

Conejo Canyons – Long Loop with Lichen, Lizard Rock and Hawk Canyon Trails



Highlights

- This 11.2 mile long route shows off the best of Conejo Canyons Open Space
- A great workout – it drops into the canyons and climbs out again three times
- Cross the newest bridge in Hill Canyon, expected to be completed in late winter 2024
- Three trails, Hawk Canyon, Lichen and Lizard Rock (colored green on the map below), are included in the 2024 Conejo Open Space Challenge
- Not recommended for inexperienced mountain bikers. There are steep climbs, some of them with loose rolling rocks on the surface
- **Warning:** The Canyon Overlook Trail is expected to be closed for several weeks in the spring of 2024. Before embarking on this route, check COSCA's [trail closures web page](#).

Description This is a strenuous hike through Conejo Canyons and the west end of Wildwood Park that includes some of the most interesting and beautiful trails in the Conejo Valley! You'll pass along a lovely oak forest in Hawk Canyon, rolling grasslands on the Plateau Rim Trail in the Western Plateau, rocky volcanic landscape along Lichen Trail, and much more.

Key Statistics

Distance: 11.2 miles

Cumulative Climbing and Descent: 2550'

Popularity: The sections within 2-3 miles of the trailheads are very popular, especially the Hill Canyon Fire Road in Hill Canyon where it runs alongside Arroyo Conejo.

Parking: Free at the dirt lot on Conejo Center Drive and in Hill Canyon.

Tread Surface: Expect all kinds of surfaces, from firm dirt roads to loose and/or rocky singletrack trails. Volcanic Trail is a little loose, Lichen Trail is very rocky but not loose and Canyon Overlook Trail will probably have loose rocks on it.

Hazards: Poison oak at the side of Hawk Canyon Trail towards the south end. Some trails are loose and/or rocky.

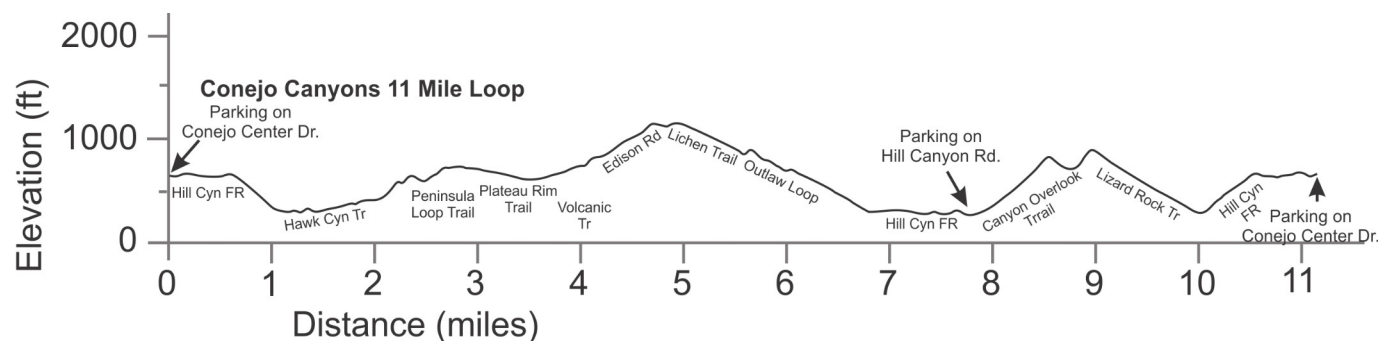
Facilities: Restrooms and picnic tables in Santa Rosa Valley County Park

Connections: The central part of Wildwood Park from Lizard Rock Trail

Driving Directions: From the 101 Freeway in Newbury Park, exit at Rancho Conejo Blvd heading north. Drive 1.8 miles, almost to the end, then turn left onto Conejo Center Drive. Continue 0.3 miles then park in the dirt lot on the right or at the side of the road.

