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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.

About the Route

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 Foster Park trailhead has parking (for a small 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 Devil's Gulch, known locally for its hiking trails, the trail winds back alongside CA 33 as the route enters the community of Mira Monte. One mile past the busy CA 150/Baldwin Road intersection, the trail arrives in the town of Ojai. Crossing CA 33, trail users pass a sweeping golf course, spa, and resort complex on your right, and then in 0.3 miles, the route passes the rear entrance to Topa Mountain Winery, one of about half a dozen wineries or tasting rooms in the city.

In another 0.6 miles, the trail reaches the promised shade in Libbey Park, which offers parking, restrooms, a playground, and the Libbey Bowl amphitheater, the 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 stores are prohibited by law—in a setting reminiscent of a whitewashed hacienda. The trail ends a half mile past the park.



TrailLink.com



States: California Counties: Ventura Length: 9.3miles Trail end points: 37 Casitas Vista Rd. (Ventura) to 402 Bryant St. (Ojai) Trail surfaces: Asphalt Trail category: Rail-Trail Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Horseback Riding,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Ojai Valley Trail runs between 37 Casitas Vista Rd. (Ventura), where parking is available, and 402 Bryant St. (Ojai).

Parking is also available at:

- 1199-1075 W Ojai Ave. (Ojai)
- 521 S Montgomery St. (Ojai)

Visit the TrailLink map for detailed directions.









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