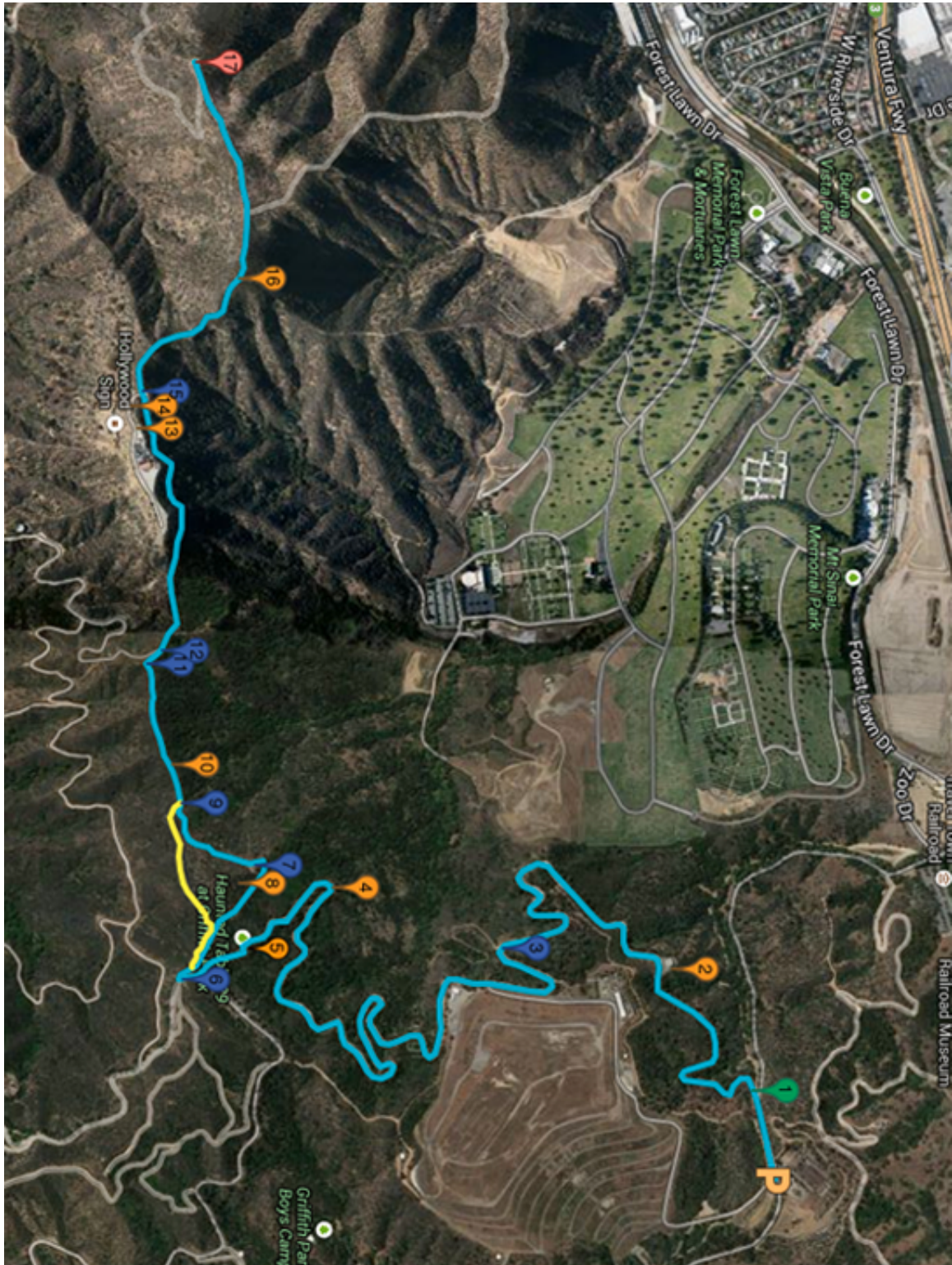


The Lonesome Pine Hike

by Hike-LosAngeles.com



The Lonesome Pine Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 9.6 Miles Roundtrip
ELEVATION: 1821'
ELEVATION GAIN: 1101'
TYPE: Out-and-Back
HIKING TIME: 5.5 hours
RATING: Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead

Griffith Park
Griffith Park Drive, across from the Griffith Park Composting Facility
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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 .8 mile.
Turn right into the dirt parking lot across from the composting facility.

Trailhead is located at the 3-way stop on Griffith Park Drive .2 mile west of the parking area.



Parking is located in the dirt lot across from the Griffith Park Compost Facility. Rest Rooms and drinking water can be found nearby at the Mineral Wells Picnic Area just around the bend.

