

Oso Flaco Lake



<https://www.alltrails.com>
<https://caltopo.com>

Route Description:

This hike is a moderately trafficked out and back trail along a boardwalk. The hike begins by following a heavily wooded road to the boardwalk. The boardwalk crosses the lake where you can see a plethora of water fowl. This is especially exciting in the late spring when baby ducks are swimming with their parents. There are informational signs regarding the wildlife all along the trail. The boardwalk continues through protected dunes to the ocean. Depending on the season, there are wildflowers and native plants that you may not see elsewhere.

How to Get Your charm:

Take a photo of you and the view from the ocean view platform. Email the photo and the names of the registered girls to programs@girlscoutscoc.org with the subject "Happy Trails-Oso Flaco Lake." You'll get an embroidered charm to hang on your patch loop.

Region: San Luis Obispo County

Length: 2 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation Gain: 32 feet

Girls Bring: Backpack, water, snack, hat, jacket (it gets windy!), sunscreen, face mask. Adults add: Map/Info sheet, Required paperwork, first aid kit, phone, TP & ziploc (pack it out).

When to go: Year round; could be cold & windy in winter!

Getting There and Parking: From the 101 freeway north or southbound, exit at Main Street/166 West. Travel west for 9 miles to Highway 1. Turn right and head north for 3.5 miles. Oso Flaco Lake Road is a left turn. Follow for about 3 miles to the Ranger hut and parking area. (\$5 fee for parking during peak season.)

Bathrooms: Pit toilets and handwashing station in the parking area.

Hazards: Surf at the end of the trail is rough and dangerous. No swimming.

Helpful Links:

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