



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Ojai Valley
Trail**
California



Ojai Valley Trail

California

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The Southern California town of Ojai (pronounced OH-hi) is known as a destination for wellness tourism, so it's fitting that those visiting via the Ojai Valley Trail are already practicing a healthy lifestyle. The 9.3-mile rail-trail climbs a river valley into the Topatopa Mountains from the outskirts of the seaside town of Ventura. It gains about 500 feet as it enters the Los Padres National Forest from the trailhead in Foster Park, where the [Ventura River Trail](#) heads downhill to the coast.

Two paths comprise the Ojai Valley Trail—one paved, one wood chips. They are separated by a fence to give horse riders a lane to themselves. The trail generally follows CA 33, the main route into Ojai, which is known as a haven for artists, musicians, and outdoors enthusiasts. The Chumash people were the first residents of the town,

whose current name is derived from their word for moon: 'awha'y.

The trail follows the route of the former Ventura and Ojai Valley Railroad, which was launched in 1899. It soon became a branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which rolled through Ventura. Heavy rains in the winter of 1969 washed out the railbed north of Foster Park; trains never returned, and the trail opened in 1989.

The Foster Park trailhead has parking (for a nominal fee), restrooms, and a campground. It's located in a wooded valley alongside the Ventura River, where the Ojai Valley Trail and Ventura River Trail meet. The trail is mostly shady as you head north by CA 33 and pass through several communities.

The first of these is Casitas Springs (country musician Johnny Cash lived nearby for a time), which you'll pass in a mile. A bridge spanning San Antonio Creek a half mile north replaced a low-water creek crossing that occasionally got trail users wet. The trail veers west away from CA 33 for the next 3 miles as you pass the western side of Oak View, the largest community between Ventura and Ojai.

After a short excursion through Devils Gulch, known locally for its hiking trails, you'll find yourself back alongside CA 33 as you enter the community of Mira Monte. One mile past the busy CA 150/Baldwin Road intersection, you'll arrive in the town of Ojai. Crossing CA 33, you'll pass a sweeping golf course, spa, and resort complex on your right, and then in 0.3 mile, you'll pass the rear entrance (on your left) to Topa Mountain Winery, one of about half a dozen wineries or tasting rooms in the city.

In another 0.6 mile, you reach promised shade in Libbey Park, which offers parking, restrooms, a playground, and the Libbey Bowl amphitheater, site of early June's Ojai Music Festival. An easy path leads through the park to downtown Ojai, where you can explore many locally owned shops—chain



Ojai Valley Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Ventura

Length: 9.3miles

Trail end points: Ventura River Trail at Casitas Vista Rd. (Foster Park) to east of Bryant St. (Ojai)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback

Riding, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

In Ventura, parking is available at Foster Park (Ventura River Area entrance, 0.4 mile north of Casitas Vista Rd).

In Oak View, park at the Community Center (18 Valley Rd).

In Ojai, parking is available at the intersection of N. Carillo Road and Maricopa Hwy (2-hour parking, 9am–6pm), at the Rotary Community Park (1199 W. Ojai Ave/CA 150), and at Libbey Park (521 S. Montgomery St).

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for detailed directions.



Ojai Valley Trail

California



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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