

Circle X Ranch

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area



Mountains to Sky

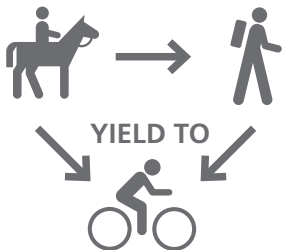
Tucked in the canyons above Malibu and nestled below majestic Boney Mountain, you will find Circle X Ranch. This former Boy Scout camp offers many opportunities for exploration and leisure.

Hike one of the many trails that wind through this rare coastal Mediterranean ecosystem. Experience the chaparral plant community and look for red shank chamise, a tree-like shrub with reddish-brown bark, clusters of thread-like leaves and small bunches of white

flowers that bloom in July and August. Keep an eye out for blue-bellied lizards and scrub jays during the daytime, and gray foxes and bats at twilight.

You can journey to the top of Sandstone Peak, the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains, or hike down towards The Grotto, enjoying a creek-side picnic along the way. Marvel at one of the few locations near Los Angeles where you can see the Milky Way.

Information and Safety



BE PREPARED Bring water, food, map or some type of navigation device, a headlamp, and first-aid supplies on your hikes. Be alert for ticks, bees, rattlesnakes, and poison oak. Wear sturdy footwear, e.g. hiking boots or shoes with good tread. Cell phone reception is largely non-existent in much of this area.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE improves everyone's trail experience. Hikers should yield to equestrians. Equestrians should communicate with passing hikers and bicyclists. Horses should not graze or leave the trail. Remove manure from parking areas.

BICYCLISTS must ride courteously and yield to hikers and equestrians; speed limit is 15 mph unless conditions require a safer speed. Bicyclists and equestrians are allowed on designated trails only (avoid social trails and fire lines).

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES including rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected

or disturbed. Do not climb on structures. Weapons, nets, and traps are not allowed in parklands.

HORSE TRAILERS are not recommended due to winding roads and limited parking areas.

WILDFIRE is a year-round concern. Smoking and fires of any kind are not permitted on the trail. For current restrictions and fire danger level, visit www.nps.gov/samo.

TRAIL CLOSURES will be in effect during and following extreme weather or hazardous conditions.

PETS are permitted on trails managed by the National Park Service. They must be on a leash not to exceed six feet and be under control. Pick up after your pet. Pets are not allowed off trails.