Map: <https://bit.ly/UchB4u>

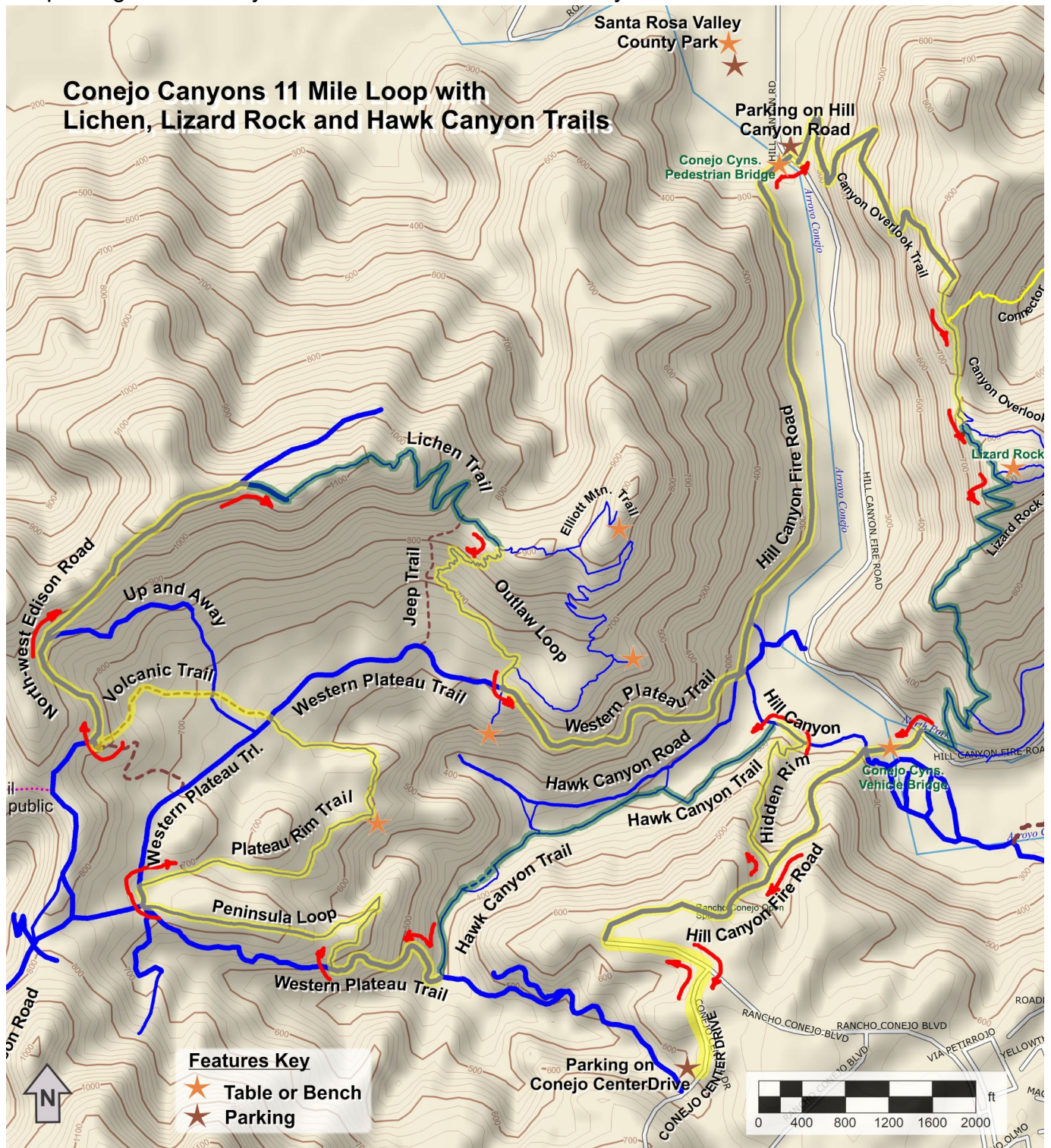
Elevation Profile



The **Conejo Open Space Foundation** – A nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing Open Space preserves in the Conejo Valley. Learn more at cosf.org.

Route Map

The route is meant to start on Conejo Center Drive in Newbury Park, but you could also start at the parking on Hill Canyon Road in the Santa Rosa Valley.



Map courtesy of <https://www.venturacountytrails.org>

Updated February 6, 2024

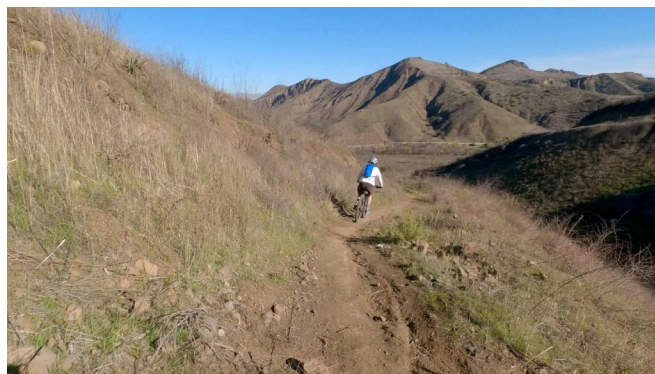
This route covers a lot of trails, so here's a turn-by-turn description of how to proceed.

