



JPL HIKING +

<http://www.jplrecclubs.caltech.edu/hiking>

Santa Rosa Plateau Hike and Picnic

<http://www.santarosaplateau.org/home.html>



Saturday, April 24, 2004

In the event of rain, this hike is canceled.

Leaders: Nancy Feagans (818-354-8341) email Nancy.Feagans@jpl.nasa.gov and Dan Lee (818-393-4797) email Daniel.J.Lee@jpl.nasa.gov

CLASSIFICATION: Easy to moderate depending on your condition (moderate due to some rolling hills and length of approx. 6 miles round trip). Children welcome!

DESCRIPTION: If you're ready to step back in time to old California of 200 years ago, this hike is for you! The beautiful **Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve** is located at the southern end of the Santa Ana Mountains, near the city of Murrieta. The reserve is comprised of about 8,300 acres including the Tenaja Corridor. This corridor allows animals to easily move back and forth between the Plateau and the Cleveland National Forest. The reserve protects unique ecosystems like vernal pools, tenaja pools, Engelmann oak and coast live oak woodlands, riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and bunchgrass prairie, as well as animals such as the endangered red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and fairy shrimp.

This is a two-part hike: After checking out the exhibits at the Visitor Center, we'll take a one-mile walk around the center's perimeter — a great introduction to the rolling grasslands, oak-studded hills, and meandering valleys of the Santa Rosa Plateau. Next we'll drive south 3.5 miles to the Vernal Pools trailhead, where we'll begin our hike to the historic Moreno and Machado adobes - Riverside County's oldest standing structures, dating from 1845 and 1855, respectively. We'll break for a leisurely lunch at the adobes and do some exploring before returning to the trailhead and our cars.

BRING: Day hiking gear, sturdy shoes or hiking boots, at least 1 quart of water, lunch, hat, light jacket, sunscreen and sunglasses, camera and/or binoculars (optional).

MEET: 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 24, 2004 at the Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor Center. Allow about 1.5 hours driving time from the Pasadena area. *To get there, take I-15 south to the Clinton Keith exit in Wildomar (between Lake Elsinore and Temecula). Exit and turn right; the Visitor Center is about 4 miles ahead on the left. Please contact one of the leaders by Friday, April 23rd so we know how many to expect.

** From the Pasadena area, we find it easiest to take the 210 east to the I-15 south; or, you may take the 210 east to the 71 to the 60 east to I-15 South)*

If you have any questions, please call one of the trip leaders.