KING'S CANYON LOOP FROM RANCHO LAGUNA PARK IN MORAGA

Restart rules are here https://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/ and also noted below.

This is a very scenic, counter clockwise 6 - 7 mile loop hike with several steep climbs and sharp descents with undulating fire roads and a cumulative elevation gain of approximately 800 – 900 feet. Most of the trail segments are broad fire roads with a few single track portions, which tend to be through grass so we easily step off to maintain distance as we pass folks. There is plenty of shade overall but the last ½ to ¾ mile is open, as is the first uphill stretch on Rimmer Creek Trail to the fire road. But we can take our time on this part.

90% of the trails are fire-road sized and allow for social distancing while we hike or pass other hikers. Face masks are required whenever a 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained, such as passing through gates and in the staging area. We will head out in groups of 3-4 people which will help and allow us to sign-in with our EBMUD permits. This also allows others to pass our group more easily (a tip from Branch 146).

We start this hike by proceeding through the Park's south gate out of Rancho Laguna Park where we turn right on the connecting fire road for 0.4 miles and make our way to the Kings Canyon Loop which we leave after a short walk.

We take the Rimmer Creek Trail, a single track dirt trail on our right, we hike across the hill side to reach the fire road then turn left and upward to start a 600 foot climb. In several places poison oak is lurking so take care. When we reach the ridgeline, we have sweeping views of Moraga. We have a sharp descent and at the bottom the vistas open again. We pass by the backyards of residential homes and through some lovely tree cover until we turn left down towards the reservoir. At the bottom we may turn to the right for a short distance to view the top end of the reservoir before re-tracing our steps and then continuing on around the side of the reservoir on the King's Canyon Loop trail.

There are multiple views of the scenic San Leandro Reservoir we will enjoy along the way. There are mallards, Canada geese, egrets and other water birds enjoying the reservoir as well.

Boots/Poles/Hike Attire: Hiking shoes are appropriate. Hiking poles encouraged for stability due to slippery loose dirt on several steep (downward and short) portions of the fire road. Bring plenty of water and snacks.

EBMUD pass is required and covers holder plus 3 guests. Martin and I both have one. They can be purchased easily online from EBMUD at https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/buy-trail-permit/

Reminder: Ride share is not allowed unless by people from same household. Rancho Laguna Park has approx 70 parking spaces and there are additional spots along the road outside on Camino Pablo.
Optional Lunch: Not at this time

When I pre-hiked the toilets serving the park were open (June 16).

Western Blue Bird, Courtesy Dave Davis, taken on a previous hike on this route.

Driving Instructions to the trailhead:
From Orinda take Camino Pablo heading toward Moraga

Camino Pablo turns into Moraga Way, at the T junction (service station on your right). Turn right onto Canyon Road. After 0.5 miles turn left onto Camino Pablo. You will see a Catholic Church on your left just before the turn. If you have reached the one lane bridge with the traffic light, you have gone too far. Drive 1.6 miles to arrive at Rancho Laguna Park and turn left into the park

From Walnut Creek area take CA-24 west
Take exit 13 from CA-24. Through Lafayette onto Moraga Road. Moraga Road runs into Canyon Road, (service station on your right). After 0.5 miles turn left onto Camino Pablo. You will see a Catholic Church on your left just before the turn. If you have reached the one lane bridge with the traffic light, you have gone too far. Drive 1.6 miles to arrive at Rancho Laguna Park and turn left into the park

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