

Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course Hiking, Camping, and Volunteering Resources

John Muir wrote "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." So where do you find these places?

Websites

Sierra Club Outings

Los Padres Sierra Club: www.lospadres.sierraclub.org and then choose "Outings". Links to the individual groups are located here.

Weather

[National Weather Service](#)

Hiking Websites

[Ventura County Trails](#)

[Los Padres National Forest - Hiking](#)

[Modern Hiker](#)

[Hike Los Padres](#)

[Hikespeak](#)

[Santa Barbara Hikes](#)

[Santa Barbara Outdoors](#)

[Condor Trail](#)

[All Trails](#)

Los Padres National Forest

[Los Padres National Forest](#)

[Los Padres Forest Association](#)

[Los Padres Forest Watch](#)

Meetup Groups

There are many great Meetup groups in the area dedicated to hiking. To get a general list, people should go to www.meetup.com and put in "Hiking" in the search box, then choose a city and distance from that city. For example there are over 40 groups dedicated to hiking and backpacking within a 50 mile radius of Ventura. Here are just a few:

[Ventura Sierra Club](#)

[Santa Barbara Sierra Club](#)

[Ventura County Day Hikes](#)
[Santa Barbara County Hikers](#)
[The Moderate Hikers](#)
[The PM Hikers](#)
[The Weekday Trailblazers](#)
[The Thousand Oaks Hikers](#)
[Calabasas Day Hikers](#)
[VHC](#)
[The Los Angeles Hiking Group](#)
[US Hiking](#)
[SoCal Hikers and Trail Builders](#)
[Geo-hikes Geologic Maps Foundation](#)
[Hiking Plus](#)
[Adventurers Unlimited!](#)

Camping reservations

[Recreation.gov](#) - National Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas
[Reserve California](#) - Californian State Parks
[Reserve America](#) - Private Campgrounds

Permits for Sierra backpacking

[Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP](#)
[Inyo National Forest](#)

Find the location of bear boxes - www.climber.org/data/BearBoxes/map.html

Info about gear, storage & repair and miscellaneous skills - www.backpacker.com

Maps - Most are available at REI, Real Cheap Sports, Mountain Air Sports

Bryan Conant's Matilija and Dick Smith Wilderness trail map
Bryan Conant's San Rafael Wilderness trail map
Tom Harrison Sespe Wilderness trail map
Ray Ford's Santa Barbara Front Country map
The Santa Barbara Outdoor Recreation Topo Map

USGS - www.usgs.gov/products/maps/topo-maps

Forest Service - data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/index.php - Go to FSTopo under Maps

CalTopo - www.caltopo.com - Build your own maps using different layers

Reading topographic maps - ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/help/

Books

Day Hiking Books

Day Hikes Around Ventura County, by Robert Stone
Day Hikes Around Santa Barbara County, by Robert Stone
Day Hikes of the Santa Barbara Foothills, by Ray Ford, Jr.
Trails of the San Rafael Wilderness, by Marty Heister and Ray Ford, Jr.
Exploring the Santa Barbara Backcountry, by Dennis Gagnon
101 Hikes in Southern California, by Jerry Schad
Roam - Ojai's Hip Little Hiking Guide, by Gael Belden
Wild L.A. - A Day Hiker's Guide, by John McKinney
Trails of the Angeles, by John W. Robinson

Camping Books

California Camping, by Tom Stienstra
Campgrounds of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, by Jeff Tyler

Backpacking and Mountaineering Books

Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura, by Craig R. Carey
Pacific Crest Trail, by Jeffrey Schaffer
Wilderness Basics, by the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club
Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills
Backpacker: Hiking Light Handbook, by Karen Berger
Backpacking One Step at a Time, by Harvey Manning

Volunteer Trail Work Crews

Santa Clara River Cleanups, Ventura Sierra Club, listed with Los Padres Sierra Club hikes, contact Nina Danza, santaclararivergateway@gmail.com

Los Padres National Forest, www.lpforest.org/events-calendar/

Point Mugu State Park - Contact ranger

Pacific Crest Trail Association - www.pcta.org then choose "volunteer" - work trips from 1 day to 2 weeks

Channel Islands Restoration - www.cirweb.org

Habitat Works - www.habitatwork.org - Volunteer opportunities in Southern California.