

Welcome to Albuquerque's Wild Backyard!

Visitor Recreation Guide and Map to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains

USDA Forest Service
Cibola National Forest
Sandia Ranger District
www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/districts/sandia.shtml

There are many ways to Spend a Day in the Mountains!

Take a quick ride up the Sandia Peak Tram, then explore the trails and dine at the restaurant on top. Or, drive to Sandia Crest on the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway and stop for a picnic before viewing the spectacular panoramic views from the Crest Observation Deck. If the tram or scenic driving is not for you, there's an **Open Door to Discovery** at every trailhead.

The Sandia and Manzanita Mountains offer opportunities for year-round adventure and enjoyment. Put on your hiking boots, grab your binoculars, strap on the skis, saddle up a horse, pack your lawn chair. This guide will help you plan one day or a whole year of activities in the forest.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: DAN BENSON

General Information

HIKING: Hiking is permitted on the entire district except in special closure areas which are posted to protect wildlife or plants. Entry into the Military Withdrawal Area southwest of the Sandia Ranger Station is not allowed.

CAMPING: There are no family unit camp facilities on Sandia Ranger District. The district does have reservation camping areas for large groups (see Picnic Areas and Group Reservation Campgrounds Table). For Motorized dispersed camping, see the Manzanita Mountain Trail system map. Private Campgrounds: Turquoise Trail - 505-281-2005; Hidden Valley - 281-3363.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING: Backcountry camping is allowed; park at trailheads and hike in; there is no overnight parking in day use areas. During seasons of extreme fire danger, backcountry may be closed.

CAMPFIRES: In developed recreation areas, campfires are only permitted in designated grills and stoves. The District Ranger strongly encourages the use of camp stoves instead of campfires in the Sandias. Discharging a firearm is not allowed on the Sandia Ranger District, except for parts of Tuff Shur Bien Preservation Area (Sandia Pueblo residents can hunt there).

WOODCUTTING: Woodcutting is only allowed by permit and only in a few designated areas. The District Ranger discourages deadwood collection in picnic areas and campgrounds. No Christmas tree cutting is permitted on the district. Contact the Ranger Station for more information.

FIREWORKS: Fireworks are not permitted anywhere on the District at any time.

MOUNTAIN BIKES: Mountain bikes are only allowed on the non-wilderness portions of the Sandias and in all of the Manzanitas. See the mountain bike section of this publication for recommendations.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES: Off highway vehicles are allowed on some roads/trails in the Manzanita Mountains. Obtain the Motor Vehicle Use Map from the Sandia Ranger Station.

For more information about these and other activities, please call the Sandia Ranger Station at 281-3304.

Essential Telephone Numbers

Emergency.....	911	BCSD Tijeras Substation.....	281-3377
Sandia Ranger Station.....	281-3304	Tijeras Fire Department.....	798-7000
Four Seasons Visitor Center.....	943-0384	Sandia Park/San Antonio Fire Department.....	798-7000
at Upper Tram Terminal.....	243-0605	Sandoval County Sheriff's Department (Dispatch).....	867-4588
Crest House Gift Shop.....	248-0190	Albuquerque Police Department.....	242-2677
Sandia Peak Visitor Center.....	854-7325	Albuquerque Open Space Division.....	873-4620
Sandia Peak Tram.....	854-7325	New Mexico State Police.....	624-1101
New Mexico State Police (Bernalillo County & Bexar).....	841-9256	Albuquerque Animal Information (non-emergency).....	311
Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department (BCSD).....	798-7000	NM Road Conditions.....	800-432-4269

Fee Basics

The amenity pass is required in the following areas:

- Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway - also known as the Crest Highway or NM Highway 536 (includes picnic areas, trailheads (where indicated) and Sandia Crest)
- Juan Tabo Basin - includes Juan Tabo and La Cueva picnic areas and La Luz trailhead, except not Pedra Lisa
- Las Huertas Picnic Area

DAILY PASS - \$3.00 per vehicle;
\$10.00 per large capacity or commercial vehicle. Purchase at fee tubes located at recreation sites.

SANDIA ANNUAL PASS - \$30.00
12 month pass covers up to two vehicles per family. Purchase at: Sandia Ranger Station, Cibola National Forest Office and REI.

NATIONAL PASSES - Golden Passports or America the Beautiful (Annual, Senior, Military or Access Passport) are accepted and must be displayed with the expiration date visible.

