

Cerro Picacho

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: Drive 2.8 miles north from the Cochiti shopping center. Turn right on to FR289. Follow this for approximately 3.4 miles to a hairpin curve where there is a small parking area. From here hike trail 118 into the Dome Wilderness.

Description: Cerro Picacho is one of the tallest peaks in the Dome Wilderness. Slightly further ahead is St. Peter's Dome, which is a bit taller. A fairly dry area. Lots of hiking uphill.

Difficulty: Moderate

Duration: 1 night.

Itinerary: About 2.8 miles into the hike the trail splits. At this point you will go left/north. Not too many flat areas, so you may not sleep well.

Special Considerations: Water only available near trailhead. Pack enough for 24 hours. The last portion of the road is fairly rough, so a 4WD or SUV is recommended.

Noah's Ark

Submitter: Billy Atkins & Lynda Sedillo

Description: Our Troop went to Noah's Ark in Colorado and the boys really enjoyed the trip last month.

Link: <http://www.noahsark.com/backpacking.cfm>

Pecos: 40-miler

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: From the intersection of NM-503 and FR-306 go East on FR-306 to FR-435. Take FR-435 approximately 2 miles to the Rio Quemado Trailhead.

Description: Great 6 day backpacking trip in the Pecos Wilderness. This trip has spectacular sights including a waterfall, an ascent between two of the tallest peaks in NM, hiking a ridgeline that feels like you are on top of the world, and several lakes.

Difficulty: Strenuous. Make sure you are well prepared and all Scouts and leaders are able to handle this before departing. Once you are dropped off, you are committed.

Duration: 6 days, 5 nights.

Itinerary:

- Day 1: RQ Trailhead to RQ Falls (Trail 153)
- Day 2: RQ Falls to Truchas Lakes (Trail 153)
- Day 3: Truchas Lakes to Pecos Baldy Lake (Trail 251)
- Day 4: Pecos Baldy Lake to Horsethief Meadow (Trail 251)
- Day 5: Horsethief Meadow to Stewart Lake (Trail 251)
- Day 6: Stewart Lake to Winsor Creek Trailhead (Trail 121)

Special Considerations: High clearance vehicle required for dropoff. Arrange for pickup at Winsor Creek Trailhead (From Pecos, NM drive north on NM63 to the Cowles campground. Take the forest road that goes west all the way to the end.).

Pecos: Horsethief Meadow

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: From Pecos, NM drive north on NM63 to the Cowles Campground area. Turn left (west) towards the Winsor Creek Trailhead. After a couple hundred yards on this road you will turn right (north) towards the Panchuella Campground. Follow this road to the Panchuela Campground and start hiking.

Description: Horsethief Meadow is a huge, beautiful meadow sitting in the middle of the Pecos Wilderness. The large grassy area is great for playing scout games such as capture the flag. A stream runs through the meadow that has plenty of small fish for catch-and-release fishing.

Difficulty: Easy-Moderate

Itinerary: Take Trail 288 to Trail 251 which will lead to Horsethief Meadow. Return the same way. For a 2 nighter hike the second day to Lake Stewart via Trail 251. Return via the Winsor Creek Trail (271) which will end at the Cowles Trailhead. An additional 1-2 mile hike on pavement will lead back to the Panchuela Campground parking lot.

Duration: 1-2 nights.

Pecos: Lakes Stewart and Katherine

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: From Pecos, NM drive north on NM63 to the Cowles Campground area. Turn left (west) towards the Winsor Creek Trailhead and follow the road to the very end.

Description: The trailhead starting and Winsor Creek gives access to several local lakes. This hike takes you to Lakes Stewart and Katherine. Stewart is a very pretty lake right between the trailhead and Lake Katherine. Lake Katherine is the largest and deepest lake in the Pecos. Both have fish, so bring a pole if you like fishing.

Difficulty: Moderate

Itinerary: Hike west on the Winsor Creek Trail (271) to the intersection with Trail 251. A short distance north on Trail 251 will lead to Lake Stewart where you spend your first night. On day 2 return to the intersection of Trails 271 & 251 and continue west on Trail 251 to Lake Katherine. Return via Trail 251 on day 3. Note that a short distance from the trailhead (Just after you cross Winsor Creek for the first time on day 1) Winsor Creek Trail Splits. The trail on the right is shorter but no longer maintained. It is still easily passable but has a few trees fallen down across the trail.

Duration: 3 days/2 nights

Pecos: Mora Flat

Submitter: Andy Greenwood

Directions to Trailhead: (From looking at the map) Looks like you start at Iron Gate Trailhead then take Trail 249 to Trail 250 to Mora Flat.

See Also: <http://www.explorenm.com/hikes/RioMora/>

Description: Good for a longer hike.

San Lorenzo Canyon

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: See <http://www.explorenm.com/hikes/SanLorenzo/>

Description: Cool looking canyon. Great starter hike.

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: 1 night.

