

June 2015 Hikes & Events

Saturday, June 6-9 a.m.

1 hour

Geology of the northern Rio Grande Valley, Wild Rivers -

Meet at La Junta Campground for an interpretive talk at one of the Monument's most stunning viewpoints. Geologist/Park Ranger Daniel Rael will explain why the gorge is here, give some surprising information about the Rio Grande and Red River, and how these features affected human use of the area.

Sunday, June 7-8 a.m.

4 hours

Bird Walk, Orilla Verde -

Meet at the Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center in Pilar for this combination of driving and easy walking through Orilla Verde to observe the great variety of birds nesting in this area. Led by Jerry Friedman - please email to jerry_friedman@yahoo.com or call 505-753-1946 to let him know you're planning to participate.

Sunday, June 7 - 9 a.m.

2 hours

La Vista Verde Trail, Orilla Verde -

Meet at the trailhead on NM 567, about 1/2 mile west of Taos Junction Bridge for this easy 2 1/2 mile round trip hike with Park Ranger Randy Roch. You will see impressive views from within the gorge and a compelling series of petroglyphs which have been the focus of some recent research that we will share with you.

Saturday, June 13 - 8 a.m.

8 hours

Ute Mountain Hike -

Meet at the Alta gas station in Costilla at 8 am. This is a steep hike (elevation gain is 2,500 feet over 3 miles) in a wilderness-quality setting, with no trail. The hike will be led by Park Ranger Daniel Rael. We highly recommend long pants and long sleeves, along with plenty of water. Please bring a lunch for a feast at the highest point in the Monument.

Saturday, June 13 - 9 a.m.

2 hours

The Slide Trail/Old 570, Orilla Verde -

Meet at the new trailhead at the end of County Road C-110 (about 3 miles past the UNM Klauer campus) for this moderate 3-mile round trip hike. Great views of the Rio Pueblo de Taos canyon, petroglyphs, geologic features, and possible wildlife sightings, led by Park Ranger Barry Weinstock.

Saturday, June 13 - 9 a.m.

4 hours

Walking Tour of Punche Lake, Taos Plateau -

Park Ranger Del DuBois will lead this easy walk around the largest playa in the Monument, one with a rich natural and cultural history. Meet at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge rest area. If you plan to drive to the lake, a 4-wheel drive is recommended. The walk itself



will take about 2 hours; driving time each way is less than one hour.

Saturday, June 13 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4 hours

9th Annual Taos River and Land Clean-up -

Meet at the St. James Episcopal Church in Taos or the Questa Visitor Center on NM 38 to join this community effort to clean our watersheds and hiking trails. Contact Julia Pyatt for more information - 575-758-3874 or juliapyatt@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 20 - 9 a.m.

3 hours

Big Arsenic Springs Trail, Wild Rivers -

Meet at Big Arsenic Springs campground (on the rim) for a moderately difficult hike. Park Ranger Daniel Rael will talk about wildlife, ecological diversity, geology, and the cultural history of the area. Some impressive springs and petroglyphs will be stops near the bottom.

Sunday, June 21 - 9 a.m.

1½ hours

La Senda del Medio Trail, Orilla Verde -

An easy 2-1/2 mile hike starting at the trailhead in Pilar Campground on NM 570. The trail follows a wide ledge about 200 feet above the river, offering dramatic views up and down river, led by Park Ranger Robert Fernandez.

Saturday, June 27 - 9 a.m.

3 hours

Las Vistas de Questa Trail, Questa -

Meet at the trailhead off Don Martinez Road in Questa for this moderate 3.7-mile hike. The trail goes through forested lands including Ponderosa near the highest point (500 feet elevation gain). Led by Park Ranger Daniel Rael who will talk about geology and the different habitats the trail passes through.

Saturday, June 27 - 9 a.m.

2 hours

Picuris Cutoff/Slide Trail Loop, Orilla Verde -

Meet at the trailhead at the Taos Junction Bridge on NM 570 for this moderate 2-mile roundtrip hike. Great views; Spanish colonial history and prehistoric cultural resources will be a major part of the walk, led by Park Ranger Barry Weinstock.

Please bring a snack, hat, sunscreen, water, and sturdy footwear!

www.blm.gov/nm/riograndedelnorte Visitor Center (Pilar) 575-751-4899 Taos Office 575-758-8851

