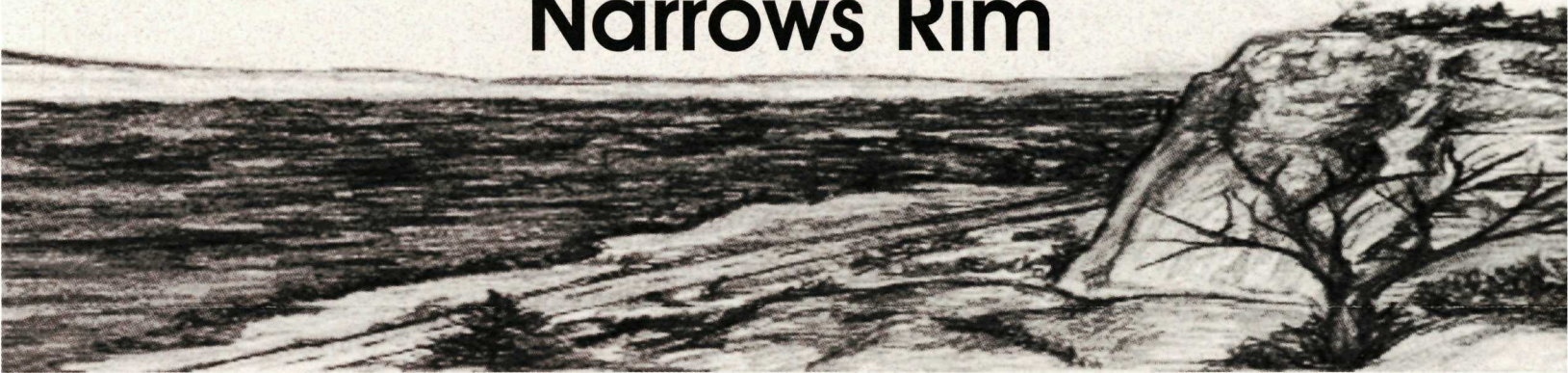


El Malpaís

National Conservation Area
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Narrows Rim



BRIEF OVERVIEW:

The Narrows, located 17 miles south of I-40 on NM 117, is named for the narrow corridor that developed when lava flowed close to the base of a five hundred foot sandstone mesa. Most of the lava observed is from McCarty's crater, and at approximately 3,000 years old, it is the youngest flow in the area. NM 117 passes through the Narrows for approximately 3 miles.

HELPFUL INFORMATION:

Come prepared with plenty of water, good hiking shoes, and sunscreen. During the summer months, thunderstorms build quickly and lightning is often present. The trail is located on the very top of a mesa, so it is recommended that hikers head back or move to a lower elevation as soon as a storm starts moving in. The altitude of this hike is over 7,000 feet, so for those who are not yet

acclimated to the elevation, it's a good idea to allow plenty of time for rest stops. Pets are permitted on the trail but are required to be on a leash. *This is a designated wilderness area and is not open to bicycles.*

Check in with the Ranger Station on NM 117 for more information on this hike as well as other hiking opportunities within El Malpais.

