



# Will Rogers State Historic Park

## Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

**Will Rogers State Historic Park**  
**1501 Will Rogers State Park Road**  
**Pacific Palisades, CA 90272**  
**(310) 454-8212**  
**[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)**

## Will Rogers Ranch Foundation

A non-profit organization dedicated to honoring the legacy of Will Rogers through interpretive activities and fundraising to assist in the ongoing restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of Will Rogers State Historic Park.

**Phone: 866.988.9773**  
**[www.willrogersranchfoundation.org](http://www.willrogersranchfoundation.org)**

## Discover the many states of California.™

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Park Office at (310) 454-8212.

711, TTY relay service

This brochure is available in alternate formats.

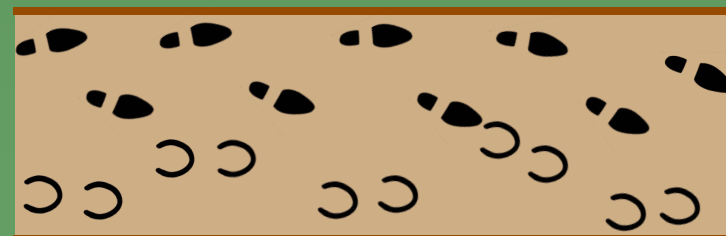
# Will Rogers State Historic Park

## Inspiration Loop Self Guided Trail

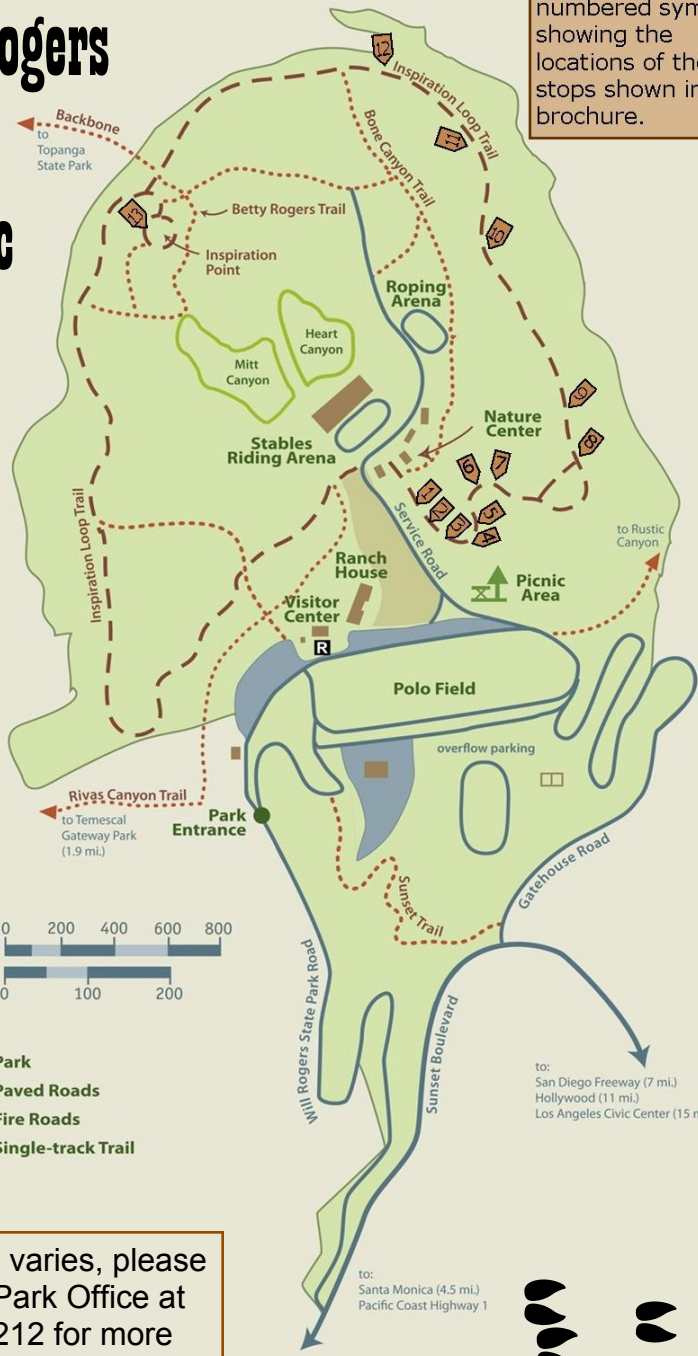
### Follow in the Footsteps Of Will Rogers



Approx. two miles, with moderate slopes.



