

Zuma & Trancas Canyons

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



The Chumash were the first people to experience the incredible landscape and diversity of plant and animal life in Zuma and Trancas Canyons. The name “zuma” is derived from the Chumash language and means “abundance.” The abundant expressions of nature in this Mediterranean ecosystem continue to inspire visitors to explore our park by hiking, horseback riding, or biking.

Voice of the Chaparral

As the largest piece of federal parkland in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Zuma and Trancas Canyons offers a variety of trails. Journey deep into these canyons and discover a perennial creek and riparian habitat. Hike through chaparral, look for basking lizards, and enjoy a stunning view of the Pacific Ocean. You might also see deer,

rabbits, coyotes, hawks, jays, tree-frogs, and even the occasional bobcat.

Listen closely for one of our Zuma and Trancas celebrities: the shy wren-tit. Though rarely seen, its call sounds like a ping-pong ball echoing through the canyon. This call has earned this little bird the nickname “Voice of the Chaparral.”

Information and Safety

TRAIL ETIQUETTE Hikers should yield to equestrians. Equestrians should communicate with passing hikers and bicyclists. Horses should not graze or leave the trail. Remove manure from parking areas. Bicyclists should ride courteously and yield to hikers and equestrians; speed limit is 15 mph unless conditions require a slower speed. Bicyclists and equestrians are allowed on designated trails only (avoid social trails and fire lines).

NATURAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES including rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected or disturbed. Weapons, nets, and traps are not allowed in parklands.

UNAUTHORIZED MOTORIZED VEHICLES are not permitted on trails or fire roads.

TRAIL CLOSURES will be in effect during and following extreme weather or hazardous conditions.

STAY ON ESTABLISHED TRAILS and off of private property.

BE PREPARED by taking water, food, flashlight and first-aid supplies. Be alert for ticks, bees, rattlesnakes, and poison oak. Let someone know where you are going.

FIRE is a year-round concern. Campfires and barbecues are prohibited. During times of high fire danger, smoking and all fires are not permitted.

WATER that comes from streams is not safe to drink due to possible contamination or the presence of the giardia protozoan.

PETS must be under control and on a leash, not to exceed 6 feet, at all times. Pick up after your pet. Pets are not allowed off trail.

CELL PHONE SERVICE can be unreliable in the canyons.

Zuma & Trancas Canyons
Zuma Ridge Parking Lot
North end of Busch Dr off of
Pacific Coast Hwy
Malibu, CA, 90265