Your Fees at Work

Fees on the Sandia Ranger District provide picnic and parking area maintenance, interpretation, visitor information, and snow removal from parking lots. Ninety-five percent of the Daily Fees and Sandia Annual Pass income and 80% of the Golden Passport/America the Beautiful sales are returned to the Forest.

Sandia Mountain Wilderness

North of Interstate 40 and outside the developed areas of the National Forest lies an area set aside by Congress in 1978 to recognize and preserve its unique character - the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. Remarkably, trailheads leading into this area of primitive tranquility can be found along the eastern city limits of Albuquerque, so you can experience this place no matter how brief your visit. By law, a wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions. To help achieve this, motorized and mechanical equipment, such as bicycles (including mountain bikes), hang-gliders, chainaws or ATVs, are prohibited in Wilderness. Wilderness boundaries are shown on maps and are marked on trails. More details about this area are available at the Sandia Ranger Station.

Search and Rescue in the Sandia Ranger District

Search and rescue (SAR) missions in the area of New Mexico are initiated by a call to the local State Police District Office. For missions in the Sandia Ranger District, the State Police number is 841-9256. Several volunteer SAR teams are located in the Albuquerque area with skills ranging from highly trained search dogs to technical rock evacuation.

Visitor Centers Help You Plan a Great Trip

For forest information, trip planning, fire safety information, maps and books, take time to stop in at a Forest Service visitor center.

SANDIA RANGER STATION:
The Ranger Station is open weekdays year-round; services include information, maps, bookstores and exhibits.
Call 281-3304 for hours of operation.
Location: Take I-40 east of Albuquerque to Exit 175, then 1/2-mile south of I-40 on State Highway 537.

FOUR SEASONS VISITOR CENTER:
This mountaintop visitor center is staffed by Forest Service volunteers during the busy summer and fall seasons. Talks and guided walks are offered in the summer 505-943-0384.
Location: The upper terminal of the Sandia Peak Tram.
Hours: Staffed 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Memorial Day Weekend through Balloon Fiesta.
Wild panel exhibits are displayed year-round, although the Tram is closed for maintenance Tuesdays during the winter season and has annual week-long closings for major maintenance in the fall and spring (Sandia Peak Tram: 505-856-7325).

SANDIA CREST HOUSE VISITOR CENTER:
Staffed daily during summer season. Talks are offered during the busy season, (505-248-0190) Location: Sandia Crest, at the end of the Crest Highway, inside the Crest House Gift Shop.
Hours: Staffed daily, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm, Memorial Weekend through Labor Day and daily during Balloon Fiesta.

Sandia Crest Trails Map
www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/districts/sandia.shtml
FSE DOCUMENTS (Sept 553797.pdf)

Design and Production: Janelle Harden / THE STUDIO, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Map Creation: Mike Brown / LISTS
Printing: Starline Printing, Albuquerque, N.M.

Watch the Weather

Visitors to the Sandia Mountains enjoy ample sunshine and moderate temperatures most of the year. However, extreme weather can occur year-round, particularly between June and September, when afternoon thunderstorms often develop. During these storms temperatures drop rapidly, bringing hail and snow even during the summer months. The amount of rainfall on the mountain varies widely by location, ranging from 30 inches of precipitation on top of the mountain to about 12 inches on the west side.

Soil moisture is critical to the forest. In the Sandia Mountains, the soil can be over 100 inches. Generally temperatures drop 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit for each thousand feet of altitude gain. On a hot summer day of 85 degrees in Albuquerque, the temperature on Sandia Crest can be 20 to 25 degrees cooler.

Weather on the mountain is difficult to forecast. It can change rapidly and differ depending on location. Before you go into the Sandias, review the Albuquerque weather forecast. Additional information and maps can be obtained at the Sandia Ranger Station, call 505-248-0190, for the current weather on the crest.

Hypothermia, the critical lowering of body core temperature, can affect an unprepared hiker even during the summer. Always take food, fluids, warm clothing, and rain gear. Be prepared for unexpected weather changes.

Hawkwatch Site

Each fall during hawk and other raptor migration, Hawkwatch International has observers at a nearby mountain site. These experts are counting raptors, banding them for research, and can help you learn how to identify these birds in flight.

During September and October, observers work in the Manzanita Mountains about 40 miles south of the Sandia Ranger Station.

