

# Whiting Ranch Day Hike

## *Orange County's Mini-Grand Canyon*



Easy day hike: Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am



Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park encompasses about 4,300 acres of riparian and oak woodland canyons, rolling grassland hills, and steep slopes of coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The park is highlighted by scenic rock formations, including the beautiful Red Rock Canyon, our destination.

Our hike will go up Borrego Canyon, through old growth forest. At 2 miles out, we will arrive at Red Rock Canyon. We will spend time there to enjoy the sights and a snack. On our way back, we will take a detour uphill to a view of central Orange County. The total hike will be about 4.5 miles and take about 2.5 hours. The last portion of trail into the Red Rocks is sandy and rocky so boots or sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Afterwards, those who wish can gather for lunch at a nearby food court.

The park is closed for 3 days following rain. To verify access, call the park at (949) 923-2245 or check for alerts at: <http://www.ocparks.com/whitingranch/> No alternative hike is planned.

**DIRECTIONS:** Just south of the El Toro Y (where the 5 and 405 meet) take Bake Parkway East. After about 5 miles, turn left on Portola Parkway. The park entrance and parking is just past the Ralphs shopping center on the right. (26741 Portola Parkway, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610).  
**Parking is \$3.00 in exact change.**

**WHAT TO BRING:** Sturdy walking shoes, boots, or trail runners, at least 1 quart water, sunscreen, a hat, windbreaker/sweater if it is cool, cameras, binoculars, snacks, and money for parking and lunch. No dogs.

If you can, please RSVP to your hike leader Jamie at [GOjamie@msn.com](mailto:GOjamie@msn.com) but no RSVP is necessary, just show up!