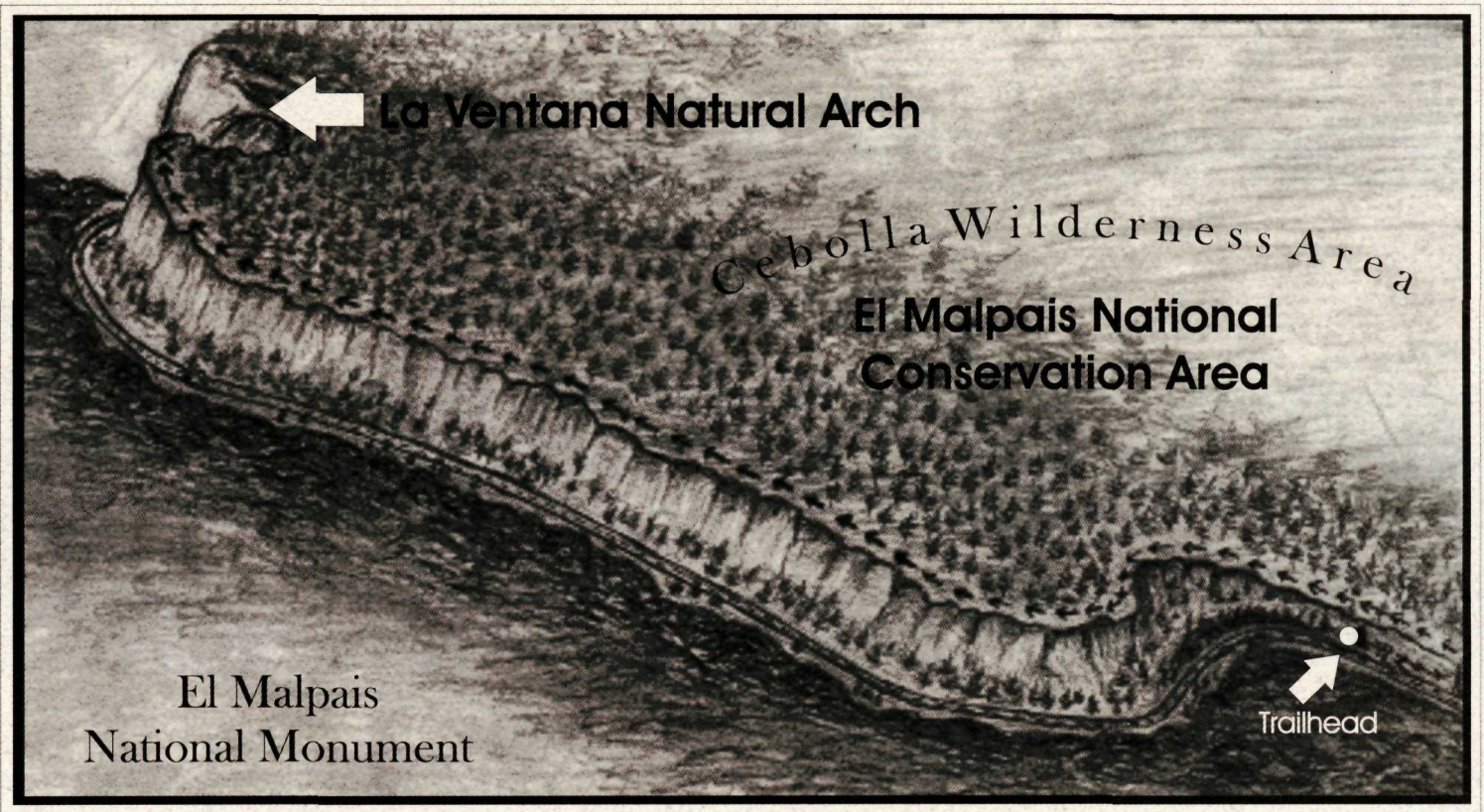
SAFETY TIPS:

1. Wear proper clothing. Even in summer, carry a flashlight and light jacket in case you are caught out after nightfall. Wear good walking shoes or hiking shoes.
2. Carry water and a high energy snack.
3. Don't hike alone. Hike with at least one other person.
4. Always leave word as to where you are going, what time you are leaving and what time you expect to return.
5. Leave wildlife alone. There are rattlesnakes in this part of the country, but they won't bother you if you don't bother them.
6. If you become lost, stay in one place. You will conserve your energy and make it easier for searchers to find you.
7. In case of accident or lost person, notify the nearest New Mexico State Police office, which will then notify a search and rescue field coordinator (505) 287-4141.
8. Know your limitations, don't attempt climbs or hikes that you don't have the ability, equipment, or time to accomplish. Do not climb on cliffs unless you are an experienced rock climber and have proper equipment such as climbing boots, hardware, and rope.

Please practice *Leave No Trace* camping skills and ethics.

Information regarding *Leave No Trace* is available at the BLM Ranger Station on SR 117.





NARROWS RIM TRAIL:

The trailhead and parking area for the Narrows Rim Trail are located at the south end of the Narrows Picnic Area, which is 21 miles south of I-40 on NM 117.

The trail follows the rim of the mesa northward for approximately 3 miles (6 miles round trip). The scenery of the lava beds and surrounding countryside is remarkable and the end of the trail offers a picturesque view of La Ventana Natural Arch.

The Narrows Rim Trail is a great nature trail with a vast array of flora and fauna to be seen and enjoyed.

The many beautiful and varied wild flowers found along this trail, which are most abundant in the spring and summer, are delightful to see. Ponderosa pine, piñon/juniper woodland and a variety of oak and shrub species are also found along the trail.

The animal enthusiast just might get the opportunity to see one of our many species of wildlife. Mule Deer, Elk, Bobcat and Black Bear have been spotted on the trail and the elusive Mountain Lion has also left tracks in the area. Smaller species of wildlife are abundant along

the trail, including rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and lizards.

The varied vegetation and habitats make the Narrows Rim Trail and surrounding area one of the best birding locations at El Malpais. Most of the common species and many less common species can be seen at the picnic area, along the trail, or by hiking in the surrounding countryside. Birders should expect to see raptors, sparrows and towhees, woodpeckers, ravens, flycatchers, bluebirds, jays, warblers and tanagers. A good day of birding should yield 30 species or more.

For More Information Contact:

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