

**Point Vicente to Hesse Park & Return**

May 29, 2013

Hike Leader: Larry Savell

**Trailhead Directions**

From the 405 Freeway take Hawthorne Boulevard SOUTH, up and over The Hill to the end of Hawthorne Blvd. at Palos Verdes Drive West. TURN LEFT at the traffic light, (where you will find a Starbucks for coffee). Turn right at the next turn off, which will be the entrance to Point Vicente Interpretive Center, and park in the parking lot.

If you take the 110 Freeway go South to the Pacific Coast Hwy off-ramp and head West. Turn left when you come to Hawthorne Blvd. and follow the directions listed above.

If you want to be dropped off at Hesse Park the entrance is just past Verde Ridge Road on the right as you travel south on Hawthorne Blvd.

Note: There are restrooms available at Point Vicente and at Hesse Park, after 9 a.m.

**Our hike**

Will begin at 9:30AM at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. Located next to Point Vicente Lighthouse, this small natural history museum is an ideal whale-watching spot. You never know what you might see playing out in the ocean. The many exhibits highlight the peninsula's geology, flora and fauna.

The hike will take us along the coastal cliffs of Palos Verdes in the city of Palos Verdes Estates. If the weather cooperates, the shoreline and ocean views are magnificent and we might be able to get a great view of Catalina Island and Malibu. While walking along the cliffs and trails we will also see some rather large homes. We will follow a path that takes us to Palos Verdes Drive West where we will cross to the center median where there is walking/running path. We continue hiking until we come to Paseo Luando, where we TURN RIGHT for one block where we run into the trail that will take us up the hill to Hesse Park.

The trail ends between two homes and comes out to Kings Harbor Drive where we make a right turn and follow it down, around, to the left and up to Verde Ridge Road. We continue up to Locklenna Lane where we make a right and continue across the street to the park where there are a couple of different paths to the top of the park. This would be a great place to have lunch and admire the view.

The round trip hike is about seven (7) miles with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. Side trips are also possible for the more adventurous.

**Alternate hikes:** If you want to only go downhill, you can start your hike at Hesse Park and just hike downhill either on the Hesse Park trail or you can hike down Hawthorne Blvd. until you reach the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. That would only be about 3.5 miles. You can also start at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and go as far or near along the paths as you like and turn back anywhere.