



JPL HIKING+
<http://www.jplerc.org/hiking>
MT. LOWE EXPEDITION
Sunday, May 6, 2001

CLASSIFICATION: Moderate

13 miles round trip, 3500 feet elevation gain

DESCRIPTION: This historic hike will take us to the ruins of the famous Echo Mountain resort and along the roadbed of Mt. Lowe Railway to Ye Alpine Tavern, then to the top of Mt. Lowe at 5603 feet and to Inspiration Point. Elevation gain: 3,800 feet.

Mt. Lowe is named after Professor Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, the famous Civil War balloonist reputed to be the most shot-at person in history and a very prominent early Pasadena personality.

According to the USFS WWW site at <http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/heritage/002.HTM>, "This exotic 1890s railway once provided trolley and cable service for Los Angeles residents to nearby mountain resort areas. Built by entrepreneur T.S.C. Lowe, the railway carried its passengers up to a small city on Echo Mountain that included two hotels, a casino, observatory, residences, gardens, a small zoo, and a power plant. Another hotel complex was built further into the mountains at the Ye Alpine Tavern and was connected to Echo Mountain by a 3.5 mile railway.

"Gone to ruin in the 1930s, all that remains today of these once bustling places are foundations and walls. The railway right-of-way has become part of a road and hiking trail system. A figure 8-shaped trail, with Echo Mountain as its center, accesses the surrounding area for sightseeing. A signed, self-guided interpretive trail connects Echo Mountain with the Ye Alpine Tavern site."

We will first hike up Echo Mountain, spending some time looking at the ruins and informative markers. We will then walk along the Mt. Lowe Railway roadbed to Ye Alpine Tavern, where we will lunch. Our final assault on Mt. Lowe will follow. We will return by way of Inspiration Point and the Sam Merrill Trail. We will get back in the late afternoon.

DIRECTIONS: Go North on Lake Avenue in Pasadena (uphill) until it ends (North 34 degrees 12.235', West 118 degrees 7.837', 1,811 feet high). Park on Lake Avenue. We'll meet just off the street.

We will meet at 9:00 AM. There is no need to make a reservation. The hike will start at 9:15 AM.

BRING: Comfortable shoes, a half gallon of fluid to drink, sun glasses, sun screen, and lunch.

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