Visit www.hawkwatch.org for more information.

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

The Friends of the Sandia Mountains is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of local volunteers dedicated to working in partnership with the United States Forest Service and other groups and individuals to maintain, protect and restore the natural, cultural and scenic resources of forest lands for the enjoyment and use by present and future generations. Our activities focus on conservation and education within the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest and adjacent lands. Typical projects include painting, repairing signs and trail maintenance. We recently co-published the Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains and this Recreation Guide for the Sandia Ranger District. Our members manage the Adopt-A-Trail Program, coordinate yearly trail maintenance with more than 28 community partners, and administer the Junior Ranger Program. Our monthly meetings include a lecture series on outdoor topics and are open to the public. Additional information and maps can be obtained at the Sandia Ranger Station, the visitor centers at the top of the Tram and at Sandia Crest, or from the Friends at P.O. Box 1832, Tijeras, NM 87059, and on our web site www.friendedofthesandia.org.

Friends of Tijeras Pueblo

Friends of Tijeras Pueblo works in partnership with the Sandia Ranger District to maintain and support the Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site (located behind Sandia Ranger Station) and other cultural resources on the Sandia Ranger District. A major function of the Friends is to develop educational programs and provide facilities where visitors can learn about archaeology and ancestral pueblo culture. A pueblo-style interpretive Center, adjacent to the site, was constructed by volunteers to house hands-on exhibits, display selected artifacts, and provide space for learning and research projects. Other activities include guided tours of the pueblo site, a monthly lecture series, workshops, summer "star parties," and Junior Archaeologist program. Additional information is available at the Sandia Ranger Station, or from the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, P.O. Box 196, Tijeras, NM 87059, or on their web site, www.friendedoftijeraspueblo.org.

World Class Adventure Sports

Learn more about opportunities for these adventure sports in the Sandias:

Hang Gliding and Paragliding:
Pilot launch from two sites on the Crest into what is fondly known as Sandia's "Big Air." The longest recorded flight from Sandia is 242 miles! For more info visit the Sandia Soaring Association at www.flysandia.org and www.friendedofthesandia.org.

Rock Climbing and Bouldering:
There's bouldering on the west side foothills and high technical climbing on Morilla Grande and other major formations. Learn the ropes, then enjoy wild solitude and challenge. For more information check out Mick Schein's "Sandia Rock" available at REI and Stone Age Climbing Gym, or visit: www.climbinnewmex.com, www.nmmountainclub.com, and www.friendedofthesandia.org.

Find It in the Field Guide

This outstanding guide book, co-published by the University of New Mexico Press and the Friends of the Sandia Mountains in cooperation with the Sandia Ranger District, provides an overview of the diverse natural features of the Sandias. It is an essential companion to hikers, nature lovers and other visitors who are enchanted by Albuquerque's defining natural resource. There are sections on geology, history, flora (flowers, trees, grasses), fauna (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects), recreational opportunities and more. Rather than being exhaustive on every subject, it offers the most commonly encountered species in each category - presenting information on just over 100 wildflowers, for example, instead of the approximately 500 that can be found. The guide was written by experts in their fields from Forest Service volunteers, the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque Academy and local science writers. In all, 23 contributors volunteered their time to write this volume, and scores of others reviewed each section and edited the entire work. It is available at bookstores, the Crest House, and the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers support the Forest Service through a variety of activities throughout the Sandia Ranger District such as building and maintaining trails, removing hazard trees, and repairing facilities in picnic areas and at trailheads.

Also volunteers staff the visitor centers at Sandia Crest and Upper Tram Terminal. They answer questions, guide nature walks and give short informative talks. They also hike between the visitor centers and answer questions.

This program is offered from Memorial Day to mid-October. The Friends of the Sandia Mountains and the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo with other organizations work closely with the Sandia Ranger District on a variety of projects described elsewhere in this publication.

A variety of other volunteer activities and opportunities are available throughout the year. Smokeless Bear volunteers visit schools. Other volunteers guide wildflower and bird watching walks, assist with star gazing events, assist at the Ranger Station Front Desk, and perform other administrative assistant functions. Call 281-3304 to get involved in one or more of these activities.

Kids! Become a Junior Ranger!

Have fun and learn about nature!

Kids age 5 to 12 walk a nature trail at the Four Seasons Visitors Center, complete a worksheet and earn a pin and badge.

