

VALLES CALDERA
NATIONAL PRESERVE

COME
VISIT

RECREATION



Using Nature As Our Guide



Retreat on cross-country skis or snowshoes to the center of the Valle Grande where you'll be surprised by the wide expanse and distances. The Valle Grande is the largest of several large grassy meadows within the Valles Caldera, stretching more than three miles across and offering rolling terrain. Expect to be fully immersed in the quiet tranquility found only in snow-covered landscapes.

Follow groomed trails or strike out on your own to more remote areas in this sizable piece of the preserve. Depending on the depth of snow, you might spot some elk wintering on the preserve, coyotes, and perhaps even a few bald eagles feeding along the East Fork of the Jemez River.

FEES: \$10 per day. No advance reservation required. Four-wheel drive, all-wheel drive or chains required.

HOURS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday as snow and weather permits.

BEST TIME TO VISIT: December through March depending on snow conditions.

DAY HIKING

Spend a day hiking the backcountry of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, encountering wildlife, taking in the beautiful vistas of the caldera and its domes and valles, and experiencing the quiet that settles over this place. Each designated trail offers you the chance to explore a prominent feature of the preserve, with hikes of about seven miles or more in length. Most hikes are self-guided but you can also take a guided hike to learn more about the preserve. These day-use hikes require advance reservations via our Web site and a fee.

FEES: \$10 per person; \$5 for children 15-and-under; 20% discount for seniors 62-and-over.

EASY-ACCESS HIKES: Stop by and hike shorter trails accessible from State Highway 4 without fee or reservation. The Coyote Call Trail (three miles round-trip) and Valle Grande Trail (two miles round-trip) offer scenic glimpses in the Valle Grande and the caldera beyond.

BEST TIME TO HIKE: Early June into September.

SKIING & SNOWSHOEING





The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of New Mexico's premier elk hunting locations and quite possibly the best place in the U.S. to get a trophy bull. An abundant elk herd occupies the preserve much of the year for breeding, calving and foraging. Our hunts are designed to pay homage to man's oldest relationships with animals by preserving for the public a hunting experience that otherwise would be prohibitively expensive.

Solitude is designed into our hunts. You'll share your assigned 5-6,000-acre area with a limited number of other hunters.

One of the best habitats and largest elk herds in New Mexico means your hunt will be filled with opportunity. Don't be surprised if you pass up more quality elk than you usually see in other areas. Success rates on the preserve run 80 percent and better in recent years. Expect your hunt to be a rewarding experience.

A lottery process decides participation in the hunt. For more information, visit our Web site or call to request a brochure.

EQUESTRIAN

Imagine a day on your horse on one of New Mexico's most scenic and historic ranches. Riders transporting their own mounts to the preserve will enjoy the forests and meadows of the preserve's less well-traveled areas. The number of horses on the trails will be low to ensure you have a solitary ride if that's what you seek. Old logging roads allow riders to easily ride in pairs and traverse varying terrains that include some ascents and descents as well as great views. The preserve accommodates riders seeking different experiences, from pleasant rambling walks to long trots as well as safe galloping terrain. Expect to see a wide array of birds, elk and perhaps a bear or coyote along the way. Elevation in this area of the preserve is 8200- to 8600-feet.

Reservations must be made in advance via the Web site or phone. Consult the Web site or phone us for days, times and fees.

BEST TIME TO VISIT: Mid-May into September.

ELK HUNTING



The Valles Caldera National Preserve hosts a wide array of special events, from special guided tours for your group or family to mountain bike events. We offer programs designed to get you out onto the preserve for a day of exploration and discovery. Typical special events might include:

- Mountain bike rides
- Overnight birding events
- Artist's days
- Full moon events
- Fly fishing clinics for adults and youth
- Overnight photography excursions
- Night sky adventures
- Chuck wagon dinners
- Educational van tours
- Workshops and seminars

Visit our Web site or call for upcoming events.



SPECIAL EVENTS

RESERVATIONS/INFORMATION

Call: 1-866-382-5537 Visit: www.vallescaldera.gov

CURRENT WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

Call: 1-505-661-3333 Ext. 3 Visit: www.vallescaldera.gov

The Valles Caldera Trust may change its offerings and schedules from time to time. For the most updated information, check our Web site at www.vallescaldera.gov or call 1-866-382-5537.

Elk hunting on the preserve is important to help manage our large herd and maintain its health and longevity, as well as the preserve's resources. During elk hunting season, we must curtail other programs and activities. Hunting begins in early September and may last into late November.

Only assistance dogs are allowed on the preserve. No pets are permitted.

