

Shannon's Hiking Guide

"Next time you're in LA, you have to come hiking with me"



Best Hike for Ruins

THE HOTEL HIKE

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/echo.html>

This busy single-track hike will take you to the ruins of a hotel once serviced by the Mt Lowe Railroad. Pick up a sandwich at Roma Market before heading up to the top of Lake Ave for the trail head. It is a moderately steep hike that isn't too long. The views from the old porch of the hotel are breathtaking. Before you leave, hear your voice reflecting off of Echo Mountain.

Best Hike to Feel Accomplished

INSPIRATION POINT

<https://modernhiker.com/hike/hiking-echo-mountain-and-inspiration-point/>

If you feel good after hiking to the hotel, keep going up to reach inspiration point. There are two trails leading to the lookout point featuring viewfinders of popular LA landmarks, so you can make it a round trip adventure. One part of the trail becomes steep, not dangerous, but will tire you out.

Best Fire Road Hike

MT WILSON TOLL ROAD TO HENNINGER FLATS

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/henninger.html>

This is a nice easy hike on an active fire road that will still give you a good workout. The road goes all the way to Mt Wilson (a 4 hour trek one way), but thins out after Henninger Flats. Pack a lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables with an ocean view.

Best Hike to Find Serenity

ORCHARD CAMP HIKE

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/orchard.html>

A great single track trail up the Santa Anita Canyon. Once you hit first water, you'll be delightfully covered by foliage and hear the sounds of a stream running down the canyon. Have your lunch at Orchard Camp, a serene burned down cabin tucked in a grove of old trees. I once ran into a small bear here having lunch with her cubs.

Best High-Altitude Canyon Hike

ICE HOUSE CANYON

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/icehouse.html>

A beautiful, but strenuous hike up Ice House Canyon. You'll pass by old homesteader cabins as you make your way along a bubbling, blissful stream cascading down the canyon. Eventually you leave the valley floor and make your way up to the Ice House Saddle from which you can access three nearby peaks to get great views of Mt Baldy

Best 10'er Hike

MT BALDY

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/baldy1.html>

If you want to reach the top of LA, this is it. At over 10,000 ft, Mt Baldy is an LA legend. Don't underestimate this mountain, people die here every winter by not taking this big mountain seriously. In the summer, reaching its bald peak is quite delightful, but will tire you out. You can make this a loop trail if you want. My suggestion is to finish at the ski lifts to grab a beer after your hike.

Best Hike with the Family

EATON CANYON AND EATON FALLS

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/eaton.html>

You'll be in awe of the large mountains towering over you walking along this easy, flat trail on the Eaton Canyon flood plain. If you follow the stream under the bridge, it will end at a small water fall, reminiscent of those from early "Legend of Zelda" games. Under no circumstances should you try the upper falls, there is no trail to this and people die every year trying to find it.

Best Hike with a Purpose

BRIDGE TO NOWHERE HIKE

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/bridge.html>

Deep in the San Gabriel Mountains is a long abandoned bridge across a deep gorge. Today, you can bungee jump off this bridge, or just have lunch perched on the canyon walls. Your feet will get wet as you cross the stream running through the canyon at least 12 times.

Best Hike to Walk into the Darkness

DAWN MINE HIKE

<https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/dawn.html>

A peaceful loop trail to an old gold mine. You'll find two entrances to the mine, though both are closed off for safety, you can test your will by walking into the darkness of the old entry tunnel just to see how far it actually goes.