



FINDING THE US FOREST SERVICE TRAILHEADS:

For all trailheads, go south on Diamond over the high bridge and follow the road to the security gate (signs point the way to the ski area and the Valles Caldera National Preserve). Stop at the checkpoint and follow the instructions of the security officer. Then continue straight on NM501.

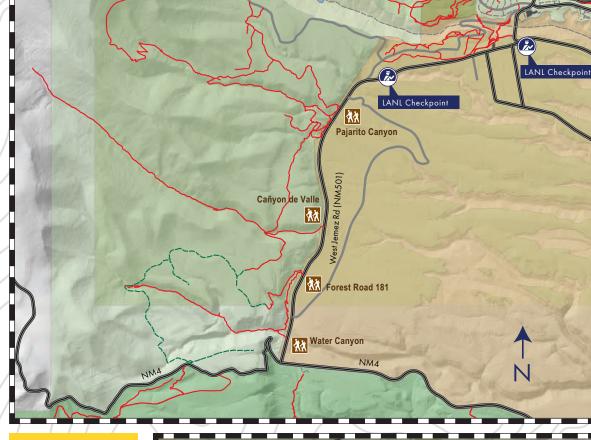
Water Canyon: Continue 4.3 miles to a parking area on the right just past the guardrail.

Forest Road 181: Continue 3.5 miles to parking area along the road on the right.

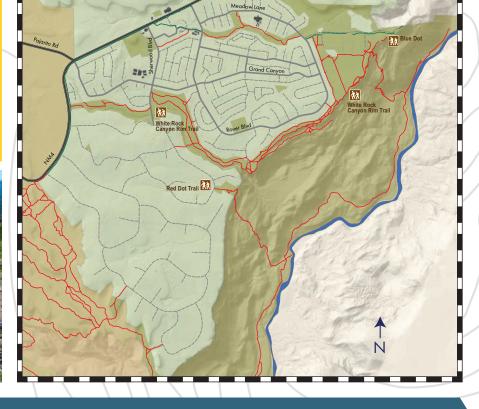
Cañon de Valle: Continue 2.5 miles to a dirt road leading to a parking area on the right.

Pajarito Canyon: Continue 1.9 miles to a dirt road leading to a parking area on the right,

Cañada Bonita: Continue 1.2 miles to Camp May Road to the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area. Turn right to head toward the ski area. Continue 4.2 miles to the end of the ski area parking lot.



STAY ON THE
CORRECT TRAIL BY
FOLLOWING
LOS ALAMOS
COUNTY TRAIL
NETWORK TRAIL
MARKERS



GREAT TRAILS: HIKING

Quemazon Nature Trail, Quemazon Trailhead, 1.8 mile roundtrip, moderate: An introduction to post-Cerro Grande fire recovery. Head uphill on the road toward the water tanks. Just before the green gate, turn left onto the nature trail and follow the numbered signposts. In about a mile, the trail swings right and intersects the Quemazon Trail. Turn right to return to the trailhead

Acid Canyon, Kinnikinnik Park Trailhead, 1 mile roundtrip, easy: A quiet, shady walk in the heart of Los Alamos. From the trailhead kiosk, head down the slope. Angle right and follow the historic switchbacks on the Ranch School Trail. In a few hundred feet, bear right and descend a series of log stairs. Cross a stream channel and angle left onto the Acid Canyon Trail. Cross a small bridge, then swing right. In a few minutes, turn left and follow the wide road as it heads up canyon. Follow the road back to the trailhead.

North Bayo Bench, Bayo Canyon Trailhead, 2.6 miles, easy: A canyon exploration that ends with a view. From the parking area, head east into the pine forest. Immediately take the left fork and travel to the north side of Bayo Canyon. In 0.4 mile, drop to the bench level between two cliffs. Follow the trail on the bench. At mile 1.2, bear right to reach a viewpoint of Bayo Canyon. Return by the same route.

Deer Trap Mesa, Deer Trap Trailhead, 3.6 miles, easy: A mesa top ramble with continual spectacular views. Head east, soon dropping on an ancient stairway to the left (north) side of the mesa. In a minute, regain the mesatop and continue, taking the left fork at mile 0.6. At the north mesa point, turn right and follow the loop trail to the south point. Return via the South Arm Trail.

Mitchell Trail, Mitchell Trailhead, 2 miles or 5.2 miles, easy or strenuous: A fascinating look at a recovering watershed with the option of a rugged ascent to a ridge with 360 degree views. Head up the trail from the information kiosk. Cross the Perimeter Trail and angle left to begin paralleling Rendija Canyon. At 0.3 mile, cross the stream channel and in a few yards turn left and follow the rock cairns up the ridge. Climb to great views on tight switchbacks, traverse along the ridge, then drop back to the canyon. Reach the bottom of the steep ascent at mile 1.1. For the easy trip, turn around here. To make the 1,300 climb to Guaje Ridge, continue up the trail on steep and eroded switchbacks. There are two false summits before reaching the ridgeline at mile 2.6. Return by the same route.

Cañon de Valle, Cañon de Valle Trailhead, 3.4 miles roundtrip, 1,200-foot elevation gain, moderate. A shady trip through a mostly unburned canyon. Follow the rough road from the trailhead into the canyon. In 0.7 mile, continue up the canyon on a trail as the road swings to the right. Walk as far as you like up to the boundary of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Turn around and return by the same route.

