

Eaton Saddle

Trailhead



View south into Eaton Canyon from the east ridge of Occidental Peak.

Canyons and Drainage

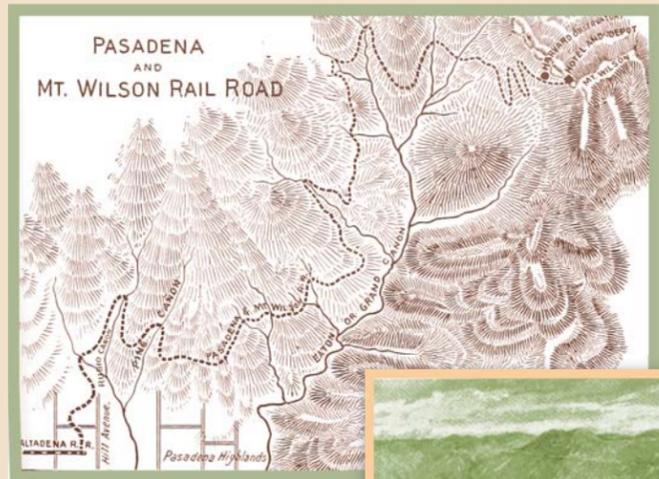
Eaton Saddle is a saddle (ridge connecting two higher elevations) between San Gabriel Peak (6,161') and Occidental Peak (5,732') and on the ridge leading from Red Box to Mt. Wilson. It separates Eaton Canyon to the south from Falls Canyon to the northeast.

Drainage from Eaton Canyon goes to the Rio Hondo River and eventually to the Los Angeles River, while drainage from Falls Canyon goes to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. This is the first place on the Mt. Wilson Road where you can get a view south over the Los Angeles Basin.

Eaton Canyon Saddle

TEXT AS IS FROM COPY...DOESN'T CONNECT...???????

The Eaton Canyon Saddle, a turnout and a locked gate leading to the Forest Service truck trail down four miles to the site of the old Alpine Tavern terminus of the vanished Mt. Lowe Railway.



Originally, Professor Lowe's mountain railway was to head northeast from Rubio Canyon through Eaton Canyon to Mt. Wilson as the 1891 map and artist's depiction shows. Due to canyon wall instability and the inability to come to terms with Mt. Wilson landowners, plans were changed. Mt. Lowe became the destination and a northwest route up and over Echo Mountain followed by winding above Millard and Grand Canyons was developed.



Head of Eaton Canyon and Beyond

Once passing the the metal gate crossing the Mt. Lowe Fire Road (elevation 5090ft) a spectacular view down into the cliff-ringed amphitheater head of Eaton Canyon can be seen. Take a moment to enjoy the surroundings. From this elevated viewpoint examine the progress of the canyon as it winds its way off to the south, southeast. Further in the distance, on a clear day, one can see the canyon turn west and disappear. Just around that turn is Idlehour Campground which you will pass later on the hike. The Mt. Lowe trail down to Idlehour may also be seen as it switchbacks down the west slope of the canyon just before the westerly turn.

Things to remember when recreating in the area...

Poison Oak lives here!

Avoid contact!
- causes an itchy, blistering rash lasting up to 10 days.

Grows in a cluster of 3 shiny leaves that have a scalloped edge. Changes color seasonally, green to yellow and finally red.

Wash skin under cold water if contacted and as leaf oils can remain on clothing for up to 2 weeks, wash clothes immediately.



Be Bear Aware!

Bears are in the area so:

- Hike in groups, never alone
- Choose a campsite free of bear signs.
- Store your food, garbage and other bear attractants well away (100 yards) from your sleeping area and keep your camp clean!
- Cook well away (100 yards) from sleeping area
- Don't burn or bury garbage, pack it OUT!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

LOS ANGELES RIVER RANGER DISTRICT
12371 N. LITTLE TUJUNGA CANYON ROAD
SAN FERNANDO, CA 91342
(818) 899-1900

Leave No Trace

- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Keep a clean camp.



Control Your Pet!

- Your dog must be on leash while on the forest.



WANTED

Historical sites and archeological items are irreplaceable and protected by Federal Law. Protect your cultural heritage by leaving structures and artifacts intact for future visitors. Violators will be prosecuted.

