Garland Hikes: Buckeye Nature Trail

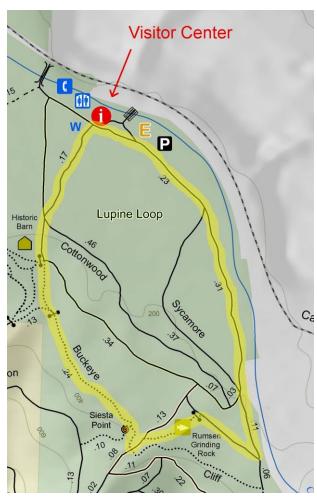
Distance Approx Hiking Time* Elevation Gain

1.8 miles 55 minutes (including about 15 min for reading signs) 285 ft

This is a good family hike. It is relatively easy yet nevertheless takes you through the forest and the alluvial plain. There are numerous interpretative signs on the trail, and you will see where Native Americans ground acorns.

Directions:

- From the Visitor Center, take the **Shortcut Trail** (straight ahead with your back to the Visitor Center). When you reach the end of the Shortcut Trail, follow the signs for the **Buckeye Nature Trail** by going up the hill. You will pass a wooden gate to your right; follow the signs for the Buckeye Nature Trail by going straight ahead.
- Start on the **Buckeye Nature Trail** by going through the stile (the V structure in the wooden fence). Make sure to read the interpretative signs that describe some of the trees, ferns and lichens to be found in the Park, as well as the geology of the area.
- You will go down some stairs on the Buckeye Nature Trail to meet the Mesa Trail. Turn left on Mesa, down the hill. Quite shortly you will see the continuation of the Buckeye Nature Trail on your right. The sign says "Buckeye Trail to Indian Grinding Rock".
- Turn right off Mesa onto the **Buckeye**Nature Trail. After a little ways, you
 will see a very large rock, and past that
 rock, numerous rocks the Native
 Americans used for grinding. Be sure to
 read the "Autumn Harvest" sign. When
 you are finished at the grinding rocks,
 continue on Buckeye until it ends at the
 Chamisal Trail.
- Turn right on the Chamisal Trail.
 Follow it until it ends at the Waterfall
 Trail.
- Turn left on the Waterfall Trail and follow it downhill until it reaches the Lupine Loop Trail. Follow the sign pointing to the Visitor Center (bearing right) to return to the Visitor Center.



- ✓ 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.

^{*} Hiking times are approximate. Experienced hikers may complete the hike in less time, inexperienced hikers or families with small children may need more time. Please plan accordingly.



MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Preserving & Protecting Parks & Open Space

- ✓ 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!

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