



Towsley View Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 5.1 Miles Roundtrip

ELEVATION: 2400'

ELEVATION GAIN: 1020'

TYPE: Loop

HIKING TIME: 3 hours

RATING: Easy start and finish, but steep middle section that rates strong moderate

Directions to Trailhead

Ed Davis Park

24335 The Old Road

Newhall, CA 91321

(Note: Google Maps places this address about two blocks south of the park entrance.)

Trailhead Coordinates: 34.358515, -118.555349

Head north on the 5 and cross over the Newhall Pass past Sylmar. As you come out of the pass and into Santa Clarita, take Exit 166. At the bottom of the exit, turn left onto Calgrove Road. As you pass under the 5, Calgrove will become The Old Road. The entrance to the park will be just ahead on your right. It's not marked well and is not much of an entrance, so keep your eyes peeled. From the exit on the 5, it's only about .33 miles to the park entrance.



Parking

You have several parking options. Along the frontage road and just inside the park are free parking areas. If you drive past the information sign, there is a \$7.00 parking fee. This guide assumes you will park in the free areas, and the trailhead begins at the first information sign.



Trailhead

The trail begins at the information sign at the second free parking area. Continue on the paved road (Towsley Canyon Road) for .1 mile to Trail Junction 1..



Trail Junction 1

At .1 mile, you reach Trail Junction 1 with a narrow dirt fire road coming in on your left. This is the Towsley View Loop Trail. Make the turn and pass around the metal gate. Continue on the fire road for .33 miles to Trail Junction 2.



Trail Junction 2

At .43 miles, you will reach Trail Junction 2 with the Don Mullally Trail connecting on your right. If you choose to end the hike with the Don Mullally Trail, this is where you will reconnect with the Towsley

View Loop Trail. For now, continue through the junction and remain on the Towsley View Loop Trail.



Tar Pit and Oil Seeps

At just about 1 mile the trail opens up a bit and you may notice a foul, sulfur smell in the air. Look to your right for what at first glance may look like an old fire pit. This is actually an oil seep with fabled 'black gold' bubbling up from beneath the Santa Susana Mountains.



Trail Junction 3

Just past the tar pit at 1.1 miles, the trail makes a sharp turn to the right at a bench and marks the beginning of a long and somewhat steep uphill climb.



Panoramic Views

Beginning at around 1.5 miles you will have fairly continuous views of Santa Clarita, the Newhall Pass and the Sierra Pelona Mountains as the trail climbs out of Wiley Canyon toward Towsley Canyon. On clear days, these views can be quite spectacular.



Peak Ridge

At around 2.0 miles, the trail finally levels out along the ridge that separates the two canyons at elevation of around 2400'.



Copse of Trees

At 2.7 miles you will pass over a knobby hill with a small copse of trees. There are several photo opportunities in this area.



Switchbacks

At roughly 2.8 miles you will begin a fairly rapid descent along a series of switchbacks into Towsley Canyon.



Tar Pit & Oil Seeps

At 3.2 miles, cross over a tarry stream of seeping oil. Along this section of trail, look for old cables and other evidence of the oil production machinery that used to dot the landscape.



Trail Junction 4

A single-track trail branches off to your left at mile 3.5 as Towsley Creek rises up to meet the trail. Continue straight through the junction toward The Narrows, a V-shaped cut in the mountain directly ahead.



The Narrows

Towsley Creek has cut through the cliffs creating a narrow, rocky passageway out of Towsley Canyon. There are some interesting rock formations perfect for bouldering as you make your way along the creekbed. During wetter weather you may have to do some boulder hopping or even get your feet wet!



Trail Junction 5

At 4.5 miles, the fire road joins the paved section of Towsley Canyon Road at the picnic area. Continue along the road for .6 miles to the parking area. For a more varied hike, you may pick up the Don Mullally Trail at the footbridge and continue through the hills with some additional panoramic views of the surround mountains. The Don Mullally Trail ends at Trail Junction 2 on the Towsley View Loop Trail. From there, retrace your steps to the parking lot. Utilizing the Don Mullally Trail to complete your hike will add a little over a half mile to your total hiking distance.



Picnic Area

A grassy, shaded picnic area with restrooms, water and a nature center.



Water Fountain

A water fountain is located in the picnic area.



Rest Rooms

Rest rooms are located in the small building adjacent to the nature center.



Don Mullally Trail

This 1.1 mile trail follows the lower ridgeline back to the beginning of the Towsley View Loop Trail. Utilizing this trail to finish your hike will add some extra hills and about .6 mile to your total hiking

distance.



End of Trail

Congratulations! You have completed the 5.1 mile Towsley View Loop Trail.