

April 11, 2023 Easy Hike - Briones Abrigo Valley

Hike Description: A little something for everyone who'd like a nature fix after our several months of rain. For those that want an easy hike, a 3 mile 300 feet elevation gain out and back, about 50% shaded. For those that would like a little more with expansive views, the full hike option is a moderate 4.3 miles 650 feet elevation gain, with some short steep stretches. The hike will begin at **9:45 AM**.

We start with ample parking at the foot of the Abrigo Valley trail in Briones Regional Park. No fees are being collected. We head north 0.94 miles on the wide Abrigo Valley trail (see route map below) to the junction with Mott trail. We bear left for a half mile open stretch followed by more shade at the Wee-Ta-Chi campground area. This is the turnaround point for the easy hikers.

Moderate hikers then climb 300 feet in a short distance to Briones Crest trail and enjoy expansive views west to the Bay. Continue eastward ½ mile in the open along the crest trail to the Mott trail junction. This adds views of Suisun Bay, central county and Mount Diablo. Return downhill on Mott trail which has 3 steeper stretches and ends in a wonderful, shaded stretch before re-connecting to the Abrigo Valley Trail for the return leg.

Optional lunch: Europa Hofbrau, 64 Moraga Way, Orinda

Bring: Good walking shoes or hiking boots and water. Trekking poles are useful for the steep stretches. Assume restrooms are not available although one porta potty appeared open on our pre-hike.

Directions: Take Hwy 24 west from Walnut Creek to Orinda. Exit on Camino Pablo northward toward Orinda Village/Richmond. Proceed 2.5 miles then turn right at the light onto Bear Creek Road. Proceed 4.4 miles to the Briones entrance road on your right. Enter the park and after passing the entrance booth make an immediate left into the parking lot.

Car-pooling: Those that would like to carpool should meet at the downtown Walnut Creek Cinemark theatre parking garage located between California and Locust streets. Meet in the middle of the 3rd floor open area on the north side. **Meetup is at 9:00 with departure at 9:05** to allow for delays that may arise on highways. IF YOU ARE CARPOOLING, be sure the driver and passengers agree on whether to go to lunch or not.

Hike Leader: Dan Kohlman, 925.406.9864, dankohlman1@gmail.com

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