

DAY HIKES AROUND

# Los Angeles

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Robert Stone

## Parker Mesa Overlook from Topanga State Park

In Partnership with



**Day Hike Books, Inc.**

RED LODGE, MONTANA



**Trails.com**<sup>TM</sup>

## **Hike 46**

### **Parker Mesa Overlook**

**from TOPANGA STATE PARK**

**Hiking distance:** 6 miles round trip

**Hiking time:** 3 hours

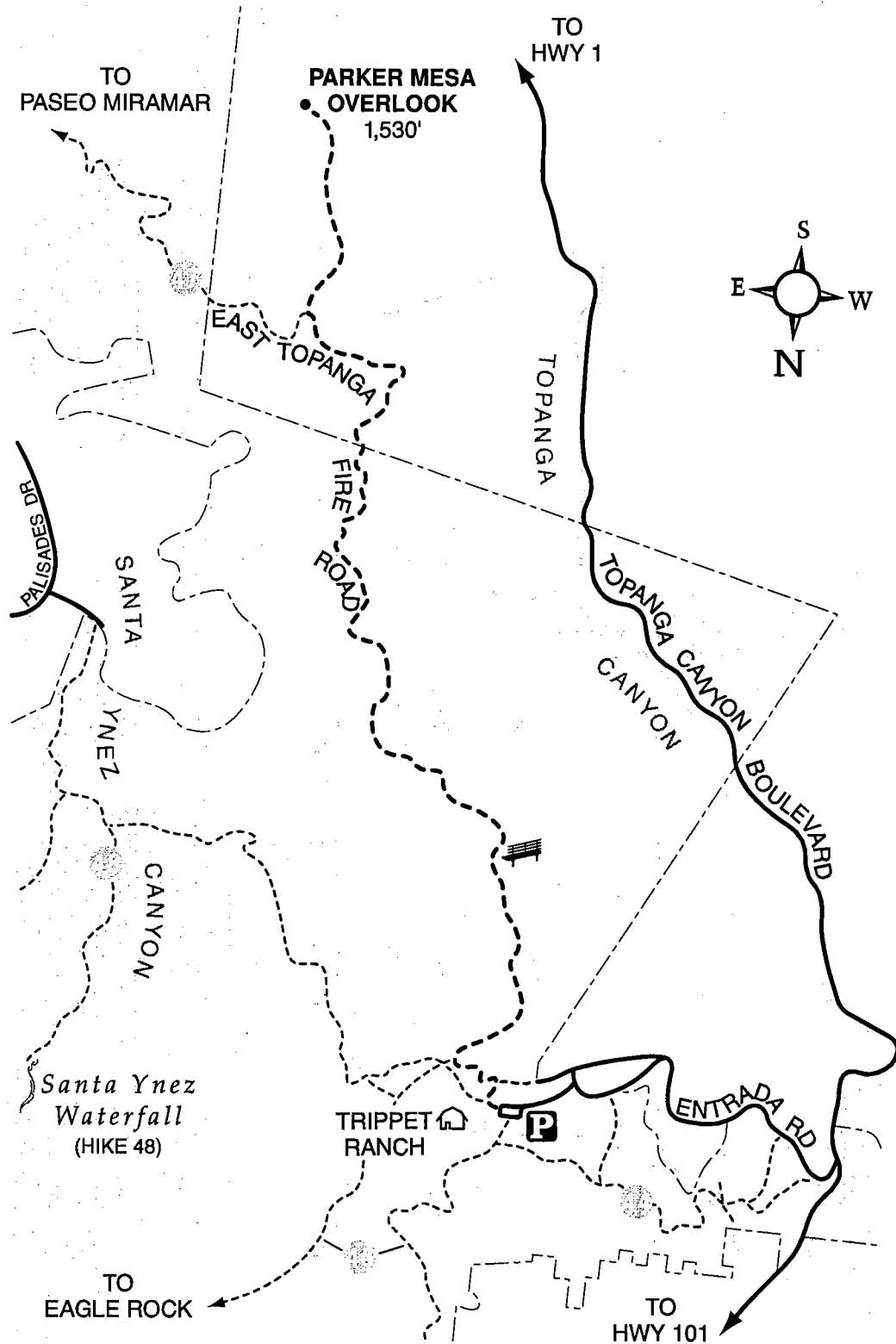
**Elevation gain:** 800 feet

**Maps:** U.S.G.S. Topanga

Santa Monica Mountains East Trail Map

**Summary of hike:** This hike follows the East Topanga Fire Road along the ridge dividing Topanga Canyon and Santa Ynez Canyon. There are spectacular views into both canyons, including numerous ravines and enormous slabs of sandstone. This hike begins in Topanga State Park at Trippet Ranch (the park headquarters) and heads south. The trail leads to Parker Mesa Overlook, a barren knoll overlooking Topanga Beach, Santa Monica Bay, Pacific Palisades, and Santa Monica. The overlook can also be accessed from the south (Hike 47).

**Hiking directions:** Head southeast on the signed trail towards Eagle Rock to a fire road. Bear left up the road to a junction at 0.2 miles. The left fork leads to Eagle Rock (Hike 45). Take the right fork on the East Topanga Fire Road past a grove of coastal oaks. Continue uphill to a ridge and a bench with panoramic views from Topanga Canyon to the Pacific Ocean. A short distance ahead, the trail crosses a narrow ridge overlooking Santa Ynez Canyon and its tilted sandstone slabs. Follow the ridge south, with alternating views of both canyons. At 2.5 miles is a junction with a trail on the right. The main trail (left) leads to Paseo Miramar (Hike 47). Leave the fire road, and take the right trail a half mile to Parker Mesa Overlook at the trail's end. After enjoying the views, return to Trippet Ranch along the same route.