The Lonesome Pine Trail is an out and back trail. Round-trip distance is approximately 9.6 miles (including the walk to and from the trailhead). To reach the trailhead, walk west along Griffith Park Drive approximately .25 mile to the three-way stop. Cross around the white gate onto Mt. Hollywood Drive (closed to vehicular traffic).



At the three-way stop, proceed straight and cross around the white gate onto Mt. Hollywood Drive. Mt. Hollywood Drive is a paved road closed to vehicular traffic. It is a favorite destination for hikers, runners and bicyclists. The road winds through a wooded section on the north side of Griffith Park and offers numerous views the San Fernando Valley, Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains.

You will follow Mt. Hollywood Drive for approximately the next 2.5 miles until it intersects with Vista del Valle Drive.



Views of Mt. Thom in the Verdugos and Cahuenga Peak in Griffith Park.



Royce's Canyon Trailhead

Trailhead for Royce's Canyon



Scenic View

There are several viewpoints along Mt. Hollywood Drive; this is the last and the best.



Haunted Picnic Table #29

The Haunted Picnic Table is on your right, nearly crushed beneath the tree that killed two young lovers on a Halloween Night many years ago. The park tried to remove the tree, but after a groundsman died of apparent fright, the tree and the table have been left alone.

Read more about here: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-haunted30oct30/>



Trail Junction 1

Mt. Hollywood Drive intersects with Vista dell Valle Drive coming in on your left. Continue walking straight on Mt. Hollywood Drive for about 120' past the second gate. Make a sharp hairpin turn to your left and proceed uphill on the dirt fire road for .35 mile toward Water Tank 153.



Trail Junction 2

The dirt fire road dead ends here and becomes a narrow, rocky single track path and will lead you in .2 mile to the ridge line separating the Los Angeles Basin from the San Fernando Valley. This is about as remote an area as you can find in Griffith Park. Oh, and you're entering Puma-22's hunting territory. Good Luck!

You can also work your way up a rocky path on the backside of the water tank to reach the actual summit of Mt. Chapel. Trail to the summit is less than .1 mile.



Mt. Chapel, 1614'

1st of 4 summits you can bag on this hike.



Alternate Return Trail

As you come up on the ridge line, you will notice another single-track user path rising up on your left to intersect with the ridge line trail. This is an alternate path around Mt. Chapel and leads back to Trail Junction 1. You may want to consider taking this trail on your return trip for a little shorter distance and different views. On your return trip simply take the path veering off to your right and downhill. To return the way you came, keep on the path to your left and go uphill.

To reach the Lonesome Pine continue on the ridge for .25 to Trail Junction 3.



National Park Wildlife Cameras

Along this ridge you will pass two National Park Cameras set to record wildlife at night. These are the cameras that captured images of Puma 22, Griffith Park's resident mountain lion.



Trail Junction 3

The ridge trail forks at this point with what appears to be the main trail continuing up and to the left. You want to take the trail on the right and going down for about .05 mile to Ft. Lee Drive.



Trail Junction 4

The ridge trail intersects with Mt. Lee Drive. Continue going straight on Mt. Lee Drive, keeping the San Fernando Valley on your right.

The next trail junction is .5 mile ahead.



Trail Junction 5

This is the Trail Junction for the Hollywood Sign and Mt. Lee. Follow the road (and the people) around the curve and you'll come upon the H in the sign.

To reach the Lonesome Pine, leave the road, continue past a bronze marker dedicating Cahunega Peak as part of Griffith Park and resume the ridge trail. You will reach Cahuenga Peak in .33 mile.



Hollywood Sign

Take a quick side trip here to get a glimpse of the backside of the Hollywood Sign. This is as close as

you can get to this iconic emblem of glitz and glamour. Continue a few more feet to claim the peak of Mt. Lee.



Mt. Lee, 1708'

Mt. Lee is now the second highest peak in Griffith Park, surpassed only by Cahuenga Peak, which you will be summiting shortly. The city of Los Angeles operates an emergency operations and communications center from the mountain, which accounts for all the antennae. It should go without saying, but do not enter the gated area.



Cahuenga Peak, 1821'

Cahuenga Peak is the highest point in Griffith Park and the twelfth highest named mountain in the Santa Monica Mountain Range. From here you have spectacular views of both the Los Angeles basin and San Fernando Valley and the Pacific Ocean. The Lonesome Pine is visible from here on the lower ridge .3 mile west.



Burbank Peak, 1690', and the Lonesome Pine

Impressive views of the Cahuenga Pass, Hollywood and, on a clear day, the Pacific Ocean, all from under the shade of the Lonesome Pine. This single tree can be seen as you pass through the pass on the 101 or travel through Burbank on the 134. It's always fun to point out to friends that you've been "all the way up there."

Beneath the tree is a toolbox with registers inside. Leave your name and date and tell a little about your experience. When you're ready, simply retrace your steps to return to the parking lot.