

IRVINE

Turtle Rock Trail

Top-of-the-world views stretch from the ocean to Los Angeles.



DOGS ALLOWED



SPECTACULAR VIEWS

THE DETAILS

2.8 miles, easy to moderate, exposed, and a couple of short but steep climbs. From the 405 Freeway, exit at Culver Drive and head south. Turn left on Campus Drive and right on Turtle Rock Drive. Continue for 2.2 miles; turn into the parking lot of Turtle Rock Community Park, **1 Sunnyhill**, on the right and start there.

Ask residents near UC Irvine about their favorite walk, and they likely will say Turtle Rock, the high, open space that dominates the landscape. It's approachable from many angles via networks of informal trails. You haven't done Turtle Rock, though, unless you've experienced the optional workout of climbing to the top of Suicide Hill. This is a modest loop, but it involves a couple of short, steep climbs. Make sure to bring water and a hat.

From Turtle Rock Community Park, walk along Turtle Rock Drive for 0.1 mile and cross the street to Ralph C. Bren Memorial Park. Take the wide paved path at the narrow part of the park. Just before it meets Ridgeline Drive, turn left onto the unmarked but obvious dirt trail, which slopes up and down several times. At 1.2 miles, you'll reach a paved pathway; turn left for about 500 feet, then right up a set of stairs. To your right are what look like natural steps up to Suicide Hill; there's a bit of clambering on rocks after that to get to the top, then turn right to a lookout area with a bench. Take the dirt trail down to the left; it then turns right at the base of the hill along a wide firebreak. The first dirt trail to your right will take you back to the bench area.

Turn left, go back down the stairs, and turn right to walk through Chaparral Park, which lies along Turtle Rock Drive. Cross the street and take the sidewalk back to your car.

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POST-WALK EATS

► It's a five-minute drive to Wholesome Choice, the international supermarket on Culver Drive. Pick up some exotic fruits and teas not available at ordinary supermarkets, wait for the unbelievable hot-out-of-the-oven sangak bread to dip in hummus, or grab Persian, Indian, Arabic, or Thai food at the hot-food section. 18040 Culver Drive, Irvine, 949-551-4111, wholesomechoice.com



For turn-by-turn directions on the MapMyHike app (login required), go to 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."

NEWPORT BEACH TO IRVINE

Bayview Trail and San Diego Creek Trail

This wildlife oasis makes city hustle-bustle seem far away.



DOGS ALLOWED



GOOD FOR CHILDREN

THE DETAILS

Three to six miles or more, very easy. Dogs allowed on most trails. Take the Jamboree Road exit from Highway 73, heading south. At 0.1 mile, turn right onto Bayview Way and look for parking on the street. Start at end of **Bayview Way**.

At the end of Bayview Way, stroll along the paved path, which 2,000 years ago was a favored living area for Tongva Native Americans. You might see mullet jumping in Back Bay, and bobcats make occasional appearances. Look for the offshoot unpaved trails that take you closer to the water.

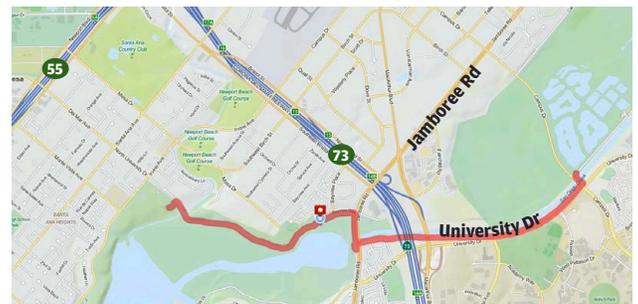
You'll pass over a bridge of railroad ties and end at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, one of the county's prettiest and most engaging nature centers. Children will love it. You might want to wander the trails among the nicely restored habitat.

The Bayview Trail is three miles round trip; to double that, once back at Jamboree, cross over the neck of the bay on the sidewalk. Enter the paved trail on your right, making a cloverleaf to head northeast along San Diego Creek paralleling University Drive; UC Irvine will be across the street. When

you reach Campus Drive, cross the street and make a left and a quick right turn onto Riparian Way. On a levee above the creek, you'll get prime views of great blue herons and egrets. The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary is on your left, a natural oasis of ponds and plants (no dogs allowed in the sanctuary). Return as you came.

POST-WALK EATS

► Moulin Bistro, in a shopping strip near the intersection of Jamboree and Bristol, has an on-site bakery serving croissants and other French pastries. There's dog-friendly patio dining and a full menu of French bistro fare. 1000 N. Bristol St., Newport Beach, 949-474-0920, moulinbistro.com



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