



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Salt Creek
Trail (Orange
County)**
California



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The Salt Creek Trail, with more arms than an octopus, offers a variety of experiences for trail users of all types in Dana Point and Laguna Niguel. Featuring two sections, several branches, and a mix of surfaces, the trail winds throughout the two communities, offering a scenic tour of the area.

About the Route

At the southern end, the trail begins on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Salt Creek Beach Park in Dana Point and climbs up a coastal canyon, passing by a golf course and diving under the Pacific Coast Highway (State Route 1) along the way. Next, it climbs the west side of the Arroyo Salado with Salt Creek below. Views of the ocean unfold from behind, with the canyon ahead and

below.

Continuing inland, the trail crosses Niguel Road, where trail users are faced with a choice: continue north to travel along Niguel Road to a terminus in a neighborhood on Niguel Ranch Road, or travel east through the stunning San Juan Canyon to Chapparosa Community Park and an endpoint by Pooch Park, a dog park on Golden Lantern Street. Popular Chapparosa Community Park features a variety of amenities, including a playground, picnic tables, basketball and volleyball courts, athletic fields, restrooms, and drinking fountains.

A disconnected section of trail begins farther north on Crown Valley Parkway and skirts the edge of the Sulphur Creek Reservoir to end in Laguna Niguel Regional Park.

Connections

Across from the Laguna Niguel Regional Park—an ideal fishing spot—pick up the [Aliso Creek Riding and Hiking Trail](#) for a longer journey north or south along its namesake creek.



Salt Creek Trail (Orange County)

California

States: California

Counties: Orange

Length: 5 miles

Trail end points: Alicia Pkwy (Laguna Niguel) to Salt Creek Beach, 71 Ritz Cove Dr. (Dana Point)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Inline

Parking & Trail Access

The Salt Creek Trail runs between Alicia Pkwy (Laguna Niguel) and Salt Creek Beach, 71 Ritz Cove Dr. (Dana Point).

Parking is available at:

- Chapparosa Community Park, 25191 Chapparosa Park Rd. (Laguna Niguel)
- Laguna Niguel Regional Park, 28241 La Paz Rd. (Laguna Niguel)
- Salt Creek Beach Park, 33333 S. Pacific Coast Highway (Dana Point)

Please see TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.



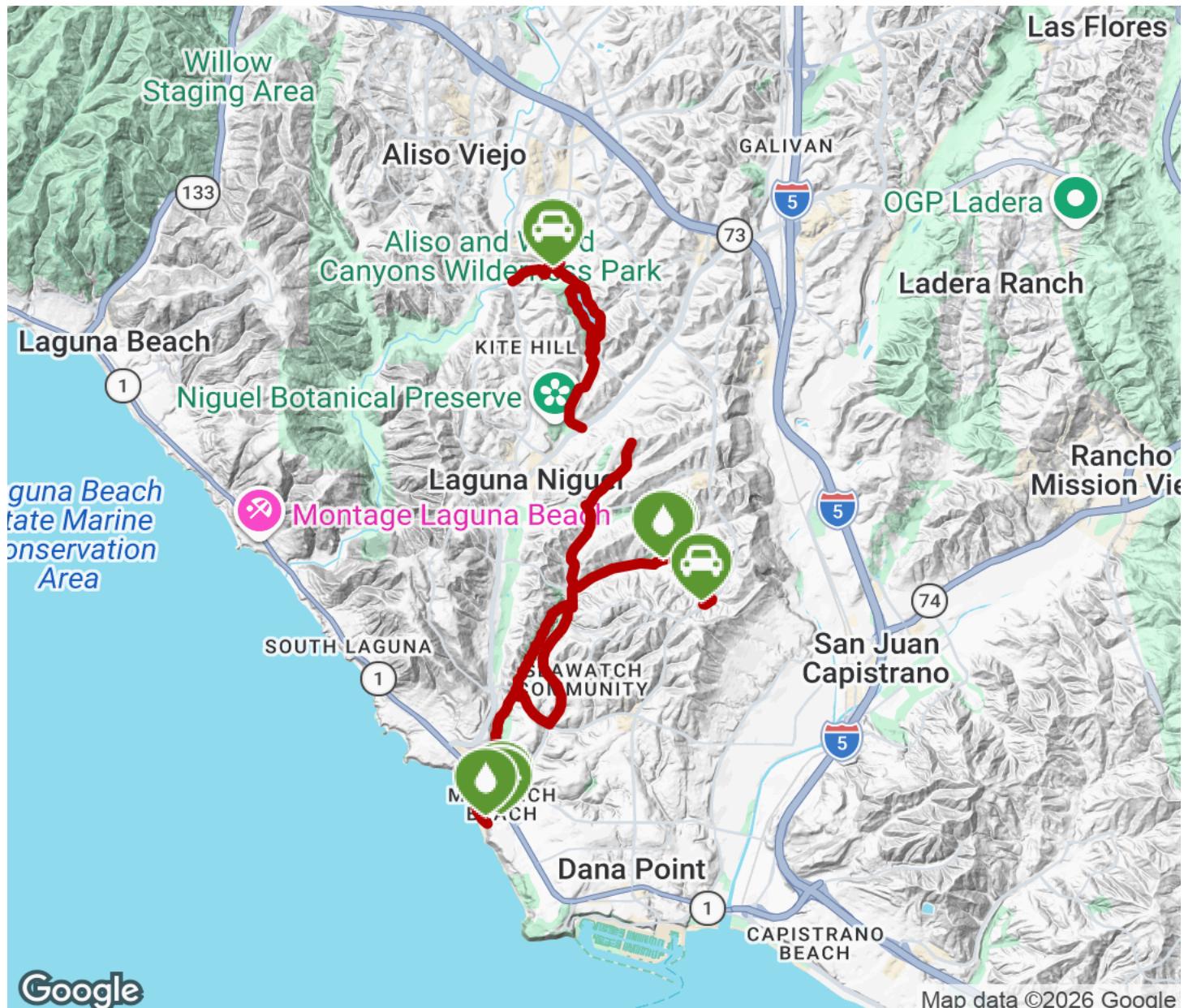
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Salt Creek Trail (Orange County)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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