

North Ranch - Saddle Pass Trail

Highlights

- Because of the amount of climbing, this is a more difficult trail, but there will almost always be a great view.
- There are two side trails along the way to get you to overlooks that have even better views than the main trail.
- Saddle Pass Trail is one of the segments of the 2026 Conejo Open Space Challenge (<https://cosf.org/challenge>).

Description

This is a challenging trail because of the amount of climbing, but it's well worth the effort because of the views you'll get to see along the way, of the neighborhoods below and the more distant hills and mountains. This route has two side trails that lead to overlooks where you'll be even higher than the main trail. Overlook #2 has a bench for you to rest and enjoy the view.

Key Statistics

Distance: 5.6 miles.

Cumulative Climbing and Descent: About 1400'.

Parking: Free on Via Colinas.

Popularity: You probably won't see anyone else on this trail, except maybe when you get close to Bowfield Trail.

Tread Surface: Hard packed trails of various widths. Some sections have minor ruts and/or slippery loose sand and gravel on top.

Hazards: Steeper sections tend to have a slipperier loose surface. There is one extremely steep section that is very loose, marked on the map with a red double triangle.

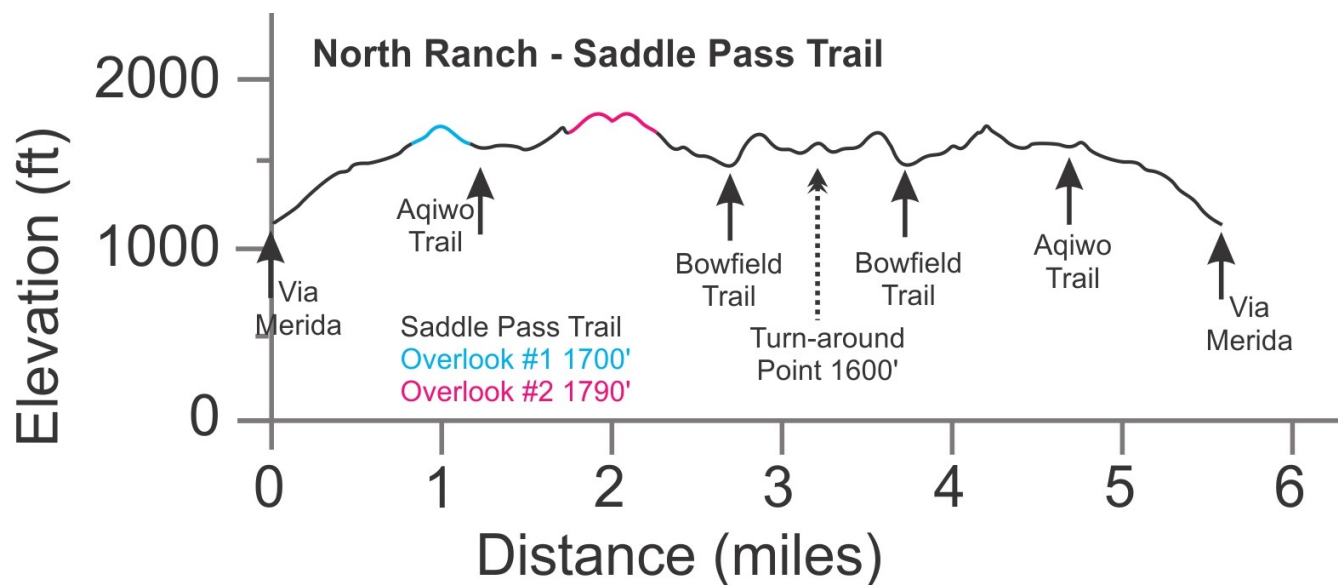
Facilities: None.

Connections: To Bowfield Trail and the Wishbone Loop via Aqiwo Trail.