Other Junior Ranger programs are offered at the Crest Visitor Center, Tijeras Pueblo and other sites.

Call or visit the ranger station in Tijeras for information.

Western Foothills of the Sandia Mountains

All of the trailheads provide access to the foothills trails complex and the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. The Elsie Galligan Picnic Area in Albert G. Simms Park is the main Open Space entry point and provides picnic shelters and restrooms. The parking fee is \$1.00 on weekdays and \$2.00 on weekends. Other trailhead entry points to the south are Michal M. Emery (end of Spain Road NE), Embudo (end of Trail Head Road NE), Piedra Lisa (Camino de la Sierra NE), Embudo (end of Indian School Road NE) and Copper level of Copperhead (near NE). These trailheads have no facilities and no parking fee. North of Simms Park, parking and trailheads are located at the Lower Tram Terminal (\$2.00 daily and \$20.00 yearly parking fee), and La Cueva and Juan Tabo Picnic Areas and La Luz Trailhead. These three Forest Service facilities require a \$3.00 amenity fee, the Sandia District Annual Pass, Golden Passports, or the America the Beautiful Pass (Annual, Senior, Military or Access Pass). Check www.cabq.gov/openpace for more information.

Friends of the Sandia Mountains Membership Form To Order a Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains

For a Friends membership, complete the form below, include a check for the correct amount, and mail to FOSM, PO Box 1832, Tijeras, NM 87059.

Go online to unmpress.com to order a Field Guide.

Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains:

\$24.95 plus shipping

Friends Membership Categories:

	Name	
\$15	Individual	Address
\$20	Family	
\$30	Sustaining	
\$50	Sponsor	
\$100	Benefactor	Email Address
\$250	Life Sponsor	
\$	Donation Only	Telephone Number

Sandia Peak Tramway

No visit to the Sandia is complete without experiencing a journey to the top of the mountain aboard the Sandia Peak Tram, the world's longest aerial tramway extending 2.7 miles. For schedules and rates call 854-7325 or access their web site at www.sandiapeak.com.

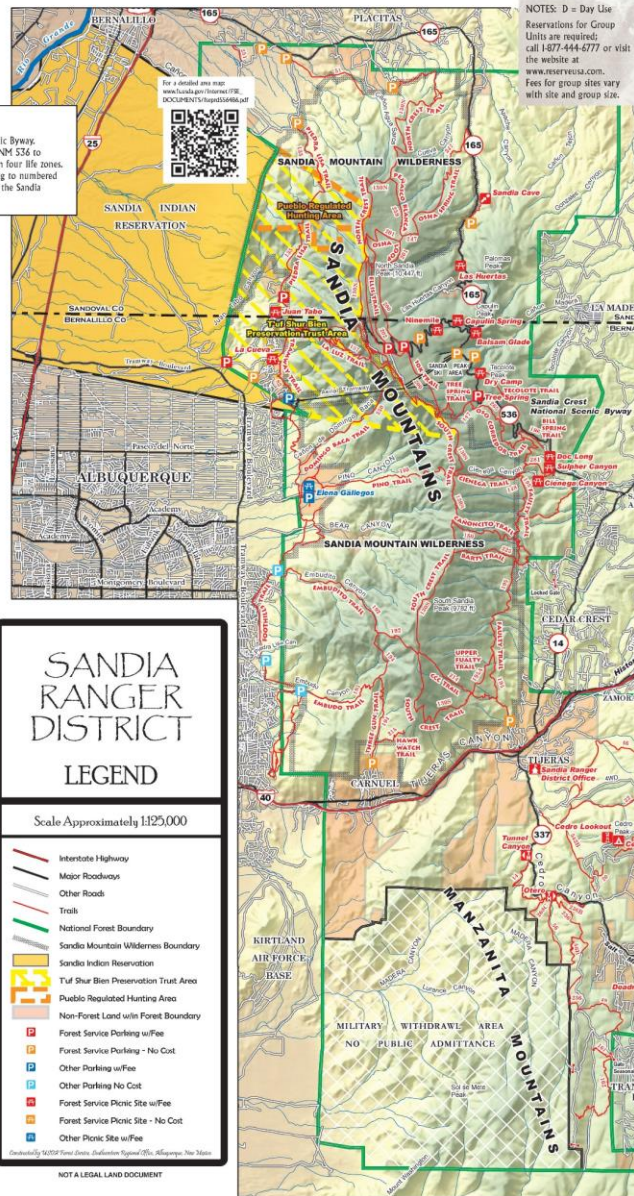


PHOTO: DON CARPICO

Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway

The Cent Highway (NM 538) is a spur of the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway. A tour of the Byway takes you 13.6 miles from the intersection of NM 14 and NM 536 to Sandia Crest at 10,478 feet. You will gain 384 feet in elevation and pass through four life zones. Along this highway you will see Scenic Byway signs with numbers corresponding to numbered points of interest in the Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway Guide available at the Sandia Ranger Station and at the Crest House Gift Shop at Sandia Crest.

