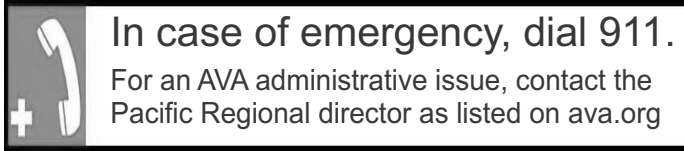


Los Angeles, CA “Griffith Park: Mt Hollywood & West Observatory”

An online walk from the South Bay Striders

AVA Number: YRE 2250

Effective: Jan 1, 2015



**This map and directions
may only be used in
conjunction with a signed
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Additional Information

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Length & Rating

3 Routes:

10K (6.3 miles), rated strenuous (4+), 1000' elevation gain

“Mt Hollywood” 5K (3.1 miles), rated moderate-hard (3+), 500' elevation gain

“West Observatory Loop” 5K (3.1 miles), rated hard (4), 500' elevation gain

Surface: Well-maintained dirt trails

Driving Directions To Walk Start

From I-5: Take 101 N towards Los Angeles/Civic Center. Take the Vermont Ave exit, exit 6A. RIGHT on N Vermont Ave. N Vermont Ave becomes Vermont Canyon Rd. LEFT on E. Observatory Rd. Follow signs to the Observatory. Park in the Observatory parking lot. The parking lot fills up by mid morning on nice weekends. People park along the road leading up to the Observatory if the lot is full.

START: At the Observatory parking lot.

Hours

You may do the walk at any time during daylight hours. Arrive early to get parking in the Observatory parking lot and avoid the heat of the day. However, if you hope to visit the Observatory during your trip, it has limited hours.

Observatory Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 12:00 noon - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays (and Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Cautions & Misc

Restrooms at Observatory at start, finish and midway through 10K. Restrooms at midway point on 5K West Observatory Trail. Carry water. Dogs allowed on leash. Not suitable for wheelchairs or strollers. This is a wilderness area. Wear & carry appropriate hiking gear and walk with a partner. Rattlesnakes possible on hot days. Trail is almost entirely exposed so this route is not recommended on hot days.

Description

Griffith Park is one of the most beloved urban getaway spots in L.A. With 55 miles of trails, wild quail, rodents, foxes, coyotes, rattlesnakes and deer, it's hard to believe it's smack dab in the middle of Los Angeles. The 10K route is a "figure 8" consisting of two 5Ks that can also be walked separately. Both start at the Griffith Park Observatory. The "Mount Hollywood Trail" 5K climbs to the summit of Mt Hollywood, the highest elevation in Los Angeles. Get a bird's eye view of the Hollywood sign as well as views over the entire Los Angeles valley. The walk is on all natural trails and the climb is steady with an elevation gain of 500'. The second 5K descends from the Observatory on the West Observatory Trail and then climbs back up. It includes a Native American encampment site. It has a 500' elevation gain but a steeper climb than the Mt Hollywood Trail.

“Mt Hollywood & West Observatory”, Griffith Park, L.A. 5K rated 4 or 10K rated 4+
 An online walk from the South Bay Striders YRE I779

<p>PARKING: Park at the Griffith Park Observatory parking lot. Restrooms here.</p> <p>OPTIONS: The 10K consists of 2 5Ks, both starting at the Observatory. We've put the West Observatory Loop first to avoid uphill at the end, but you can do them in any order or choose just one for a 5K. Mt Hollywood is the more dramatic.</p> <p>WEST OBSERVATORY 5K LOOP:</p> <p>1. Approach the Observatory on the right side passing the James Dean statue. Continue on the right side of the Observatory and circle around it (either behind the back or by taking the steps over the roof). End on the left side of the Observatory.</p> <p>2 There's a dirt trail at the left side of the Observatory. Go RIGHT on this trail and head downhill.</p> <p>3. At the "T" / overlook go RIGHT and down. (.6K)</p> <p>4. After the first steep downhill you'll reach a "T". This is the loop head for the lower loop. Go hard LEFT to head out on the left side of the loop. (.9K)</p>	<p>12. Exit Fern Dell at water fountain. Continue straight ahead up steps. Stay to the right of creek.</p> <p>13. Continue to restrooms that you saw in #6. (3K)</p> <p>14. At restrooms, veer RIGHT of restrooms and start back uphill at the dogs on leash sign.</p> <p>15. At the fork below the Observatory (this is the loop head), go LEFT. (4K)</p> <p>16. At the next fork go RIGHT and up the trail to the parking lot. (5K)</p> <p>MT HOLLYWOOD 5K LOOP:</p> <p>17. From the Observatory parking lot, the trailhead for the Mt Hollywood trail is directly opposite the Observatory across the parking lot. It's a wide and fenced trailhead signed "Mt Hollywood Hiking Trail".</p> <p>18. Go up this trail. Stay on the main trail.</p> <p>19. At the trail split (trashcan here) this is the head of the loop that circles Mt Hollywood. Take a LEFT here. (1.63K)</p>
<p>5. As the trail levels out you'll reach a treed and shady area. Stay on the left side of the creek and don't cross the bridge. (1.55K)</p> <p>6. Continue straight ahead on trail. Pass restrooms and parking. There will be a stone wall on your left and the trail becomes a paved trail.</p> <p>7 Pass the Minnie M. Barton memorial. (1.84K)</p> <p>8. Continue on the paved trail to Los Feliz and the traffic light. (2.3K)</p> <p>9. Cross the road (Fern Dell) at the light and turn RIGHT to head back up the road on the sidewalk, now walking on the opposite side.</p> <p>10. At the gates marked "Fern Dell", note the plaque about the Gabrielino Indians. This is a Native American heritage site.</p> <p>11. Go through the gates marked "Fern Dell" into a park. Continue straight ahead on either side of the creek (the trails remerge).</p>	<p>20. Reach the top of Mt Hollywood at 1619'. (2.2K)</p> <p>21. At the "T" with the picnic area to your left, go RIGHT to circle the top of Mt Hollywood in a counter-clockwise direction. Check out the view from observation platform then continue to circle around the top until you reach the picnic area.</p> <p>22. At the picnic tables go STRAIGHT AHEAD and start downhill. Soon there's a junction of 4 trails – go RIGHT and downhill.</p> <p>23. Keep RIGHT and downhill on the main trail.</p> <p>24. Reach the "loop head" and trashcan (3.2K). Continue straight ahead and downhill.</p> <p>25. After crossing the cement bridge go STRAIGHT AHEAD and slightly uphill to return to Observatory parking lot. (5K)</p> <p>For more walk routes visit www.sbstriders.com</p>