# Will Rogers State Historic Park



Please note the numbered symbols showing the locations of the stops shown in this brochure.



- Park
- Paved Roads
- Fire Roads
- Single-track Trail

Accessibility varies, please contact the Park Office at (310) 454-8212 for more details.



## Rules and Common Safety

**Please help us keep the trails clean, safe and fun for all visitors**

- Leashed dogs are allowed on the Loop Fire Road only. All other trails are closed to dogs.
- Smoking is not permitted on trails or in the backcountry.
- Plants, animals, and objects are protected and should not be disturbed.
- Dispose of trash in proper containers only.
- Use designated trails to help avoid contact with ticks, rattlesnakes, and other hazards.
- Temperatures can rise quickly, be prepared.

**“We have a lot of pretty steep mountain trails out here...”**

*Will Rogers*

**Rules and common trail safety inside back cover!**





# Will's Words and His Legacy

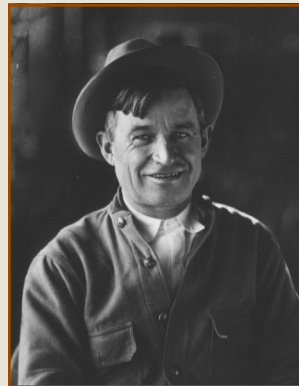
**“It’s not really a ranch, but we call it that. It sounds big and don’t really do no harm.”**

Will Rogers spent the years between 1926 and 1935 making improvements on this property, turning it into the family ranch of his dreams.

**“Did you ever see a place that looks like it was built just to enjoy?... If it’s not a beautiful lake, it’s a beautiful tree, or a pretty green hay meadow...”**

Well suited for entertaining, exploring, riding, hiking, or just plain playing in the outdoors, Will’s family home was his refuge from Hollywood and the pressures of enormous popularity. His untimely death in 1935 ended most of the large projects planned for the property.

**“You must judge a man's greatness by how much he will be missed.”**



Much of the world mourned Will Rogers' death, and his family spent years opening their home to charity events and gatherings in his name. Shortly before her death in 1944, Betty Rogers, Will's widow, deeded the property to California State Parks so that her husband's memory would live on.

# Trail Stations

**1) The Trail Will Rogers Would Have Seen** This station is a reminder to look above, below and all around for signs of life. Some common birds you may see are listed later in this brochure, and a few samples of common animal tracks are decorating the pages. Also remember to listen, some things will only betray their presence with sound!

**2) Blue Gum**  
(Eucalyptus globulus)

Will Rogers had this Australian tree planted throughout his ranch to line roads and act as a wind barrier. Crush one of the fallen tree leaves to experience this plant's aroma.



**3) Eroded Trail** At one time the trail behind this fence was actively used. When people walk the trails, the soil beneath is compacted. Rain then pelts the soil, moving it down the trail and leaving gullies of destruction. Closing the trail gives the plants a chance to return to the area. With time, the roots will loosen the soil and repair the damage. The success of this process depends on your cooperation. Please stay on the trails!

**4) Sandstone** Here a sandstone deposit, formed approximately 14 million years ago, shows that this area was once below sea level. Sand that once made up part of the ocean bottom became compacted and cemented together to form sandstone rock, a process called lithification.

**5) Wildlife** You can use all your senses to find signs of wildlife. Observe the parallel rows of small holes the Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers have tapped into this tree in search of insects and sap. Listen for the loud, harsh call of the Blue Scrub Jay or the single pitch trill and "peep-peep-peep" of the Wrentit. Step quietly and listen for little birds scurrying in and out of the chaparral brush.

**6) California Sagebrush** (*Artemisia californica*) Sniff the soft, delicate leaves of this common chaparral plant. This particular aroma is strongest early in the morning. Early Californians regarded this plant as a remedy for many ills. Look for a small, greenish flower to bloom from August until February.



**7) Fire Scar** Fire can be beneficial for the reproduction of chaparral plants. Many chaparral seed pods need intense heat to open and free the seeds to germinate, thus beginning the new plants. Fire can eliminate older brush, making it easier for young plants to grow. The black scarred core surrounded by new growth shows that this tree has survived a chaparral fire.



### **California Thrasher**

It's hard to imagine how this small, quiet bird with brownish coloring got its name until you stand nearby while it's foraging; then you hear the racket made by this determined

little bird as it scrapes up, or "thrashes" dried leaves looking for bugs and edibles. You'll think it's a much larger animal if you hear it. Don't be fooled.



