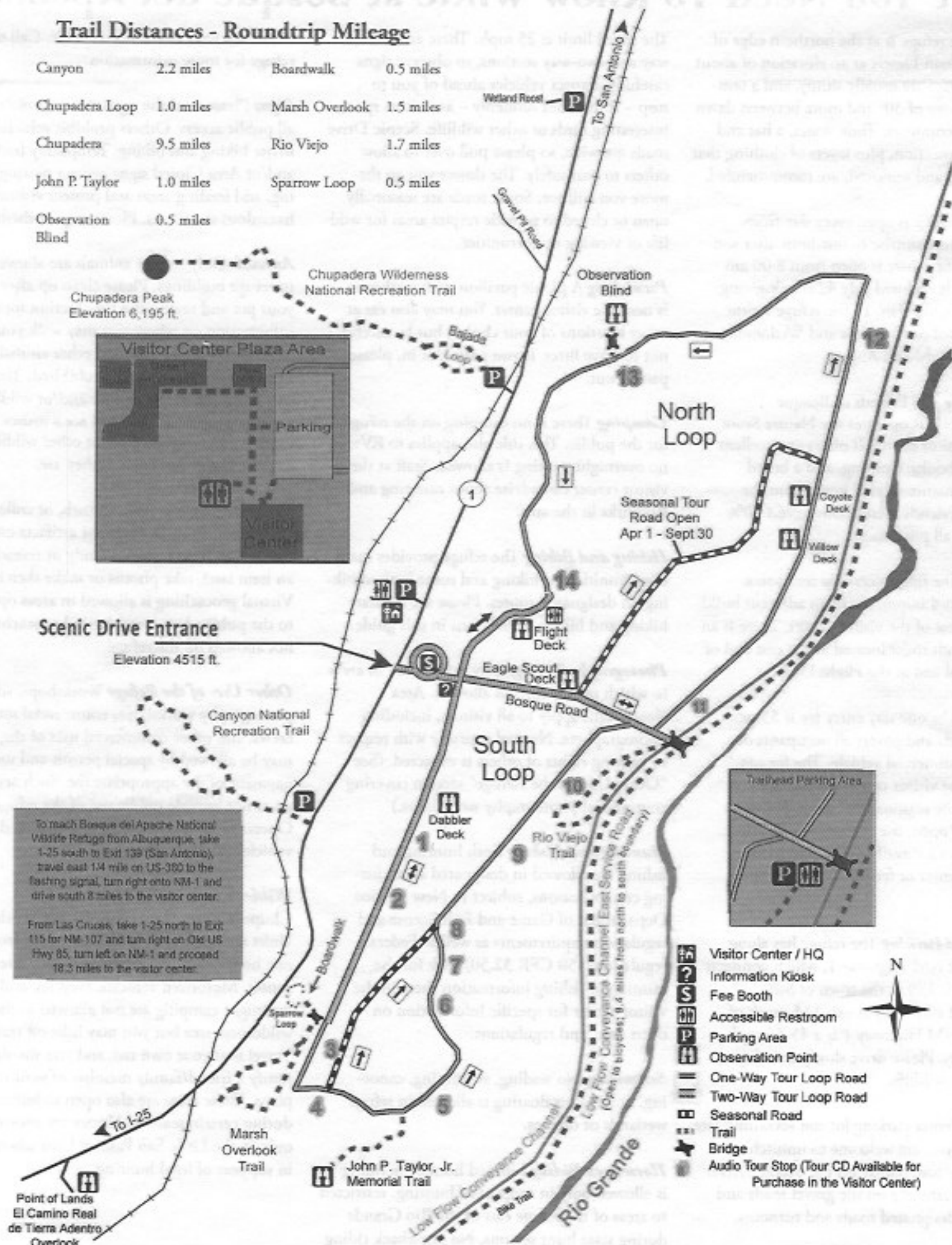


Trail Distances - Roundtrip Mileage

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Canyon | 2.2 miles | Boardwalk | 0.5 miles |
| Chupadera Loop | 1.0 miles | Marsh Overlook | 1.5 miles |
| Chupadera | 9.5 miles | Rio Viejo | 1.7 miles |
| John P. Taylor | 1.0 miles | Sparrow Loop | 0.5 miles |
| Observation Blind | 0.5 miles | | |



Scenic Drive Entrance

Elevation 4515 ft.