“Griffith Park: Mt Hollywood & West Observatory”, L.A.
West Observatory Trail 5K MAP (for 10K combine maps)

YRE 1779

The numbers in circles correspond to the numbers on the directions sheet.



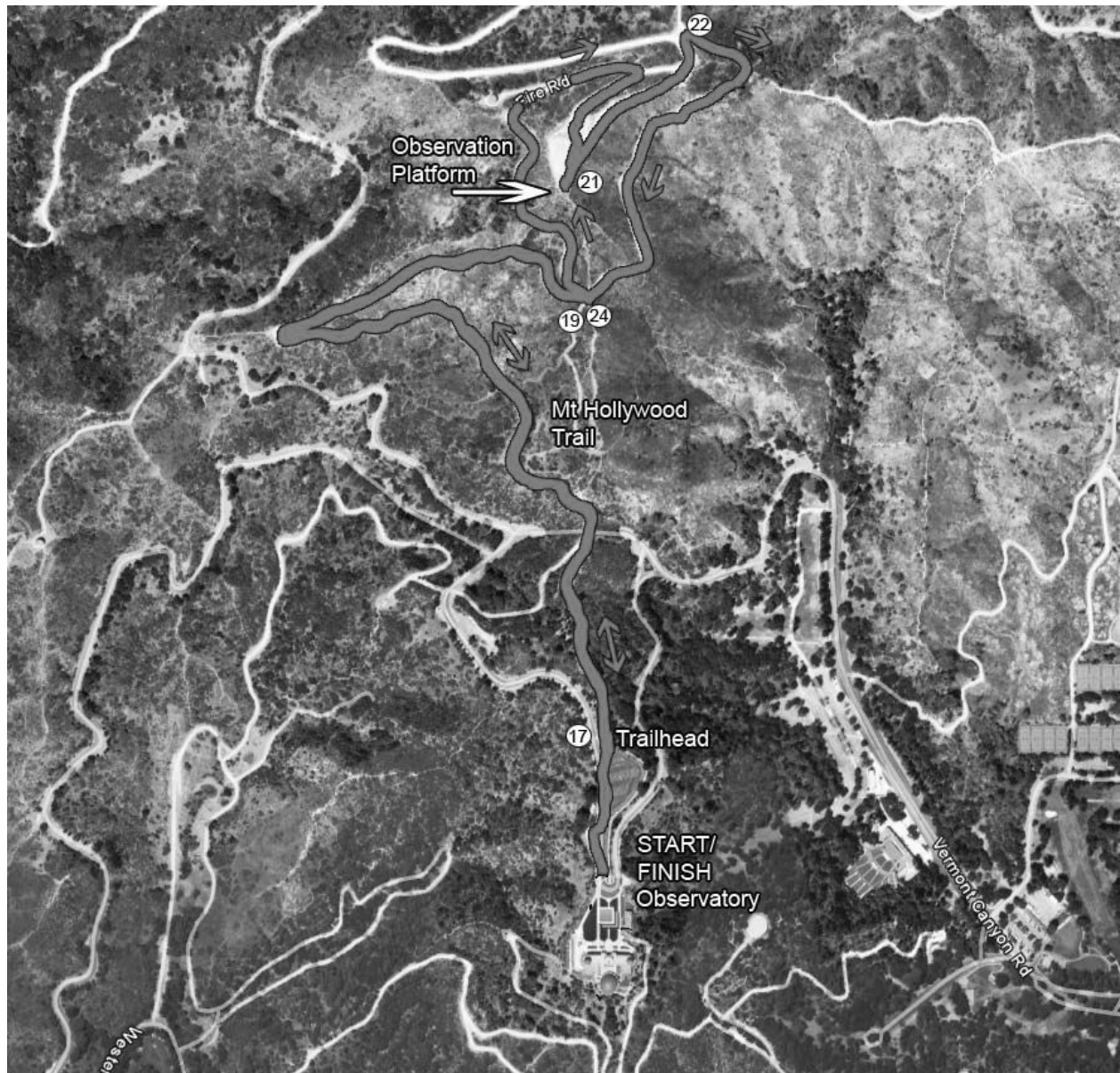
Underlying map is from Google Earth

“Griffith Park: Mt Hollywood & West Observatory”, L.A.

YRE I779

Mt Hollywood 5K MAP (for 10K combine maps)

The numbers in circles correspond to the numbers on the directions sheet.



Underlying map is from Google Earth