

MATAGUAY 3-MILE LOOP TRAIL ROUTE WEST FROM THE MOUNTAIN MAN MEADOW COUNTER CLOCKWISE AROUND CAMP

This describes a 3-mile counter clockwise loop through camp that starts at **Mountain Man Meadow**. Start by walking to the dirt road that goes behind the Hog Barn. Follow that road past the first set of corrals where there is a gap (3590). To the right is the Barn. Turn Left and follow an old road down to the **Barn Bridge**. Cross the bridge and walk up to the Mataguay Connector Trail (0.2) and turn left.

If you are doing a 10-mile hike from Barrel Springs, this is where you continue down the canyon rather than crossing the bridge.

Follow the **Mataguay Connector Trail** (MCT) down the canyon to the junction with the Nature Trail (3540). Turn up the hill and follow the **Nature Trail** as it climbs to the future North Side Trail and then contours around a wash to a point above the **Crow Campsite** (3620-0.5) Here our route drops through that campsite to the dirt road and goes right down to a road switchback above the **Nature Den** (0.1).

Instead of taking the switchback go straight ahead on the trail through Blackfoot. It heads off through a Manzanita grove, briefly parallels the Blackfoot dirt road and then contours around across another dirt road, which goes up to Pawnee. The challenge here is to pick the contour route across the oak leaves to pick up the trail at a minor drainage and following it around to the paved road. (0.3). Cross the paved road and climb slightly behind the Campfire circle to the **Dining Hall** ((3540-0.1) (You should be able to get water and use restrooms here.)

From the dining hall descend the steps to top of the Cardiac Hill Trail to the right of the **Baden Powell Campfire circle**. To the right of this trail, at it starts, find another trail. It descends to **Silva Lodge** (0.1 – 1.0 miles). Go around the right side of this lodge and pick up a trail that is marked with yellow or orange colored arrows that point the way to an old stump. At the stump do a half left and follow the arrows to a gap in the yellow rope (0.2). Turn right and go 150 yards down the road to a place where 2 phone pole stumps mark the start of an old road. Follow this road as it drops through two campsites. At a boulder turn right and follow this road to an old stove stand.

Now the route drops down a use trail and crosses **the wash between Lake Henry and Indian Rock**. Follow this use trail as it switchbacks and climbs above a burned out tree. Then it drops down the canyon to the junction of this wash and Matagual Creek. Look for a rock path across the creek (3320-0.3).

Here you can pick up a trail that climbs up the canyon through some old campsites and past the Lake Henry spillway (0.4). Continue up the use trail that goes over the hill to the Shotgun Range (3460) and then drops to the range road (3410-0.2). Follow this road to a pond (0.2). Here you will find a road that leads to the right and

climbs up to the **Kumeyaay campsite** restroom (0.2). Continue to follow the road through past the picnic table and down across a culvert to a trail junction. Turn left and climb up to the paved road.

Cross the paved road to the Blackfoot Fort (0.1). Follow the wall of the fort counter clockwise to the **Blackfoot Fort Bridge**. Rather than crossing the bridge turn right and climb through the parking lot to the outside chapel. Pick up a red flag line here and follow it as it crosses the road and follows a ways under the power line. Where the power line turns across the meadow, leave it to follow the trace of an old road that goes around the edge of the meadow. Eventually you will come to a point where the old road grade climb. Don't follow this mountain bike route, but drift to the left and pick up a trail that continues around **Mountain Man Meadow** (3580-0.5). Here you can leave the trail and drift left to your campsite or you can continue across the road to the Old Commissary parking lot.

If you started from Barrel Springs and hike the MCT to the Barn Bridge and then added this hike to that trek you have now hiked 10 miles.

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