



MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Preserving & Protecting Parks & Open Space

Garland Hikes: Garzas Canyon to the Visitor Center

Distance	Approximate Hiking Time (not including stops)*	Elevation Gain
4.3 miles	2 hours 15 minutes	853 ft

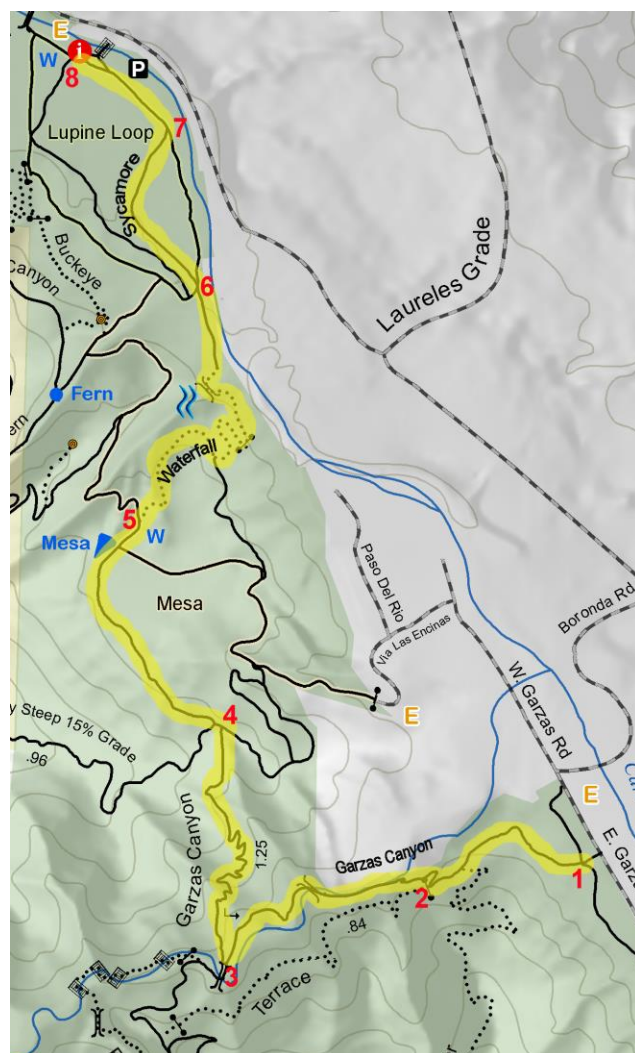
This hike takes you from East Garzas Road along Garzas Creek, up to La Mesa, and then down to the Visitor Center. Along the way you will be treated to views up and down Garzas Canyon and of Carmel Valley.

This is not a loop hike, so unless you plan on returning the way you came you will need to arrange transportation at one end or the other. The directions take you from Garzas to the Visitor Center, but you can of course hike in the opposite direction, from the Visitor Center to East Garzas Road.

Access to this hike, and other hikes in the Garzas Canyon section of the Park, is from East Garzas Road. After turning left on East Garzas from Boronda Road, park either along the wooden fence on the right or just a bit farther up along the side of the road near the Garland Park sign, also on the right. This hike starts from the large sign with the Park map not too far off the road (1).

Directions:

- Begin the hike by following the trail signs for the **Garzas Canyon Trail**, up the hill. You will pass the Veeder Trail on the left. Just before you reach the beginning of the Terrace Trail (2), make sure to turn right and continue down the hill.
- The trail descends a series of switchbacks before leveling out alongside Garzas Creek. You will cross over a wooden bridge. Continue until you reach the point where a trail sign directs you to the **Garzas Canyon Trail** on the right, uphill, with the East Ridge and Redwood Canyon trails on the left (3). Go right to continue on the Garzas Canyon Trail.
- The trail will begin to climb, through alternating areas of oak woodland and chaparral with quite nice views up and down Garzas Canyon and out to Carmel Valley. About two-thirds of the way to the top you will find a well-positioned bench if you need to take a breather.
- At about the two-mile mark you will come to a trail junction where the Oakview Trail is to the right. Make a left turn to stay on the **Garzas Canyon Trail**. Very quickly you will see the Snively's Ridge Trail to the left; stay right to continue on Garzas Canyon.
- You will now walk along the edge of La Mesa, a large open meadow. The trail bends around under some magnificent oaks and past Mesa Pond to lead you to an area with a water fountain and benches. There are two trails that head downhill from here. The Mesa Trail is the leftmost one, and the Waterfall Trail on the right into the trees. For this hike, we're taking the **Waterfall Trail** (5).



* Hiking times are approximate, and do not include stops. Experienced hikers may complete the hike in less time, inexperienced hikers or families with small children may need more time. Please plan accordingly.



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- Take Waterfall down the hill. You will pass the Vaquero Trail on your right, then later pass through a stile (the V structure in the fence) for the hiker-only section of the Waterfall Trail. You will continue downhill, down several sets of stairs and a bridge. After the bridge, you will pass the Cliff Trail on your left. Continue downhill on the Waterfall Trail, passing the Chamisal Trail on your left.
- When you pass the trash cans, follow the sign for the **Sycamore Trail** by bearing left (6). Follow Sycamore until it reaches the **Lupine Loop Trail** (7). Take a left on Lupine Loop to reach the Visitor Center (8).

Please Note:

- ✓ There is water at the Visitor Center and La Mesa but nowhere else on the trails. Remember to bring plenty of water on your hike.
- ✓ There are restrooms at the Visitor Center and the Ranger Station but nowhere else in the park.
- ✓ There are trash cans at a number of locations on the lower trails but no trash cans higher up. Please pack out *everything* you pack in.
- ✓ On some trails you may encounter horses. Equestrians have the right of way in those situations.
- ✓ If you are hiking with a dog, be aware your dog can be off leash but must be under your control.
- ✓ Take time to look at the flowers, listen to the birds, enjoy the views and generally take in the pleasure of being out in nature. But *please* don't pick the flowers!