Sandia and Manzanita Mountains



PICNIC AREAS AND GROUP RESERVATION CAMPGROUNDS

Site Name	Elevation (feet)	Family Units	Group Units	Season of Use	Stay Limit	Trailhead	Restrooms	Barbecue/Free Access	Fee Site	Group Reservations	Group Camping	Food Service	Viewing Area	Nature Trail	Barrel Signs
Tunnel Spring	6,400			All Year	D X	X	X								
Juan Tabo	6,800	22	1	All Year	D X	X	X	X	X						
La Cueva	7,600	36	1	All Year	D X	X	X	X	X						
Las Huertas	8,600	34	1	Mar-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Canilán	8,800	33	1	May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Sandia Crest	10,478			All Year	D	X	X	X	X					X X X	
Ellis	10,240			All Year	D	X	X	X	X						
Nine Mile	9,200	13	1	May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Balsam Glade	8,800	19	1	May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Dry Camp	8,640			All Year	D	X									
Tree Spring	8,480			All Year	D	X	X	X	X						
Doc Long	7,360	25	2	May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Sulphur Canyon	7,280	37		May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						
Cienega Canyon	7,600	72	1	May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X					X X	
Canyon Estates	6,550			All Year	D	X									
Cedro Peak	7,800	2		May-Oct	H X	X									
Pine Flat	7,200	30	2	May-Nov	D	X	X	X	X						
Oak Flat	7,500	6		May-Oct	D	X	X	X	X						

Trails That Tell a Story

Learn more about Sandia Mountain life zones by visiting these self-guided nature trails.
TIJERAS FUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE - The interpretive trail begins behind the Sandia Ranger Station. Illustrated signs and scale models bring this 15th-century ancestral pueblo to life.
CEDEO CREEK - Pick up the brochure for this trail at Sandia Ranger Station and follow the numbered signposts. This one-mile trail is located at the Otero Canyon Trailhead three miles south of the Ranger Station in the Manzanita Mountains and focuses on Cedro Creek riparian habitat.
CENEGA NATURE TRAIL - Located in the Cienega Picnic Area, this short trail has illustrated signs in addition to braille for the visually impaired and a paved walkway for visually or mobility impaired visitors. Learn about the ponderosa pine and meadow ecosystems. A small stream runs through the meadow.
BALSAM GLADE - This trail begins at Balsam Glade Picnic Area and leads to an overlook at La Madera Canyon. Learn about plants and animals that make their home in the mixed-conifer life zone.
SANDIA PEAK UPPER TRAM TERMINAL - This 3/4-mile loop trail is north of the restaurant. Illustrated signs introduce the sub-alpine forest ecosystem. In summer, guided tours are available.
SANDIA CREST - This 3/4-mile loop trail begins south of the Crest House. It offers spectacular views of the Rio Grande valley and takes visitors into the subalpine forest. Illustrated signs are provided along the trail.

NORTH SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT TRAILS

Difficulty	Trail Number	Trail Name	Length (miles)	Elevation Change (ft)
Easy	196	Bill Spring	0.7	320
	365	Foothills	1.0	800
	265	Ojo Corridor	2.7	701
	72	Sandia Crest	0.5	84
	28	Sulphur Canyon	0.4	200
Moderate	148	Cienega	2.2	1,659
	202	Ellis	2.7	630
	195	Faunty	9.0	808
	200	SIR	4.9	572
	201	Ocho Loop	2.7	246
	259	Penzance Blanca	1.6	520
	31	Santa Mina	1.8	380
	164	Tecolote	1.2	180
	194	Three Gun	4.0	2,133
	82	Tramway	2.6	929
	147	Tree Spring	2.0	1,039
	195A	Upper Faunty	1.3	48
Difficult	225	Bart's	2.1	1,879
	150	Canemito	3.1	1,935
	84	Crest Spur	0.6	507
	192	Embudo	5.6	3,039
	193	Embudo	5.6	1,749
	215	Hawk Watch	1.2	930
	137	La Luz	7.7	3,775
	192N	North Crest	0.4	488
	247	Ocho Spring	4.5	2,708
	105	Piedra Lisa	5.8	2,099
	140	Pino	4.7	2,798
	100K	South Crest	16.0	4,098

