



# Night hikes offer a cool way to see Southland

COURTESY PHOTO M. CRASE

You never know who or what you'll see when the sun goes down. This creature was spotted at a Palos Verdes Peninsula Conservancy moon hike.

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**H**as the heat got you down? Take a hike.

Better yet, take a hike in the cool of the twilight or the glow of the silvery moon.

Night hikes provide a different perspective on what Mother Nature has to offer locally. From Oak Glen to Griffith Park to Palos Verdes to Irvine, with more stops along the way, the adventurous can get some exercise, cool off and learn about the environment. And you might even meet some critters and creatures of the night.

“Our full moon hikes are guided experiences into the natural area,” said Siegrun Storer, Palos Verdes Peninsula Conservancy education director. “You can see how nature can be different at night. Visitors can maybe hear an owl or see some nocturnal animals. See spiders. Hear something rustling in the bushes.

“And without spoiling anything, there might even be an element of surprise,” Storer added with a chuckle.

The conservancy is one of many groups and organizations that see the value of moonlight exploration. Its next two full-moon hikes are set for July 17 and Aug. 20 at George F Canyon Nature Preserve. Guests are accompanied by a naturalist, who carries a flashlight along with red and black filters to point out sights that aren't familiar by day.

The conservancy teams up with the City of Rolling Hills Estates to open the Nature Trail once per month. Participants must be at

**NIGHT HIKES**

Here are some to get you started:

- **Palos Verdes Peninsula Conservancy:** 8 p.m. July 17. George F Canyon Nature Preserve, 27305 Palos Verdes Drive East, Rolling Hills Estates. \$12 per person. 310-547-0862. [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org)
- **The Wildlands Conservancy Oak Glen Preserve:** 7 p.m. July 16 and Aug. 20. 39611 Oak Glen Road. Oak Glen. Free. 909-790-3698. [www.wildlandsconservancy.org](http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org)
- **Stough Canyon Nature Center:** 8 p.m. Aug. 18. 2300 Walnut Ave., Burbank. 818-238-5440. [www.burbankca.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation/stough-canyon-nature-center/hiking](http://www.burbankca.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation/stough-canyon-nature-center/hiking)
- **Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks:** Family Hike: Mesa 6-8 p.m. and Bouncing Bats in Black Star Canyon 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Black Star Canyon Wilderness Park, Black Star Canyon Road, Orange. Family friendly but participants must be at least 8 years old for Family Hike and 6 years old for Bats. Reservations, which close at 4 p.m. one day prior to the event, are required. Free. <http://letsgooutside.org/activities>
- **Eaton Canyon Nature Center:** 7:30 p.m. July 15 and Aug. 19, 1750N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena. \$2

least 9 years old. The cost is \$12 and reservations are required and can be made at [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org)

Storer said the summer evening hikes are popular for all ages, especially the nocturnally inclined. And guests are treated to some multisensory activities along the way.

“These give people time to get off work and come out and enjoy,” Storer said. “They can look out at the stars. We are a land conservancy, so we focus on the land around us, but we want people to enjoy the sky, too.”

The hikes begin at the George F. Canyon Research Center, which is open to allow people to take a peek inside, discover what's there

and encourage a return visit.

The canyons are hidden treasures offering natural beauty in the South Bay's backyard.

Across the Southern California landscape and into the foothills of Oak Glen and San Bernardino County, hikers can find still a different environment.

“People really enjoy these,” said Elva Mora, outdoor education office manager at The Wildlands Conservancy Oak Glen Preserve. “It's something about being in the dark. You hear more than you see. We use our other senses to try and figure out if what we hear is an owl or was that a bat that just flew by our heads.”

Getting in touch with the ani-

mal per person donation. 626-398-5420. [www.ecnca.org](http://www.ecnca.org)

▪ **El Dorado Nature Center:** Family night walks 7-9 p.m. July 12 and Aug. 9. 7550 E. Spring St., Long Beach. \$5 per person with reservations required. 562-570-1745. [www.longbeach.gov/park/park-and-facilities/parks-centers-pier/el-dorado-nature-center](http://www.longbeach.gov/park/park-and-facilities/parks-centers-pier/el-dorado-nature-center)

▪ **TreePeople Environmental Learning Center:** 7:30 p.m. July 15 and Aug. 19. Coldwater Canyon Park, 12601 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills. \$5 per person with reservations required. [www.treepeople.org/moonlight-hikes](http://www.treepeople.org/moonlight-hikes)

▪ **Los Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club:** 6:45 p.m. Monday. Hosted by Pasadena Group, this is a moonlight hike to Mount Lowe from Eaton Saddle. For more information: 626-793-4727 or 626-794-2603; [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/activities](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/activities)

▪ **Hidden Valley Nature Center:** August dates TBA, but past ones were from 7-9 p.m. 11401 Arlington Ave., Riverside. \$4 per person with reservations required. 951-785-7452. [www.rivcoparks.org/education/hidden-valley/hidden-valley-nature-center](http://www.rivcoparks.org/education/hidden-valley/hidden-valley-nature-center)

mals that come out at night was the topic of a recent evening sojourn.

“Sometimes we add an activity or exercise to do while walking the mile hike,” she said. “What we're trying to do is introduce our programs while teaching science, art, cultural history and conservancy.”

The Oak Glen Preserve night walks start at 7 p.m. Hikers must be at least 10 years old. The next scheduled walks are July 16 and Aug. 20. They are free, but donations are welcome.

Ready to brave the dark and the elements? Evening and moonlit hikes are offered all summer throughout Southern California.