Special Considerations: No water is available. Pack enough for 24 hours.

San Pedro Parks

Submitter: Mark Bastian

Directions to Trailhead: From Cuba, New Mexico take NM 126 East then FR 70 North to the trailhead.

Description: The "Parks" in SPP refers to the many beautiful grassy meadows found throughout this lesser known Wilderness Area. This is a great place to start longer term backpacking trips since the terrain is relatively level.

Difficulty: Easy-Moderate

Duration: 3 days/2 nights.

Sandias

Submitter: Tom Baltes

Description: The Sandias are a great local resource for overnight hikes when you don't have time to drive to the Pecos or other more distant location. You need to take your own water.

Duration: Overnight

Sandias: Embudo Trail

Submitter: Andy Greenwood

Directions to Trailhead: From the Sandia Mountain Wilderness map, the trailhead appears to be at the far east end of Indian School.

Description: Good if you don't have the time to drive far away.

See Also: <http://www.explorenm.com/hikes/TresPistoles/>

Duration: Overnight

Turkey Creek Hot Springs

Submitter: Todd Giles

Here is a backpacking trip I love here in NM (haven't been since moving to ABQ, but have been at least 6 times when I used to live in Las Cruces):

Directions to Trailhead: take US Highway 180 west from Silver City to the junction of NM 211. Turn right onto NM 211 and drive through the town of Gila. When the pavement ends, continue on the dirt road extension over the mountain and down to the Gila River. From the road's end, Turkey Creek is the first canyon to the east that feeds into the Gila River from the north. The hot springs are approximately 5 miles from the road's end--about a mile east along the Gila River, then about 4 more miles up Turkey Creek.

Description: Beautiful canyon with a crystal clear stream and spectacular views that

are very different than most of the Gila Wilderness because of the abundance of deciduous trees. The hot springs flow into the stream and then down a waterfall into a fantastic swimming hole.

Difficulty: Medium with some strenuous stretches. Plan to spend two nights at the hot springs as a reward for making the hike.

Special considerations: You must cross the Gila River three times before you reach the canyon. As you continue hiking after the third crossing you'll find an old homestead with a few run-down buildings and a windmill. The trail heads up the canyon after you pass through the old homestead. Follow the trail along the creek a couple of miles until it starts to go upward to the left toward the ridge at Skeleton Canyon. There you must leave the trail and make your way along the creek to the hot springs (another couple of miles). There are several good campsites about a quarter mile beyond the hot springs.

Whitewater Baldy

Submitter: Jordan Roberts

Location: Trailhead begins about 18 miles east of Glenwood (9 miles east of Mogollon)

Description: Moderate climb in high alpine area (Whitewater baldy is at 10,900 ft). Nice scenic views of Gila.

Distance: about 10 miles roundtrip (Can go further to Mogollon Baldy if you wanted to make it a longer trip. Other options include starting at the Catwalk near Glenwood and hiking up to Red Stone Park, and then on to Whitewater Baldy another day--that would be some serious elevation gain though).

Duration: 1 night

Considerations: Springs for water near trailhead at Bead Spring, and a small spring on the Hummingbird Saddle at the base of Whitewater Baldy.

We were going to backpack up the Middle Fork of the Gila River which has several options for trails and distances ranging from 6-30 miles, fun if you want to be near water in a riparian environment. We just did a day hike and played in the river and some hot springs.

Weminuche Wilderness

Submitter: Tom Baltés

Description: See these links:

<http://www.coloradowilderness.com/wildpages/weminuche.html>

<http://windom.cybox.com/ilana/hike/jagged/index.html>

Alternately, Google the name.

Duration: Longer term hike (requires several hours to drive there).

Additional Resources

On the web:

- ◇ <http://www.explorenm.com/>

Books:

- ◇ **100 Hikes in New Mexico (100 Hikes in) 2nd Edition (Paperback)**
by [Craig Martin](#)
- ◇ **Hiking New Mexico (rev) (Paperback)**
by [Laurence Parent](#)
- ◇ **New Mexico's Wilderness Areas: The Complete Guide (Wilderness Guidebooks) (Paperback)**
by [Bob Julyan](#)

Links:

Hikes in the Sangre De Cristos:

<http://www.sdcmountainworks.com/hiking/backpacking.php>

Some really good hikes can be found on the Lodge 66 OA web site (<http://internet.roadrunner.com/~swede/Lodge66/Trails/>). In particular, check out the Pecos Wilderness and Veredas de las Montanas hike series. You can get patches to go with each of these hikes.

Maps:

Buy maps at the USDA Forest Service office in downtown Albuquerque located on 333 Broadway SE between Lead and Silver. They have high quality maps of all NM Wilderness Areas. Several good maps to get are:

- ◇ Monzano Mountain Wilderness
- ◇ Pecos Wilderness
- ◇ San Pedro Parks Wilderness
- ◇ Sandia Mountain Wilderness