Canyon National Recreation Trail

To reach Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge from Albuquerque, take I-25 south to Exit 139 (San Antonio), travel east 1.4 mile on US-390 to the flashing signal, turn right onto NM-1 and drive south 8 miles to the visitor center.

From Las Cruces, take I-25 north to Exit 115 for NM-107 and turn right on Old US Hwy 85, turn left on NM-1 and proceed 18.3 miles to the visitor center.



- Visitor Center / HQ
- Information Kiosk
- Fee Booth
- Accessible Restroom
- Parking Area
- Observation Point
- One-Way Tour Loop Road
- Two-Way Tour Loop Road
- Seasonal Road
- Trail
- Bridge
- Audio Tour Stop (Tour CD Available for Purchase in the Visitor Center)



| TRAIL NAME | DISTANCE/TIME | LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY | NOTES |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| Chupadera Wilderness National Recreation Trail | 9.5 miles roundtrip 4-5 hours | Strenuous: 1800-foot gain | Please plan your trip to make sure you are back by dark. Dawn departures are suggested in the summer when temperatures can exceed 100 °F by midday or afternoon thunderstorms make hiking dangerous. |
| Bajada Loop Trail | 1 mile roundtrip 1-2 hours | Moderate | Take precautions, and remember you are in rattlesnake country. At any time of the year you should carry plenty of water. |
| Canyon National Recreation Trail | 2.2 miles roundtrip 1-2 hours | Moderate-strenuous | The Canyon Trail is a fun, but challenging, hike for families and school groups. Look for the natural arch and test your track identification skills on the sandy trail. |
| Bike Trail (Low Flow Conveyance Channel East Service Road) | North route 11 miles roundtrip; south route 11.3 miles roundtrip 1-2 hours | Easy | Bike or hike this level, gravel road to get away from cars and crowds. You may spot some of the more secretive refuge inhabitants. Stay back from the steep edge of the channel. |
| Marsh Overlook Trail | 1.5 miles roundtrip 1 hour | Easy-moderate | This is a mostly accessible trail except for the spur. Insect repellent is recommended spring through fall. |
| Boardwalk Trail | .5 miles roundtrip 30 minutes | Easy | The trail up to and including the wooden boardwalk is accessible. At the Boardwalk's end, follow stairs up to the Sparrow Loop and explore the desert. |
| Sparrow Loop | .5 miles roundtrip | Moderate | |
| Rio Viejo Trail | 1.7 miles roundtrip 1 hour | Easy | Enjoy the shade as you amble through a restored cottonwood forest. Mosquito repellent is highly recommended spring through fall. |
| John P. Taylor Jr. Memorial Trail | 1 mile roundtrip 45 minutes | Easy | This is a mostly accessible trail. Signs along the trail give insight into John Taylor's habitat restoration vision. |
| Desert Arboretum | .25 mile roundtrip 0.5-1 hour | Easy | This mostly accessible trail is paved from the visitor center and along the eastern edge of the garden. There are several benches for wildlife viewing and quiet contemplation. |
| Observation Blind | 0.5 miles roundtrip 30 minutes | Easy | This mostly accessible trail brings you to a viewing area overlooking a managed wetland unit. |

Hiking Trails

From sweeping vistas to quiet marshes, the eleven hiking trails of Bosque del Apache offer a variety of sights, sounds and wildlife depending on the season. The trails vary in accessibility and difficulty but all provide wonderful opportunities to experience nature and observe wildlife in solitude or with family and friends. Between April 1st and September 30th bring a leash and enjoy the trails with your pet. Refer to the map on page 8 for trailhead locations.

