



FRIENDS OF
LOS PEÑASQUITOS
CANYON PRESERVE

MINER'S RIDGE



Quick Escape to Nature

Distance: 2.6 miles, 459 feet of elevation.

Trailhead GPS: 32.992669, -117.116146

Getting There: The road to the trail head can only be accessed from the eastbound lane of Carmel Mountain Rd. It is approximately 0.9 mi from the intersection of Black Mountain Road and Carmel Mountain Rd. Look for the entrance on the right side after descending the hill. The sign is not visible as you approach so look for the road. There is a parking lot at the top. Look for trail signs for Miner's Ridge.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Disclaimer: This is a multi-use trail. Watch for mountain bikers. **No restrooms on site.**

Highlights: This is a great hike with rewarding views.

- Follow signs for Miner's Loop Trail, and it will bring you back to the parking lot (traced in red on map).
- For a shorter hike, check out The Trail for All People. A wide, flat trail, starting at the same kiosk, it's ADA accessible. This trail boasts beautiful native plants that are labeled with placards.
- For a longer hike, you can follow trail signs to the summit of Black Mountain (traced in blue on map).

Black Mountain is located in the geological area known as the "Poway Quadrant" which consists of rock units called "Santiago Peak Volcanics." The Santiago Peak Volcanics comprise an elongate belt of mildly metamorphosed volcanic, volcanoclastic, and sedimentary rocks that crop





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out from the southern edge of Los Angeles Basin southward towards Mexico. See <https://www.penasquitos.org/about-nature-preserve#geology>

- Miner's Ridge is in fact named after a short-lived mining history on Black Mountain. White arsenic was mined here as an ingredient in a pesticide used to kill boll weevils, but is no longer manufactured. Boll weevils are an invasive species that killed cotton crops. The mine was abandoned in 1927, and the mine itself remains. The mine is closed to the public.
- The geology isn't the only thing unique on this hike! There are several interesting and uncommon plants along the trail like:
 - Southern Mountain Misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), an aromatic shrub in the rose family.
 - Mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), a beautiful member of the chaparral plant community.
 - San Diego Pea (*Lathyrus vestitus* var. *alefeldii*), a perennial boasting pink flowers.



Remember to Leave No Trace – Hikers, bikers and riders, be considerate of each other. Bicyclists should slow down when approaching hikers, ring bells, and indicate how many others are in their group. Hikers should step to the side of the trail. Learn more at <https://lnt.org/>.

More info. Visit The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve website to learn more about what we are doing at Black Mountain Open Space and other preserves, <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 Miner's Ridge Loop Trail is within the blue circle below.

