main wash into Black Rock Canyon. In 0.3 mile, pass an unmarked wash on the right where you may find footprints leading to connect with the West Side Loop. In 0.4 mile, the canyon narrows and you pass Black Rock Spring. In 0.2 mile, reach a signed junction where the loop splits. Navigation is easier if you follow the right fork to make a counterclockwise loop. In 0.4 mile, pass a sign on the right pointing to Warren Point. In 1.1 mile, reach the ridge. In 0.3 mile, reach the high point on the ridge. The steep, sandy trail veers left (north) down the ridge, then northwest down the canyon. In 1.2 mile, return to the split in the loop. Hike north down the wash and return to the trailhead.

The trail marker by site #30 has been removed, but it is still possible to start here and follow the previous route description. The junction 0.1 mile beyond the water tank is now signed. The right fork is labeled West Side Loop. Take the left fork and reach the 4-way junction with the Burnt Hill trail and Black Rock Canyon wash mentioned above, where you turn right and follow the wash south.

## 15.11-Lost Horse Mine

In May 2009, the Lost Horse fire burned through this area. Visitors are asked to remain on the trail while the vegetation regenerates.



*AP Photo/Preston Drake-Hillyard*

*From [http://laist.com/2009/05/26/lost\\_horse\\_fire\\_at\\_joshua\\_tree.php](http://laist.com/2009/05/26/lost_horse_fire_at_joshua_tree.php)*