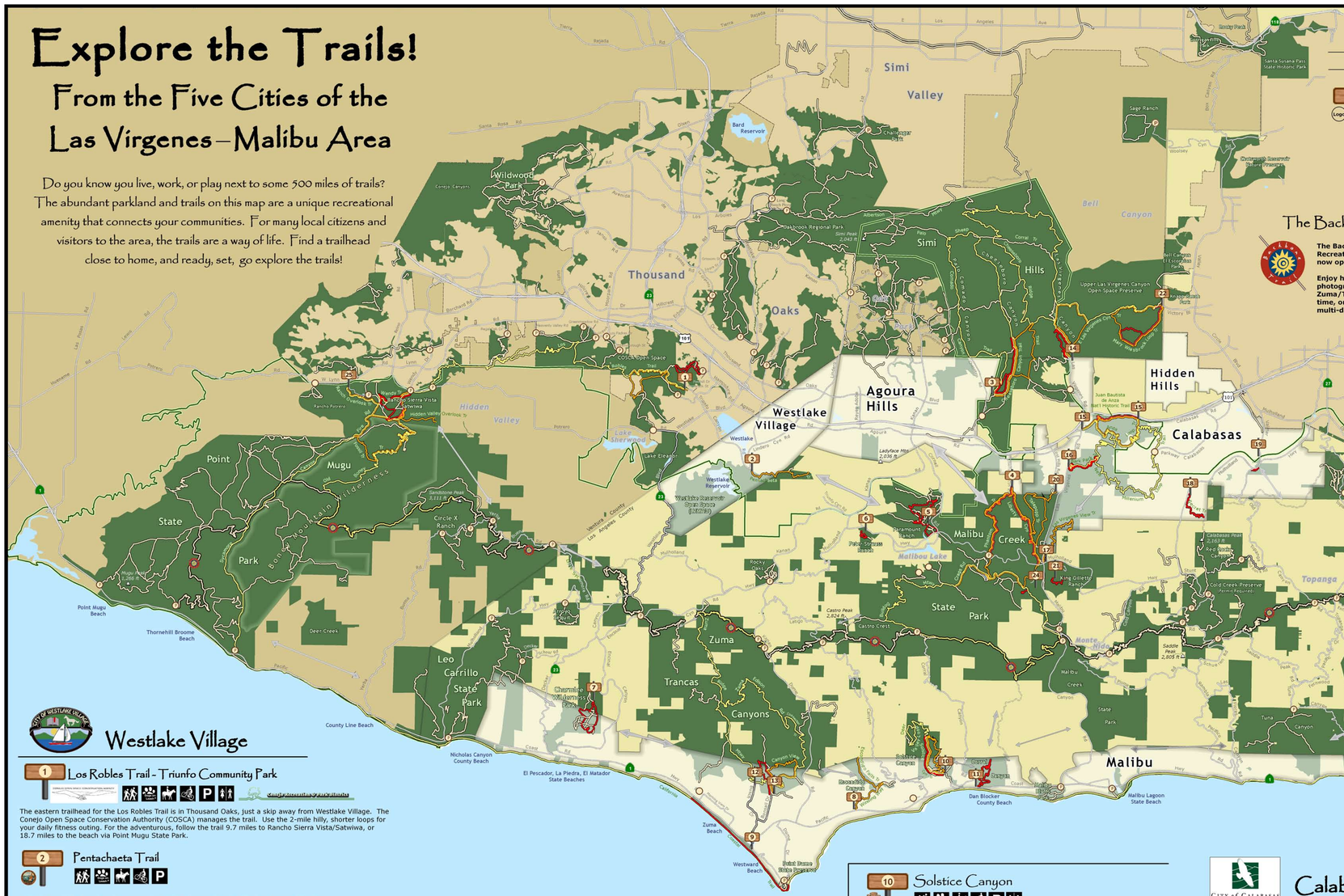
Explore the Trails!

From the Five Cities of the Las Virgenes–Malibu Area

Do you know you live, work, or play next to some 500 miles of trails? The abundant parkland and trails on this map are a unique recreational amenity that connects your communities. For many local citizens and visitors to the area, the trails are a way of life. Find a trailhead close to home, and ready, set, go explore the trails!



Trails Close to Home Where to Start - What to Know

Trailheads

- Trailheads In/Near Your City — Park logo identifies agency to contact if questions.
- Other Trailheads
- Public Trailheads No Parking

What Can I Do?

