



MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Preserving & Protecting Parks & Open Space

Garland Hikes: La Mesa and Mesa Pond

Distance
3.4 miles

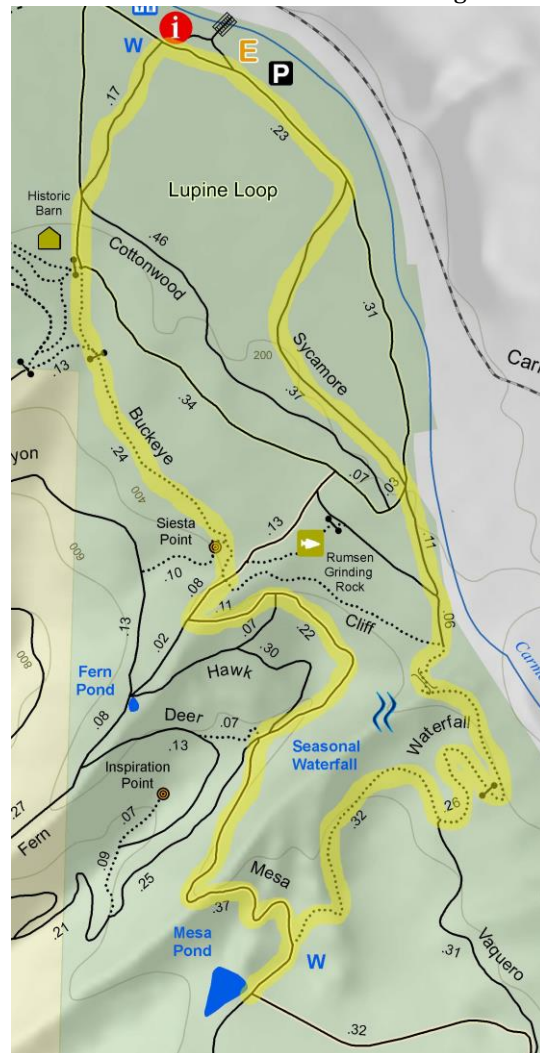
Approx Hiking Time*
1 hour 15 minutes

Elevation Gain
630 ft

La Mesa is an elevated, open meadow that provides good views of Carmel Valley. It's a popular location within Garland Ranch Regional Park.

Directions:

- From the Visitor Center, take the **Shortcut Trail** (straight ahead with your back to the Visitor Center). When you reach the end of the Shortcut Trail, follow the signs for the **Buckeye Nature Trail** by going up the hill. You will pass a wooden gate to your right; follow the signs for the Buckeye Nature Trail by going straight ahead.
- Start on the **Buckeye Nature Trail** by going through the stile (the V structure in the wooden fence). Make sure to note the interpretative signs that describe some of the trees, ferns and lichens to be found in the Park, as well as the geology of the area.
- You will go down some stairs on the Buckeye Nature Trail to meet the **Mesa Trail**. Turn right on Mesa, up the hill. You will pass the Siesta Point Trail on your right. When you come to the Fern Trail and the Barnhart Bench, be sure to stay on the Mesa Trail by bearing left. You will pass the Hawk Trail on your right, then a ways after that the Hawk Trail again. Just past that, the Sky Trail and a cutoff to the Deer Trail meet up with the Mesa Trail. The Faye Braun Bench is here. Follow the signs for the Mesa Trail by bearing left.
- You will then come to **La Mesa**. Here you can rest on the Neidenger Bench or the Keel Bench, and "Have a Drink on Frank" at the water fountain. If you continue on the Mesa Trail, you will come to **Mesa Pond**. Take some time to take in the views.
- When you are ready to return, find the start of the **Waterfall Trail**. It's next to where the Mesa Trail reaches La Mesa. Take Waterfall down the hill. You will pass the Vaquero Trail on your right, and then later pass through a stile for the hiker-only section of the Waterfall Trail. You will continue downhill, down several sets of stairs and a bridge. After the bridge, you will pass the Cliff Trail on your left. Continue downhill on the Waterfall Trail, passing the Chamisal Trail on your left.
- When you pass the trash cans, follow the sign for the **Sycamore Trail** by bearing left. Follow Sycamore until it reaches the **Lupine Loop Trail**. Take a left on Lupine Loop to return to the Visitor Center.



* Hiking times are approximate. Experienced hikers may complete the hike in less time, inexperienced hikers or families with small children may need more time. Please plan accordingly.



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- ✓ There is water at the Visitor Center and La Mesa, but nowhere else on the trails. Remember to bring plenty of water on your hike.
- ✓ There are restrooms at the Visitor Center and the Ranger Station, but nowhere else in the park.
- ✓ There are trash cans at a number of locations on the lower trails, but no trash cans higher up. Please pack out *everything* you pack in.
- ✓ On some trails you may encounter horses. Equestrians have the right of way in those situations
- ✓ If you are hiking with a dog, be aware your dog can be off leash but must be under your control.
- ✓ Take time to look at the flowers, listen to the birds, enjoy the views and generally take in the pleasure of being out in Nature. But *please* don't pick the flowers!

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