

## **February 25, 2025 Hard Hike – Fernandez Ranch, 10:00 a.m.**

### **Hike Description**

This is a “lollipop” hike of about 4.3 miles and 700 feet elevation gain. We will start at 10 a.m. We start from the parking lot, where there is a rest room (there are no rest rooms along the trail); cross Rodeo Creek and take the Windmill Trail up to the Pinole Valley multi-use Trail where we will turn right. After about 0.6 miles on relative flat fire trail; then we will take the Franklin Ridge Trail for a short way to the Vista Trail which leads us to a Vista Point that will provide us with a great view of the Bay, Mt Tam, Grizzly Peak, Rocky Ridge and Mt. Diablo. We then retrace our steps down Vista Trail and Franklin Ridge Trail before returning to the trailhead by the Woodland and Windmill Trails.

**This link should provide you with our route.**

[Explore SIRs Hard Hike Feb 25 2025 | AllTrails](#)

### **Driving Instructions to the Trailhead:**

This address takes you to the Fernandez Ranch entrance and parking lot: **1081 Christie Road, Martinez, CA 94553. Parking is ample and free.**

### **From Walnut Creek area:**

Head north on Hwy 680 Take exit #53 onto Hwy 4 towards Martinez/Hercules for about 9.5 miles Take the Franklin Canyon Exit #3. Turn left, go under the freeway and merge onto Highway 4 EASTBOUND (yes back towards where you just came from!). In about 1 mile, take the first exit after the Franklin Canyon Golf Course onto Christie Road, the low Fernandez Ranch sign marks the exit for Christie Road.

**Use caution;** Christie Road is a minor exit off of Highway 4. Just after Franklin Canyon Golf Course there is a low sign stating “Fernandez Ranch” on right. The exit is about 50 feet past the sign. It is not well-marked or easy to spot.

Fernandez Ranch parking is 0.7 miles down Christie Road on your right. The road is rough and 15 mph and really a one lane road.

**What to Bring** – Water, appropriate footwear, trekking poles, hat, and sunblock. This is an open area with limited shade. None of the ascents or descents are very steep.

**Optional Lunch** – T’zunun Restaurant, 2618 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill

**Hike Leader** – Mike Spink – [mikespink@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikespink@sbcglobal.net), tel: 317 459 9878.

**Hike Coordinator and Hiker Chairman** – Carl Ludwig, cludwig171@gmail.com, 415.350.7372