- Hiking/running allowed.
- Dogs allowed on leashes up to 6 feet. Clean up after your pet.
- No dogs on State Park trails.
- Horses allowed. No designated trailer parking. Verify parking before trailering to these sites.
- Horses allowed. Designated trailer parking at trailhead.
- Mountain biking allowed. Some parks may not offer long distance trail connections.
- No mountain biking.

Trails: How Far, How Tough?

The level of difficulty varies according to activity. The following descriptions are based on hiking.

EASY — The Daily Exercise Routine
Less than 3 miles, challenge depends on your pace. Distance may be longer if trail is flat.

MODERATE — An Afternoon in the Park
3-10 Miles. Some trails are steeper than others and may be strenuous. Ask park rangers for specifics.

STRENUOUS — The Big Outing
10 - 20+ miles. You're going to cover canyons and ridgelines. Expect a heart & knee workout.

Other Public Trails

Future Trail Connections
Trail network development continues. Gaps between parks still exist. Park managers and partners continue to seek public access across these gaps. Meanwhile, please stay on the public trails.

The Backbone Trail

The Backbone Trail is the premiere recreational resource of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Over 25 years of hard work and still in the making, 63 miles of the 65-mile trail are now open to the public. Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Malibu have trails connecting to the Backbone.

Enjoy hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, astronomy, photography, painting. Catch inspiring ridgeline views from Eagle Rock, rest in the shade of Zuma/Trancas Canyons, or find yourself in the Boney Mountain Wilderness. Take the trail a day at a time, or camp at Topanga, Malibu Creek, Point Mugu State Parks, and Circle X Ranch for a multi-day adventure.

Parkland Management

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Partnership

National Park Service · California Dept. of Parks & Recreation · Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/MRCA

At your doorstep is the 153,000-acre SMMNRA, a unit of the National Park System. A funding partnership among the National Park Service, State agencies, as well as your local counties and cities brings you some 40 wildland parks, covering over 100,000 acres in and near the recreation area, and offering 500 miles of public trails that connect your communities.

- Federal, State, and Local Parks and Other Protected Open Space
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary

Local Partners — Cities and Counties

- The Five Cities of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments
- Other Cities: Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Los Angeles
- Unincorporated Areas Within Los Angeles County
- Unincorporated Areas Within Ventura County

For More Information & Maps

National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Visitor Center
401 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805)370-2301 www.nps.gov/samo

California Department of Parks and Recreation
(818)880-0350 www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
(310)589-3200 www.LAMountains.org

Mountains Restoration Trust (Cold Creek Preserve)
(818)591-1701 www.mountainstrust.org

California Coastal Conservancy (California Coastal Trail)
www.scc.ca.gov/Programs/cct/Coastal_Trail.htm

Scale 1:54,000

Westlake Village

1 Los Robles Trail - Triunfo Community Park

The eastern trailhead for the Los Robles Trail is in Thousand Oaks, just a skip away from Westlake Village. The Conejo Open Space Conservation Authority (COSCA) manages the trail. Use the 2-mile hilly, shorter loops for your daily fitness outing. For the adventurous, follow the trail 9.7 miles to Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, or 18.7 miles to the beach via Point Mugu State Park.

2 Pentachaeta Trail

This is a neighborhood park entrance, located at the south end of Lindero Canyon Rd. The spring wildflowers along this easy 1.7-mile trail (3.4 miles round trip) will brighten your day.

Agoura Hills

3 Cheeseboro Canyon

This is the gateway trailhead to the Simi Hills. Long distance outings can reach Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, or the San Fernando Valley. It's a nearly flat walk up Cheeseboro Canyon for 4.3 miles one way. Just turn around when you're ready. Or, take one of several loop trails longer than 10 miles, up to China Flat or over to Las Virgenes Canyon.

4 Malibu Creek State Park - Liberty Canyon Road

Neighborhood entrance into Malibu Creek State Park. Phantom Trail offers beautiful vistas of valley oaks in Liberty Canyon Nature Preserve. Please remember dogs are not allowed on State Park trails. Limited on-street parking.

Gateway to the National Recreation Area

Kanan Dume Road is the gateway to many parks in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Find your way to the following two close-by parks. Both parks are located adjacent to the city, in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

5 Paramount Ranch

Travel back to the old west on the easy trails at Paramount Ranch. This former "movie ranch" is on the National Register as an Historic Landscape. Filming still occurs here and the public can come watch. Call the SMMNRA Visitor Center to find out what's scheduled. If you like movies, come enjoy "Silents Under the Stars" in the summer.

