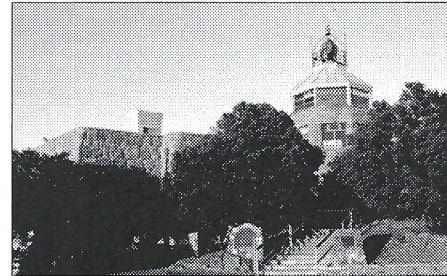


Summit via Back Creek and Mitchell Canyon



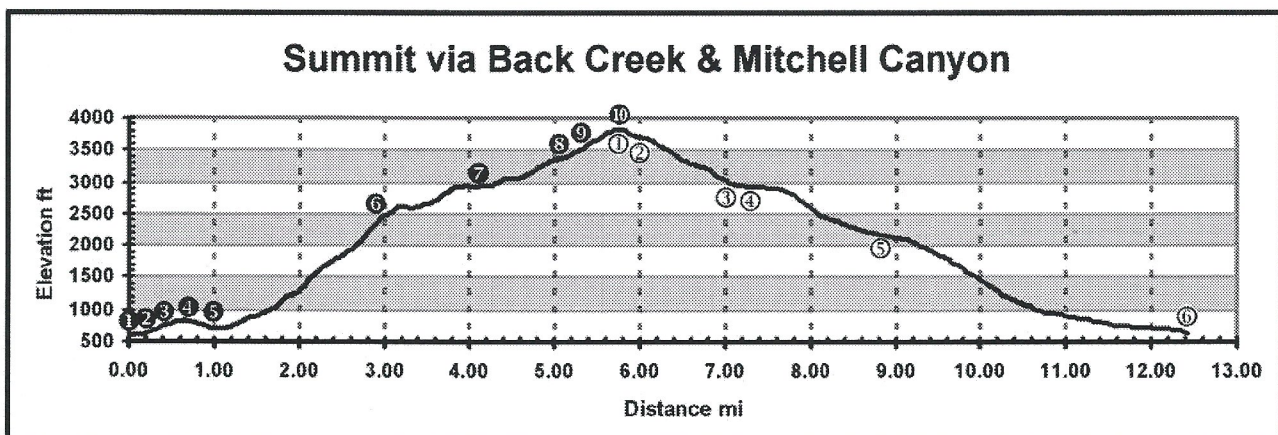
Distance, difficulty: 12.4-mile loop - demanding
Estimated hiking time: 6 to 9 hours
High point, elevation gain: 3,849 feet, 3,225-foot gain
Terrain: Unsuitable for wheelchairs

Trailhead: End of paved part of Mitchell Canyon Road, north entrance to park, near the town of Clayton. Drinking water and restrooms. Park in staging area. Self-registration entrance fee.