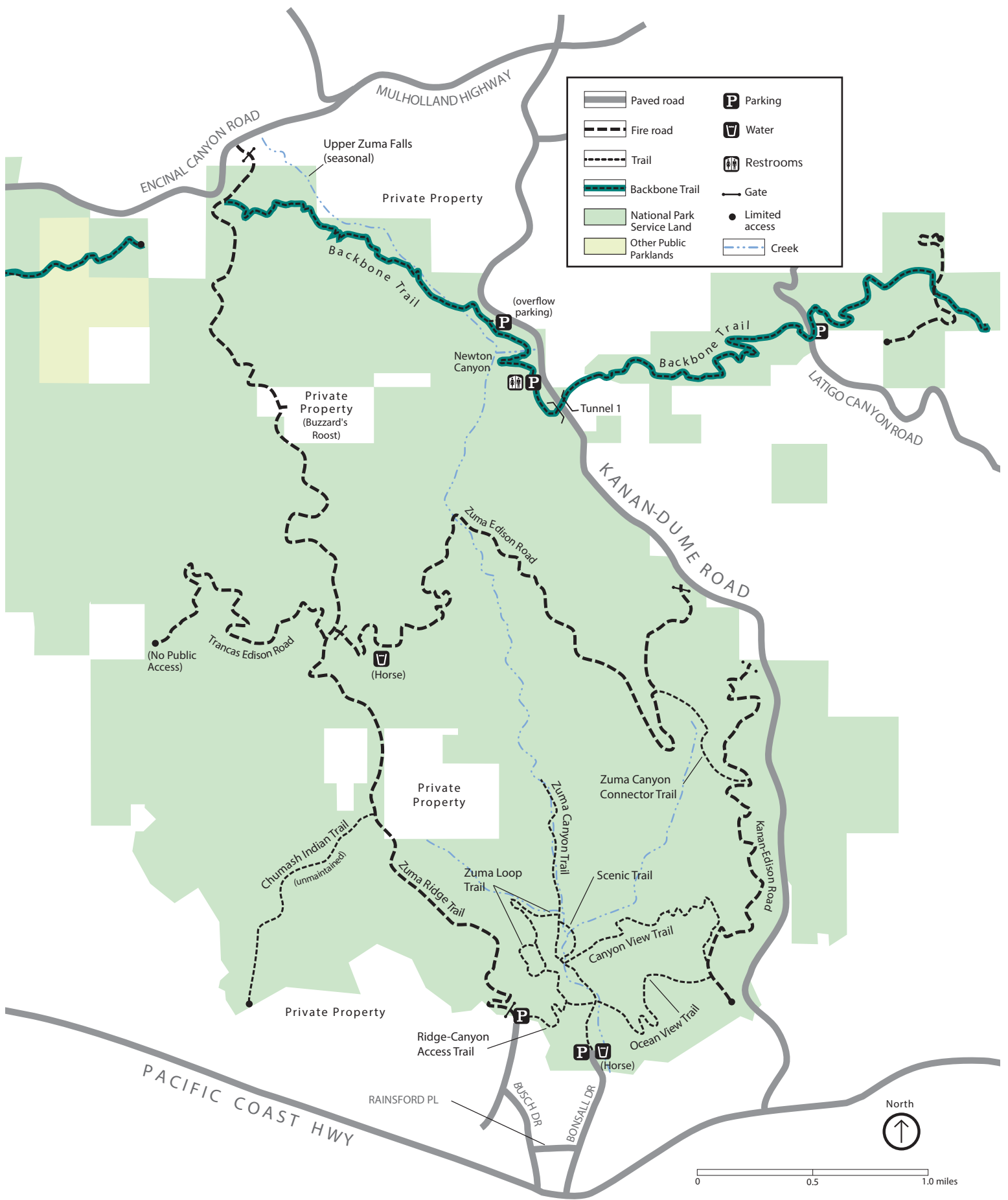
The parking area at the end of Bonsall Drive is open from 8:00 AM – sunset. All other parking areas are not gated.

Canyons are also accessible via Encinal Canyon Road and Kanan-Dume Road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Santa Monica Mountains
Interagency Visitor Center
26876 Mulholland Hwy
Calabasas CA 91302
805-370-2301
www.nps.gov/samo

EMERGENCIES

Call 911. For a ranger, call Angeles Dispatch at 661-723-3620.



Trail Information

Directions to Zuma Canyon Trailhead parking lot (open 8am to sunset): Pacific Coast Hwy to Busch Drive (near Zuma Beach). Go north on Busch Drive. Turn right on Rainsford Place. Turn left on Bonsall Drive. Parking lot at end of road.

- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Strenuous

Ocean View Trail and Canyon View Trail

■ 3-mile loop; no bikes—These trails extend from the Zuma Canyon Trail and wind through chaparral covered slopes, offering ocean views. The trails feature partially woody shrubs called “coastal sage scrub” because of their flexible leaves and stems.

Zuma Loop Trail ● to ■ 2.0 miles; no bikes—

Traveling along the base of Zuma Canyon, this trail features large and graceful sycamore, oak, willow and black walnut trees in a rare hardwood riparian environment. Also, discover dry wash plant communities that have the ability to bend under the weight of raging flood waters, ensuring their survival year after year.

Backbone Trail ● to ■ 2.5 miles to Zuma Ridge Trail—

This trail begins at the Newton Canyon Parking Lot on Kanan-Dume Road. The winding trail leads to a view of Upper Zuma Falls, which are especially grand after the winter rains. Watch out for poison oak along wet areas.

Zuma Ridge Trail ■ to ◆ 6.0 miles—

This fire road begins at the Busch Drive parking lot and ascends to Encinal Canyon Road along the ridge between Zuma and Trancas Canyons. Enjoy views of the ocean and the plant and animal life present in this core habitat of our Mediterranean ecosystem.