### **Spotted Towhee**

While keeping to the same habits as the California Towhee, the Spotted Towhee is a bold statement of color: speckled on the back, reddish on the sides, white underneath, and black

headed. But that's not all; unusually bright red eyes complete the package for this little showman.



### **Western Scrub Jay**

The Western Scrub Jay, a relative of the raven, is a bright blue and grey local with a big attitude.

Jays will bury acorns for food storage, but when they forget to go back for them a new tree can sprout. This comes in handy when an area has been burned over. Jays also raid tables and garbage cans, so be careful with your trash!





# Common Local Birds



## Anna's Hummingbird

Several types of hummingbird are found locally, but the Anna's, with a ruby throat patch and glittering green wings, is the most common.

Hummingbirds are small but feisty. If you see more than one hummingbird while on the trails, watch and listen carefully; you might see or hear a challenge over territory.



## California Towhee

This grayish-brown bird can be hard to see, but is usually easier to hear. Often found on the ground digging through leaf litter, the sounds of it kicking leaves around may be the only

way you know it is anywhere near.



## Common Raven

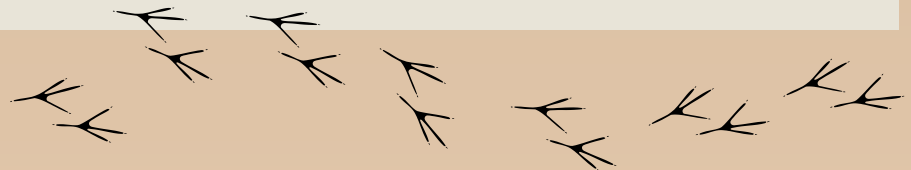
Well known for their brains as well as their trash stealing, ravens are large black birds that are impossible to miss.

Ravens squawk, click, clack, and caw, so listen for this elegant bird to make some odd noises.



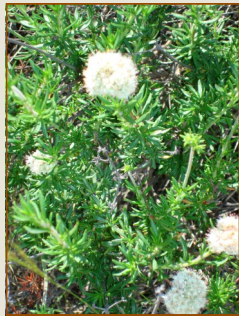
**8) La Bahia de los Fumos** Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the Portuguese explorer, named the Los Angeles Basin "The Bay of Smokes" when he first sailed into San Pedro Bay. Even in 1542, fires produced smoke that hovered over the area.

**9) Chaparral** You are looking at many different plant species that create the chaparral and coastal sage communities. Hot summer weather, limited rain fall, and poor, rocky soil characterize these regions. Chaparral plants have adapted to these conditions by developing water-conserving characteristics. As you walk along the trail, look at the leaves for small size, waxy coating, folds, or hair.



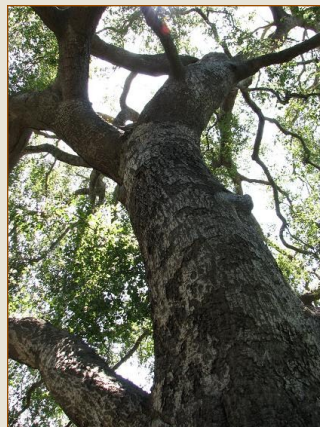
**10) Laurel Sumac** (*Malosma laurina*)

A red twinge of color on the leaf veins, stems, small twigs, and the oblong-folded leaves help to identify this plant. The leaves remain folded to reduce their exposure to the sun and limit the amount of water being evaporated into the air. A small cluster of white flowers bloom in June and July.



**11) Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) Button-like flowers extending from long leafless stems color the chaparral community with white, pink, or rose from April to October. This particular species of Buckwheat does not yield an edible flower.

**12) Coast Live Oak** (*Quercus agrifolia*) The Coast Live Oak is an important resource to the chaparral and the oak woodland community. The acorn it produces was a nutritious food staple for the native Californians. Flour and soup were produced after long hours of grinding and leeching. The thick, moist tree bark was used to make black dye. Also notice how this tree has survived a chaparral fire. The bark has served to protect this tree from more than one fire over its long life.



**13) End of the Stations** Whether you take a moment to savor your success, or renew your efforts to reach a further goal, please enjoy the view that brought Will Rogers back here time and time again.

**Will's footprints traced paths  
all over this property, and we invite you to  
leave yours here too.**

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**Please enjoy the trails safely!**

