Crockett Hills Regional Park

Edwards Loop/Sky/Big Valley/Sugar City/Kestrel Loop/Big Valley/ Sky/Soaring Eagle/Edwards Loop Trails

Length: 6.93-mile round trip Location: Crockett Intensity: Challenging



Park Features: Crockett Hills, opened in 2006, is one of the District's newest jewels; the park features panoramic views of the Delta, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Bridge and Mount Diablo and supports annual grasslands, oak woodlands and coastal shrub plant communities. Cattle grazing occurs year round in Crockett Hills south of the tunnel under Cummings Skyway; be safe and courteous around these large animals, even though they are unlikely to charge humans.

Trail Highlights: The Kestrel Loop Trail was closed for much of 2012 to protect the nesting area of golden eagles in the park, but has since reopened; the loop is known as a birdwatchers' paradise where you can find kestrels, red-tailed hawks and even spot the elusive golden eagle. There is a paved area with picnic tables near the end of the Sky Trail, perfect for a picnic lunch or to take a break.

Trail Directions: Go right at the fork from the staging area on the Edwards Loop Trail; the hike begins with a significant, shaded climb to a tunnel that runs under the Cummings Skyway and takes you to the start of the Sky Trail. From the tunnel head left on the Sky Trail and stay left at the first fork. Make a right onto the Big Valley Trail and walk a short ways before going left through a cattle gate onto the singletrack Sugar City Trail; go left at the next fork to get onto the Kestrel Loop; a sign post defines where the Kestrel Loop Trail becomes a single-track for its descent into the Big Valley. Descend from the Kestrel Loop onto the Big Valley Trail (now a fire road) and turn left through the valley to the next sign post. Make the large climb out of Big Valley and at the next trail intersection follow signs right to stay on Big Valley Trail. Take the left back onto Sky Trail and make the next left to connect to the Soaring Eagle Trail; follow Soaring Eagle back to the tunnel and the parking lot.

Driving Directions: From I-80 east toward Oakland: Take exit 27 toward Port Costa/Crockett; turn left on Pomona St.; turn right onto Crockett Blvd. and right again into Crockett Ranch Staging Area.

From I-80 west toward San Francisco: Take exit 27 toward Pomona St. at Crockett and turn left onto Pomona St.; turn right onto Crockett Blvd. and right again into Crockett Ranch Staging Area.

From Highway 4 west: Take exit 5 toward I-80 east/Vallejo/Crockett and turn right onto Cummings Skyway; make a slight right on Crockett Blvd. and then left into Crockett Ranch Staging Area.

