

Environmental Volunteer Opportunities

Usually on Mitzvah Day, the CBB Hiking Group and friends volunteer for a group project under the guidance of Channel Islands Restoration. In the past, we have planted native species and eradicated invasive plants. This year, we cannot offer a group project, but CIR is still very active and needs our support. You can volunteer as individuals for projects on their website. Be sure to check out the inspirational photos and read more about their projects. You can sign up to volunteer or make a donation: <https://cirweb.org/>

Hiking Opportunities

While CBB Hiking Group hikes have been temporarily suspended, it has been fun to run into many of you out on local trails. Whether you hike with friends, family, or alone to re-focus your thoughts, the Santa Ynez mountains offer some of the best hiking in California. There are hikes for everyone, from beautiful, short, level walks to challenging climbs that afford stunning views.

Here are four hikes, some old favorites of the CBB Hiking Group with a few new ones thrown in.

1. Is it called Arroyo Burro Beach or Hendry's Beach?

People usually call it Henry's Beach, but locals know it's Hendry's Beach. The Hendry family owned the beach at the turn of the century, and when the state purchased it in 1947 for a mere \$15K, it was officially rechristened Arroyo Burro.

Hike: Hendry's (Arroyo Burro) Beach to 1000 Steps (and back)

Distance: 4 miles

Elevation gain: 0 feet

Difficulty: Easy

Notes: Access the beach at the end of Las Positas. Turn left at the ocean. Walk to 1000 Steps, turn around and walk back for a 4 mile walk. Best at low tide and terrific just before sunset because on the way back, it sets before your eyes.

2. More Mesa

In *Hike Santa Barbara*, John McKinney describes More Mesa as "...a de facto nature preserve with great bird-watching, a network of walking-hiking trails and access to the beach." You might see black-shouldered kite, marsh hawk and other raptors, as well as the rarer northern harrier and short-eared owl.

Hike: More Mesa Trail Large Loop

Distance: 2.5 miles, not including short walk to loop

Elevation gain: 10 feet

Difficulty: Easy

Notes: Park near the corner of Mockingbird Lane and Vieja Drive. (There's no parking on Mockingbird Lane.) Walk up Mockingbird Lane to the gated entrance to More Mesa. Walk toward the ocean and start the loop to your right along the cliffs.

3. Tunnel Road to Inspiration Point

Start this hike on Tunnel Trail and then take Jesusita Trail on the left. Cross Mission Creek and wind upward to the 1,750-foot view of the coastline, Channel Islands, Santa Barbara and Goleta Valley.

Hike: Tunnel Road to Inspiration Point

Distance: 4 miles round trip

Elevation gain: 800 feet

Difficulty: Medium

Notes: Park at the top of Tunnel Road. Tunnel Trail starts there as a wide fire road.

4. Outlaw Trail at Arroyo Hondo Preserve

You'll need a reservation to hike in what some call "Little Yosemite" for the look of its steep-walled gorge. The preserve sits between Refugio and Gaviota State Park and is managed by the Land Trust for SB County. It is rich in local history with the remains of a 5,000 year old Chumash village and an 1842 adobe built by the Ortega family.

Find the link for making reservations in the top right corner here: www.sblandtrust.org

Hike: Lower and Upper Outlaw Trails

Distance: 5-mile loop

Elevation gain: 1,500 feet

Difficulty: Medium-difficult

Notes: Arroyo Hondo is home to the endangered steelhead trout, peregrine falcon, tidewater goby and California red-legged frog. Get directions to the preserve and read more on its history on the Land Trust website. Currently, reservations are only available the first and third weekends of the month.