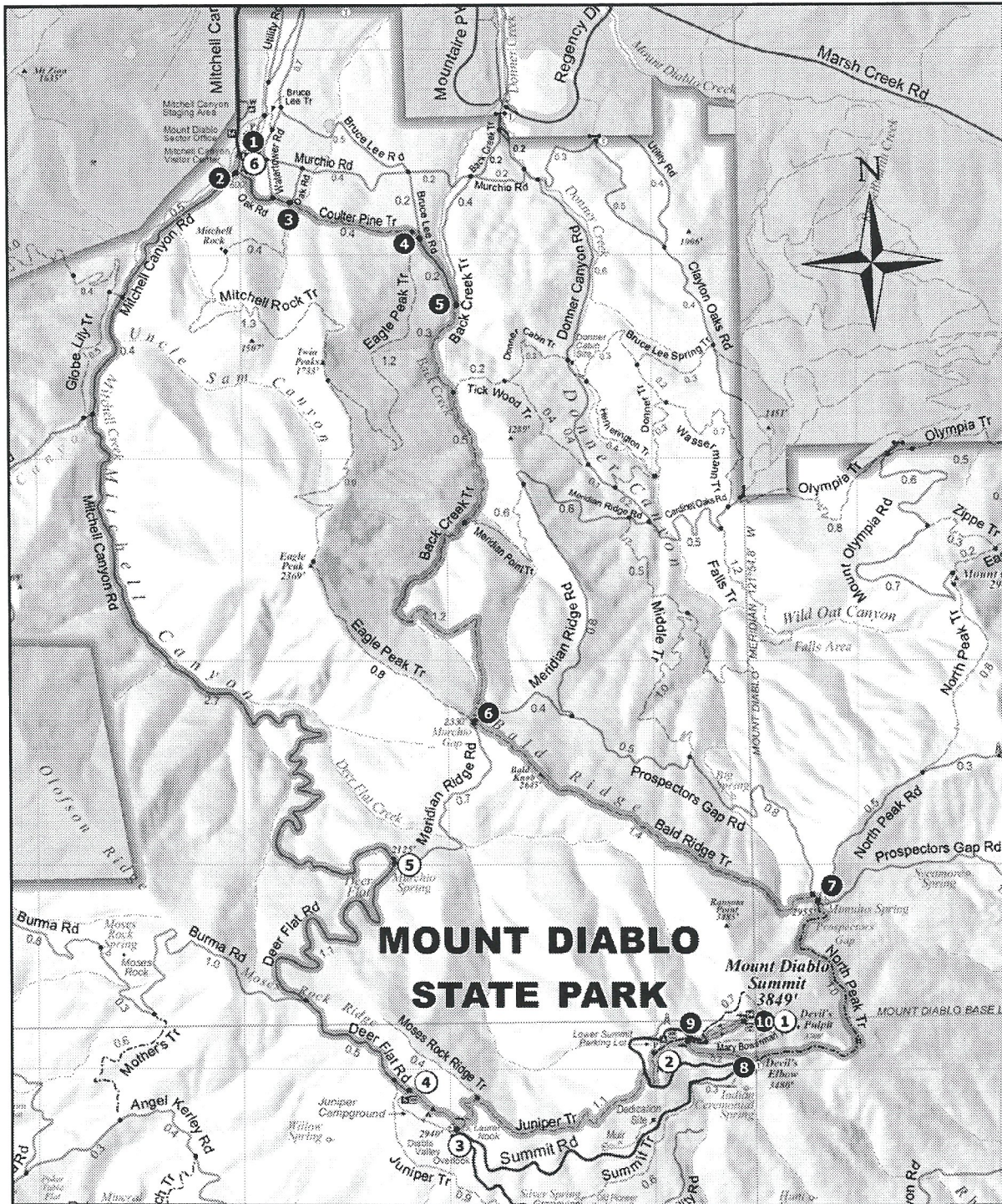
Description: A suggested route to the Summit follows ① Mitchell Canyon Road a very short distance to ② Oak Road where the split rail fencing ends. Turn left up Oak Road. After you reach the meadowy plateau, continue on Oak Road to ③ Coulter Pine Trail to the right. From Coulter Pine Trail, turn right onto ④ Bruce Lee Road, which intersects with ⑤ Back Creek Trail. Turn right onto Back Creek Trail and continue up the trail to Meridian Ridge Road, where three trails meet. Across Meridian Ridge Road is the beginning of ⑥ Bald Ridge Trail. Continue on Bald Ridge Trail until it ends at Prospectors Gap. At Prospectors Gap, take ⑦ North Peak Trail to the right and circle the summit until you reach Devil's Elbow near Summit Road. Look for ⑧ Summit Trail heading up to the right. Summit Trail takes you to ⑨ the lower summit parking lot. Summit Trail continues a short distance uphill between the one-way paved roadways to and from the summit. ⑩ The summit itself is inside the Visitor Center rotunda.

Return from ① the summit via Summit Trail to the lower summit parking lot. Follow ② Juniper Trail across the lower summit parking lot to its west end and continue down to Juniper Campground. Juniper Trail passes through ③ Juniper Campground along the road to the right until you reach the far end of the campground loop. Continue on ④ Deer Flat Road to Deer Flat and its intersection with ⑤ Mitchell Canyon Road to the left. Mitchell Canyon Road takes you back to ⑥ the trailhead.

This is the definitive Mount Diablo hike. It encompasses all of the park's life zones, from meadowlands to rocky summit, and the ever-changing views are simply stunning. A major portion of the loop consists of intimate single-track trails, in close encounter with the wilderness—including some poison oak, which invites a cautious eye. Make no mistake—this is a challenging hike, with some astoundingly steep stretches, but the result is exhilarating.



Summit via Back Creek and Mitchell Canyon



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891 (Bay Sector Office) or 925-837-6129 (Junction Ranger Station); 711, TTY relay service. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891.



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