



# Family Bike Ride Recommendations

Take the family out on some of our great nearby biking paths. To make your planning easier, REI employees have selected some of their favorites below.

## Be sure to bring these necessities along on your ride:

- Helmet
- Drinking water
- Lunch or snacks
- Map and route directions
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First-aid kit
- Tire mini-pump or CO2
- Spare tube or patch kit
- Tire levers

For a complete cycling checklist, visit [Expert Advice](#) on REI.com.



## Here Are Five of Our Favorite Kid-Friendly Local Bike Rides

### Oso Viejo Park

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **4.4 miles out-and-back roundtrip.**

**Minimal elevation gain with slight rolling grades.**

**Why This Ride:** This urban path leads riders between 6 different parks and through woody open space areas, and it is known for the diversity of its scenic viewpoints.

**Ride Description:** Ride along Jeronimo Road from Pavion Park. Turn left onto the road leading away from the street. Beyond the fenced school yard, along the north side, is the Jeronimo Greenbelt Park. Continue to the path entrance on a hilly section that crosses Silleros and Arbolitos and take a left away from the road. This will lead into Oso Viejo Park, and it turns into the Oso Creek Trail. You have two options at this point: Follow the creek loop back to the Oso Viejo Park greenway and north the way you came back to the parking lot, or take the creek bridge to La Paz Road, go right on Marguerite Parkway, and then a right again onto Jeronimo Road, which will loop you back past the Jeronimo Greenbelt and to Pavion Park. You can also loop back to Pavion Park by taking a left on La Paz and going to Olympiad Road where you'll turn left and go past Curtis and Beebe parks and then turn left on Jeronimo Road to return to the parking area.

**Driving Directions:** From I-5 South (San Diego Freeway) take the La Paz Road exit east and drive 2.5 miles to Olympiad Road. Turn left on Olympiad and go north 1 mile to Jeronimo Road. Turn left on Jeronimo and then left again onto Pavion Road. There is free parking in the Pavion Park lot.

**Tips:** Check out the butterfly garden, meadow and plant maze in Oso Viejo Park. There are restrooms in the various parks along the route.

### O'Neill Regional Park

Terrain: **Unpaved roads and trails**

Distance: **7.4 miles roundtrip, out-and-back. Moderate elevation gain with slight rolling grades.**

**Why This Ride:** This heavily wooded park offers a shady ride through beautiful coast live oak and sycamore forests.

**Ride Description:** From park entrance, go to the Oak Grove day-use area near the nature center. Beyond the picnic area, follow the trail to the right and cross Trabuco Creek. The south boundary will have a slight incline and will end with a loop leading you back the way you came along the Mesa day-use area. For an additional leg, you can return to the Oak Grove park office area and bear right following the roadway through the camping area. You will cross a smaller creek, and the trail will fork—continue right and loop back around at the equestrian campsite.

**Driving Directions:** Take the Foothills Transportation Corridor (Highway 241) south to El Toro Road. From the intersection of El Toro and Santiago Canyon Road, turn east onto Live Oak Canyon Road and follow it for 3 miles to the park. If you are traveling from Rancho Margarita, drive east on Santa Margarita Parkway, take a left on Plano Trabuco Road and go north. At the sharp left turn in the road it becomes Trabuco Canyon Road. Drive 1.6 miles to the park entrance. There is a \$3 day-use fee for parking in the Oak Grove lot.

**Tips:** This nature center is well known for its spring and summer interpretive programs. There are restrooms located throughout the park.

## Mile Square Park

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **8.7 miles (total) on inner and outer loops. Minimal elevation gain with slight rolling grades.**

**Why This Ride:** There's much to explore, see and do in this 640-acre park, which features lots of fun distractions for kids, as well as miles of flat, paved trails.

**Ride Description:** The park consists of one outer loop (4.0 miles) and two smaller inner loops (1.2 and 4.7 miles). Beginning at Heil Avenue and Brookhurst Street you have the option of taking the smaller loop around the Fountain Valley Recreation Center, following the fence along the golf courses. This will loop around back to the parking area. Next you could take the larger loop to the north along Brookhurst to Edinger Avenue. This will link with the smaller eastern loop at Ward Street, taking you through the park near the nature center and archery range. From here you will border the sports complex to the south end of the park. At the T-intersection you could go right or left. Right will take you on a loop of the southwest corner of the park, and left loops you around the southeast portion of the park, by a pond and along Euclid Street.

**Driving Directions:** From I-405 (San Diego Freeway) take the Warner Avenue exit east and go about a half mile to Brookhurst Street. Turn left on Brookhurst Street and then turn right at the parking lot at Heil Street. Parking is free.

**Tips:** Pack a lunch and enjoy it at one of the many picnic areas in the park. There are restrooms on the west and east sides of the park.

## Huntington Central Park

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **2.7-mile loop. Minimal elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** This centrally located ride features an easy paved loop through a park filled with eucalyptus trees and other wildlife-friendly foliage.

**Ride Description:** From the Talbert Avenue trailhead, start out going counterclockwise around the park. You'll immediately notice trail spurs off the main path, but save exploring these for your return (they lead to the adventure playground, great for hanging with the kids and eating a picnic lunch). Continue around the park past the amphitheater on your right and the trail will wind around Talbert Lake and some picnic tables. It will then parallel Goldenwest Road and pass through the shaded area nearest the road. Once you reach the duck pond and water fountain you'll know you're almost at the end of the loop.

**Driving Directions:** From I-405 exit take the Goldenwest South exit and drive south on Goldenwest Street for 3.5 miles until you pass Slater Avenue. Take your next left onto Talbert Avenue to reach the parking area for Huntington Central Park and Huntington Central Library. Parking is free.

**Tips:** The park is right next to Huntington Central Library, so stop in and pick up a few books after your ride. There are restrooms located in the library and in the park.

## Bolsa Chica State Beach to Huntington Beach Pier

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **5.2 miles one-way. Minimal elevation gain with slight rolling grades.**

**Why This Ride:** This coastal ride passes a wilderness reserve and travels along the shore, eventually ending at the Huntington Beach Pier.

**Ride Description:** The ride begins at Bolsa Chica State Beach at Warner Ave. Looking at the San Pedro Channel you might be able to spot Santa Catalina Island on a clear day. This path will have sand piled high on either side from the high tide during the heavy rain storms. The gradual climb will take you to the Huntington Beach Cliffs above Huntington City Beach. There you can stop for a snack and use the nice bathrooms (and turn around, if this feels like a good distance). If you stay on the bluffs, the trail will wander through the palms and then lead you back to the beach. The turnaround point is the Huntington Beach Pier.

**Driving Directions:** From I-405 southbound, take the Bolsa Chica Road exit south and take a right on Warner Avenue to the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1). Park on Pacific Avenue, north of Warner Avenue, along the Pacific Coast Highway or in the Bolsa Chica State Beach lots. There is limited free parking along Pacific Avenue; it's \$10 for day-use parking at Bolsa Chica State Beach.

**Tips:** The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, which you'll pass by, offers an excellent chance to spot the migratory birds traveling through the area. Bolsa Chica beach and the Huntington Beach Pier both have restrooms.



REI's PEAK program uses a fun presentation filled with hands-on activities and games to teach kids ages 6 through 12 about taking care of the outdoors.

Ask an REI team member about scheduling a free PEAK presentation for your classroom or youth group, or visit [www.rei.com/PEAK](http://www.rei.com/PEAK) for more information.



**First Saturday in June** The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, is a nationwide celebration of trails. Celebrate with your family by taking a hike, or volunteering for a trail clean-up project. Ask an REI team member about how to get involved, or visit [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) for more information.