

Circle X Ranch

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



Mountains to Sky

Tucked in the canyons above Malibu and nestled below majestic Boney Mountain, you will find Circle X Ranch. This former Boy Scout camp offers many opportunities for exploration and leisure.

Hike one of the many trails that wind through this rare coastal Mediterranean ecosystem. Experience the chaparral plant community and look for red shank chamise, a tree-like shrub with reddish-brown bark, clusters of thread-like leaves and small bunches of white flowers that bloom in July and August. Keep an

eye out for blue-bellied lizards and scrub jays during the daytime, and gray foxes and bats at twilight.

You can journey to Sandstone Peak, the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains, or hike down towards the Grotto, enjoying a creek-side picnic along the way. Reserve the group campground and listen to coyote songs while witnessing a night sky that is relatively free from light pollution. Marvel at one of the few locations near Los Angeles where you can see the Milky Way Galaxy.

Group Campground

Reservations required
www.recreation.gov
1-877-444-6777

FEE: Special Permit for this Facility

10-30 people	\$35 per night
31-50 people	\$75 per night
51-75 people	\$125 per night

QUIET HOURS: 10pm to 6am

CHECK OUT TIME: Noon

MAXIMUM STAY: 14 consecutive days and no more than 30 days per calendar year.

Limit of no more than 75 persons.
Backcountry camping is not available.

Charcoal fires are permitted in fire grates or personal barbecue grills. Gas stoves are permitted. Campfires with wood or compressed log fires are prohibited due to fire hazards.

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 safer 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. Do not climb on structures. Weapons, nets, and traps are not allowed in parklands.

HORSE TRAILERS are not recommended due to winding roads and limited parking areas.

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

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

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

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

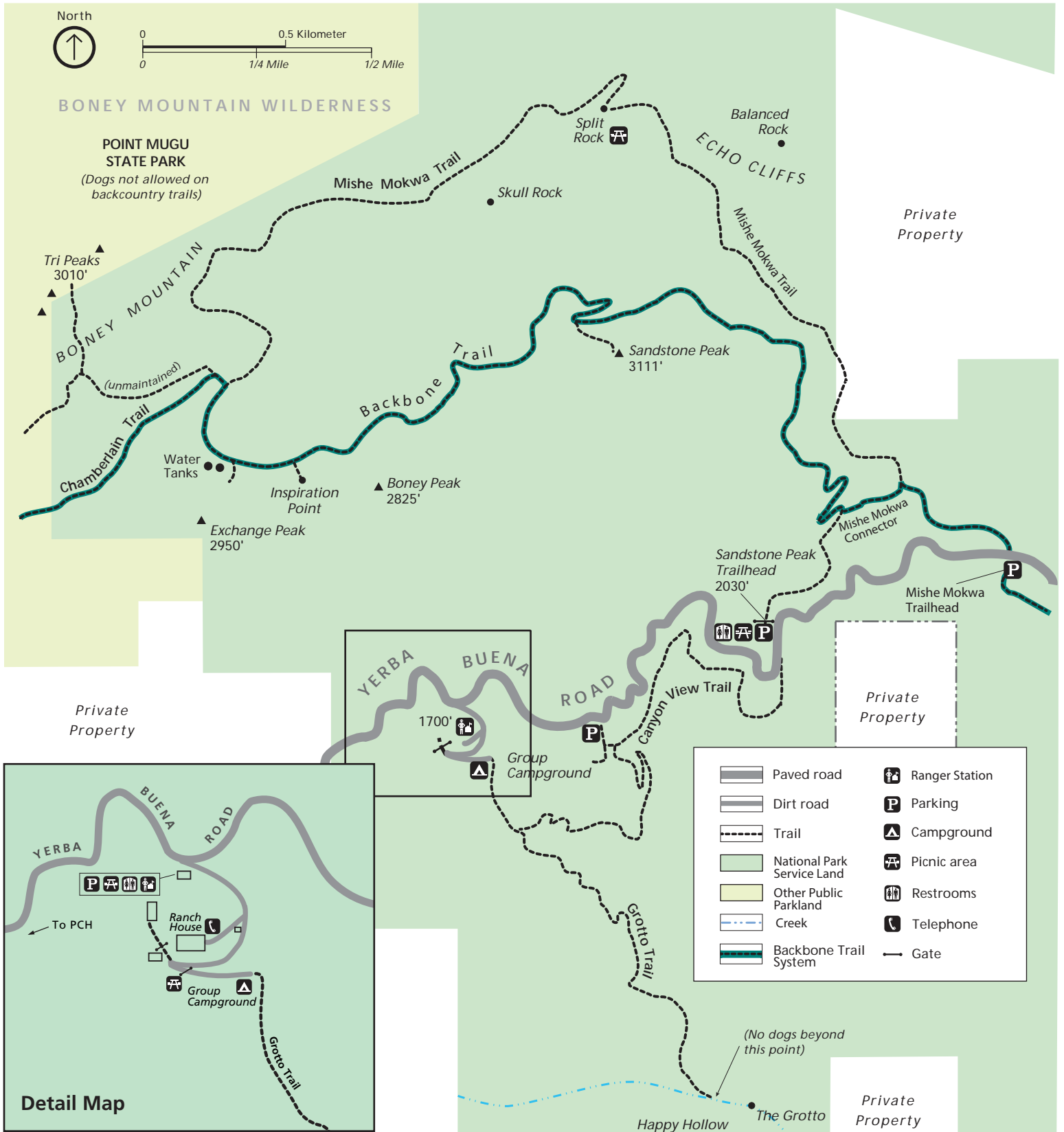
CAMPING is restricted to the Group Campground only. Permits are required.

