

# Balconies Cave



**Region:** Monterey County

**Length:** 2.6 miles round trip to the cave

**Difficulty Rating:** Easy to Moderate

**Elevation Gain:** 400 feet

**Girls bring:** Backpack, 1 liter of water, snack, hat, jacket, sunscreen, face mask. Adults add: Map/Info sheet, Required paperwork, first aid kit, phone, TP & ziploc (pack it out).

**When to go:** Year round, but there is little shade on the trail. Go early in the morning to avoid heat and find parking. Check the cave status; if the cave is closed (seasonally) you can still do a nice shorter hike.

**Getting There and Parking:** From the US 101, take the Soledad Exit 303, Front street to Monterey Street to CA-146 E/Metz Rd. Pinnacles National Park charges a fee to enter. Fees are \$30 per vehicle or \$25 per motorcycle. If you are entering on foot or bike the fee is \$15 per person. You can also purchase a park specific annual pass for \$55.

**Bathrooms:** The Pinnacles has bathrooms.

**Safety Considerations:** Use good judgement scrambling on high rocks. There's no poison oak. Watch for rattlesnakes.

## Helpful Links:

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/balconies-cave-trail>

Check if cave is open:

<https://www.nps.gov/pinn/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

## Route Description:

Balconies Cave Trail is a 2.6 mile heavily trafficked out and back trail located near Paicines, California that features beautiful wild flowers and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking.

## How to Get Your charm:

Take a photo of you at the cave entrance (open or closed). Email the photo and the names of the registered Girl Scouts in the photo to [programs@girlscoutscoc.org](mailto:programs@girlscoutscoc.org) with the subject line "Balconies." You'll get an embroidered charm to hang on your patch loop.

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