

## Chaparral Park to Grand Canyon of Turtle Rock

Surface: Paved/Dirt

Distance: 2.4-mile loop

Elevation Gain: 450 ft.

From the Turtle Rock Community Center:

Park in the designated parking area for Shady Canyon trail, located to your left as you pull into the Turtle Rock Community Center parking lot at 1 Sunnyhill Drive (see Hike 10). From there, walk left on Turtle Rock Drive along the sidewalk for 0.75 miles until you come to Chaparral Park. Right before the street sign for Sierra Oro Rd. (after you pass Bonita Canyon Elementary School), take the path that into the park. At mile 0.9, you will reach a stairway that takes you up through the hills. Halfway up the stairway, you may take the paved walkway to your right and rejoin the hike at **Point A** described below. This will cut out the steepest, most treacherous section of the hike and reduce the mileage by 0.2 miles.

If you continue up the stairs, you will reach the bottom of a steep uphill that ascends to Model Glider Point (mile 1.07). This is a steep, slippery ascent with an elevation gain of 100 ft. in less than 0.01 mile, so make sure you wear good shoes. Once at the top of the hill (mile 1.15), look around and enjoy the beautiful view of Newport Beach (and on a good day, Catalina Island) to the southwest, Saddleback Mountains to the northeast, San Gabriel Mountains to the far north, and, (on a good day) all the way to Long Beach and Palos Verdes to the northwest.

Grand Canyon of Turtle Rock is to the right of the path you came up on. Making a gradual descent towards the east behind the beautiful Turtle Rock Crest homes, you can see the imposing rock formation that has garnered the name "Grand Canyon of Turtle Rock" by the Sierra Club members that frequent the area on their conditioning hikes. This is a narrow path that can be very slippery when wet. Please take caution as you descend.

After 0.15 miles, you will reach the pavement (**Point A**). Go right and make an immediate left onto the dirt trail that meanders through the hills. At the first fork, stay to your left and go uphill. At the second fork, instead of going straight and entering the neighborhood of Turtle Rock Crest, go right and ascend to the first peak (mile 1.7). This location gives you a full view of the impressive development of Shady Canyon, Turtle Ridge, and Bommer Canyon. It is an additional 0.1 miles to the second peak. From there, descend gradually

into the back-neighborhood corridor (that connects Ridgeline and Turtle Rock Drive) (mile 1.95). Go right on the pavement down to Turtle Rock Drive and eventually back to the Turtle Rock Community Center parking lot.

**Option:** For a longer hike, start your walk from the Turtle Rock Vista community. It is an additional 2.0 miles to the stairs (walking on Turtle Rock Drive, turning right as you leave Hillgate) and 1.65 miles from the back-neighborhood corridor back to the Turtle Rock, extending the total distance to 4.65 miles.

