

Pacific Crest Trail - WHITEWATER
10k Rated: 2C Y0975

Startpoint: Whitewater Ranger Station, 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road, Whitewater, CA 92282

Directions to the start: *From Eastbound I-10 Freeway* take the Whitewater exit (just past Highway 111 exit). Left at the stop sign and Left again at Whitewater Canyon Rd. *From Westbound I-10 freeway*, take the Whitewater exit. Turn Right and then Left on Whitewater Canyon Rd. Once on Whitewater Canyon Rd, drive 5 miles to the end of the road. There is plenty of free parking at the Preserve.

1. From the parking lot at the ranger station, walk toward the Restroom building passing it on the right.
2. Continue around the periphery of the field to the far fence. Veer left towards the bushes. Walk up to the brick walkway (wooden fence). Turn **Right** to the end.
3. Turn around & walk along the brick walkway, past the fish ponds to the Lodge. (This area was once a trout farm). At the Visitor's Center turn **Left** and walk down the parking lot to the far right end.
4. Going straight ahead climb up to the top of the slope and turn **left**. Soon you will meet a trail. Take the trail veering **right** over a small bridge.
5. This trail is less than ½ mi. to the road but can be difficult due to sand, rocks and unsure footing. Keep following the trail to the paved road.
6. **Left** on the road back to the Lodge (Ranger Station).
7. Just past the gate into the Preserve you will turn **right** following a path alongside some flowing water. (There is a telescope for viewing the big horn sheep that live on the steep cliffs.)
8. Stay on the main trail at the intersection with a registration box. The meadow to the right is great for bird watching with a population of endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher & Bell's Vireo.
9. Look for the sign that says TRAIL & turn left on it. This is the path to the Pacific Crest Trail.
10. The trail is pretty well marked at the beginning but sometimes hard to follow. Many hikers use the trail so you can follow footprints. Look for tall upright poles to keep you on track.
11. Soon you will come to the river. There should be a bridge (sometimes washed out) to the other side. There

will be a marshy area with a hill leading to PCH. (Left to Mexico, Right to Canada)

12. You will stay right on the PCH as far as Red Dome. This is a 25 foot brick-red hill of volcanic mud in the riverbed, just beyond the large hill on the left.

13. At the dome, retrace your steps all the way back to the gravel road, crossing the river and following the tall upright poles.

14. **Right** on the gravel road to a path on the left. (There is a piece of pumping equipment on the left of the path & a home straight ahead.) **Left** on the path.

15. Follow the path back to the parking lot to your car.

If you have time, the Visitor's Center is a great place to visit. The staff is very friendly.

Hope you enjoyed this trip to the desert and the Pacific Crest Trail!

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<p>In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 Event related assistance: Jean Vik (951) 317-7860 walkervik@aol.com</p>
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<p>These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.</p>
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