

Miller Canyon Trail #106

Length: 3.7 miles Rating: A2 Map 7



- A** The trail starts with a rocky climb through oak and manzanita as it navigates around private property. It curves around, passing the Clark Spring Trail junction. Mountain bikers need to make a right turn here, as the Wilderness Area boundary is just ahead.
- B**

A little downhill gets you onto the old roadbed, which stays in the oaks as it heads up the canyon, edging the riparian habitat. On the left you'll see

- C** the Hunter Canyon Trail junction; in another 600' a faint roadway to the right makes a steep, switchbacking, 1-mile climb to an old mine on a ridge top.

- D** Soon the trail forks, the left side going 0.1 mile to where Palmerlee used to be, with only minor evidence that it ever existed. This is also the site of the old saw mill and a good spring. The trail is to the right as it climbs around the townsite, with a bit of downhill before crossing the streambed.

Your journey is now ever upward, the path following an old wagon road along the south side of the canyon, high above the stream. Notice how narrow the canyon bottom is, and how tall the trees are as they reach for light. The road levels off briefly, and at a junction a sign indicates where the foot trail continues to the right.

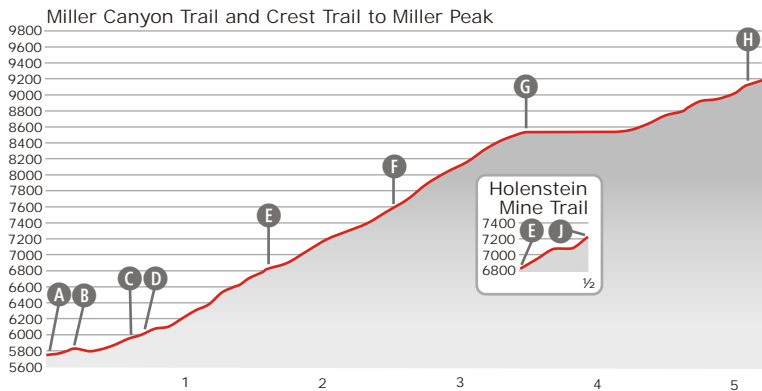
- E**

The roadway to the left climbs for 0.5 mile, and after several switchbacks passes below an old ore chute, ending at the Holenstein Mine.

- J**

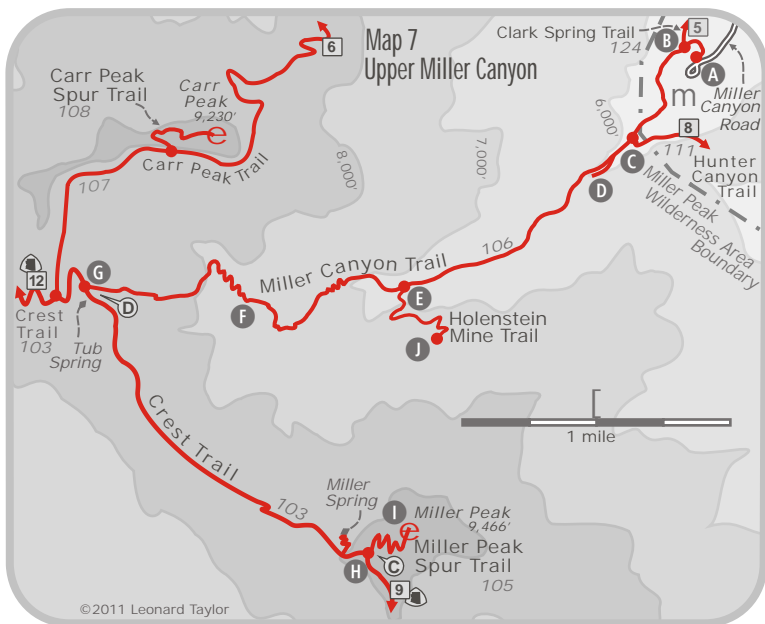
Miller Canyon Trail crosses the streambed, then begins a series of switchbacks that take you up the mountainside, with great views of Miller Peak. After rejoining the canyon bottom, a few more switchbacks bring you to an old mill site.

- F** There is a steam boiler 50' to the left, and a nearby intermittent spring makes this a nice rest stop. This was where Max Baumkirchner processed his ore, until a landslide buried most of his operation. As Chuck McMoran wrote, "*One can only speculate on the amount of mule power, cursing, and sweating required to place this huge object up there.*"



The trail is to the right, and begins switchbacking again as it leaves the canyon bottom. Several prospects are passed, the views getting better. This once heavily-forested area burned in the fire in 1977. The trail dips into several shallow ravines, then is along the streambed again. You are almost to the end now, and after passing a mine tunnel you see a sign indicating the Crest Trail.

- G** To get to Miller Peak keep left, quickly passing Tub Spring. The long level stretch below the crest is a relief, but soon the uphill grade resumes. The path is on the ridgetop occasionally, with views into the San Rafael Valley.
 - H** Miller Peak Trail junction is at the high point of the trail, where another
 - I** left turn and more switchbacks get you to Miller Peak.
- Enjoy the view!



Landmark	Mileage	Cumulative	Ele
Miller Canyon Trail to Miller Peak		↓ ↑	
A Trailhead, Miller Canyon	0.0	0.0	3.5
B Junction, Clark Spring Trail	0.2	0.2	3.3
C Junction, Hunter Canyon Trail	0.4	0.6	2.9
D Palmerlee Townsite	0.1	0.7	2.8
E Junction, Holenstein Mine	0.9	1.6	1.9
F Boiler	0.9	2.5	1.0
G Junction, Crest Trail	1.0	3.5	0.0
H Junction, Miller Peak Trail	1.6	5.1	
I Miller Peak	0.5	5.6	