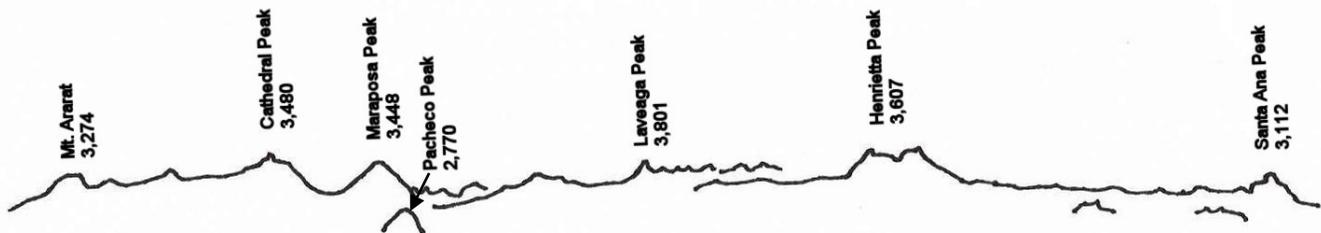


## Short Hikes

Top of the Ridge Hike	Distance	Elevation gain
	2.3 miles	370 feet

**Description:** This hike takes you to the top of Pine Ridge for magnificent views to the south, west, and east. If you spend some time up on the ridge top, it could become one of your favorite places.

**Route:** See the map on the other side. Start at Manzanita Point Road, hike up the paved road a few hundred feet, and turn left on Monument Trail, which zigzags up fairly steeply, following the contours of the hill. When you come to a trail junction, you've made it to the top. Turn right and go about 200 yards to the road. The monument is just across the road. Sada Coe put the monument in place many years ago as a memorial to her father, the park's namesake. When you leave the monument, turn right on Hobbs Road and go to the top of the ridge. At that point, you'll see a short trail to the right that will take you to a picnic table with wonderful views to the east. On clear days, you can see John Muir's "range of light," the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and with binoculars you can sometimes pick out Half Dome in Yosemite. When you return to the road, turn right and continue on Hobbs Road a few hundred feet to the next trail junction. Turn left on the trail and continue until you return to the junction where you first made it to the top of the ridge. Don't go back to park headquarters yet. Turn right. The sign will say, "Vista Point" and you'll be on the Ponderosa Trail. As you walk along this trail, you'll see more of the Diablo Range to the south with the interesting peaks of the Quien Sabe Volcanic Field east of Hollister.



And to the southwest, you'll see the Santa Lucias, with peaks over 5,000 feet tall. In about five minutes you'll come to Eric's Bench. The bench was placed there by family and friends as a memorial to Eric David May, who died in a fall on Mt. Shasta in 1988 at the age of 26. You can sit on the bench and enjoy the peace and beauty that

Parts of me sleep now  
while others play  
in the woods.

Soon the weary will rest  
and the dreamers  
will awaken.

When will they both  
sing together?

- Eric (November 10, 1985)

always seem to grace the top of Pine Ridge. To the west, you'll have a fine view of the Santa Clara Valley with the Santa Cruz Mountains beyond. When you leave the bench, continue on the Ponderosa Trail behind the bench. The trail will go through the ponderosa pine forest on the back side of the ridge with views of Middle and Blue ridges to the east and Mt. Hamilton to the north. As you continue around the loop, you'll come out on the west side of the ridge with more views of the Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz mountains. It's likely that you'll see a red-tailed hawk, or turkey vultures, and you might even see a kestrel, smallest of our falcons. Continue back to Eric's Bench and back to the junction with

the Monument Trail. Turn right and return to park headquarters.

## Short Hikes

### To Sada's Pine and Back

Distance	Elevation gain
1.6 miles	285 feet

**Description:** This short and relatively level hike takes you to a huge, graceful Ponderosa Pine named after Sada Coe.

**Route:** Start at the trailhead for the Corral Trail, which is across the road from the stop sign. The Corral Trail follows the southwestern contours of Pine Ridge, ducking into several shady side canyons and ending in the tree dotted grasslands. In the springtime, the wildflowers along Corral Trail are splendid. At about a half mile, you come to a junction we call "Grand Junction." At this intersection, go straight (rather than turning left or right) and turn right onto Manzanita Point Road. Continue on for a short distance to the large, flat-topped pine tree a bit beyond the dilapidated remains of an old ranch corral. You might want to sit beneath the old tree for a while before returning. You can return the way you came on the Corral Trail or go back on the Manzanita Point Road. The road has more ups and downs and is less shady than Corral Trail, but along the road, you can see bent bands of chert rock providing dramatic evidence of the incredible geological forces that created these mountains.

### The Springs / Forest Trails Loop

Distance	Elevation gain
3.7 miles	320 feet

**Description:** This pleasant dayhike includes two of the most popular trails in the park. Springs Trail has lots of open areas with beautiful wildflowers in the spring and waves of golden grass in the fall. The Forest Trail meanders through sheltered woodlands with dappled sun and occasional openings that give you great views of Middle Ridge and Blue Ridge. This handout describes the clockwise loop, but on warm days, you may want to go in the opposite direction, starting on the more exposed Springs Trail and returning uphill on the shadier Forest Trail.

**Route:** Start off on the Corral Trail as on the previous loop. At the trail junction about a half mile out, turn left and cross the road. Three trails split off at this point. Take the trail to the right, the Forest Trail. You can pick up a self-guided nature trail pamphlet in a box at this trailhead and read about the natural history of the Forest Trail at the various numbered stops along the way. If you hike this loop in the other direction, you can pick up a pamphlet at the far end of the trail and just start at the back of the book. When you reach the end of the Forest Trail, cross both roads and catch the Springs Trail on the other side. As you continue back towards park headquarters, you'll pass a number of natural seeps—springs—that homesteaders and the Coes developed to provide water for cattle that grazed in the fields nearby. You can take a rest on a bench under an oak tree in the open grasslands, about a quarter mile up the trail, or wait until you get to Blackberry Spring and rest on the bench in the shade of tall black oaks, about three quarters of a mile along. When you reach the Corral Trail, return on it or take the road, as mentioned in the previous hike.