www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsepd574112.pdf

NOTES: For more details on trails in the Sandias, see the "Sandia Mountain Hiking Guide" by Mike Coltrin and the Sandia Ranger District Map, both available at the Sandia Ranger District Station.

Popular Short Hikes

(One-way distances are given)

S. Crest Trail 130 from Sandia Crest to Upper Terminal, 1.75 miles, 300-ft elevation change, views of Albuquerque and northern NM.
S. Crest Trail 130 and **Trail 94** from Sandia Crest to Kwanis Cabin, 1.5 miles, 200-ft ascent, with views of Kwanis Meadow and Rio Grande Valley.
N. Crest Trail 130 from Sandia Crest to Del Agua Overlook, 2 miles, 640-ft descent, views of the north Rio Grande valley and Jemez Mountains.
Tree Spring Trail 147 to Overlook, 2 miles, 1020-ft ascent, views of Albuquerque.
Bill Spring Trail 196 from Doc Long Picnic Area to Faunty Trail 195, 0.7 mile, 320-ft ascent, see Albert's quail.
Sulphur Canyon Trail 281 to Faunty Trail 195, 0.4 mile, 200-ft ascent, hike through mixed conifer forest.
Cienega Canyon Trail 148 to Faunty Trail 195, 0.5 mile, 240-ft ascent, hike along creek.
3-mile to 5-mile loops may be hiked by combining these picnic area trails with return trails parallel to the roads.
Embudo Trail 193 to water fall at canyon mouth, 1 mile, 320-ft ascent, western Sandia foothills.
S. Crest Trail 130 from Canyon Estates to Travertine Falls, 0.5 mile, 260-ft ascent, see calcium carbonate deposits on rocks.
La Luz Trail 137 to Tran Trail 182 junction, 1 mile, 360-ft ascent, views of Juan Tabo Basin.
La Luz Trail 137 to Overlook, 3 miles, 160-ft ascent, views of La Cueva Canyon.
Tramway Trail 82 from Lower Tram Terminal to La Luz Trail 137 junction, 2.5 miles, 840-ft ascent, hike along escarpment of Sandias.
S. Piedra Lisa Trail 135 to Blacon Ridge, 2 miles, 1230-ft ascent, views of Shield to east.

Mountain Bike Trails

Mountain bike trails in the Sandia Ranger District are found in numerous areas of the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains. Below are short descriptions of major trails accessible from Albuquerque city streets or state highways. Trailheads are referenced to locations on the Sandia Ranger District map. Mountain biking is not allowed in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. Visit mba.com or friendsofthesandias.org for more information.

NM 337 SOUTH OF TIJERAS:

(Distances are from the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras.)
CHAMISO CANYON - 0.7 mile to Chamiso Road. Park in lots just east of highway. To access Cedro Peak area trails, ride up Chamiso Road about 50-75 yards and take the well-defined trail on the right or continue east on Chamiso Road.
TUNNEL CANYON - 2 miles to trailhead parking on right. Follow trail up to saddle and continue straight to access Otero Canyon or turn right on Westridge Tr. 05268. Do not cross the military withdrawal boundary. Area is patrolled by military police.
OTERO CANYON - 3.2 miles to trailhead parking on right. Ride up canyon and turn around at military withdrawal boundary. Or, about 3/4 mile up Chero Canyon, ride either Granary Tr. 05057 on the left or Westridge Tr. 05268 on the right.
PINE FLATS PICNIC AREA - 6 miles to Pine Flats Picnic Area on left. Trailhead is at far south end of picnic area.