Circle X Ranger Station
12896 Yerba Buena Rd
Malibu, CA, 90265



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 Ranger Station (intermittently staffed): Pacific Coast Hwy to Yerba Buena Rd. Turn inland; go 5.4 miles to Ranger Station. Sandstone Peak Trailhead 1 mile north of Ranger Station. Mishe Mokwa Trailhead 1.75 miles north of Ranger Station.

- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Strenuous

Backbone Trail ◆ 7.9 miles—The Backbone Trail continues west from Circle X Ranch to Sycamore Canyon and other trails in Point Mugu State Park. Obtain maps before entering the Boney Mountain Wilderness Area. From the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead, the Backbone Trail continues east 4.0 miles to Yerba Buena Road near mile marker 9.1. The total length of the Backbone Trail is 65 miles. Bikes and dogs are not allowed in the Boney Mountain Wilderness.

Canyon View Trail ● 1.9 miles; no bikes—This trail can be accessed from three points: the Group Campground via the Grotto Trail, the trailhead 0.3 miles east of the Ranger Station on Yerba Buena Road, or the Sandstone Peak Trailhead. Enjoy views in every direction.

Grotto Trail ■ 3.5 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—From the Ranger Station, walk down to the group campground where the Grotto Trail begins. This trail traverses hillsides eventually leading down to the west fork of the Arroyo Sequit, with an uphill return. The Grotto area is

rugged terrain; be careful and wear appropriate hiking attire. The last 1/8 mile is through an unimproved streambed and dogs are not allowed.

Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock ■ 3.5 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—This trail begins at the north side of the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead. Traversing riparian, coastal sage scrub and chaparral, the trail offers wonderful views of Carlisle Canyon and Balanced Rock. Split Rock's oak grove offers a shaded spot for picnicking.

Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak ◆ 6.0 miles round trip; no bikes, no horses—From the Sandstone Peak Trailhead, go to the Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock and continue to the Backbone Trail heading south. This trail ascends to Sandstone Peak, then descends to the trailhead.

Sandstone Peak Trail ◆ 3.0 miles round trip—Starts at the Sandstone Peak Trailhead at an elevation of 2,030 feet. The trail climbs another 1,081 feet with views of the Conejo and San Fernando Valleys, as well as the Pacific Coast.