We invite you to join us for a weekend adventure in the southern portion of the Los Padres National Forest, where river gorges wind their way through chaparral, coniferous-forest, and oak-woodland communities! On our trips, we prioritize cooperation, risk management, and responsible stewardship of our environment. Our goal is to foster a supportive, active, and inclusive atmosphere in which we can enjoy each other's company and appreciate the natural history in the unique ecosystems we visit. Participants can look forward to learning skills like pitching tents securely, staying comfortable in varied weather, and practicing leave-no-trace ethics on daily hikes.
Trip Itinerary*

Day 1: We meet at the Outdoor-Adventures Center at 1:00pm and perform a gear check to make sure everyone has what they need to be comfortable on the trip. Then, we drive through Ojai to Wheeler Gorge. Upon arrival, we establish our camp and start making dinner. In the evening, we unwind at camp before retiring to our sleeping bags.

*Dinner and snacks are included.

Day 2: We spend most of the day hiking through beautiful riparian-habitats, while learning about their natural history and practicing leave-no-trace ethics. We have breakfast at camp, a picnic lunch on the trail, and dinner back at camp. Then, we spend the evening relaxing and, weather permitting, observing celestial objects in the night sky.

*Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks are included.

Day 3: After breakfast, we break camp and hit the trail for a short hike. Following a picnic lunch, we head back to campus. Our estimated time of arrival at UCLA ranges from 4:00pm to 10:00pm, but can be later depending on traffic and other variables outside of our control.

*Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included. Dinner is not included, so we recommend bringing either food or funds to purchase food as needed on the drive home.

*Changes may be made to this itinerary at any time to adapt to weather, traffic, and other factors. Flexibility makes the unpredictability of outdoor trips an enjoyable adventure.

Trip Type and Facilities

Type and Facilities: This trip is a “car-camping” adventure; we make our camp in one of the park’s established campgrounds where our van is parked next to us. Basic restroom-facilities are available in the campground.

Difficulty: This trip is of moderate difficulty. Participants should be able to hike several miles a day, while carrying a small amount of weight in daypacks. We take breaks on the trail and endeavor to hike at a pace that everyone can enjoy.

Weather: The weather in the mountains can change quickly; it has the potential to be stormy (e.g., windy, rainy, snowy) and cold (e.g., below freezing) as well as sunny and hot.