

November 10, 2020 SIR Hikers Easy Hike: Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve

Hike Description: This month's *easy hike* affords hikers an opportunity to enjoy a walk through an ancient volcano. Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, located on the ridge between Oakland and Orinda, features 10.2 million year old *Round Top Volcano*. It has been conveniently eroded down to expose a variety of volcanic and volcano-derived rocks, roughly in their original position on the ancient volcano. Old quarrying operations have exposed various rock types. Altogether, a fascinating display of geology in a small area. Sibley Volcanic Preserve has an excellent set of interpretive displays next to the parking lot; you might want to arrive early to enjoy them. Also check out the exceptional description of the geologic features with photos at:

<https://ebrpd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=0fb2f053dc1e4dfea896085e798821c6>

Most of the trail is either asphalt or graveled, but parts are dirt with roots and rocks and these sections will be muddy if it has rained in the previous days. Total elevation gain is around 150 feet, but most of the slopes are gentle and long stretches are flat or nearly so. Total distance is 3.5 miles.

From the Sibley Staging Area, take the dirt Overlook Trail to the junction with Round Top Trail. Turn left at the junction with the Volcanic Trail – when you come to a fork in the trail, stay right on the Volcanic Trail. Optionally you shortly come to a spur that goes to a Quarry Pit – short. Returning to the Volcanic Trail. In about 0.4 mile an unmarked trail goes off to the right through a small but beautiful short canyon with several volcanic features. Return to Volcanic Trail which drops down to the paved Quarry Rd. In about 0.2 mile go left onto Quarry Trail, which takes you back to Volcanic Trail. At the fork, go left on Loop Trail to another photo op, the largest quarry in the preserve. Optionally, you can hike down into the quarry to the labyrinth. Return to the top of the quarry and continue on the Loop Trail. In about a half mile cut off into a forested area. Shortly you come to a junction with the Bay Area Ridge Trail/Skyline Trail. Turn right (left takes you Huckleberry Preserve) and follow Skyline Trail back to the trailhead.

There are restrooms and water fountains at the trailhead, but none along the trail, so plan for that. If the weather is clear, the views across Contra Costa County to the east are quite spectacular from parts of the trail, and Mt. Tamalpais is visible to the west.

Bring: Water hat. The hike is not difficult but hiking boots and poles are recommended for some sections.

Directions to the trail head: From the 680/24 interchange: Drive west 8.5 miles to Fish Camp Road exit and turn right at the stop sign. Proceed uphill 0.9 miles to Grizzly Peak Drive. Turn left and go 2.3 miles to Skyline Blvd. Turn left and drive 100 feet to the left turn into the Sibley Volcanic Park parking lot. **Be at the trailhead by 10:00 a.m.**

Ride sharing: Ride sharing is not allowed on SIR hikes unless all people in the vehicle live in the same household due to coronavirus.

Optional lunch: No SIR sponsored lunch due to the coronavirus.

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