

# HISTORY AND NATURE LOOP HIKE

## Inspiration Point to the Main Post

Total distance: 1.9 miles (3.1 kilometers)

Difficulty: Easy

This hike takes in some of the historic parts of the Presidio, as well as some of the most architecturally significant areas.

### 1. Mile 0: Start the Hike

The hike starts at Inspiration Point, which has a small parking lot off of Arguello Boulevard, a short distance inside the Arguello Boulevard Gate. Go down the stairway, to the right of the observation platform.

### 2. Mile 0.1: Junction with the Ecology Trail

Turn left at the bottom of the stairway, onto the Ecology Trail. This trail leads through an open meadow, with serpentine rock formations that provide a unique environment for a rare combination of plant species.

### 3. Mile 0.1: Into the Redwood Forest

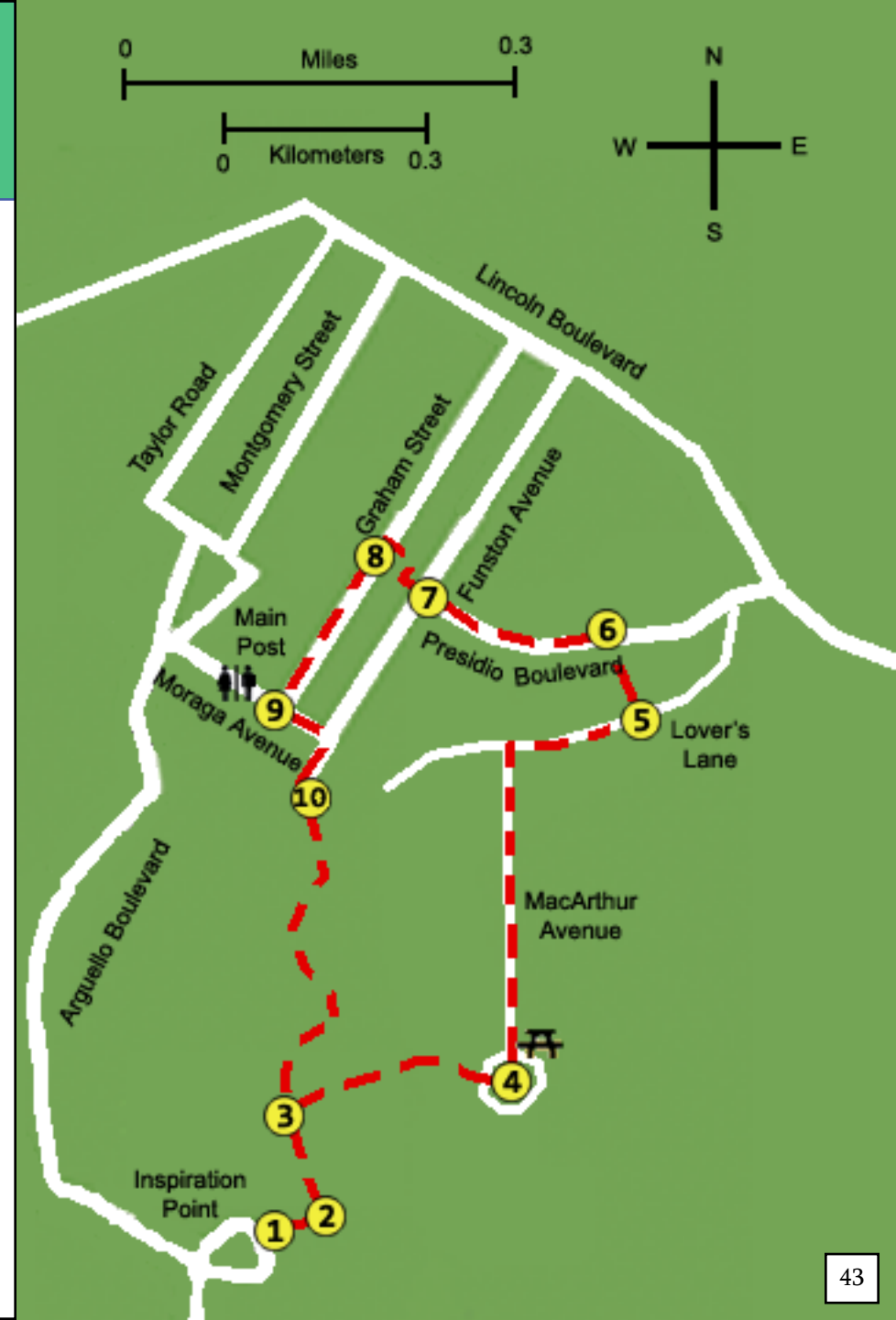
Turn right at the first trail, which goes downhill into a dense redwood grove. The trail comes out in the historic Tennessee Hollow, a small valley with a natural spring that was the site of early Spanish settlement.

