

# El Malpaís

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



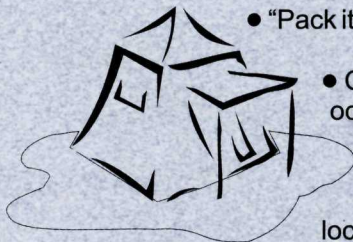
## General Rules & Regulations



### CAMPING:

El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) does not have a developed campground, however, the South Narrows Picnic Area is open to primitive camping. The South Narrows has picnic tables and vault toilets, but there is no water. Water is available at the Ranger Station on SR 117. Primitive camping is permitted in most areas of the NCA with the exception of the Ranger Station and La Ventana Natural Arch. There is no charge for camping in the NCA but there are a few basic rules to follow:

- Possession or use of fireworks on public lands is prohibited.
- All vehicles must be kept near roads or in designated parking areas when car camping.
- Camping or parking your vehicle is prohibited within 300 yards of any spring, man made water hole, water well or water tank used by wildlife or domestic stock and/or near any historic or prehistoric structure or ruin site.



- "Pack it in, Pack it out", *PLEASE* clean up your campsite before you leave.
- Camping is limited to 14 days at a time within a 28 day period. After the 14<sup>th</sup> day of occupation campers must move beyond a 25 mile radius from the previous location and must not return to a location within this radius for 30 days.
- As a safety measure for you, it is recommended that you stop by the Ranger Station located on SR 117 and let a ranger know where you will be camping and how long you intend to stay. This is not mandatory and there is no charge.

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

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



### CLIMBING:

Technical rock climbing within the La Ventana Natural Arch area is prohibited but is allowed at other areas within the NCA. Please keep in mind that sandstone is generally of poor quality for rock climbing and that most cliff faces are located in designated wilderness areas.

### PETS:

Pets are allowed in the NCA but must be kept under control at all times. Pets are not permitted on nature hikes, in caves, or near cultural and historical sites. Animals that are trained to assist handicapped persons are the exception to this rule. Please keep plenty of water on hand for you

and your pet as water sources are limited. Please respect wildlife at all times.





### FIRES:

Fires are permitted in the NCA, however, the use of gas stoves is encouraged. Use established fire rings where provided. If you construct a new fire ring, please dismantle it before you leave. Use dead and down wood. Do not cut trees or live branches. It is prohibited to build a fire on or near any historic or prehistoric structure, ruin site or cave resource.



Please use caution, be aware of the current fire dangers and restrictions, and make sure your fire is completely extinguished before you leave. Fire restrictions are posted at the BLM Ranger Station on SR 117.

### HUNTING:

Hunting and trapping are permitted on NCA lands, including the wilderness areas. It is your responsibility to obtain the proper license or permit and to be aware of any local regulations as well as the rules and regulations set by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

***Driving off designated roads in order to retrieve game is prohibited.***

### ROADS:

When driving on back country roads, it is recommended that you have a high clearance vehicle. Travel with any motorized or mechanized equipment (including mountain or dirt bikes) is restricted to designated roads.

Designated wilderness areas are only accessible by stock animal or foot traffic and are prohibited to any and all motorized and mechanized equipment.

### BICYCLES:

Mountain bikes are permitted on any of the designated roads. They are prohibited in wilderness areas.

### COLLECTING:

The removal or collection of any historic or cultural artifact is prohibited within the NCA.

The collection of plants and rocks, *in reasonable amounts and for personal use only, is permitted.*

### 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.



For More Information Contact:

El Malpais National Conservation Area  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 846  
Grants, New Mexico 87020  
(505) 287-7911  
[www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)

Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center  
1900 East Santa Fe Avenue  
Grants, New Mexico 87020  
(505) 876-2783  
[www.nps.gov/elma](http://www.nps.gov/elma)