



Amir's Garden Trail Guide

DISTANCE: .6 Miles
ELEVATION: 800'
ELEVATION GAIN: 240'
TYPE: Loop
HIKING TIME: 1 Hour (allow additional time to explore gardens)
RATING: Strenuous, but short

Directions to Trailhead

Mineral Wells Road at Griffith Park Drive, near the golf driving range.

Exit the 134 at Forest Lawn Drive and proceed .3 mile.
Turn right at the light onto Zoo Drive and proceed .2 mile.
Turn left at the stop sign onto Griffith Park Drive and proceed 1.3 miles.
Turn right into the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.

Trailhead is located on the dirt fire road at the entrance of the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.



Rest Rooms & Water

Rest Rooms and a water fountain are located in the Mineral Wells Picnic Area.



Parking

Parking is located at the entrance of Mineral Wells Picnic Area and along the shoulder of Griffith Park Drive.



Trailhead

The trailhead is located on the intersection of 3 dirt fire roads at the entrance of the Mineral Wells Picnic Area. Take the road all the way to your left. Walk about 700 ft. (.13 mile) and look for the steps leading up the hill on your right.

If you prefer to reverse the route, you will take the center fire road veering off just to your right and up the hill.



Trail Junction 1

Turn right and begin climbing the stairs through the coastal chaparral for about .1 mile. The steps have wide dirt treads and wooden risers held in place with metal poles. Some of the poles stick up above the treads and are easy to catch your foot on. This is why I prefer to climb the steps than descend them. Tripping on the way down is far more precarious than tripping on the way up. As you

near the top, the path will curve sharply to your left.



Amir's Garden, 800'

You will enter the gardens on one of the pathways that wind through the garden just below the main entrance and picnic area. Take your time and explore the gardens. Several vistas provide views of Mineral Wells Picnic Area, Hogback Ridge, Beacon Hill and Mt. Bell. There is also a water fountain at the main entrance to the gardens.



Trail Junction 2

When you are ready to leave, make your way to the main entrance with the Amir's Garden sign and water fountain. Take the fire road north. In about 100' you will reach a fork. Take the fork on your right and begin descending. The trail to the parking lot is about .37 mile in length.



Steep Descent

At about .25 mile into your descent, just past the water tank, the trail makes a sharp turn to the right. This will begin the steepest part of the descent to the parking area. It's not horrible, but keep an eye on your footing. Also keep an eye out for Acorn Woodpeckers working the trees in the small canyon below. There are often quite a number of them pecking away in search of something to eat.



End of Trail

And you've made it back to Mineral Wells Picnic Area. Hopefully you'll come back and visit the gardens again. You may even want to try your hand at gardening and volunteer. If so, you can find more information on the gardens here: <http://amirsgarden.org/>