### 4. Mile 0.4: El Polin Spring

This beautiful valley is undergoing a major transformation, with volunteers working here to remove non-native plants. The spring can be seen on the side of the hill. Turn left on MacArthur Avenue through a residential neighborhood. Turn right and continue to Lover's Lane.

### 5. Mile 0.6: Junction with Lover's Lane

Turn left and cross the footbridge along Lover's Lane, the oldest pathway in the Presidio. This trail linked the Presidio to Mission Dolores, three miles away. It later came to be known as Lover's Lane, when Presidio soldiers would use this path to visit their lovers in the city.



### **6. Mile 0.7: Junction with Presidio Boulevard**

Lover's Lane comes to an end at Presidio Boulevard. Cross the street here and turn left up the hill, taking in the beautiful Queen Anne Victorian homes that date back to the Civil War.

### **7. Mile 0.8 Entering the Main Post**

Presidio Boulevard comes to Funston Avenue, and at this point you are entering the Main Post. Cross Funston and go straight ahead one block to Mesa Street, where Presidio Boulevard comes to an end. Turn right on Mesa Street and then turn left at the first sidewalk. The sidewalk goes one short block to Keyes Avenue, where you will see the expansive Parade Ground. Cross the grassy area straight ahead and continue one short block to Graham Street.

### **8. Mile 0.9: The Parade Ground**

At Graham Street, you have the vast parking lot of the Parade Ground spread out before you. Imagine what this area will be like when the parking lot is replaced with a majestic meadow. Turn left on Graham Street and walk up the gradual hill, alongside the Parade Ground.

### **9. Mile 1.1: The Officer's Club**

Graham Street comes to an end at Moraga Avenue. Cross the street and you will be in front of the Presidio Officer's Club. Inside this building is a small portion of the original adobe walls from the old Spanish Presidio. There is also a Visitor Center and a gift shop. Turn left on Moraga Avenue and follow it past Pershing Hall to Funston Avenue. Turn right on Funston Avenue.

### **10. Mile 1.3: Back on the Ecology Trail**

At the end of Funston Avenue you will find the trailhead for the Ecology Trail. Go up the hill here, back into forests of redwoods, cypress, pine, and eucalyptus. Follow the Ecology Trail back to the stairway that leads up to Inspiration Point. Once back at the parking lot, you will have completed the hike of 1.9 miles (3.1 kilometers).



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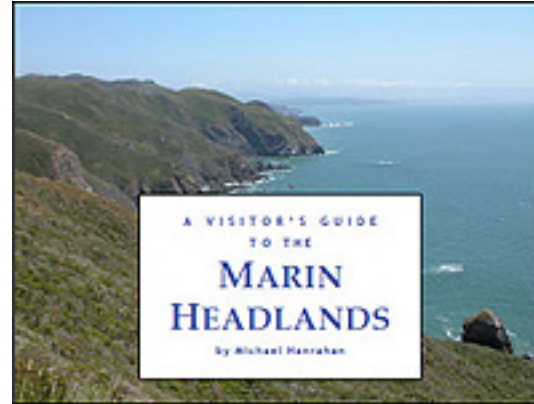
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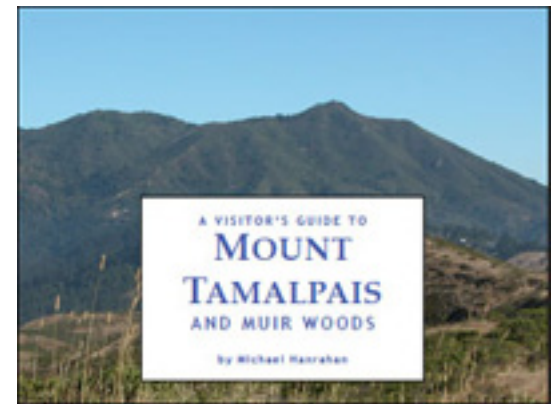
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