



Pace Trail Hike

Woodrat - Sunset - Pace - Sunset - Lower Chaparral

Total Distance: 6.5 miles - Total Elevation Gain: 1,150 feet

Estimated Duration: 3.5 hours, including nature and art stops

This is a moderate difficulty hike that will double the distance and elevation of Quail Hollow Ranch trail hikes (e.g. Sunset, Woodrat)



The hike begins at the Quail Hollow Ranch house (elevation 530 ft) and follows the Woodrat Trail up to the Sunset Trail. This trail is 50% shaded, with great views of the surrounding hills and Monterey Bay on a clear day.

The new Pace Trail begins at the lookout at the top of the Sunset Trail (elevation 1,100 ft) and is 80% shaded. It passes through a Pygmy Redwood forest and takes you near countless Live Oak and Madrone trees, and near several Redwood groves. We will pass by several large Woodrat nests and look at several special-status species such as the Ben Lomond Spineflower and Silver Leaf Manzanita. As we progress through both the upper and lower loops of the Pace Trail, we will pass by four sculptures commissioned as part of the trail-making project that celebrate the native life that is special to the area. The lowest elevation of the Pace Trail is 560 feet at its western edge, nearly back to the level of the parking lot.

After completing the Pace Trail loops, we will make our way back up to the Sunset Trail lookout (1,100 feet). From there we will descend on the Sunset Trail to the Lower Chaparral Trail to the parking lot (530 ft).

The trails are in great shape, so hiking or trail running shoes should be sufficient. Boots are not required. There is poison oak near the trail, so if you are sensitive then take standard precautions. There have been wasps in the area in the past, so plan for that if you have an acute allergy. Bring enough water for this moderately strenuous hike -- one liter per person is a good starting point. More if it's a hot and sunny day.

Hope to see you there!