6 Peter Strauss Ranch

Come walk the shady, easy, 1 mile loop trail. There's a picnic table along the way. In the summer, enjoy the free monthly concerts.

Malibu

7 Charmlee Wilderness Park

Come here for a family picnic (no fires allowed) under the shade of the oak grove. Afterward, do the easy 2.2-mile loop, replete with magnificent coastal views & rocky outcrops to explore.

8 Escondido Canyon

Park at Winding Way off PCH. It's well worth the moderately strenuous 2.3-mile hike (4.6 miles round trip) to the waterfall.

9 California Coastal Trail

Hikers, cover the Malibu coast portion of the 1,000-mile trail along California's coast. Start easy, along Zuma & Westward Beach. Walk other portions at low tide only. California Coastal Conservancy manages the trail.

10 Solstice Canyon

Amble up the easy, 1 mile creekside walk up the canyon to "Tropical Terrace." Find a small waterfall nearby. Or, take a strenuous 5.9-mile hike or horseback ride up the Deer Valley Trail to be rewarded with stunning coastal views. Bikers are limited to the paved 1 mile Solstice Canyon Trail; no long-distance connections.

11 Corral Canyon

The trailhead is located next to the Fish Market restaurant on PCH. Work off your meal on the 2.5-mile Corral Canyon Trail. Watch the sunset at Dan Blocker County Beach.

Zuma/Trancas Canyons

Find solitude in the expanse of two chaparral-blanketed canyons. Connect to the Backbone Trail and travel 30 miles east or west.

12 Busch Trailhead

Head uphill on Zuma Ridge Motorway for a variety of strenuous long distance outings. Or, just turn around & head back when you've had enough. It's 5.3 miles to the Backbone Trail and another 2.5 to Kanan Dume Road.

13 Bonsall Trailhead

Enter lower Zuma Canyon here for hiking and equestrian trails. Take an easy walk up the canyon floor, or enjoy 2-5 mile loops up the canyon sides. For an equestrian Big Outing, do the 11-mile Zuma Edison Roads loop.

Calabasas

14 Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve

Neighborhoods along Las Virgenes Road have quick access into the vast Simi Hills trail network. Get to know the ancient oaks and sycamores along the nearly flat trail up the canyon.

Las Virgenes View Park

Enter via 3 trailheads. Do your daily 1 to 3-mile walk, or take a 13-mile trek around this extensive community trail network.

15W 15E Juan Bautista de Anza Nat'l Historic Trail

Take the family to the east Juan Bautista de Anza Trailhead to learn about the historic expedition from wayside exhibits.

16 Bark Park

Exercise your dog at the Bark Park, then head up the trail.

17 Las Virgenes View Trail

At the top of the 2.4-mile trail find spectacular views of the rugged Santa Monica Mountains.

18 Secret Trail

Take this 1.2-mile, moderately steep trail to reach 360-degree views from rocky outcrops at Calabasas Motorway.

19 Headwaters Corner

Stroll along the meandering Dry Canyon Creek. Find wonder in the regeneration of stream woodland and coastal sage habitat at the environmental interpretive center.

20 Malibu Creek State Park - De Anza Park

Hike or ride the easy, flat 1.2 miles to White Oak Farm. Exercise the body and mind on the 4.2-mile Talepopp Trail loop. For the hardy, continue into the park across Mulholland and go the 13.8 mile loop up to Castro Crest. Join the Backbone Trail for extra long-distance challenge.

21 King Gillette Ranch

The long-envisioned "Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area" is just outside the city, in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Make the easy 1/4-mile climb to the overlook to view the rugged mountains.

Hidden Hills

Residents can travel to trailheads in the other four cities. For this equestrian community, you will find horse trailer parking at the 3 additional trailheads.

22 Victory Trailhead

Enter the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve at the western end of Victory Blvd. Go 2.3 miles around the Mary Wiesbrock Trail. Do a 16.6-mile Big Outing into upper Las Virgenes Canyon.

23 - 25 Trailheads - Equestrian Parking

In addition to the other cities' trailheads with trailer parking, try the following trailheads with extensive riding opportunities.

- 23 Topanga State Park - Trippet Ranch
- 24 Malibu Creek State Park - Main Entrance
- 25 Rancho Sierra Vista - Equestrian Parking Lot

Vicinity Map

This map was made possible with funding from the Las Virgenes/Malibu Council of Governments.

Map prepared by National Park Service Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area GIS

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