



May 2016 Hikes/Events

Saturday, May 14- 6:30 am 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 am - early birding walk with Ryan Besser

9:00 am—late morning bird walk, also with Ryan. Both will start at the Visitor Center, last about 2 hours, with a focus on bird identification and bird behavior.

11:00 am—live raptor presentation at the Visitor Center
Children's activities will be available throughout the morning.

Saturday, May 21 - 9 am

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 2½ mile round trip hike with ranger Barry Weinstock. Impressive views from within the gorge and a compelling series of petroglyphs.

Saturday, May 28- 9 am

2 hours

Big Arsenic Trail, Wild Rivers – Meet at the trailhead at Big Arsenic campground for this moderate 2 mile roundtrip hike into the Gorge. One of two rangers will also continue on the River Trail and come up on Little Arsenic Trail—this version will be about 3 miles roundtrip and take 3 to 3½ hours. The geologic history of the gorge, some petroglyphs that shed light on the cultural history of the area, and the reasons why this is a Monument will be discussed.

Sunday, May 29 - 9 am

2 hours

Picuris Trail/Slide Trail Loop, Orilla Verde - Meet at the Picuris trailhead at Taos Junction Bridge on NM 570 for this moderate two mile round trip hike. The Taos Junction Bridge area has a rich cultural history, and these trails give great views of the Lower Gorge. Led by park ranger Randy Roch.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, May 6-8

Mothers' Day Rio Grande Whitewater Festival

Sponsored by the New Mexico River Outfitters' Association, for full details go to www.raftnewmexico.org. Taos Junction Bridge Campground in Orilla Verde is the event headquarters. **Of particular note** is a geology float on Friday morning led by Dr. Paul Bauer of New Mexico Tech. Space is limited—please see the web site above for information on registering for this trip.

Sunday, May 8 - 9 am

2 hours

Petaca Point Trail, Orilla Verde – Meet at the trailhead on NM 567, about a 1½ mile drive from Taos Junction Bridge for this easy 2½ mile round trip hike along the west rim of the Gorge. This is park ranger Randy Roch's favorite trail to introduce people to the cultural history of the area, with unique panoramic views.

American Avocets, Taos Plateau



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

