

# Zuma and Trancas Canyons

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area



The Chumash were the first people to experience the incredible landscape and diversity of plant and animal life in Zuma and Trancas Canyons. The name “zuma” is derived from the Chumash language and means “abundance.” The abundant expressions of nature in this Mediterranean ecosystem continue to inspire visitors to explore the park on foot, horseback, or bike.

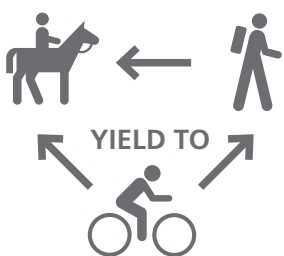
## Voice of the Chaparral

As the largest area of federal parkland in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Zuma and Trancas Canyons offer a variety of trails. Journey deep into these canyons and discover a perennial creek and riparian habitat. Hike through chaparral, look for basking lizards, and enjoy a stunning view of the Pacific Ocean. You might also see deer, rabbits, coyotes, hawks, jays, tree frogs, and even the occasional bobcat.

Listen closely for one of our Zuma and Trancas celebrities: the shy wrentit. Though rarely seen, its call sounds like a ping-pong ball echoing through the canyon. This call has earned this little bird the nickname “Voice of the Chaparral.”

In November 2018, the Woolsey Fire swept through much of this area. Be on the lookout for signs of plants, soil, and animals recovering from the effects of this wildfire.

## Information and Safety



**TRAIL ETIQUETTE** Hikers must yield to equestrians. Equestrians need to communicate with passing hikers and bicyclists. Horses are not allowed to graze or leave the trail. Remove manure from parking areas.

**BICYCLISTS** must ride courteously and yield to hikers and equestrians. Maximum speed is 15 mph or slower to protect visitor safety. Everyone: if listening to music, wear earbuds. Bicyclists may wear only one earbud.

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES** including rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected or disturbed. Do not climb on structures. Weapons, nets, and traps are not allowed in parklands.

**TRAIL CLOSURES** will be in effect during and following extreme weather or hazardous conditions.

**STAY ON ESTABLISHED TRAILS** and off of private property.

**BE PREPARED** by bringing water, food, map or some type of navigation device, a headlamp, and first-aid supplies on your hikes. Be alert for ticks, bees, rattlesnakes, and poison oak. Wear sturdy footwear, e.g. hiking boots or shoes with good tread. Cell phone reception is largely non-existent in much of this area.

**WILDFIRE** is a year-round concern. Smoking and fires of any kind are not permitted on the trail. For current restrictions and fire danger level, visit [www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo).

**PETS** must be on a leash not to exceed six feet and under control. Pick up after your pet. Pets are not allowed off trails.

**WATER** that comes from streams is not safe to drink due to possible contamination or the presence of the giardia protozoan.

**Zuma and Trancas Canyons**  
Zuma Ridge Parking Lot  
North end of Busch Drive off of  
Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu, CA, 90265

