

Black Diamond Mines

Location: Antioch, California

Difficulty: Moderate

Foot Traffic: Light

Vehicle Fee: 5\$

Weather:

January 56/46

February 59/47

March 63/49

April 67/51

May 73/55

June 81/61

July 85/66

August 84/66

September 83/64

October 74/58

November 63/51

December 55/45



Black Diamond Mines and Nortonville Loop, is a nice trail with moderate difficulty. It is 5.7 miles long, and the elevation gained from the trailhead is 1,374 feet. The panoramic views offered by this trail are of the surrounding hills of the East Bay, the delta, and the area which was once the bustling coal mining town of Nortonville. On your journey, you will also pass the historic Rose Hill Cemetery (which rumor has it, is haunted!). You will also see many sandstone rock wall towers along your way, scattered amongst the beautiful Coulter Pines. All making this a great place to go, if you want to get in touch with nature, and recalibrate. Horses are also allowed on this trail, and in the few times I've hiked it, I have seen people riding them on all 3 occasions. **IMPORTANT: This area is significantly warmer than other regions of the East Bay. It is not uncommon for temperatures to soar into the triple digits, so don't let the deceptively cool mornings fool you. Bring ample amounts of water, and stay hydrated!**

The trail is roughly 8 miles long, and the steepest grade (19%) is encountered around 3.72 miles into the trip. The total elevation gain is 1,374, and the apex is 1,589 feet elevation. Remember to bring sunscreen, because even on cloudy days, the sun can still scorch you. Moreover, wear shoes with traction because in many areas of the hike, the ground is covered in pebbles and the pathways are narrow, making it easy to lose footing. This hike is not recommended for children.