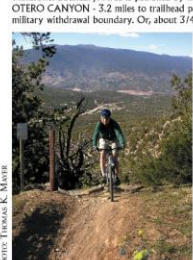


PHOTO: THOMAS K. MAYER

The Manzanita Mtns. Trail Map is available at the Sandia Ranger Station or online at www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsepd555098.pdf.
SANDIA MOUNTAINS EASTERN SLOPES - **ALONG NM 536**: SANDIA PEAK SKI AREA BIKE TRAILS - Chairlift usually opens to bikes on Memorial Day weekend. If the chair is not running, you can always ride your bike to the top.
OTHER TRAILS - You may want to ride Ojo Corridor, IOK to Ellis, and Learn from Bart's to Bill Spring.

SANDIA MOUNTAINS WESTERN FOOTHILLS ADJACENT TO ALBUQUERQUE **SOUTH FOOTHILLS TRAILS** - Trailheads at east end of Manzanita Indian School and Cooper Streets. Embudo Trailhead parking lot, Michael M. Emery Trailhead at east end of Spain Street, and Elena Gallegos Picnic Area at the end of Albert G. Simms Park Road.

PLACITAS AREA TRAILS - NORTH END OF THE SANDIAS: I-25 NORTH OF ALBUQUERQUE TO NM 165 EAST THREE MILES TO THE TRAILHEAD ON THE RIGHT. The Placitas Area Trail System Map is available at: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsepd556486.pdf

Horse and Mule Trails

Horses and mules may be ridden on most hiking trails and forest roads on the Sandia Ranger District. Expect to meet bikers, mountain bikers, and other users. Below is information about trails accessible from roads in all parts of the ranger district. Trailheads are referenced to locations on the Sandia Ranger District map.
NM 337 south of Tijeras provides access to the Cedro Peak and David Canyon areas. Some trailheads in these areas are Chamiso Road, Cedro Group Campground, and Mars Court near David Canyon. The Manzanita Mtns. Trail Map is available at the Sandia Ranger Station or online at www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsepd555098.pdf.
Side roads south of NM 165 between I-25 North and Placitas provide access to the following trailheads: Strip Mine Trail St, Piedra Lisa North Trail 135, and Tunnel Spring Trailhead.
Check www.BCHNM.org and www.friendsofthesandias.org for more information.
Side roads north of NM 333 (Old US 66) permit access to Three Gun Spring Trail 94 (north of the Monticello subdivision) and South Crest Trail 130 and Faunty Trail 195 (north of Canyon Estates subdivision). The Longview Trailhead access is provided by Five Hills Road which is south of NM 333 and east of the I-40 Zuñiz Exit.
Follow the Sandia Crest Scenic Byway (NM 536) to the following trailheads which provide access to numerous trails on the east side of the mountains: Cienega Horse Bypass Trailhead, Doc Long Picnic Area, Barro Canyon and North Mystery Trails, Tree Spring Trailhead, IOK Trailhead, Ellis Trailhead, and Sandia Crest Parking Lot.
Trailheads in the Sandia Mountains western foothills adjacent to Albuquerque are Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and Piedra Lisa South



PHOTO: CARLA WAGEL

Recreation Areas in the Manzanita Mountains

The Cedro Peak area and Tunnel, Otero and David Canyon areas extend about 8 miles south of the Ranger Station along NM 337. The Cedro Peak area east of the highway has opportunities for all types of users. A Free Motor Vehicle Use Map showing designated roads and trails for registered off highway vehicles (OHVs), including motorcycles, is available at the Sandia Ranger Station and the Chola National Forest Supervisor's Office. All OHV users should obtain the Motor Vehicle Use Map to ensure respectful, safe and appropriate use of the area. Motorized recreationists are likely to encounter non-motorized users (mountain bikers, horseback riders and hikers). Be considerate of others using roads and trails. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horseback riders. The Tunnel, Otero, and David Canyon areas west of NM 337 extend from two to



PHOTO: MARY VOLKMER

eight miles south of the Sandia Ranger Station. These recreation areas within the Military Withdrawal Area on the west that is patrolled by Military Police. Intrusions into that restricted area will result in a citation. The Cedro Creek Interpretive Trail begins at the Otero Canyon Trailhead and includes signs coordinated with a brochure identifying the flora, fauna and geology.
The Pine Flat Picnic Area and **Oak Flat Picnic Area** are east of NM 337 approximately seven miles south of the Ranger Station. Cedro Campground and Oak Flat Picnic Area are Group Reservation Areas only. The Manzanita Mtns. Trail Map is available at the Sandia Ranger Station or online at www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsepd555098.pdf

Visitor Recreation Guide and Map