## Petroglyph

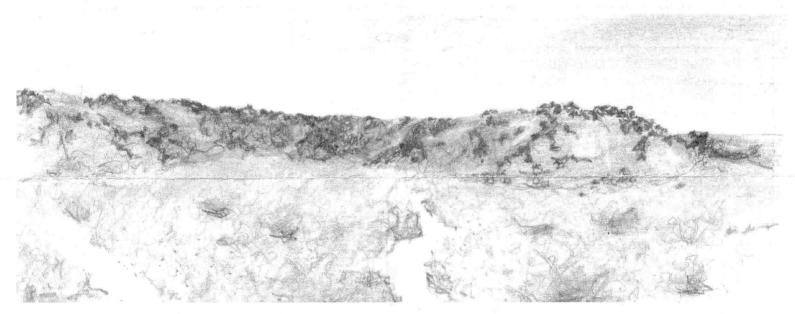
National Monument National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior





City of Albuquerque Open Space Division

## **Piedras Marcadas Canyon**



## Introduction

The northernmost area of the Monument is called Piedras Marcadas Canyon, which means "canyon of marked rocks." Although urban development is quite near, take a short walk and you'll find yourself far away from the city. Piedras Marcadas Canyon is home to the densest concentration of petroglyphs along the Monument's 17-mile escarpment, with an estimated 5,000 or more documented images of the monument's total 20,000.

## A Cultural Landscape

Most of the images you see were created between 400 and 700 years ago by the ancestors of today's Pueblo people and other native groups traveling very important to traditional peoples. Archaeologists believe that groups traveled near and far from pueblos established on the Rio Grande and

through the area. Early Spanish settlers also left their images on the rocks. These petroglyph images were carefully pecked on the dark boulder surfaces with stone tools; they were deliberately planned and surroyos, canyons, cliffs, and surrounding views, is part of a living cultural landscape.

150,000 years ago, a series of volcanic eruptions created the mesa top and the dark basalt rocks onto which the petroglyphs are pecked. Piedras Marcadas Canyon is the northernmost point that grouped in important areas depending on views,

as drainages.

the Images

The Area and

Marcadas Canyon is the northernmost point that these flows reached. The walls of the escarpment in Piedras Marcadas are the lowest in the park, reaching only about 30 feet in some areas. This is because lava flows spread four to five miles from

the volcanoes and flowed around low hills to create

this canyon. The Rio Grande then eroded away the hills and left the low cliffs we see today.

On mostly east- and south-facing slopes you will be able to see geometric forms, reptile and mammal images, masks and human figures, hand and

The Trails

Reminders

and Safety

While you are in Piedras Marcadas, please respect this special place. Pets must be leashed at all times and you must pick up after your pet. Do not touch or otherwise harm the rocks, and don't remove anything from the park. Remember that noncompliance violates federal, state, and city laws.

The flat sandy trails winding from the Los Marcadas

parking lot through Piedras Marcadas Canyon are

rated as easy to moderate. You can follow these trails over a half-mile back into the middle canyon.

For your own safety, please stay on the trails and bring your own water because there are no facilities.

full of iron and other metals, and they do get struck!
nons. Most of all enjoy yourself when you are at Piedras
Marcadas, but please help us preserve this park for
future generations to enjoy.

orientation, other nearby images, and features such

On the rocks here, you will notice colors other than

dark black or gray- usually spots of white, green, or

There you will find you have left behind the homes,

the roads, and the sounds of the city. Look for numbered signs along the way to indicate the

location of several major petroglyph concentrations.

Don't forget to apply sunscreen and to dress in

layers. Watch out for snakes and if you see lightning,

stay away from the escarpment. The basalt rocks are

cor For Protect Our Resources

Petroglyph National Monument is jointly owned and managed by the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque. If you see vandalism or suspicious behavior, tell a park ranger immediately or call:

**Petroglyph National Monument** 

(505) 899-0205

City of Albuquerque Open Space Dispatch (505) 452-5206

Archaeological Resources Protection Act hotline 1-800-227-7286

