

El Malpaís

National Conservation Area
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Hiking Trails



Help to protect our natural resources by staying on the designated trails

All mileages listed begin from the BLM Ranger Station located 9 miles south of I-40 on Highway 117.

LA VENTANA NATURAL ARCH:

Directions: Drive south on SR 117 approximately 9 miles. The arch is visible from the road.

Hike Description: This is a relatively easy walk to the base of the arch.

Along the way you will be surrounded by dramatic sandstone cliff formations, piñon and juniper trees along with a variety of shrubs and grasses. At the end of the walk you will

be rewarded with a magnificent view of La Ventana, one of New Mexico's largest natural arches. The trail leading up to the base of the arch is primitive. Please stay on the designated trail in an effort to protect our fragile resources.

Length of Hike: Approximately 1/2 mile round trip.

NARROWS RIM HIKE:

Directions: Drive south on SR 117 for 12.5 miles to the Narrows Picnic Area located 3 miles south of La

Ventana Natural Arch. The trailhead and parking area are located at the southern end of the picnic area.

Hike Description: The trail takes you to the top of a 500 foot sandstone mesa where you will have scenic views of the lava beds and surrounding country. At the end of the trail you will have a great view of La Ventana Natural Arch. This is a designated wilderness area and is not accessible by bicycle.

Length of Hike: Approximately 6 1/2 miles round trip.

ARMIJO CANYON:

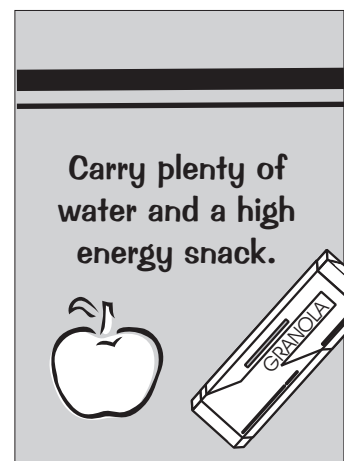
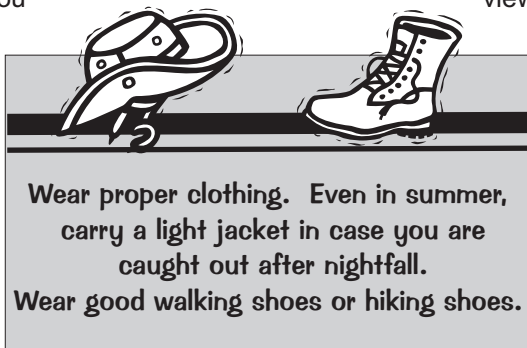
Directions: Drive south on SR 117 for 22.6 miles until you reach CR 41 (otherwise known as "the Pietown road"). Drive south on CR 41 for approximately 3.7 miles until you reach the Armijo Canyon sign, which will be on the east side of the road. Turn left and after approximately a mile and a half you will reach the parking area, this is the trailhead. County road 41 and the road leading

to Armijo Canyon may become impassable when wet, so please keep an eye on the weather.

Hike Description: This is a pleasant hike, but keep in mind that it is very sandy. The trail winds among piñon and juniper trees and will take you to a very nice homestead. This is a designated wilderness area and is not accessible by bicycle.

Length of Hike: Approximately 4 1/2 miles round trip.

Other Notes: The Dittert Site is at the mouth of Armijo Canyon. If you are interested in going to the Dittert Site please check with the BLM Ranger Station on SR 117 to get a brochure and accurate directions.



HOLE- IN-THE-WALL:

Directions: Drive south on SR 117 until you reach CR 42, also known as Chain of Craters Back Country Byway. Turn on this road and proceed northwest for approximately 2.1 miles until you reach a fork in the road, take a right and proceed north for approximately 5 miles to the trailhead. **Please keep an eye on the weather, county road 42 is a dirt road and is impassable when wet.**

Hike Description: This is a wonderful hike for the avid hiker and backpacker. Accessing Hole-in-the-Wall requires hiking several miles across open plains and lava flows. Hole-in-the-Wall is a 6700 acre kipuka that consists of ponderosa pine parklands and open rangeland surrounded by lava. This is a designated wilderness area and is not accessible by bicycle. Please pack in

plenty of water, as there are no reliable water sources in the area.

Length of Hike: Approximately 3 miles to get into Hole-in-the-Wall and as much hiking as you can do from there.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL:

Directions: *From SR 53*, drive southwest on SR 53 to CR 42. Turn south on CR 42 and drive approximately 5 miles until you reach the trailhead. Parking is available at the trailhead. The trail is marked with a rock cairn across the road from the parking area.

From SR 117: Drive south on SR 117 until you reach CR 42. Once on CR 42 it is a 9-mile drive across an open plain to the trailhead. Parking is available at the trailhead and the

trail is marked with a rock cairn adjacent to the parking area.

Hike Description: The trail is clearly marked with cairn markers and wooden posts. The trail winds among the Chain of Craters and passes through piñon, juniper, ponderosa pine and a variety of shrubs and grasses. This is a very pleasant hike. Pack in plenty of water as there are no reliable sources of water in the area. **County road 42 is a dirt road and is impassable when wet, so please keep an eye on the weather.**

Length of Hike: Approximately 20 miles from trailhead to trailhead .

For more information on the Continental Divide Trail please stop by the BLM Ranger Station on SR 117 .

Please practice Leave No Trace camping skills and ethics.

Information regarding Leave No Trace is available at the BLM Ranger Station on SR 117.



*“A thing is right when it tends to preserve
the integrity, stability, and beauty
of the biotic community.
It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”*

– Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

For More Information Contact:

El Malpais National Conservation Area
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 846
Grants, New Mexico 87020
(505) 287-7911
www.nm.blm.gov

Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center
1900 East Santa Fe Avenue
Grants, New Mexico 87020
(505) 876-2783
www.nps.gov/elma