Chupadera Wilderness National Recreation Trail

The Bajada Loop and Chupadera Trails wind through typical Chihuahuan desert scrub habitat dominated by four-wing salt bush, creosote bush,

and mesquite. A gentle climb will lead you to a bench (about .5 miles from the trailhead) that offers a panoramic overlook of the refuge and surrounding areas. Hikers may continue on the loop and return to the trailhead and parking area, or they may head to the peak of Chupadera Mountain. An incredible variety of desert plants, reptiles and birds, as well as interesting geological formations can be observed as you gain altitude from the valley floor to the peak.

Canyon National Recreation Trail

This trail takes visitors through Chihuahuan Desert and into Solitude Canyon, a deep ravine carved into sandstone by flash floods over the ages. Scenic vistas of the canyon and the refuge are favorite photo opportunities.

The abundance of burrows, tracks, nests, and middens gives evidence to the snakes, lizards, birds, bats, rabbits, kangaroo rats, and other desert wildlife that are active along the trail especially in the cooler morning and evening hours. This trail also crosses into the Indian Well Wilderness Unit.

Marsh Overlook Trail

This trail takes you past willows and cattails around a seasonally-flooded wetland. Look for secretive marsh birds like bitterns and rails. The trail includes a quarter-mile roundtrip optional spur trail to a reflective bench on top of a bluff. The expansive view of the south end of the refuge makes this minute detour well worth the climb.



Pets on the Refuge

To ensure that you and your pet enjoy a safe visit, follow all pet regulations while inside the refuge. Wildlife may be drawn to pets and their owners; pets can wander away and may never be found – the refuge is a wild place!

Pets are allowed on Bosque del Apache under the following conditions:

From October 1 through March 31

- ☐ Pets must be inside the vehicle at all times while on the Scenic Drive.
- ☐ Pets are not allowed on any trails adjacent to the Scenic Drive (this includes: Boardwalk, Sparrow Loop, Marsh Overlook, John P. Taylor, Jr. Memorial, Rio Viejo, and Observation Blind trails).

- ☐ Except for service dogs, pets are not allowed on observation decks or inside the visitor center.
- ☐ Pets are allowed on all hiking trails west of Highway 1 (this includes: Chupadera Wilderness National Recreation Trail and National Recreation Trail) and at El Camino Real Tierra Adentro Overlook. They must be physically restrained at all times on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- ☐ Pets are not allowed on the Bike Trail (Low Flow Conveyance Channel East Service Road) at any time.

From April 1 through September 30

- ☐ Pets are allowed on all hiking trails and at El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Overlook though they must be physically restrained on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- ☐ Except for service dogs, pets are not allowed on observation decks or inside the visitor center.
- ☐ Pets are allowed out of vehicles along the Scenic Drive though they must be physically restrained at all times on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- ☐ Pets are not allowed on the Bike Trail (Low Flow Conveyance Channel East Service Road) at any time.

You Are In Wild Country

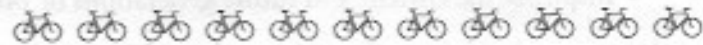
While exploring the refuge, please use caution, knowing that seasonally the following wildlife may also be using the same space:

- Rattlesnakes
- Mountain lions and bobcats
- Stinging and biting insects (wasps and mosquitos)
- Coyotes and javelina
- Elk and mule deer

While attacks/interactions with rattlesnakes and mountain lions are rare, please stop and take time to be aware of your surroundings.



Bob Mize



Biking Basics

These seasonal rules for bicycle use provide miles of riding year-round while minimizing disturbance to the wildlife at the Bosque del Apache. Bicyclists should be prepared to fix a flat tire; many of our plants have spines and thorns.

From October 1 thru March 31

- Bicycling is allowed ONLY on Bosque Road, at El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Overlook, and on the Low Flow Conveyance Channel East Service Road.
- Bicycling is NOT allowed on any other trails or decks.

From April 1 thru September 30

- Bicycling is allowed on Bosque Road, at El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Overlook, on the Low Flow Conveyance Channel East Service Road, and on the North and South Loops.
- Bicycling is NOT allowed on any other trails or decks.

The State of New Mexico allows bicycling on Highway 1. Use caution on this busy road and railroad crossing.

