Backbone Trail

*Quick Guide courtesy of County of Los Angeles*

*QUICK GUIDE TO*

# FOSSIL RIDGE TRAIL

DESCRIPTION: This section of the Backbone Trail starts west up the center of the "V" intersection of Stunt Road and Schueren Road. The short, single-track trail is forested, providing spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. Occasionally, the trail also offers views of the Pacific Ocean as it gradually ascends the east side of Saddle Peak.

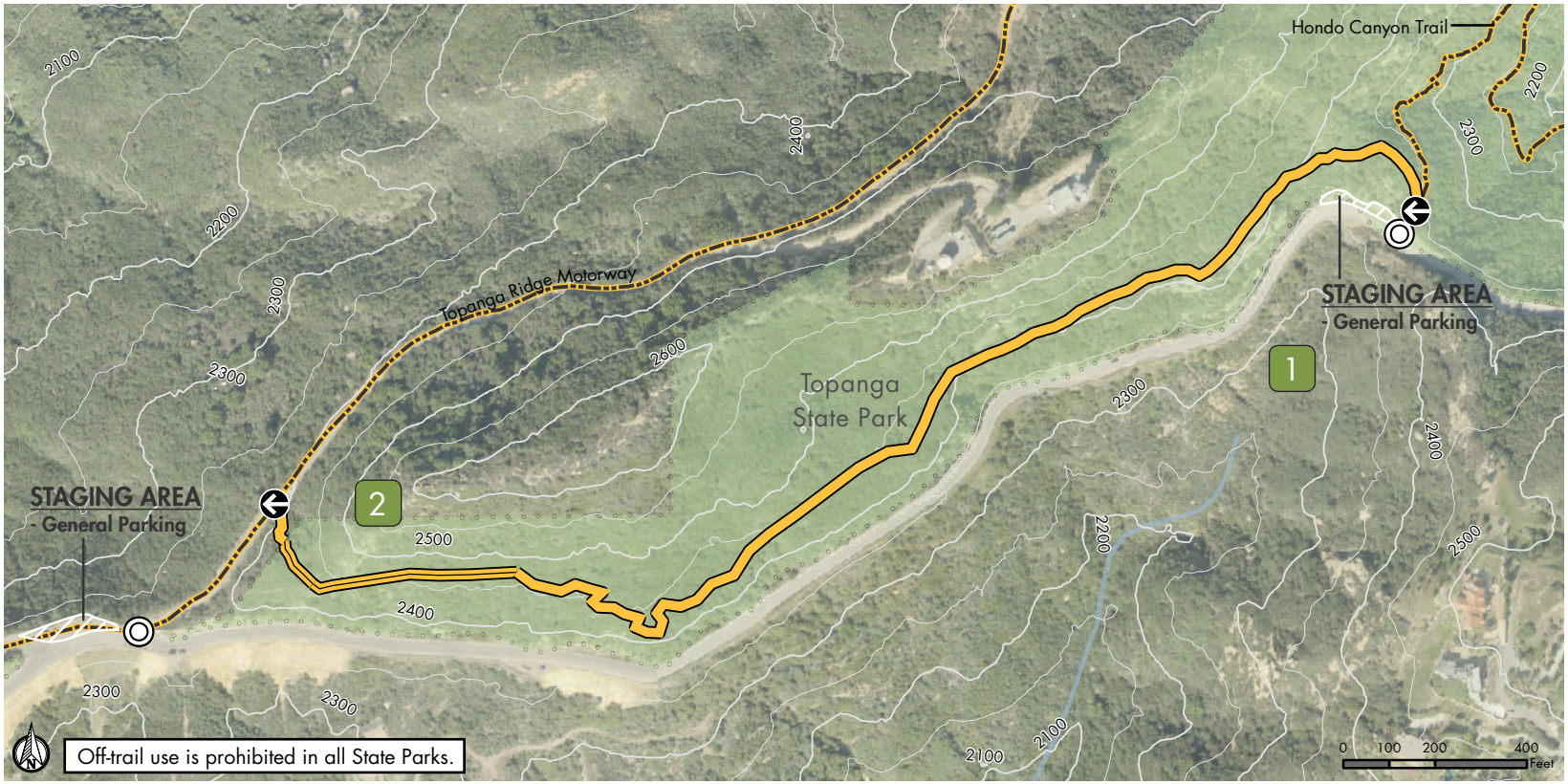
DIRECTIONS: Trail can be accessed from the Lois Ewen Overlook Staging Area in Topanga State Park. From the 101, exit on Las Virgenes Road. Turn left onto Mulholland Highway. After 4 miles turn right onto Stunt Road. Staging area will be on the left after 4 miles at the intersection fo Stunt Road, Saddle Peak Road, and Schueren Road.

