

June 9th, 2026 Easy Hike: Pine Canyon to Castle Rock 10:00 a.m.

Hike Description: An easy, mostly flat, out and back hike along the route of the old stage road up Mount Diablo. The hike is on pavement through the Castle Rock Recreation Area, gravel to the dam, then sandstone most of the rest of the way. The hike is woodsy, offering quite a bit of shade, with views of the hills surrounding the valley. These build to the sandstone crags of Castle Rock. We will likely see peregrine falcons which famously nest at this location.

We hike 1.4 miles to the State Park boundary with a couple of dry stream crossings toward the end (so 2.8 miles round trip). Elevation gain is 200 feet, mostly in the climb around the dam.

There are restrooms ¼ mile into the hike.

Bring: Good boots, water, hat, and trekking poles if you use them.

Directions: Take Ygnacio Valley Road east to Oak Grove Road. Turn right (south) and go 1 mile to the roundabout. Continue straight which becomes Castle Rock Road and follow it 1.7 miles to the end.

Optional lunch will be at the Burger Lounge, Orchards Shopping Center, 2920 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Hike Leader: Martin Simmons 925-586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com

Hike Coordinator and Chairman: Carl Ludwig 415-350-7372 cludwig171@gmail.com

Photos Below



Park Entrance



Through Oaks



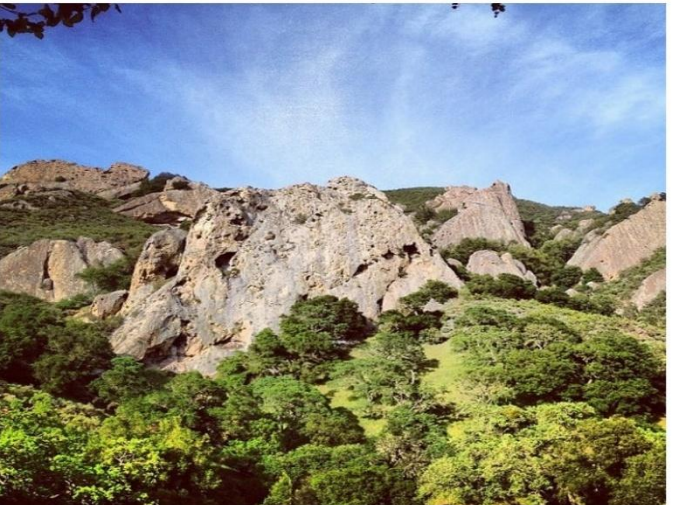
Past Ranchlands



On Gravel up to the Dam



Rocks Getting Close



Castle Rock view from bench