1. From the parking on Conejo Center Dr, head north
2. Turn left on Rancho Conejo
3. At the end of the street, turn right onto Hill Canyon Fire Road
4. Follow the dirt road east and then turn downhill north-eastward
5. At the white gate that crosses the road, step over the bar at the left and head down Hidden Rim Trail
6. At the bottom of the trail, turn left onto Hill Canyon Fire Road for only about 100 yards
7. Turn left onto Hawk Canyon Trail. Follow it for 0.8 miles to the Edison Road
8. Turn right onto Western Plateau Trail, an Edison Road
9. Follow the Edison Road west and up for about 500 yards, then turn right onto the Peninsula Loop Trail
10. At the top of the trail, turn right onto the Western Plateau Trail (an Edison Road) and head north for only 200'
11. Turn right onto Plateau Rim Trail. Follow it to the end where it crosses the Plateau Rim Trail (Edison Road)
12. Continue straight on Volcanic Trail. It ends under a powerline tower
13. Go right on the main Edison Road and climb to the top, about 1350 yards. Bear right when you're under the power lines and head for the structures
14. Lichen Trail is a singletrack trail that starts just east of the structures. Follow it until it joins the Outlaw Loop, 1300 yards
15. Turn right on the Outlaw Loop, heading downhill. At the fork after 1200 yards, keep right. Shortly you will arrive at the Western Plateau Trail, an Edison Road.
16. Turn left (east) on the Edison Road and follow it downhill until it joins with the Hill Canyon Fire Road after almost 1000 yards
17. Turn left (north) onto Hill Canyon Fire Road. You will cross the original Hill Canyon Bridge after a mile. This section of the Hill Canyon Fire Road is AKA "The Longest Mile" because it is almost 1 mile to the bridge
18. Cross the paved road (Hill Canyon Road) and continue up Canyon Overlook Trail, a dirt gas pipeline service road
19. After 1300 yards, the road becomes a singletrack trail. Continue for 500 yards to the fork. Go right onto the Lizard Rock Trail
20. Follow the Lizard Rock Trail down into the canyon for 1550 yards, where you will take the right fork. Follow it down for another 400 yards and again take the right fork, around the switchback. After another 110 yards, cross the paved road (Hill Canyon Road)
21. Continue along the new road and cross the newest bridge, completed in January 2024
22. Beyond the bridge, take the road that leads up the hill (Hill Canyon Fire Road) that gets you to the top of the plateau and the trailhead at the end of Rancho Conejo Blvd.
23. Take the street back to the parking on Conejo Center Drive
24. Whew, you made it!

Photos



Hill Canyon Fire Road



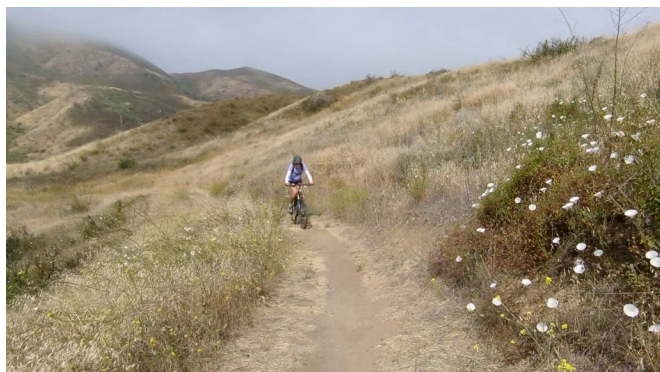
Hidden Rim Trail



Hawk Canyon Trail



Hawk Canyon Trail



Peninsula Loop



Peninsula Loop



Plateau Rim Trail



Plateau Rim Trail



Volcanic Trail



Volcanic Trail



Lichen Trail



Lichen Trail



Outlaw Loop



Outlaw Loop



Hill Canyon Fire Road



Hill Canyon Fire Road



Canyon Overlook Trail



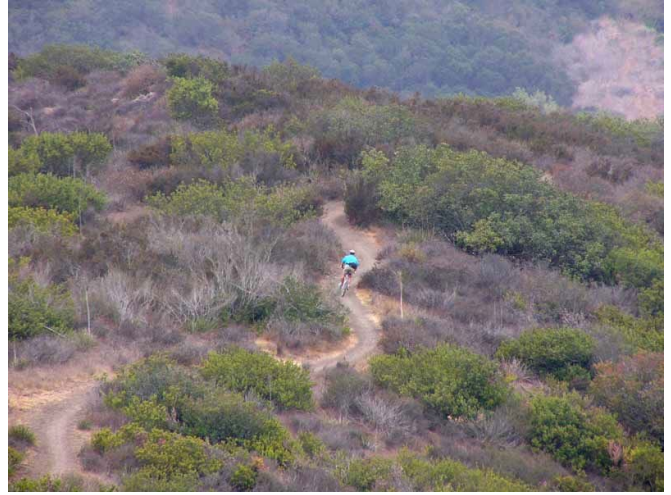
Canyon Overlook Trail under construction



Canyon Overlook Trail under construction



Lizard Rock Trail



Lizard Rock Trail