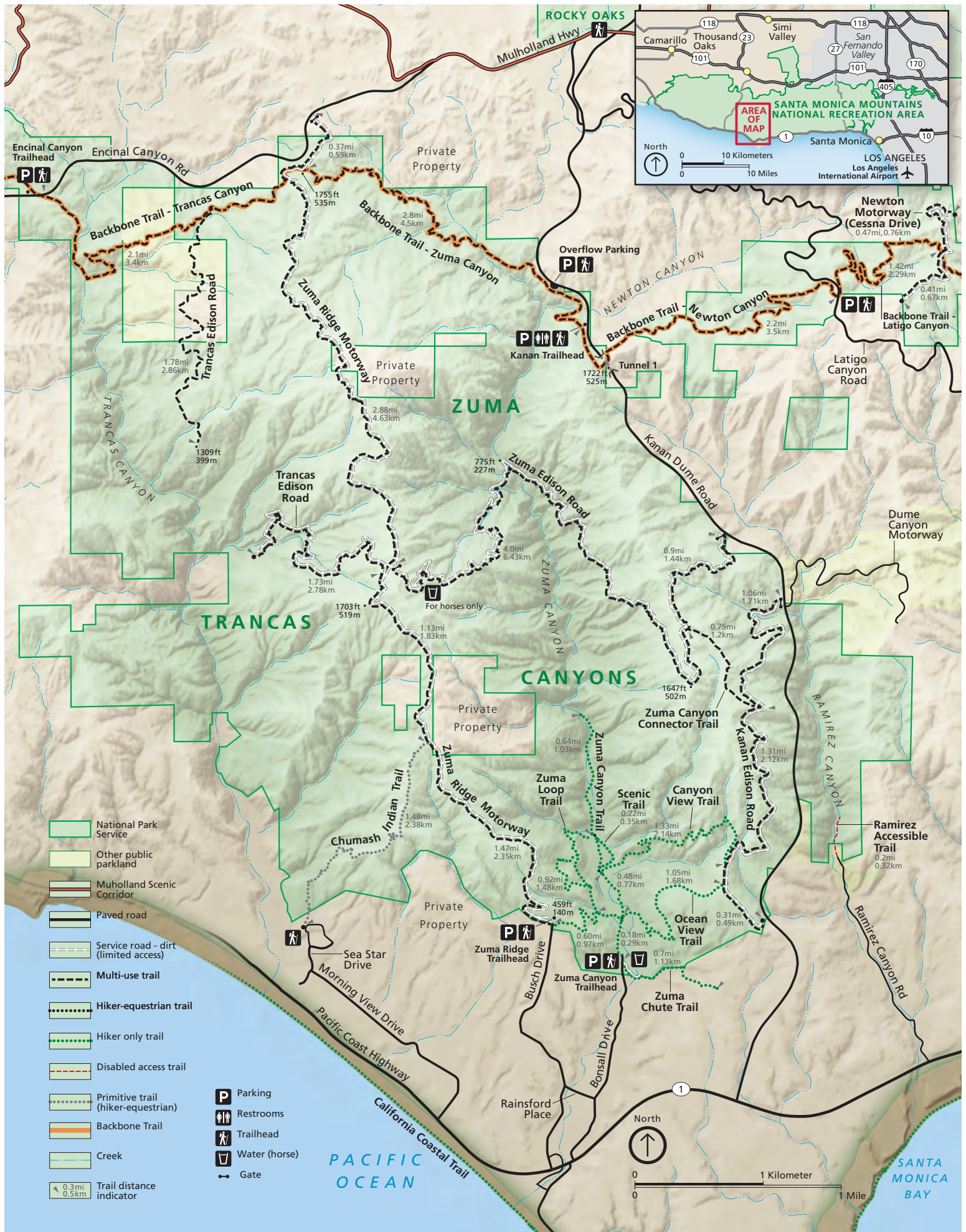


The parking area at the end of Bonsall Drive is open from 8:00 a.m. – sunset. All other parking areas are not gated.

Canyons are also accessible via Encinal Canyon Road and Kanan-Dume Road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Santa Monica Mountains  
Interagency Visitor Center  
26876 Mulholland Hwy  
Calabasas CA 91302  
805-370-2301  
[www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

EMERGENCIES  
Call 911. For a ranger, call  
Santa Monica Dispatch  
at 805-370-2399.



*Directions to Zuma Canyon Trailhead parking lot (open 8 a.m. to sunset): Pacific Coast Highway to Busch Drive (near Zuma Beach). Go north on Busch Drive. Turn right on Rainsford Place. Turn left on Bonsall Drive. Parking lot at end of road.*

- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Strenuous

**Ocean View Trail and Canyon View Trail ■** 3-mile loop; no bikes—These trails extend from the Zuma Canyon Trail and wind through chaparral covered slopes, offering ocean views. The trails feature woody shrubs called “coastal sage scrub” because of their flexible leaves and stems.

**Zuma Loop Trail ● to ■** 2.0 miles; no bikes—Skirting the base of Zuma Canyon’s slopes, this trail features large and graceful sycamore, oak, willow and black walnut trees in a rare hardwood riparian environment. Also, discover dry wash plant communities that have the ability to bend under the weight of raging flood waters, ensuring their survival year after year.

**Backbone Trail ● to ■** 4.9 miles to Encinal Canyon Trailhead—This trail begins at the Kanan trailhead on Kanan-Dume Road. The winding trail leads to a view of Upper Zuma Falls, which are especially grand after the winter rains. Watch out for poison oak along wet areas.

**Zuma Ridge Motorway ■ to ◆** 6.0 miles—This fire road begins at the Zuma Ridge Trailhead at the end of Busch Drive and ascends to Encinal Canyon Road along the ridge between Zuma and Trancas Canyons. Enjoy views of the ocean and the plant and animal life present in this core habitat of our Mediterranean ecosystem.