



Rutherford Trail

[Mount Gower to Simon Park]

ACCESS: From Hwy 67 (Main Street) in Ramona take 10th Street (which becomes San Vicente Road) south and east 6 miles into San Diego Country Estates. Left at Gunn Stage Road 1.8 miles to the entrance of Mount Gower Open Space Preserve (which begins at the dead end of Gunn Stage Road). The staging area is 1/4 mile beyond the entrance on the right side of the dirt entry road. Park hours are 8:30 a.m. to approximately 1 hour before sunset. The staging area has restrooms and a drinking fountain. <Note: all of this area and facilities burned during Firestorm 2003, but re-building is anticipated.>

LENGTH AND ELEVATION: 2.5 miles; 1595' to 1960'.

DESCRIPTION: Toward the northeast end of Mount Gower Staging Area, enter the trailhead at the park's information kiosk. At the first trail intersection, turn left toward the small water tower. Follow the trail markers through a rugged chapparal canyon area. At the second trail intersection, veer left toward the Rutherford Trail.

Rutherford Trail is an SDG&E easement for power lines. Some segments of the trail are very rocky. Rutherford Trail ends at Vista Ramona Road. Crossing the road leads to the Vista Ramona entrance to Simon Park Open Space Preserve. [See "Simon Park Open Space Preserve."]

RECOMMENDED USES: Suitable for all categories of non-motorized recreational use. Be aware that there could be seasonal streams and that there are a few steep and rugged sections of trail in the canyon area beyond the water tower.

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