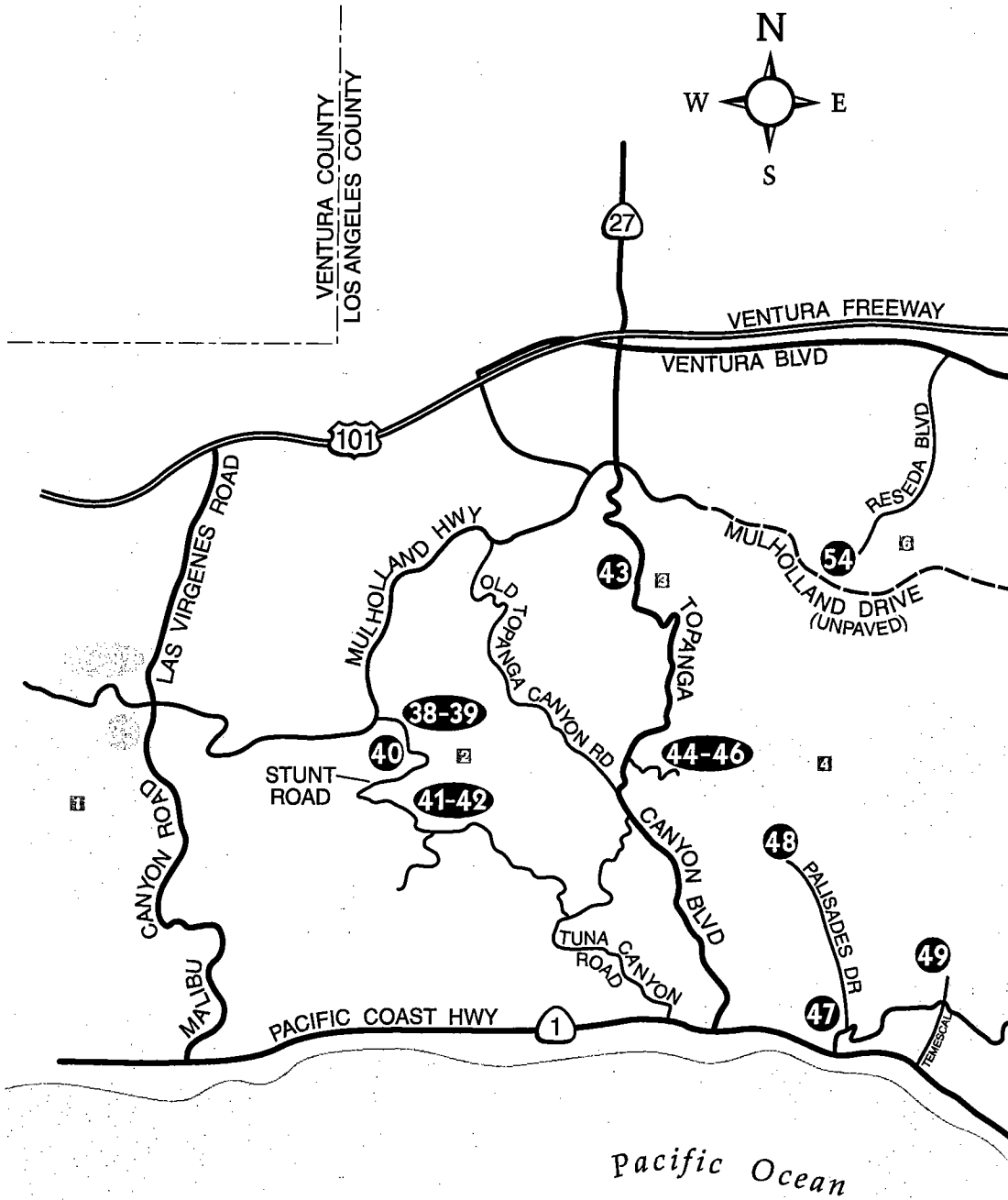


# PARKER MESA OVERLOOK

from TOPANGA STATE PARK

**Driving directions:** From Santa Monica, drive 4 miles northbound on the Pacific Coast Highway/Highway 1 to Topanga Canyon Boulevard and turn right. Continue 4.6 miles to Entrada Road on the right and turn right again. Drive 0.7 miles and turn left, following the posted state park signs. Turn left again in 0.3 miles into the Topanga State Park parking lot.