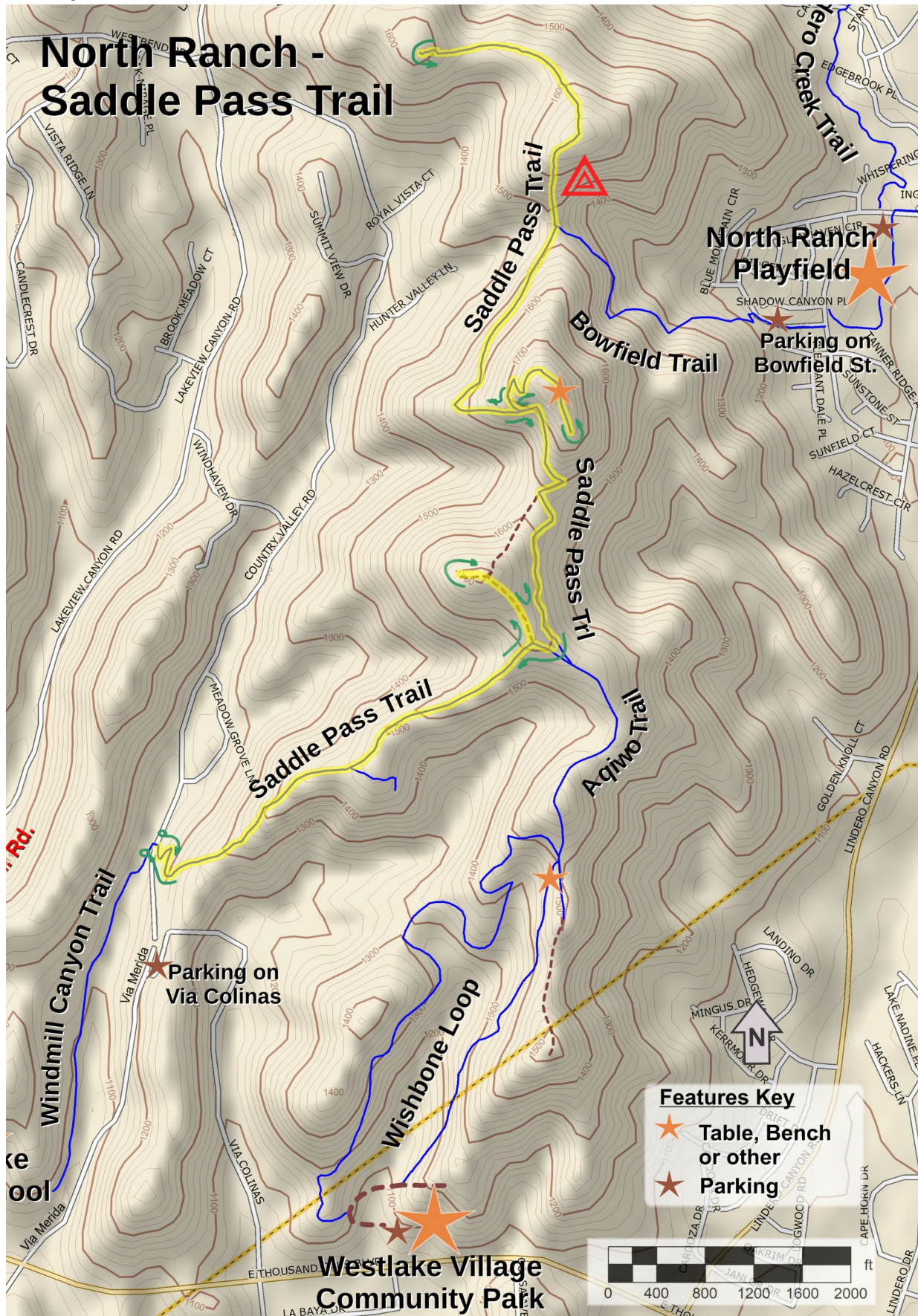
Directions: From the 101 Freeway in eastern Thousand Oaks, turn north on Westlake Blvd, then right onto Thousand Oaks Blvd. after 0.1 miles. Continue for only 0.6 miles before turning left onto Via Merida. Drive 0.5 miles, then turn right onto Via Colinas and park at the side of the street.

Map: <https://bit.ly/48hUqIZ>

Elevation Profile (based on the route indicated by the green arrows on the map on the next page)



Route Map



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

Updated December 6, 2025

Photos

Saddle Pass Trail





From the top of the very steep section. Saddle Pass Trail is to the right, Bowfield Trail is to the left, and a social trail down from the top of Overlook #2 is dead center.



From Overlook #1, looking at Overlook #2



Overlook #2

