

Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park encompasses thousands of acres of forested canyons, scenic rock formations and grassy rolling hills, all laced with creeks and trails. It's the ideal place for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, photographers, bird watchers and anyone who just feels like refreshing the soul.



Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

2500 ACRES FOR HORSEBACK RIDING, HIKING AND WORLD-CLASS MOUNTAIN BIKING
 • EVER SEE A RED-TAILED HAWK? • HIKE TO A SANDSTONE CANYON

Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

OC Parks was established by the people of the County of Orange to preserve the natural, cultural and historic resources of Orange County for the recreation, education and inspiration of all visitors. Especially you.

Courtesy of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors

OC Parks
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Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 156, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678
 949-923-2245 • 866-OC PARKS
 whitingranch@ocparks.com • www.ocparks.com/whitingranch

DAY USE: 7:00 A.M. – SUNSET
TRAILS: MAY BE CLOSED FOR UP TO THREE DAYS FOLLOWING RAIN
 For interpretive hikes in the park, contact the Park Ranger at 949-923-2245.

LIKE WHITING RANCH WILDERNESS PARK?
 ALSO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK • CASPERS WILDERNESS PARK • LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK • O'NEILL REGIONAL PARK • RILEY WILDERNESS PARK • SANTIAGO OAKS REGIONAL PARK • TALBERT REGIONAL PARK



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WHAT THERE IS AT WHITING RANCH WILDERNESS PARK.

- Mountain Bike Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Equestrian Center
- Scenic Overlooks
- Equestrian Trails



RANGER'S RECOMMENDATION.

"Red Rock Canyon is absolutely breathtaking. It's a pretty easy hike to get there, so if you come out to visit our park, be sure you make time for it."

DO YOUR KIDS LIKE TO HIKE?

They won't know until they try. For many people, their first walk along a shady dirt path begins a lifelong love and appreciation for the amazing beauty and magnificence that's found in nature.



VISIT A CANYON THAT WAS ONCE UNDER WATER.

You begin your hike in view of houses, but you quickly lose sight of them under a canopy of sycamore and oak branches, and find yourself in another world. It's a 4-mile roundtrip hike to ancient Red Rock Canyon. Originally formed from deposits on the bottom of the shallow sea that once covered this area, the beautifully banded sandstone canyon walls project a reddish tint in the afternoon sun. Be sure to visit this peaceful, age-old canyon that still exists right here in the middle of urbanized Orange County.



SADDLE UP.

Horses are welcome on nearly all the trails in Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park. There are plenty of scenic spots to stop and let your horse catch his or her breath, and you can even see the ocean from some of the trails.



BRING YOUR BINOCULARS.

You'll be glad you did. Park wildlife is as diverse as the park's habitats. You'll see animals from snakes to mule deer. Red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks are common, as are great horned and barn owls. The park is also home to the protected cactus wren and endangered gnat-catcher birds.

WORLD-CLASS MOUNTAIN BIKING.

Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park offers everything from beginner to world-class mountain biking. Come try one of our trails.

SORRY BOY, NOT TODAY.

We're dog lovers too, but wilderness parks just aren't the right parks for dogs. When marking their territory, dogs signal to the native animals that there's a predator in the area, which affects feeding and even breeding patterns. We know your dog is part of the family, but please, leave him or her at home.

THE MCFADDEN RANCH HOUSE

The McFadden Ranch House, offers a shady porch and comfortable Adirondack chairs, making it a wonderful rest stop along the Aliso Creek Trail.

A BRIEF HISTORY.

The land comprising Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park was part of two adjacent Mexican land grants from the 1840s, Rancho Canada de Los Alisos and Rancho Lomas de Santiago.

Rancho Canada was acquired by Dwight Whiting in 1885. The Whiting Ranch included the community of El Toro and lands adjacent to Aliso Creek. In 1959, with the post-World War II housing boom continuing in Orange County, most of the ranch was sold for residential development. In 1989, over 1,000 acres of the Ranch were dedicated to the County of Orange for the establishment of a wilderness park. The dedicated property included the McFadden House built in 1915 for the ranch foreman and his family which today serves as the Park Ranger office. Additional acquisitions by the County have resulted in Whiting Ranch wilderness park increasing in size to over 2,500 acres.

PLEASE.

OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for your and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at www.ocparks.com.