

Hard hike January 29 2019 Kings Canyon Loop Trail

Kings Canyon Loop Trail is a 6.1 mile loop along Kings Canyon and Rocky Ridge Trails. Accumulated Elevation Gain (AEG) is 988 ft. This hike is on EBMUD watershed and requires an EBMUD permit (which your Hike Leader has).



http://eastbaytrails.squarespace.com/storage/KC%20loop%20cropped.jpg?__SQUARESPACE_CACHEVERSION=1299018774158

From the Valle Vista trailhead outside of Moraga we head east (left as you face the sign-in sheet). Shortly there is a "Y" – here we go left, dipping down into a pine forest (and poison oak safely off the trail). The trail takes us over the Moraga Creek bridge – on the pre-hike there were lots of ducks in the creek. After crossing the bridge, now heading south, Kings Canyon trail winds through dense oaks and California bay trees shading a wide, smooth dirt road with many moderate ups-and-downs as it travels along the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Note the exposed, improbably folded ribbons of metamorphic shale along the trail.



There are views of the reservoir through the forest along the way, with a panoramic one high above the reservoir. The trail swings back NE along a tributary which had lots of ducks (some canvasbacks?) and egrets. Shortly the trail becomes Rocky Ridge trail, which starts out as a single track trail. We will come to an unmarked "Y" along this single track – we go to the left. This trail becomes a wide, smooth dirt fire road again as it traverses meadow and woodland

with one moderate and one steep climb, followed by a steep down-hill section. These sections, although steep, are not long. At the junction with Rimer Creek Trail, Rocky Ridge Trail turns 90° left before a ranch gate. On a



hike here this is where I saw 8 bluebirds lined up on a gate. At the junction with Kings Canyon loop trail we turn right and hike back to the trailhead.

The hike starts at 10:00 at the Valle Vista trailhead outside of Moraga and will take about 3 hours.

Bring: water, hiking boots, sun protection. Trekking poles are recommended if you use them. Binoculars are worth bringing to bring the waterfowl up close.

Ride Sharing: For those who want to ride share, meet by 9:35 at the downtown Walnut Creek movie theater parking garage. Enter either on California Ave or Locust Street. There is plenty of parking on the 3rd floor (both covered and open) and they allow four hours free. Meet on the north (open) side of the 3rd floor.

Directions to the Trailhead: Leaving Walnut Creek take Olympic Blvd. Go about 2.5 miles and turn left on Reliez Station Rd. In 0.6 mile Reliez becomes Glenside Dr. In 0.5 mile turn right to stay on Glenside Dr. Turn left on St. Mary's Rd. In about 3 miles turn left onto Moraga Rd. In 0.3 mile Moraga Rd becomes Canyon Rd. Valle Vista Trailhead is about 1.2 miles down Canyon Rd on the left. Driving time is about 20 minutes from the rideshare area in Walnut Creek.

Optional lunch: TBD

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