Backbone Trail

Quick Guide courtesy of County of Los Angeles

QUICK GUIDE TO

MESA PEAK MOTORWAY

DESCRIPTION: This trail follows a fire road road with staging areas at either end, one off of Malibu Canyon Road and the other off of Castro Peak Motorway. The wide, dirt trail travels along the ridge above Malibu Canyon, offering spectacular views of the surrounding landscape and spectacular views of the Channel Islands on clear days. While the eastern end of the trail has more chaparral, the western end includes great rock outcroppings.

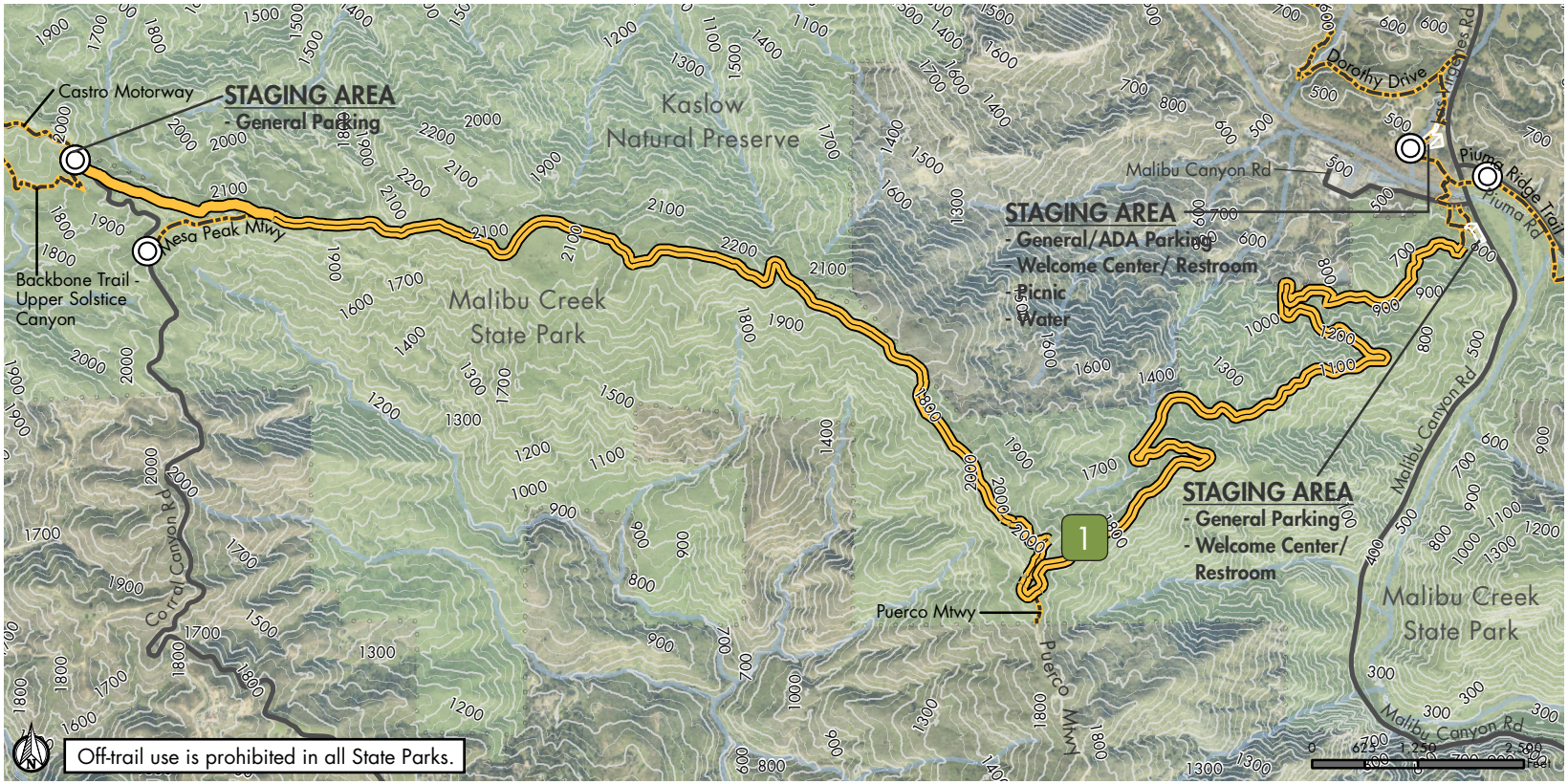
DIRECTIONS: Mesa Peak Motorway can be accessed via Tapia Spur Trail or Dorothy Drive from the main parking area at Tapia County Park, located approximately 3 miles south of Malibu Creek State Park on the west side of Las Virgenes Rd. Follow the trail from the south side of the parking lot.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK

Length: 5.31 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,683 feet



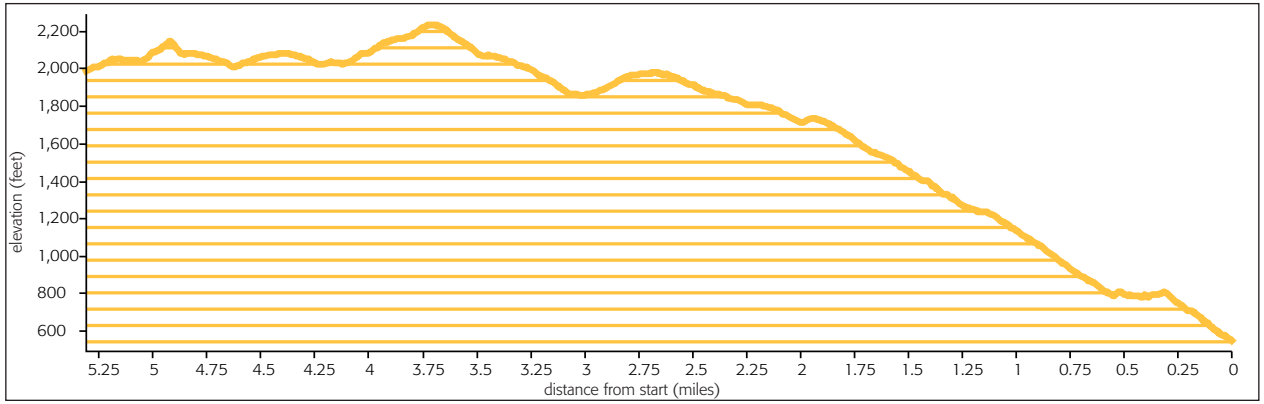
Access & Features

Trailhead

Trail Type

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.