

762

Up Colby Canyon to Potrero and on past Strawberry to Red Box - shuttle

Distance: 9.3 miles

Elevation gain: roughly 2400 feet

Leader: Rich Frederick

Trailhead:

Up the Angeles Crest Highway just past (1/2 mile) the Clear Creek junction and Switzers to the parking area on the left.

Drop off the hikers who want to do the entire planned hike and then drive on to Red Box where we will have our refreshments after the hike(s). It would help to do this no later than 9:00 AM. We can appoint a car and driver to return hikers to the Colby trailhead if necessary.

Theo, Larry, and I just did this hike, and it is a tough one. Our recon, the trail signs, and Ron Forbes' profile all confirm 9.3 miles. 2400 feet elevation gain is going to be very close. Add the factor of heat, and I suspect that a number of you will want to hike an alternative. I suggest that the alternatives be: (1) Red Box to Strawberry Saddle (4.6 mi rd trip), (2) Red Box to Strawberry Spring, from the saddle about a mile and 400 feet down toward Potrero (the spring is gushing and is clearly marked), or (3) Strawberry Peak itself, again about a mile past the saddle.

I do not want to turn everybody off on the main hike, because it is a truly great one. But I must say it is tough.

We noted lots of poison oak, mainly on the Colby side. We encountered gnats and flies everywhere. Therefore, bring lots of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and stamina!