



# Oat Mountain Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 6.4 Miles Roundtrip  
ELEVATION: 3750'  
ELEVATION GAIN: 1850'  
TYPE: Out-and-Back  
HIKING TIME: 3 – 4 hours  
RATING: Strenuous

## Directions to Trailhead

Michael Antonovich Regional Park  
15984-15998 Browns Canyon Road  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Exit CA 118 at DeSoto Ave. and head north. DeSoto Ave. dead ends about .25 of a mile north of CA 118. Turn right onto Browns Canyon Road following signs for Michael Antonovich Regional Park. Proceed on Browns Canyon Road for approximately 3 miles to the park entrance. Browns Canyon Road is a winding twisting route through an oak-lined canyon. You will notice several No Trespassing and Private Road signs along the way. These are left over from before the park was established and the road was opened to the general public. At the park entrance pay the \$5.00 parking fee at the iron ranger and continue to the parking area about .33 of a mile ahead. The third entrance to the parking area is the best. The first two tend to be bumpy and low-slung cars can bottom out. Be sure to leave your parking pass visible on the dash or risk getting a ticket. The trailhead begins at the southwest corner of the dirt parking area..

## Parking

Pay the parking fee of \$5.00 at the iron ranger as you enter the park. Display the parking pass on your dashboard and proceed along Browns Canyon Road for about .33 mile. The parking area is a dirt lot with 3 rows. The last row is the easiest to maneuver into as the first two are heavily rutted and you run the risk of bottoming out your car.

## Trailhead

The trail begins in the southwest corner of the parking lot on Browns Canyon Road. Cross around the metal gate that bars further vehicular traffic and continue on Browns Canyon Road, also called Oat Mountain Motorway. You will follow the roadway all the way to the summit.

## 2 First View of LA-88 Base

At approximately .6 mile you will come upon the first of the Nike Missile Site buildings.

## 3 LA-88 Nike Missile Complex

At .75 mile you will reach the main entrance to the former missile complex. A dilapidated guard shack on your right still stands sentry over the installation.



#### Flagpole

Take the road to your left and walk a short distance to find the base flagpole in an overgrown garden. The flagpole will be just to the left of the roadway.



#### LA-88 Nike Missile launch pad

As you continue on Browns Canyon Road just past the main gate, you will see the large concrete slab that served as the launch pad for the Nike missiles. There is still at least one launch pad embankment off the right front corner of the bus.



#### Picnic Area

At 2.1 miles you will come to a small plateau branching off to your left. There is a solitary tree providing some of the only shade along this hike. The view is quite nice and makes for a great spot to rest and have a bite to eat.



#### Trail Junction 1

At 2.4 miles, bear right at the fork and continue uphill.



#### Trail Junction 2

Just below the summit, with the radar installation on the hill right in front of you, the road splits three ways. It seems logical to take the middle road and continue straight. This will take you up a long switchback to the back of the installation. A better choice is to take the hairpin turn up the road to your immediate right. You will climb a short hill and then descend to your left to the primary viewing area just below the summit.



#### Viewing Area

As you descend the hill you will come onto a large flat area with a dramatic view across the San Fernando Valley. On clear days you can see Cahuenga and Burbank peaks in Griffith park and the towers of downtown Los Angeles peeking from the Cahuenga Pass. There is also an oil pump operating nearby.



#### Trail Junction 3

Continue past the oil pump to the next intersection and turn left to make your way to the summit of Oat Mountain.



Oat Mountain Summit, 3750'

Congratulations! You have reached the highest peak in the Santa Susanna Mountains.