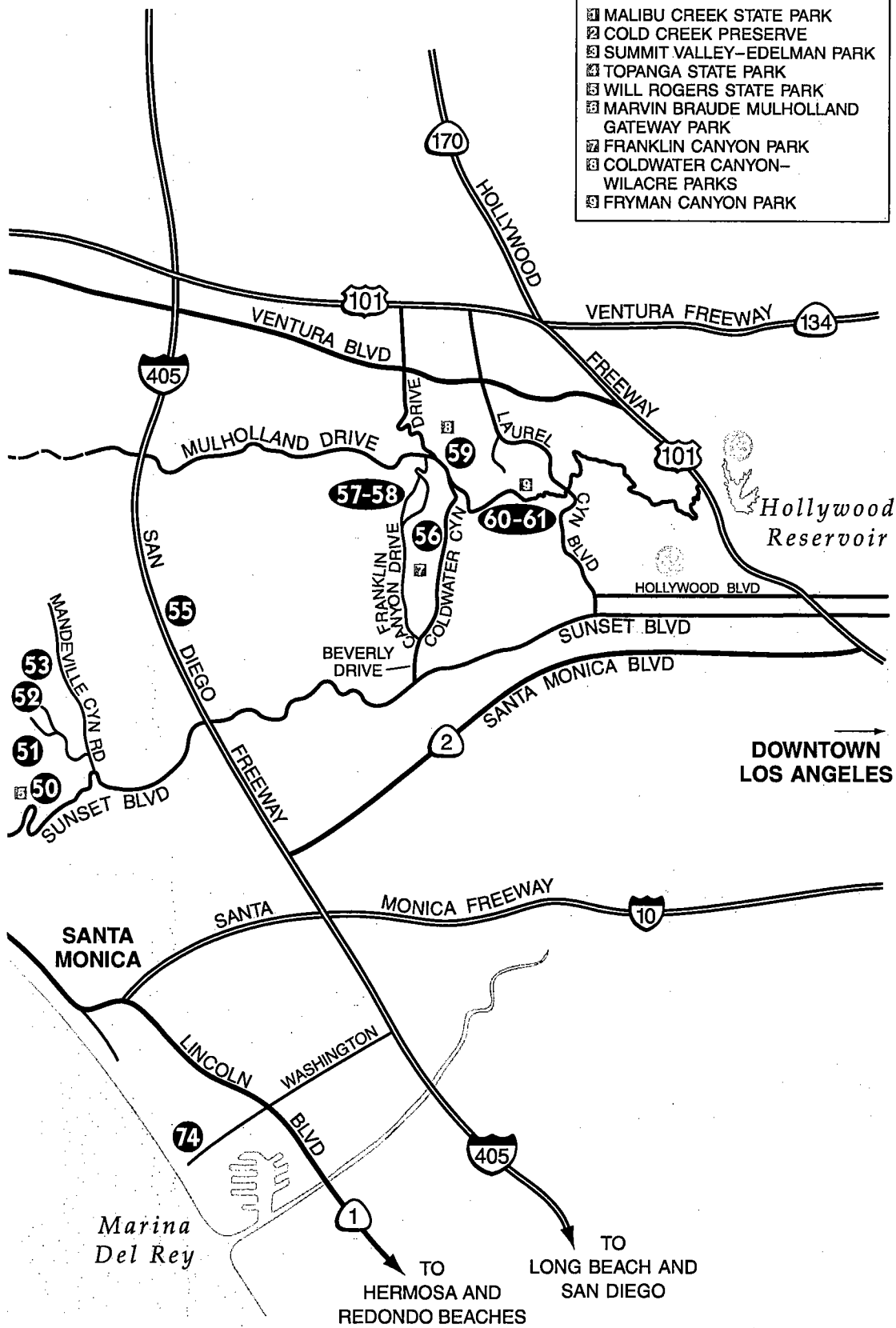
From the Ventura Freeway/Highway 101 in Woodland Hills, exit on Topanga Canyon Boulevard, and drive 7.6 miles south to Entrada Drive. Turn left and follow the posted state park signs to the parking lot.



HIKES 38-61, 74  
**MALIBU CANYON  
 TO  
 BEVERLY HILLS**

**PUBLIC LANDS**

- ☐ MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK
- ☐ COLD CREEK PRESERVE
- ☐ SUMMIT VALLEY-EDELMAN PARK
- ☐ TOPANGA STATE PARK
- ☐ WILL ROGERS STATE PARK
- ☐ MARVIN BRAUDE MULHOLLAND GATEWAY PARK
- ☐ FRANKLIN CANYON PARK
- ☐ COLDWATER CANYON-WILACRE PARKS
- ☐ FRYMAN CANYON PARK



## **About the Hikes and the Los Angeles area**

**D**espite the imminent presence of the Los Angeles metropolis, there are thousands of acres of natural, undeveloped land with countless out-of-the-way hiking trails. Most hikes are found on local, state, and national land; wilderness areas; and within the expansive Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The trails have been chosen for their scenery and variety and include a range of difficulty levels, providing access to the green areas in the metropolitan area.

Each hike also includes its own map, a summary, driving and hiking directions, and an overview of distance/time/elevation. Relevant maps, including U.S.G.S. topographic maps, are listed with each hike if you wish to explore more of the area.

A few basic necessities will make your hike more enjoyable. Wear supportive, comfortable hiking shoes. Take along hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, drinking water, snacks, and appropriate outerwear. Poison oak and ticks are common. Exercise caution by using insect repellent and staying on the trails.

These hikes will undoubtedly give you a greater appreciation of Los Angeles. Enjoy your time out on the trails!

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The author has made every attempt to provide accurate information in this book. However, trail routes and features may change—please use common sense and forethought, and be mindful of your own capabilities. Let this book guide you, but be aware that each hiker assumes responsibility for their own safety. The author and publisher do not assume any responsibility for loss, damage or injury caused through the use of this book.

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