

ROCK CLIMBING in the PENITENTE CANYONLANDS

Leave No Trace

Durable Surfaces

If you have a group, ensure the staging area is large enough to accommodate you.

Avoid cliff edges, cracks and ledges that are prone to erosion.

Use quick draws where possible to reduce wear on existing permanent anchors.

When bouldering (low, horizontal climbing across a rock face), ensure the ground is durable so your spotters or crash pad will not destroy vegetation. Avoid excessive removal of rocks or other landscaping to make a bouldering problem safe.

Use established descent trails rather than rappelling the descent to avoid leaving anchors in place. Rappelling may be the best option in some areas with easily eroded soil or fragile vegetation.

If you rappel, leave removable anchors tied off around rocks or trees, using colors that blend. Please situate anchors where climbers can find them, but where they will go unnoticed by other visitors to the area.

Do not wrap rope around trees. Instead, tie a sling around the tree and run your rope through the sling.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack out worn out or discarded gear.

Use the restrooms provided in Penitente Canyon SRMA on the way to the climb. Pack out all human waste. Burying waste results in high concentrations of catholes in a small, highly-used area.

Leave What You Find

Use removable protection as much as possible to preserve the challenge for future climbers.

Use fixed protection sparingly; use earth-colored webbing and colored bolt hangers to minimize the visual distractions.

If you are climbing a new route, avoid lichen-covered rock, vegetated cracks and areas that require lots of cleaning. Leave the rock as you find it rather than forcing a route that will leave a noticeable path.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Climb on weekdays or less popular times.

Wear earth-tone clothes to minimize your visual impact while scurrying up a cliff face.

Minimize noise while waiting to climb.

Give other climbing parties plenty of room and time to climb at their pace, or politely ask if you can pass when it is convenient and safe.

Use headphones rather than a portable stereo so others can enjoy the area.



Camping

The area has two group campsites and 14 single campsites. The sites cannot be reserved in advance and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fees for group and single campsites are posted at the fee area. Please pay campsite fees as soon as you occupy a site. Checkout time for all campsites is noon.

Dispersed camping is allowed in some areas; please use existing sites.

Dispersed camping is not allowed in the campground or day-use area; use designated campsites only. No camping in parking lots. No camping in the Rock Garden.

No horses allowed in the campground.

Dogs must be on leashes in the campground and day-use area and under owners' control everywhere in the SRMA.

No firewood cutting or gathering.

No shooting or firearms in the campground or day-use area.

The use and possession of all fireworks is prohibited on all BLM lands.

Use designated fire rings in the campground and pre-existing fire rings in dispersed campsites.

Roads & Trails

Motorized vehicles are allowed on designated roads only. All other trails are nonmotorized. A sign at the beginning of each trail lists who can use the trail—hikers, mountain bikers, or horseback riders. Stay on designated roads and trails; do not cut switchbacks.

Other Amenities

Drinking water is available at the well house near the campground entrance typically May through October.

A picnic shelter, an interpretive kiosk, toilets and a trash dumpster are located in the day-use area at the entrance to Penitente Canyon.

For more information, check out the entrance kiosk when you arrive.

Respect Wildlife

Critical nesting sites for many birds are found in cliff faces. Other animals use rock outcrops for shelter. Be aware of area closures, both mandatory and voluntary, and follow them. Keep alert for animals protecting their home and change or abandon your route to leave them space. Be careful where you place your hands and feet so you do not accidentally destroy a nest or get bitten by hidden wildlife.

Rattlesnakes



Prairie rattlesnakes are common in Penitente Canyon. Please be on the lookout for them. Always watch where you are stepping or reaching—and don't reach where you can't see. If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and simply back away. Parents should always keep a close eye on their children in snake country.

