



Echo Mountain Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 5.5 Miles Roundtrip
ELEVATION: 3,200'
ELEVATION GAIN: 1400'
TYPE: Out-and-Back
HIKING TIME: 3-4 Hours
RATING: Strong Moderate

Directions to Trailhead

3200 Lake Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001

From the 210 Freeway in Pasadena, take exit 26 and head north on Lake Ave. Drive 3.6 miles to where the road makes a hard left and becomes East Loma Alta Drive. The trailhead is on the right side of this junction through the iron gates of the former Cobb Estate. Street parking is available on either Lake Avenue or East Alta Loma Drive.



Trailhead

The trail begins at the junction of Lake Ave and East Loma Alta Drive. Pass through the iron gates of the former Cobb Estate and continue on the paved road for .1 mile to Trail Junction 1. Look for the junction as the paved road begins to curve to the left. It is an easy junction to miss.



Trail Junction 1 (.1 mile)

As the paved road makes a 90° turn to the left, continue straight on a small dirt trail made with an easy-to-miss sign simply stating 'trail.' Follow this section for about 40 yards to Trail Junction 2.



Trail Junction 2 (.11 mile)

Just past the Trail Junction 1 is Trail Junction 2. Continue straight, keeping the water fountain and trail signage on your left, descending slightly into Las Flores Canyon and turn left onto the Lower Sam Merrill Trail. Do not take the trail to the left before the water fountain or you will loop back through the Cobb Estate. This is also the last spot for water on this trail. Make sure your bottles are full.



Switchbacks (.35 mile)

At .35 mile you will cross to the east side of Las Flores Canyon and reach a series of short, steep switchbacks. After completing the short switchbacks, the trail continues on a longer, sweeping set of switchback for just under a mile, crossing the ridgeline to the western slopes of Rubio Canyon. At 1.23 miles you will reach a hairpin turn with fine views into Rubio Canyon.



Rubio Canyon Scenic View (1.23 miles)

Scenic view into Rubio Canyon at the hairpin turn.



Power Lines (1.28 miles)

Just past the hairpin turn at Rubio Canyon, you will pass under a power line tower and cross back into Las Flores Canyon.



Scenic View (2.38 miles)

From the power lines, the trail continues north through a few more switchbacks. Just over a mile from the power lines, the trail makes a hairpin turn back to the south. At this turn are some nice views of Mount Lowe and Las Flores Canyon.



Trail Junction 3 (2.58 miles)

The Lower Sam Merrill Trail ends at a T-intersection with the Mount Lowe Railway Trail. Veer to the right and continue on the Mt. Lowe Railway trail for about .25 mile. About 200 yards past the junction, you will pass the trailhead for the Upper Sam Merrill Trail to the Mt. Lowe Campground (former site of the Ye Alpine Tavern, an additional 6 miles roundtrip). Shortly past the Upper Sam Merrill turnoff is another trailhead for Castle Canyon Trail leading to Inspiration Point (an additional 4 miles roundtrip). Remain on the Mt. Lowe Railway Trail and continue past both these trail junctions to reach the site of the Echo Mountain House.



Echo Mountain and the Mt. Lowe Incline Railway Ruins (2.74 miles)