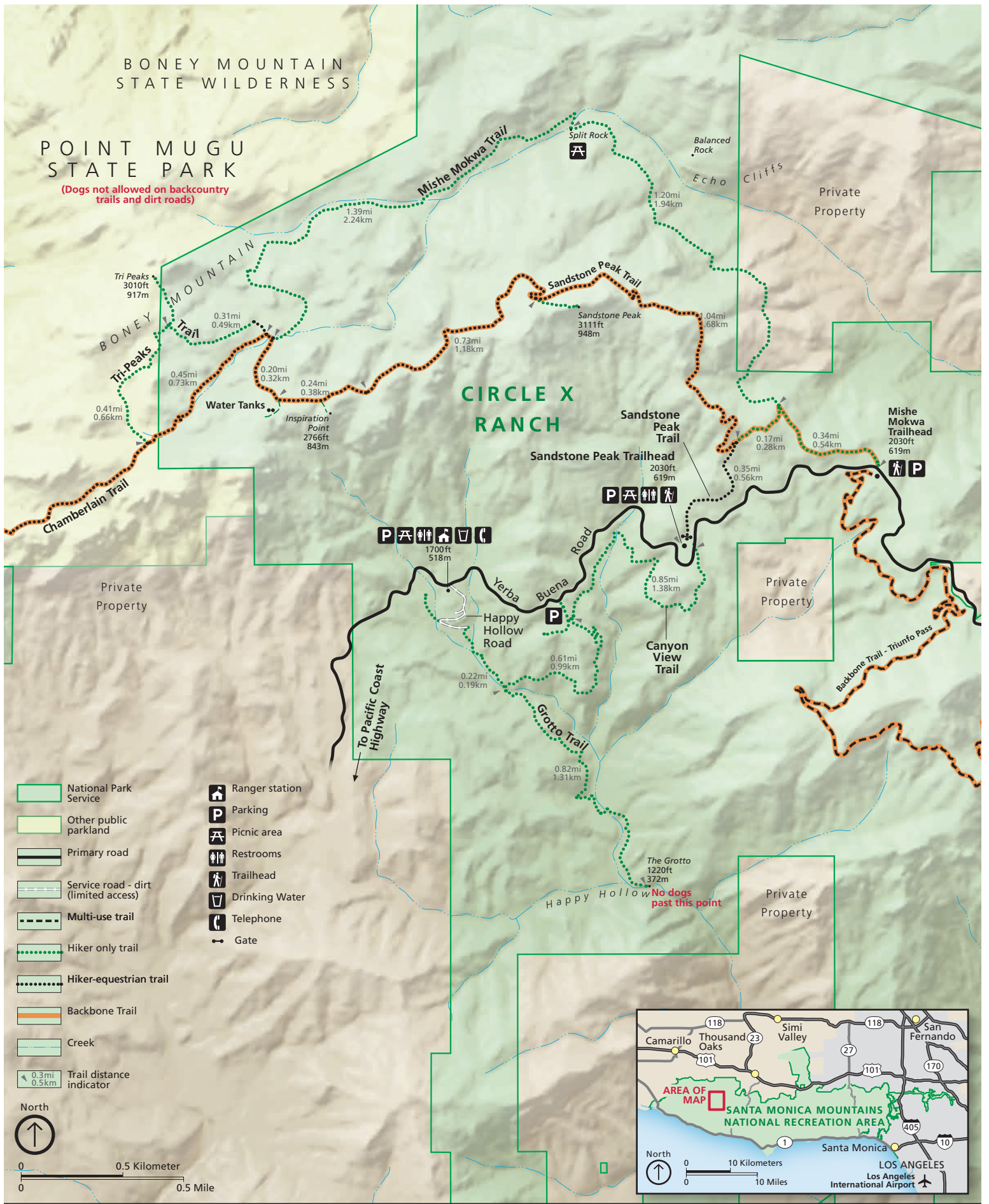
WATER that comes from streams is not safe to drink due to possible contamination or the presence of giardia.

Circle X Ranger Station
12896 Yerba Buena Rd
Malibu, CA, 90265



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Santa Monica Mountains
Interagency Visitor Center
26876 Mulholland Hwy
Calabasas CA 91302
805-370-2301
www.nps.gov/samo

EMERGENCIES
Call 911. For a ranger, call
Santa Monica Dispatch
at 805-370-2399.



Backbone Trail ♦ 7.9 miles—The Backbone Trail continues west from Circle X Ranch to Sycamore Canyon and other trails in Point Mugu State Park. Obtain maps before entering the Boney Mountain Wilderness Area. From the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead, the Backbone Trail continues east 4.0 miles to Yerba Buena Road near mile marker 9.1. The total length of the Backbone Trail is 67 miles. Bikes and dogs are not allowed in the Boney Mountain Wilderness.

Canyon View Trail ● 1.9 miles; no bikes—This trail can be accessed from three points: via the Grotto Trail, the trailhead is 0.3 miles east of the Ranger Station on Yerba Buena Road, or the Sandstone Peak Trailhead. Enjoy views in every direction.

Grotto Trail ■ 3.5 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—From the ranger station, walk down to where the Grotto Trail begins. This trail traverses hillsides eventually leading down to the west fork of Arroyo Sequit with an uphill return. The Grotto area is rugged terrain; be careful and wear appropriate hiking attire. The last 1/8 mile is through an unimproved streambed. Dogs are not allowed on this trail.

Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock ■ 3.5 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—This trail begins at the north side of the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead. Traversing riparian, coastal sage scrub and chaparral, the trail offers wonderful views of Carlisle Canyon and Balanced Rock. Split Rock's oak grove offers a shaded spot for picnicking.

Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak ♦ 6.0 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—From the Sandstone Peak Trailhead, go to the Mishe Mokwa Trail Connector. Take the Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock and continue to the Backbone Trail heading south. This trail ascends to Sandstone Peak, then descends to the trailhead.

Sandstone Peak Trail ♦ 3.0 miles round trip—Starts at the Sandstone Peak Trailhead at an elevation of 2,030 feet. The trail climbs another 1,081 feet with views of the Conejo and San Fernando Valleys, as well as the Pacific Ocean.

● Easy ■ Moderate ♦ Strenuous