



May 2015 Hikes & Events

Saturday/Sunday, May 2-3

New Mexico Archaeological Society Annual Meeting

The Taos Archaeological Society is hosting this year's annual meeting. For more information, go to www.taosarch.org. Saturday will feature lectures on the meeting's theme— Archaeology in the Rio Grande: a Collaboration which will focus on the cultural history of the Monument. Sunday will be devoted to field tours. To get the locals' discount, register in person on Friday from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Sagebrush Inn Conference Center.

Saturday, May 2 - 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 2.5 mile round trip hike with impressive views from within the gorge and a compelling series of petroglyphs. Led by Park Ranger Barry Weinstock.

Saturday, May 9 - 6:30 a.m. to noon

International Migratory Bird Day

Join the celebration at the Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center in Pilar, on NM 68 just south of the intersection with NM 570. 6:30 a.m. - Early birding walk with Ryan Besser
9 a.m. - Late morning bird walk, also with Ryan. Both will start at the Visitor Center, lasts about 2 hours, with a focus on bird identification and bird behavior. Children's activities will be available throughout the morning. There will also be a live raptor presentation at 11 a.m.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, May 8-10

Mothers' Day Rio Grande Whitewater Festival

Sponsored by the New Mexico River Outfitters' Association, for full details go to www.raftnewmexico.org. Rio Bravo Campground in Orilla Verde is the event headquarters.

Of particular note, is a Birding by Ear class with noted Dixon birder Robert Templeton. This program begins at 8 a.m. on Friday at the Rio Bravo Campground.

Sunday, May 10 - 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 Randy Roch.

Friday, May 15 - 6 a.m.

2 hours

Bird Walk, Orilla Verde

Join Roberta Salazar, founder and director of Rivers and Birds, for this guided walk in Orilla Verde's riparian area to explore the world of migrating birds.

Saturday, May 16 - 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, as well as to the rim and down to the river. Led by Park Ranger Barry Weinstock.

Saturday, May 23 - 8 a.m.

8 hours

Cerro de la Olla (Pot Mountain), Taos Plateau

Monument Archaeologist Merrill Dicks will lead this hike to the top of la Olla, and along the way giving an outline of the rich cultural history of the Taos Plateau over the past 12 thousand years. Meet at the Rio Grande Gorge High Bridge rest area at 8 a.m.

Sunday, May 24 - 9 a.m.

2 hours

Picuris Trail, Orilla Verde - A steep and challenging 2 1/2 mile roundtrip hike up to the east rim of the gorge and back to the Rio Grande. Meet park ranger Randy Roch at the Taos Junction Bridge on NM 570 for this hike featuring history and archaeology in a spectacular setting.

Saturday, May 30 - 9 a.m.

2 hours

Petaca Point Trail, Orilla Verde - Meet at the trailhead on NM 567 for this easy 2.5 mile roundtrip hike along the west rim of the Gorge. Panoramic views and archaeological sites of great interest interpreted 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

