

First Time Backpack Hikes

The below list of locations are places that you can take your unit in the local mountains. All are rated "Easy" and are suitable for the first time backpacker.

Some of these locations may not be available due to closures put in place by the Forest Service. These closures may be because of road closures, fires, public health issues, etc. It is the responsibility of every outing leader to do his due diligence to make sure that the area is open prior to going on the outing.

None of these locations have a trailhead limit or require wilderness permits. Adventure Passes are required for parking as noted.

❖ Cedar Glenn

Difficulty: 3.9 BPH

Trailhead: Icehouse Canyon. On Mt. Baldy Road, about 2 miles past Mt. Baldy Village.

An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites:

Water: From stream

Facilities: None

Comments:

❖ Cooper Canyon

Difficulty: 3.6 BPH

Trailhead: Cloudburst Summit or Buckhorn campground. On Angeles Crest Highway, about 25 miles from La Cañada. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 8

Water: From stream

Facilities: Vault toilets

Comments:

❖ Devils Canyon

Difficulty: 4.0 BPH

Trailhead: Across from Chilao Campground. On Angeles Crest Highway, about 25 miles from La Cañada. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: Primitive camping along headwaters of San Gabriel River. Sites on both side of the stream.

Water: From stream

Facilities: None

Comments: Hike is down into the canyon. Burned during 2009 Station fire, condition today is a recovering forest. Good place to play capture the flag with the stream as the dividing line. There is a waterfall down the canyon – off trail 2 miles each way. Advancement options include plants, knots, basic tenderfoot and 2nd class skills.

❖ **Henninger Flats**

Difficulty: 4.0 BPH

Trailhead: Pinecrest Drive in Altadena. On-street parking in residential area.

Campsites: Multiple developed camping areas.

Water: Potable water from the faucet.

Facilities: Pit toilets, picnic tables, iron stoves. Firewood is provided. Nature trail, forest tree nursery, a museum and an auditorium. The visitor center is staffed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Comments: Very nice city views. You hike on the old Mt. Wilson Toll road. Check in on arrival. Do a service project and/or checkout the Nature Center. Advancement options include wood fire cooking, fire building (in shepherd stoves), knife and axe, orienteering, 2nd class five mile hike, and plants.

Excellent merit badge program staffed by rangers. Call in advance for arrangements. Typically you can choose from Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Bird Watching, Soil and Water Management, Mammal Study, and Wilderness Survival.

❖ **Hoegees**

Difficulty: 4.0 BPH

Trailhead: Chantry Flat Picnic Area. At the end of Chantry Flats Road, about 5 miles from Sierra Madre. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 14

Water: From stream

Facilities: Pit toilets, picnic table, fire rings.

Comments:

❖ **Little Jimmy**

Difficulty: 2.9 BPH

Trailhead: Islip Saddle. On Angeles Crest Highway, about 40 miles from La Cañada. No buildings except restrooms. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 16 single site organized into 3 camping areas. One area is as you enter, one is on the hillside, and one is further up the trail.

Water: Spring water is available from a pipe about ¼ mile away.

Facilities: Pit toilets, picnic tables

Comments: Two mini-peaks (Mt. Islip and Mt. Hawkins) are close by.



Mt. Lowe

Difficulty: 4.3 BPH

Trailhead: Eaton Saddle. On Mt Wilson Red Box Road, about 2.5 miles before Mt. Wilson. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 4

Water: From seasonal stream below camp or cistern above camp

Facilities: Vault toilets, picnic tables

Comments: The trail passes through historic Mueller Tunnel. The campsite is located at the old Mt Lowe Hotel and terminus of the Mt Lowe Railway. Signboards point out the historic features of the camp and nearby Inspiration Point which overlooks the basin. It is a short easy hike to the summit of Muir Peak.



Musch Trail Camp

Difficulty: 2.2 BPH

Trailhead: Topanga Canyon State Park parking lot. There is a nightly parking fee.

Campsites: Two large camping areas. (There is a nightly fee per person.)

Water: Potable water from the faucet.

Facilities: Flush toilets, picnic tables. No fires - only propane stoves.

Comments: Ocean views. Eat lunch on Eagle Peak. The level of difficulty can be adjusted by picking from the various trails.



Piedra Blanca

Difficulty: 3.8 BPH

Trailhead: End of Rose Valley Road. About 15 miles north from Ojai on highway 33 and then turn on Rose Valley Road. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites:

Water: From stream (may be limited)

Facilities: None

Comments: Mountain views. Check the weather as the stream crossing of Piru Creek can be difficult following a heavy storm.



Spruce Grove

Difficulty: 5.5 BPH

Trailhead: Chantry Flat Picnic Area. At the end of Chantry Flats Road, about 5 miles from Sierra Madre. An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 7

Water: From stream

Facilities: Pit toilets, picnic table, iron stove, fire ring

Comments: Stop at Sturtevent Falls. The loop trail can be used for a different way back.



Sulphur Springs

Difficulty: 3.9 BPH

Trailhead: Three Points. On Angeles Crest Highway, about 28 miles from La Cañada.

An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: 12

Water: None

Facilities: Vault toilets, picnic tables

Comments:



Valley Forge

Difficulty: 3.5 BPH

Trailhead: Red Box Saddle. On Angeles Crest Highway, about 14 miles from La Cañada. There are several Forest Service buildings, rest rooms, and drinking water.

An Adventure Pass is required for parking.

Campsites: Three large improved camping areas and a fourth across the footbridge.

Water: From adjacent stream

Facilities: Pit toilets, picnic tables.

Comments: Renovated in 2012. Downhill from trailhead to the campsite. The stream is fun to play in. Advancement options include plants, knots, basic tenderfoot and 2nd class skills, and poisonous plants.