



FRIENDS OF  
LOS PEÑASQUITOS  
CANYON PRESERVE

## LITTLE BLACK LOOP TRAIL



(Hike about 15 minutes to reach this place, without sights or sounds of civilization)

### The Quiet Mountain

**Distance:** 2.7 mile loop, about 600 feet of elevation gain

**Trailhead GPS:** 32.971242, -117.117222

**Getting There:** The trailhead begins in the parking lot of Hilltop Community Park (9711 Oviedo Way, San Diego, CA 92129). The trail is on the East end of the parking lot. Follow trail signs to get to Little Black Loop, pictured above.

**Difficulty:** Hard. Steep, rugged terrain. Wider trails at beginning of hike. Signs indicate the path to follow.

**Disclaimer:** This is a multiuse trail. Watch for mountain bikers. Restrooms in the community center building. Open limited hours, shown at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/recctr/hilltop>.

**Highlights:**

- Hike uphill for the first ten minutes and get fantastic ocean views, all the way to Tijuana on a clear day, and a birds-eye view of schools, subdivisions and the I-15 freeway. At the northern stretches of this hike, there are great views over Rancho Bernardo, Palomar Mountain and beyond (on a clear day).
- Black Mountain Open Space Park opened in 1964 when the City of San Diego acquired it under the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926," a federal policy administered by the Bureau of Land Management. However, the original "owner" of this land is, of course, the native Kumeyaay tribe.
- The Kumeyaay lived and continue to live off this land by utilizing native plants for food, medicine, and shelter. This trail is dominated by native plants, particularly coastal sage scrub and chaparral species.



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- A native plant is a plant that is naturally indigenous to an area. A nonnative plant is one that was introduced after European settlement. An invasive plant is a nonnative plant that steals resources, like water and space, from the natives.
- There are several plants along this hike that are important to the Kumeyaay. These plants either provide a food source, a medicinal benefit, or can be used as tools or shelter. Among them are:
  - California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)
  - Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*)
  - California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
  - Broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*)
  - Laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), pictured right

**Remember to Leave No Trace – Don't be a Party Pooper!** Pack out your pet waste. Pet waste can lead to the rise of invasive species and can spread diseases to wildlife. And the City requires that all dogs be kept on a leash not to exceed 8 feet. Learn more at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs/>.

**More info.** Read more about the fascinating life of the Kumeyaay tribe, at <https://www.kumeyaay.com/>. Learn more about The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve at <https://www.penasquitos.org/>.

**Map.** Start with the Black Mountain Open Space Preserve map at <https://www.penasquitos.org/s/blackmtn.pdf>, perhaps even download to your phone. The Little Black Loop Trail is shown below in red, add the blue stretch to get to the top of Black Mountain.

