



# *Self-Guided Family Fun Rides*

Know Your Place:

## **Tujunga Wash & The Great Wall of Los Angeles**

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### Overview

Mountains, murals & streambeds: the San Fernando Valley is full of lively places to ride. This **6.2 mile route starts at the Van Nuys Orange Line station (6062 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys 91411)** and heads Southeast along the Metro Bikeway before hitting a short stretch of bike lane then heading North along the Tujunga Wash Path for a little less than a mile. **There's minimal elevation gain and it's perfect for beginners and families.**

The Tujunga Wash Path is shared with pedestrians, so it's important to share the road and go slower than you normally would during this section. The stretch of path from Chandler Blvd to Burbank Blvd is made of decomposed granite, so while it's not 100% smooth sailing, road tires should be more than capable of handling this part. However, beware of sections where the irrigation is out of control, where you might have to bypass a few puddles by riding on the lawn.

From Burbank to Oxnard, the path turns to asphalt, but be forewarned - tree roots have made their way into the path so this is a good opportunity to practice your awareness, dodging and maneuvering skills (while still being nowhere near traffic). This stretch of path also hosts The Great Wall of Los Angeles - a mural that's half a mile long and captures the history of California through the eyes of many different groups of people that make up that history.

North of Oxnard Blvd, the path is smooth pavement for a very short stretch before turning into a gravel walking path. This route may be manageable for some with gravel tires, but this is where our bike route officially ends. While here, we'd like to invite you to dismount and walk your bike further North up along the gravel path. You'll pass a decorative fence and there you'll find a native plant garden to admire and explore.

From there you can go back the way you came or head South to Burbank and make a right to try out the bike lane before reconnecting to the Metro Bikeway at Fulton Ave, then making a right to head back to Van Nuys Blvd.

### Ride Logistics

Link to self-guided route: <https://izi.travel/browse/4e80302d-4df5-47a8-b342-fbf005909fed/en>

Link to route only: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/33402448>

Cue sheet:

Leg	Dir	Type	Notes	Total
	←	Left	Turn left onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	0.0
1.1	↑	Straight	Continue onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	1.1
0.0	→	Slight Right	Keep right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	1.1
0.6	→	Sharp Right	Turn sharp right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	1.7
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	1.7
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	1.8
0.5	←	Left	Turn left onto Chandler Boulevard	2.2
0.0	↑	Straight	Continue onto Chandler Boulevard	2.2
0.1	→	Right	Turn right onto Coldwater Canyon Avenue	2.4
0.0	←	Left	Turn left	2.4
0.0	←	Left	Turn left	2.4
0.0	→	Right	Turn right	2.4
0.2	←	Slight Left	Keep left	2.7
0.0	←	Sharp Left	Turn sharp left onto Burbank Boulevard	2.7
0.0	→	Sharp Right	Turn sharp right	2.7
0.0	←	Slight Left	Turn slight left onto Tujunga Wash Bike Path	2.7
0.5	←	Slight Left	Turn slight left onto Tujunga Wash Path	3.2
0.0	→	Slight Right	Turn slight right onto Tujunga Wash Path	3.2
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto Tujunga Wash Path	3.2
0.2	→	Right	Turn right onto Tujunga Wash Path	3.4
0.0	→	Slight Right	Turn slight right onto Tujunga Wash Bike Path	3.4
0.5	→	Right	Turn right	3.9
0.0	←	Left	Turn left	3.9
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto Burbank Boulevard	3.9
0.5	→	Right	Turn right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	4.4
0.0	←	Left	Turn left onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	4.4
0.0	→	Right	Turn right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	4.4
0.6	↑	Straight	Continue onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	5.1
0.9	→	Slight Right	Keep right onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	5.9
0.2	←	Sharp Left	Turn sharp left onto Metro Orange Line Bikeway	6.1

# Ground Yourself

Time to Ground Yourself: Take a look around and observe where you are. What do you see, hear and smell? How far can your eyes see in all directions?

Take some time and see if you can find the Toyota and Chevy dealerships. Once you have found them take a look past them and alllll the way up the street. Do you see those mountains? Those are what we call the Santa Monica Mountains, specifically the areas of Beverly Glen, Bel Air and Holmby Hills. The Santa Monica mountains parallel the Pacific Ocean and extend from Point Mugu in Ventura County all the way to Griffith Park.

Take a few minutes to look at your phone's map to see if you can find the Santa Monica mountains on the map. Based on where you're standing, are those mountains to the North, East, West, or South?

Our route is going to take us East for a mile before transitioning into a Southeast direction.

## Tujunga Wash Path Begins



This is where the shared path begins - make sure to give right of way to pedestrians and go a little slower than you normally would. This section of path provides a route away from traffic, but not without its drawbacks. Puddles and tree roots are part of the deal, so make sure to proceed with some caution.

When you get to Burbank Blvd, cross the street towards the North, then cross the street again towards the West. Head North along the sidewalk before reconnecting to the rest of the Tujunga Wash Path. There are two sides to the path here, one on the West side of the stream and one on the East. Let's stay on the East side of the path in order to get a full view of The Great Wall of Los Angeles. Stay aware for broken and bumpy asphalt along this section of

path.

Time for a slow ride: the mural is a half-mile long and captures the history of California through the eyes of many different groups of people that make up that history. Are there any scenes from the mural that you recognize from any lessons taught in school? Take pictures of scenes that interest you and see if you can find any additional information on them in this [presentation](https://bit.ly/GreatWallPresentation):

<https://bit.ly/GreatWallPresentation>



This is a large presentation, so you may have to wait to check the information once you get back to a strong WIFI connection.

This mural is a community-led art piece that was started in 1978. The mural was designed by Chicana artist and activist Judy Baca and was brought to life by over 400 youth and artists that worked on the project. Visit [this link](#) to read more about The Great Wall and learn about the Social and Public Art Resource Center.

## Tujunga Wash Greenway & Stream Restoration Project



This is where our bike route officially ends, because the gravel makes it so. However, if you dismount and walk a few feet further North, you'll come upon a native garden and an interpretive sign that explains how the Tujunga Wash Greenway & Stream Restoration Project works. The native garden at this site features several plants that indigenous people use for food & ceremony. Can you find an Oak Tree, the California Buckwheat and White Sage plants? Graffiti makes it a little hard to read, but you can learn more about the project and how it works with this [pamphlet](#):  
<https://mrca.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MRCA.TWash-brochure-.pdf>

### Burbank Blvd Bike Lane

To head back, you can continue South along Tujunga Wash Path and follow the same route you took to get here. Alternatively, you can head West along Burbank Blvd and use the bike lane to get to Fulton Ave, where you meet back up with the Metro Bikeway. From there, head North to get back to Van Nuys Orange Line Station.