

# Aliso Peak

*This “hikiest” walk has steep inclines but stunning panoramas.*

**THE DETAILS** Two miles one way, moderately difficult, especially on return. To start at the top, take Crown Valley Parkway east from Coast Highway, turn left onto Pacific Island Drive for 1.7 miles, then left on Talavera Drive. Park on the street at Seaview Park, **22801 Talavera Dr.**, Laguna Niguel, (just before the gated entrance of the Laguna Sur development) and start there.



DOGS ALLOWED



PICNIC TABLES OR BENCHES



SPECTACULAR VIEWS

## PRE-WALK EATS

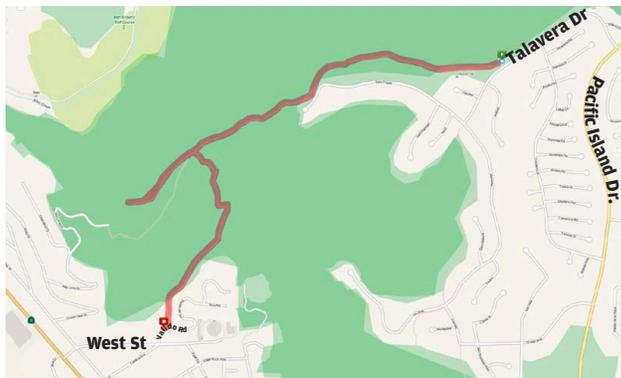
► Coyote Grill has tequila-potted chicken, langostino tacos, and happy-hour margaritas every day for \$4.25. 31621 S. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 949-499-4033, [coyotegrill.tv](http://coyotegrill.tv)

A hiking stick helps with this walk, which takes you past lots of unusual native plants. You can go out and back, or go one way by leaving a second car at your destination. Starting at the top, walk along the wooden fence of Seaview Park to peer down into picturesque Aliso Canyon, then take the dirt path into the park

itself. There are some rare plant finds, including bush rue and summer holly. After a quarter-mile, this broad, groomed trail ends at a picnic bench with ahhh views of the canyon and ocean.

Find the footpath next to the bench area, and follow the precipitous path down to a saddle between the hills. From there, climb the short, steep hill to Aliso Peak for a meditation-worthy ocean whitewater vantage.

Then, back down at the saddle, find Valido Trail (there’s a sign), and head downhill again through a green gully. If there has been decent rain—wishful thinking, most likely—you’ll find a little stream. The trail ends at Valido Road, where you can park a second car if you’ve planned a one-way excursion. Continue downhill to explore South Laguna. The residential streets above Coast Highway are particularly pretty, with their vintage cottages. Take the same route back to Seaview Park—and be prepared for a tough uphill climb.



For turn-by-turn directions on the MapMyHike app (login required), go to [bit.ly/OCwalks](http://bit.ly/OCwalks). Click “options” next to desired route, copy, then swipe down for the option to open via app. From a desktop browser, click “options,” copy, check the “send to phone” box and click “save route.”

# San Onofre State Beach

*With your back to the power plant, this is a stroll of rugged beauty.*

## THE DETAILS

2.5 miles, easy to moderate, walking on sand, rocks, and dirt. \$15 parking. Take I-5 to the Basilone Road exit to San Onofre State Beach, and start there.



DOGS ALLOWED



PICNIC TABLES OR BENCHES



GOOD FOR CHILDREN

## PRE-WALK EATS

► Billy’s Meat, Seafood, Deli, a favorite among locals, has an authentic delicatessen feel and a huge variety of sandwiches. It’s a great place to pick up a picnic for your beach walk. 111 Avenida del Mar, San Clemente, 949-498-5924, [billyssancllemente.com](http://billyssancllemente.com)

Just across the county line, San Onofre State Beach is practically Orange County. And though the 5 Freeway is almost right above you, you’d never guess it down on the sand below the cliffs, where it feels isolated and primitive. Several short, marked trails along the parking lot lead down to the beach. Trail 1 is a 2.5-mile walk, but other paths will take you farther.

Head down to the beach, then turn north toward the shuttered San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The beach usually is littered with smooth stones that clatter as the surf comes in. Take time to notice the cliffs; the brown, striated rock is Monterey Shale, part of a vast geological formation that holds two-thirds of the nation’s shale oil reserves.

Look for the sudden split in the cliffs, with a band of white stone continuing northward. This split marks the Cristianitos Fault. Beyond the fault you’ll notice the white shale of the San Mateo Formation, topped by hardened brown alluvial deposits, which are carved by the elements into spectacular badlands.

Once you reach the perimeter of the nuclear plant, return as you came. With the plant behind you, the beach looks much as it must have for millennia before man.



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