

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



El Malpais National Monument
www.nps.gov/elma

Rules & Regulations



Help us preserve this monument for future generations!

CAMPING

Please practice LEAVE NO TRACE ethics. Permits are free and are available at the Information Center.

Camping is prohibited in the following areas: Lava Falls road and parking area, Acoma-Zuni Trailhead and parking area, Sandstone Bluffs road and parking area, Zuni-Acoma Trailhead and parking area, El Calderon road and parking area, within .25 miles of County Road 42 and .25 miles of the Big Tubes maintained road, Big Tubes parking area, in any cave, lava tube, or within any archeological or historical site and/or structure. Campsites are also prohibited within 200 feet of a water source.

Camping is permitted in all other areas of the monument under the following conditions: primitive, leave no trace ethics are followed; stay is no more than 7 consecutive days in any one area; the maximum size of a group is 15 people in any given area; vehicles are parked no more than 10 feet off the road. Hunting camps are prohibited.

CAVING

Spelunking is an adventure and also an inherently dangerous sport. Be prepared with the proper equipment. If information and maps are needed, visit the Information Center. Pets are prohibited in all caves.

Caving is permitted in the following: Junction Cave, Xenolith Cave, Four Windows Cave and Big Skylight Cave. Braided Cave may be closed seasonally. Entry into all other caves requires a permit, which must be obtained prior to your trip. Call El Malpais Headquarters at 505-285-4641 for more information on obtaining permits.

CLIMBING

Technical climbing is prohibited in the monument.

COLLECTING

Collection of any natural features or cultural artifacts is prohibited within national monument boundaries.

FIRES

All fires must be containerized or in established grates. The collection of dead and down wood is prohibited, as well as the cutting of any wood. Please check with the Information Center for current fire restrictions.

FIREARMS/WEAPONS

Use of all weapons and traps is prohibited. Weapons must be unloaded and cased within the monument.

HIKING

Be prepared, even for short hikes. Lava terrain is rugged and routes can be difficult to see. Weather can be unpredictable. Carry food, water, a hat, sun screen, a first aid kit and appropriate maps.

HUNTING

Hunting and hunting camps are not permitted within monument boundaries.

PETS

Pets must be leashed at all times. Remember, lava terrain can easily injure animals. Do not leave pets unattended.

VEHICLES/BICYCLES

All vehicles must be street legal (ATV's are prohibited). Bicycles are restricted to established roads. Off road travel is not allowed.

El Malpais National Monument Headquarters

123 East Roosevelt Avenue

Grants, NM 87020

505-285-4641

Open: 8-4:30 M-F Closed: Federal Holidays

El Malpais Information Center

23 miles south of I-40 on NM53

505-783-4774

Open: 8:30-4:30 daily

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day