



# 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

### Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **7-mile loop; less than 150 feet elevation gain**

**Why This Ride:** The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area features a network of trails, so you can spend a day enjoying and exploring the park.

**Ride Description:** Access the trail from the parking area at the nature center. This 7-mile loop around the 836-acre designated open space stays smooth and flat as it passes the interpretive nature center; stop here for a breather and enjoy the interesting displays about plants and animals. The path then heads to the north and circles an alluvial wash with native sage-scrub habitat that hosts several bird species. On a quiet day, you can call to the coyotes—and they may even answer back!

**Driving Directions:** The entrance is at 15501 Arrow Hwy in Irwindale. From I-605N (San Gabriel Freeway), take Exit 25 for Live Oak Avenue and go east toward Irwindale; Live Oak Ave. merges into the Arrow Hwy. From I-210 (Foothill Freeway), take the Irwindale Ave. exit south to Arrow Hwy. Follow the Arrow Hwy to the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, turn in on Azusa Canyon Road, and park near the nature center. Parking is free.

**Tips:** There's a great water park located within the recreation area—perfect for a post-ride cool down—and the 70-acre lake is excellent for fishing. There are restrooms in the park.

### Pacific Electric Trail

Terrain: **Paved**

Distance: **8.8 miles roundtrip, out-and-back; minimal elevation gain**

**Why This Ride:** The Pacific Electric Trail (PET) is a rails-to-trails corridor that follows the historic Pacific Electric Trail route, and has been converted to a designated non-motorized transportation corridor that will eventually span from San Dimas to San Bernardino.

**Ride Description:** This paved rails-to-trails path begins at North Monte Vista Avenue in San Dimas and continues at a gentle grade east for 4.4 miles through the city of Upland to Grove Avenue, where it connects with the 7.3-mile Rancho Cucamonga corridor (scheduled to be completed May/June 2007). For this ride, however, Grove Ave. will be your turnaround point. Along the way enjoy the views of Cucamonga, Ontario and Mt. San Antonio peaks visible to the north.

**Driving Directions:** From I-10, take Highway 57 north to the West Bonita Avenue exit (Exit 24B). Follow West Bonita Ave. to Monte Vista Ave. Turn right on Monte Vista and look for bike trail access. There is free parking at the trailhead.

**Tips:** The trail parallels major thoroughfares and serves as both a recreational ride and commuting alternative. There are no restrooms available.

## Old Stagecoach Road

Terrain: **Dirt road**

Distance: **3.4 miles roundtrip, with a gently sloping 626 feet of elevation gain**

**Why This Ride:** It's an easy mountain bike ride on a historic stagecoach road—suitable for the whole family.

**Ride Description:** The ride begins at the Chatsworth Park entrance at a sign reading "Old Stagecoach Equestrian Trail." It's a gently sloping dirt road that follows the southern side of the park heading west before turning southwest and heading up into the hills. You can still see the ruts made by the wagon wheels in some spots along this 19th-century road, which was once part of a connecting route between Los Angeles and San Francisco. When you come to a low ridge with some olive trees turn right up the ridge leading to a white memorial plaque. That will be your turnaround point.

**Driving Directions:** From the 118 Freeway take the exit at Topanga Canyon and turn south over the freeway. Turn right on Devonshire Street heading west until you come to the entrance to Chatsworth Park. There is free parking in the Chatsworth Park parking lot.

**Tips:** Stick around and enjoy Chatsworth Park after your ride—it has a playground, picnic area and barbecue grills. There are restrooms in Chatsworth Park.

## Gabrielino Trail

Terrain: **Paved and dirt path**

Distance: **Up to 6 miles roundtrip, out-and-back; 100 feet of elevation gain**

**Why This Ride:** A kid-friendly ride that travels up beautiful Arroyo Seco.

**Ride Description:** After parking, continue on Windsor, bearing a little right until you arrive at a yellow gate that can be seen from the bend of the road on your left. This is the Gabrielino Trail. The trail begins as a paved road through Pasadena's Hahamongna Watershed Park. Follow signs staying on this trail. At the first fork, bear right (do not go left on Explorer Road) and continue as far as you want to go. For two to three miles you'll ride under an oak canopy, along a creek that normally runs year round. The trail crosses a few creek beds and passes picnic tables and benches along the way. When you come to a point in the trail where the grade turns steep and rocky, this is your cue to turn around and head back to the parking lot.

**Driving Directions:** Take the I-210 to the North Arroyo Boulevard/Windsor Avenue exit and head north on Windsor Ave. At the intersection of Windsor and Ventura Street, there is free parking in the lot to your left.

**Tips:** Bring a picnic and have a creekside lunch under the oaks. There are no restrooms on the trail.

## Bonelli Park

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **7-mile loop; less than 150 feet of elevation gain**

**Why This Ride:** Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park is a 1,970-acre multi-use park that offers everything from family camping to a 250-acre lake to a user-friendly series of networked, paved bike trails that loop the park.

**Ride Description:** The paved 7-mile loop trail undulates along the park's varied terrain, past picnic areas and tree-lined open spaces. The trail follows the perimeter of the reservoir and can be accessed from the park's numerous parking areas, though access is most convenient from the southern parking areas. The park includes mountain bike trails as well; most are considered intermediate or above.

**Driving Directions:** Take the 57 Freeway to the Via Verde exit and go east to the Bonelli Park entrance. There is a vehicle fee to enter the park. Follow the main road and take the first left onto Eucalyptus Drive. Park in designated areas.

**Tips:** The Raging Waters water park is located in the park and offers a fun way to cool off after a ride. There are restrooms located throughout the park.



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.