



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BICYCLE
COALITION
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Self-Guided Family Fun Rides

Unprotected Bike Lane: **Bluff Creek Drive**

Overview

This flat 3.5 mile ride is meant for beginners who want more experience riding in an unprotected bike lane. This ride has the Playa Vista Library (6400 Playa Vista Dr, LA 90094) as a starting point, heads South to Bluff Creek Drive then heads Northeast alongside the base of the Westchester Bluffs, before meandering Southwest through blocks of business headquarters. When scouted on a Wednesday afternoon, this route had light traffic, probably due to a lot of people working from home that would otherwise be coming in and out of the business park. This route is quick, but provides an opportunity to ride in a bike lane adjacent to a door zone and practice making left turns. This ride ends at Ballona Creek Discovery Park, where a number of interpretive signs and displays provide a great opportunity to relax and learn.

Ride Logistics

Link to self-guided route: <https://izi.travel/browse/ef389e42-0b5a-4a2b-8488-6bf396567214/en>

Link to route only: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/33661602>

Cue sheet:

Leg	Dir	Type	Notes	Total
	←	Left	Turn left onto South Playa Vista Drive	0.0
0.1	→	Slight Right	Turn slight right	0.1
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto West Bluff Creek Drive	0.1
0.8	→	Right	Turn right onto West Bluff Creek Drive	0.9
0.5	→	Right	Turn right onto Campus Center Drive	1.3
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto West Bluff Creek Drive	1.4
0.1	←	Left	Turn left	1.5
0.0	→	Sharp Right	Turn sharp right	1.5
0.0	←	Slight Left	Turn slight left onto West Bluff Creek Drive	1.5
0.2	←	Left	Turn left onto Artisan Street	1.8
0.1	←	Left	Turn left onto Waterfront Drive	1.9
0.3	→	Slight Right	Turn slight right onto Waterfront Drive	2.2

0.1	→	Right	Turn right	2.3
0.0	←	Left	Turn left	2.3
0.1	←	Left	Turn left onto Fielding Circle	2.3
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto West Millennium Drive	2.3
0.2	←	Left	Turn left	2.6
0.0	→	Right	Turn right	2.6
0.2	→	Right	Turn right onto Village Drive	2.7
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto West Millennium Drive	2.7
0.2	←	Left	Turn left	2.9
0.0	←	Left	Turn left	3.0
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto McConnell Avenue	3.0
0.1	→	Right	Turn right onto West Bluff Creek Drive	3.0
0.2	←	Left	Turn left onto Dawn Creek	3.2
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto West Bluff Creek Drive	3.2
0.2	→	Right	Turn right onto South Para Way	3.4
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto West Bluff Creek Drive	3.4

Playa Vista Library

This is the reference point for the beginning of this ride. There's plenty of street parking around here.

Some things to note before taking off: You'll be using the bike lane on Playa Vista Drive to make your way South toward Bluff Creek Drive and then make a left. Here is where you will have to make your first bike safety decision - do you want to transition out of the bike lane to get into the left lane or do you want to make a box turn left?

Use [this resource by Pure Cycles](#) to learn more about the different ways to make a left turn on a bike and decide which one is right for you and your family:

<https://www.purecycles.com/blogs/bicycle-news/96211079-traffic-school-how-to-make-a-left-turn>

Westchester Bluffs

The Bluff Creek Drive bike lane rides alongside parked cars for most of it. Be aware of passengers and drivers getting in and out of their cars. Ride on the leftmost side of the bike lane, as far away from the door zone as possible. The door zone is the area a vehicle door takes up when opened. It is a cause of many bike accidents and can be avoided by being alert, staying out of that zone, and making others aware of your presence. This can be a good opportunity for you and your family to use your bicycle bells - make yourself heard!



When a bike lane is in the door zone, it's best to ride in the leftmost section of the lane. The photo above shows what NOT to do, as you can see the rider gets blocked by that open door.

The Bluff Creek Drive bike lane runs alongside the Westchester Bluffs. In 2008, a ceremony was held on these bluffs to honor and lay to rest the remains of indigenous people that were found during construction development on this site.



Another Left Turn

At South Artisan's Way we come up on another left turn and another opportunity to choose between different left-turning methods. Which one will you choose?

Left Turn Alert!

Make a left onto McConnell Avenue.

Remember to use your arms to signal your turns!

Right Turn Coming Up

For this upcoming right turn onto Bluff Creek Drive, transition out of the bike lane and get into the right turning lane. If you were to stay in the bike lane as you make a right, you run the risk of colliding with cars making a right turn in the right turn only lane.

As with any lane transitions or turns, make sure to scan behind and ahead of you for any oncoming vehicles, bikes or people.

This is one way to signal a right turn. You can also signal by extending your right arm horizontally.



Our Last Left Turn -> Ballona Discovery Park



At Bluff Creek Drive and Playa Vista Drive, make a last left turn/u-turn to end in front of Ballona Discovery Park.

This is the end of our 3.5 mile route. From here you can head back home, but taking some time to walk through and discover what Ballona Discovery Park has to offer is definitely worth it. There are a variety of interpretive signs, displays and opportunities to relax. There isn't any bike parking I could see, so your best bet would be to lock up at one of the parking signs.

