

**Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve
(well worth the drive!)**

This is a **Gorgeous Ride** that you will absolutely love! It is quite rocky and steep at times so shoes/boots are recommended. The views are outstanding, panoramic of the entire Escondido valley to the east, Rancho Bernardo and Poway to the south and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The water reservoir and dam at the top of the mountain are a beautiful sight, with plenty of picnic and rest stops, Port-a-potty and water for the horses. It is one of my favorite rides in the Southern California area!

One of San Diego County's most precious natural resources, the Reserve currently offers approximately 13 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian trails, primitive picnic areas, and scenic mountain viewing points. In addition, the natural beauty of the Reserve includes such native plant communities as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

From the staging area, which is small and can only accommodate about 4 rigs, you can ride up the mountain to the lake. Weekends can be very busy, I highly recommend for a quieter experience visit on a weekday. Download the trail map from the website and take the Way Up Trail/WUT (1.5 miles) to the Equine Incline Loop Trail/EIL (2.5) I promise you will have a FABULOUS time!!!!!! There are many variations of trails to take, so check out the map. On the EIL you can tie up at the equine posts provided on top of the mountain and sit on the bench overlook while gazing at the Pacific Ocean in the distance...this type of view is why we ride our horses!!! Enjoy this ride and let me know what you think! Happy Eq-"Wine" Trails to You!

Juanita Koth