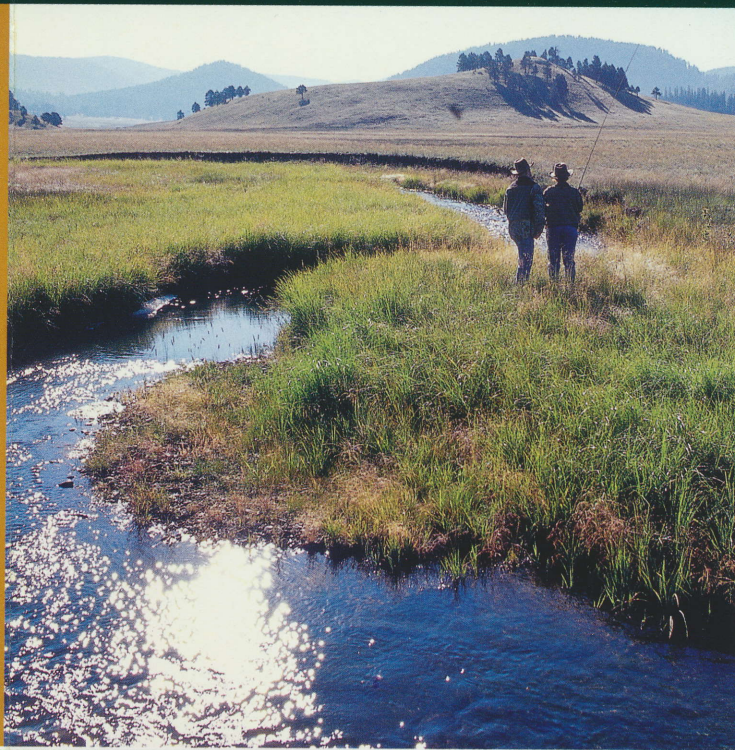
Visit: www.vallescaldera.gov

Visit the Valles Caldera National Preserve at a good speed — from a horse-drawn wagon or sleigh. The ride will take about 60 minutes and offers an alternative to other modes of travel. Matched draft horses take you through part of the preserve at a pleasant pace. You'll experience the elements, notice the diverse plant and animal life (especially in summer), and possibly come eye-to-eye with hunting raptors. A guide will share the interesting history and lore of the "old Baca Ranch," offering you insight into its past and its future.

Horse-drawn tours are a great alternative for those who are seeking an outdoor experience of a shorter duration and with less exertion than hiking or skiing.

FEES: Adults \$25, children 15-and-under \$15, 20% discount for seniors 62-and-over.

Call or visit our Web site for schedule information and to make your advance reservation.



WAGON / SLEIGH RIDES



FISHING

The headwaters of both the East Fork of the Jemez River and San Antonio Creek are tucked within the preserve boundaries. German brown trout and rainbow trout are native to these waters and are not hatchery-raised fish. They are wild fish and must be pursued accordingly — by crafty, skilled anglers who want to test their skills.

Fishing on the Valles Caldera National Preserve is just part of the experience. You'll see wildlife, enjoy tremendous scenery and have about a mile of stream to yourself for the day. Each stretch of river or "beat" is designed to be fished by two adult anglers. We offer you a chance to enjoy the special solitude a day on our streams affords.

Because of the popularity of our fishing streams, anglers enter a lottery to gain access for a day of fishing. Come test your skills on highly regarded waters that until 2003 had never been open to the public.

For more information and to purchase lottery tickets, visit our Web site and click on "Come Visit."

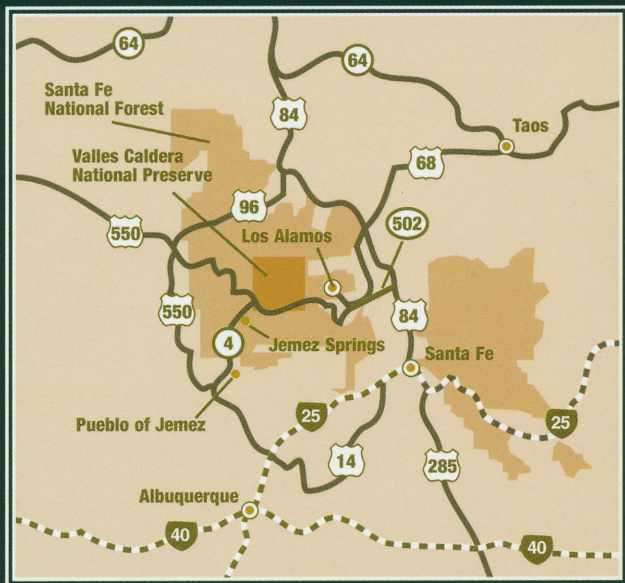
VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

Long a privately owned ranch used for livestock grazing, hunting and timber harvesting, the Valles Caldera National Preserve was created by Congress in 2000.

As stewards of the preserve, the Valles Caldera Trust has embraced science-based adaptive management to inventory, monitor and manage the many activities on the preserve. As new information is gathered and analyzed the management strategy is adjusted to leave the lightest footprint on the land possible. Our goal is to help restore the land to optimal health while operating a well-functioning and sustainable working ranch, recreation haven and wildlife preserve.

We offer a wide array of recreation programs designed to have broad appeal and provide a sense of solitude to our visitors. You will encounter few other visitors when you come, offering you a profound opportunity to "have the place to yourself" for the day.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve is located along the Jemez Mountain Trail Scenic Byway, State Highway 4. It is easily reached from Albuquerque (two-hour drive) or Santa Fe (one-and-a-half hour drive). Visitors can incorporate their visit into a day trip or better yet, a weekend get-away by staying in nearby Los Alamos, Jemez Springs or La Cueva.



The Valles Caldera Trust is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. The U.S.D.A. prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

VALLES CALDERA TRUST / PUBLIC LANDS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
6501 FOURTH ST. NW, SUITE 1 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107