GREAT TRAILS: MOUNTAIN BIKING

Central Canyons Loop, Kinnikinnik ParkTrailhead, 3 miles, moderate: A short tour of the canyon trail network. Head left and downhill on the Acid Canyon Trail. At the Acid Canyon Bridge, cross the bridge to the South Pueblo Bench Trail. Ride to the Pueblo Canyon Bridge, cross it, and pick up the North Pueblo Bench Trail. Turn left and roll through several drainages to the Homestead Crosssing Trail. Turn left, cross the bridge and turn right. Climb to return to the South Pueblo Bench Trail. turn left and return to the trailhead.

Tour de Los Alamos, Kinnikinnik Park Trailhead, 9 miles, moderate: A great tour that incorporates many popular trails. Start at the aquatic center and take the Acid Canyon Trail to the South Pueblo Bench Trail at the Acid Canyon Bridge. Across the bridge, turn right and ride that trail to Homestead Crossing. Turn right, cross the Homestead Bridge, then turn right and follow the North Pueblo Bench Trail to Walnut Canyon Road. Turn left and in 0.1 mile, turn right onto the Eask Fork Trail and ride to the end. At the roundabout at San Ildefonso Road, turn left and ride through the pedestrian tunnel to pick up the Dot Grant Trail. Ride the length of that trail to the Rendija Trail, turn left, and pick up the east end of the Perimeter Trail. Ride that trail 3 miles to Pipeline Road. Head down Pipeline to Quemazon Road, turn right and cruise the pavement to North Road. Turn right and ride the pavement via Diamond Drive and Canyon Road back to the aquatic center.

Nail Trail Loop, Pajarito Canyon Trailhead, 4 miles, difficult: A challenging climb followed by a cruising descent through a scenic canyon. Head north on a descending dirt road, around a gate, and to the bottom of Pajarito Canyon. Look for a rock cairn marking the start of the Nail Trail. Angle right and start a steep, nasty climb. At mile 0.6, the route follows a logging road through unburned forest. At mile 1.4, turn left and shortly pick up a singletrack angling right. Follow the trail to Pajarito Canyon at mile 2.1. Swing left and follow the Pajarito Canyon Trail back to the trailhead.

Guaje Ridge, Cañada Bonita Trailhead, 13 miles one-way, difficult: A Los Alamos classic starting with a booming climb to the rollercoaster ridge trail. Leave one vehicle at the Rendija Trailhead and drive to the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area. Head north on the Cañada Bonita Trail. In 3 miles, angle right onto Pipeline Road. Climb steeply 1.6 miles to the Guaje Ridge Trail. Turn left and descend the length of the trail to Upper Guaje Road. Turn left for 0.4 mile and then turn right onto the Cabra Loop. Don't head uphill, but turn another right and descend the rocky trail to the Rendija Trail. Turn right and take that trail to the Rendija Trailhead. To make a challenging loop, take the Perimeter Trail to Pipeline Road and ascend back to the ski area.

Out-and-Backs can be ridden on the Quemazon and Cañon de Valle trails (difficult), and Kwage Mesa and North Bayo Bench trails (easy to moderate).

WHITE ROCK TRAILHEADS: from Rover & Highway 4

Blue Dot: Head into White Rock on Rover Boulevard. In 0.2 mile, turn left onto Meadow Lane. Continue past Chamisa Elementary 0.7 mile from Rover and turn left into Overlook Park. Continue on this road to a paved side road to the ride that is signed for the trailhead. Turn right and head to the parking area.

Red Dot: Head south on Highway 4 0.3 mile to Sherwood Boulevard. Turn left and travel east on Sherwood 0.9 mile to a T-intersection with Piedra Loop. Turn left onto Piedra Loop and continue 0.6 mile to the pullouts on either side of the road at the well-marked trailhead.

Rim Trail: Head south on Highway 4 0.3 mile to Sherwood Boulevard. Turn left and travel east on Sherwood 0.4 mile to a chained entrance to the trail near a Los Alamos Parks trail marker.



USING LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE

The Los Alamos County Trail Network is open to non-motorized use only.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

All cultural resources such as Ancestral Pueblo room blocks, pot shards, petroglyphs, and historical artifacts are protected by Federal and State law. Let all cultural resources lie undisturbed.

SHARE THE TRAIL

These are multi-use trails for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists. Bicyclists should yield to all other users.

DOGS IN LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE

All dogs must be on a leash when within 100 yards of a trailhead. Dogs must be under voice and sight control at all times.

SAFETY

When exploring, please stay on marked trails. Always carry water to prevent dehydration, sunscreen and a hat to protect yourself from sun exposure, extra clothing, a flashlight, and a navigational aid. Always be alert and aware of your surroundings, and be prepared for sudden changes in the weather. Watch for hazard trees, flash flooding, and lightning.

Trailhead Guides are available at the Los Alamos County

Municipal Building, the Los Alamos Nature Center,

and the Los Alamos & White Rock Visitor Centers.

For more information, visit losalamosnm.us - search for "Trails."

