

Winter Hiking Tips



Rain brings new growth, running streams and creeks and salamanders -- and means muddy and slippery trails. Give the trails a day or two to dry out for safer hiking that does not damage the trail.

Note: trails may be closed to horseback riders and mountain bikers due to unsafe conditions - check trail conditions at openspaceauthority.org/visitors.



Ensatina -- a species of salamander -- venture out in preserves during wet weather. Watch your step on the trail as they are quite slow. Please don't touch -- Ensatina are delicate! Photo by Cait Hutnik.

Wet Weather Hiking Tips

1. Wear sturdy boots that can stand moisture and mud and bring extra shoes for driving.
2. Bring hiking poles to help keep you upright -- keep the "snow cups" on the end of the poles for balance.
3. Bring a small backpack with extra clothes in case you have a fall.
4. Stay on trails to avoid damaging the trail and sensitive vegetation.
5. Before heading out, tell family or friends where you are going and when you expect to return. Cell coverage is unreliable in the preserves.
6. Dress in layers.
7. Carry extra water (drinking water is not available in the preserves).
8. Pack snacks or lunch, especially if you're hiking with children.
9. Bring a hat and a simple first aid kit.



Photo by Samsudin Kamis

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Preserves

Sierra Vista

Open Space Preserve

Sierra Vista Point, Sierra Rd, San Jose

Directions

From I-680

East on Berryessa Rd

Left on Piedmont Rd

Right on Sierra Rd

Parking will be on the right

Coyote Valley

Open Space Preserve

550 Palm Ave, Morgan Hill

Directions

From Hwy 101

West on Bailey Ave

Left on Santa Teresa Blvd

Right on Palm Ave

Preserve is at the end of Palm

Rancho Cañada del Oro

Open Space Preserve

4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill

Directions

From Hwy 101

West on Bailey Ave

Left on McKlean Rd

Right on Casa Loma Rd

Parking will be on the left