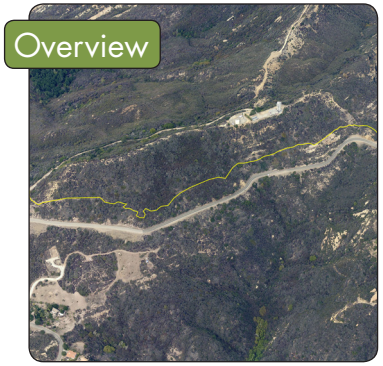
**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

**TOPANGA STATE PARK**

**Length**: 0.62 mi.

**Elev.Gain**: 121 feet



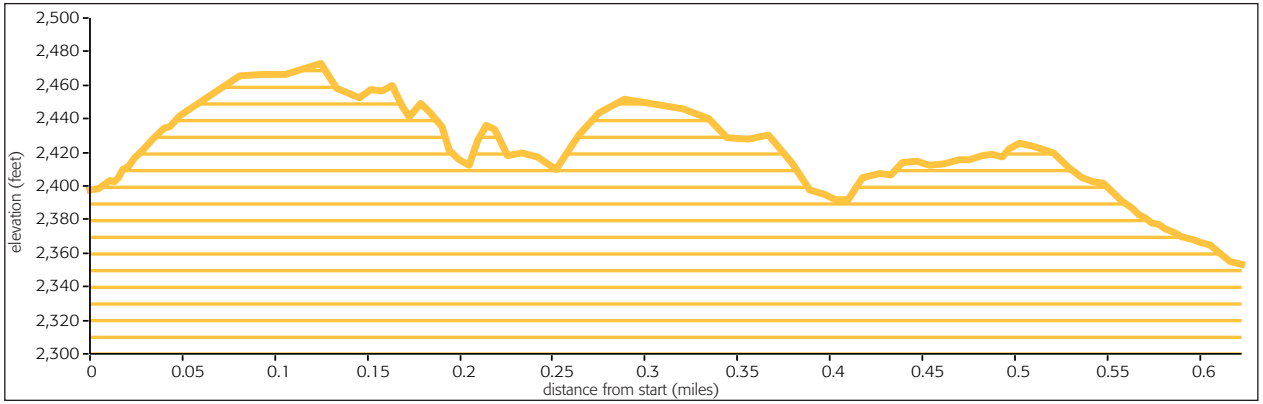
**Access & Features**

- Trailhead
- Trail Access Point

**Trail Type**

- Natural Trail
- Trail Road (unpaved)

- Public Parkland and Other Protected Open Space



# QUICKGUIDE INFORMATION

COURTESY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES | DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## SAFETY FIRST

*In case of EMERGENCY dial 911.*

*For non-emergencies on County trails call the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Parks Bureau Dispatch at (800) 834-0064.*

## HAZARDS ON THE TRAIL

*Rattlesnakes occasionally sun themselves in the middle of the trail. If encountered, keep your distance and allow space for the snake to retreat.*

*Poison oak can be identified by groups of 3 leaves going up the branch. It's best avoided by staying on the trail and wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts to prevent contact with skin.*

*Ticks are most often found in shaded, grassy areas off the beaten path. Stick to established trails and wear long pants to avoid contact. Check for ticks frequently, especially the scalp, waist and other dark places where they can hide.*

## SHARE THE TRAIL

*When trail conditions require a right of way for safe passage,* ***equestrian users have the primary right of way, hikers next and then mountain bikers****. When trail conditions allow and when there is width to safely pass, common courtesy should prevail for all users. Stand to one side of the trail and allow them to pass. When in a group, avoid blocking the trail.* ***Mountain bikers yield to all trail users.*** *Anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Mountain bikers traveling downhill must yield to all users, including other mountain bikers, headed uphill. In general, make each pass a safe and courteous one.*

## WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ *Water for you and your animal(s)*
- ✓ *Trail map*
- ✓ *High energy snacks*
- ✓ *Waste bags for your dog*
- ✓ *First aid kit*
- ✓ *Extra clothing*
- ✓ *Sunglasses/hat*
- ✓ *Sunscreen*
- ✓ *Insect repellent*
- ✓ *Trekking poles (optional)*
- ✓ *Flashlight (optional)*

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*For information visit trails.lacounty.gov or any of our partners' websites at nps.gov, parks.ca.gov, smmc.ca.gov, lamountains.com, or rmc.ca.gov. Visitor Center for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, (805) 370-2300*

## MAP DISCLAIMER

*This map was created for informational purposes only. Reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the maps, images, and data provided; nevertheless, some information may not be accurate.*