

Valles Caldera National Preserve- The Valles Caldera National Preserve is a 13.7-mile-wide volcanic caldera in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico. Hot springs, streams, fumaroles, natural gas seeps and volcanic domes are found on the caldera floor landscape. Also within the caldera are several grass valleys, or valles. The largest of which is Valle Grande, the only one accessible by a paved road. In 1975, Valles Caldera was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service with much of the caldera being within the Valles Caldera National Preserve, a unit of the National Park System. For more information and a complete list of hiking trails visit <https://www.nps.gov/vall/index.htm>

-Hiking trails-

- Sulphur Springs- 0.3 mile walk leading to geothermal features. Duration: 30-60 minutes, Location: Sulphur Springs Trailhead

- Valle Caldera- 178.9 miles of trail and hiking in the backcountry, Location: Entrance Station- from Jemez Springs: Take NM4 north for about 22 miles. Main entrance is at just past mile marker 39. Travel two miles down dirt road to the contact station. From Los Alamos: Take West Jemez Road to NM4. Take a right [away from Bandelier National Monument], follow the highway up and into the Jemez Mountains. The Preserve is 18 miles up NM4 from Los Alamos. Main entrance is just before mile marker 39. Travel two miles down dirt road to the contact station.

- Valle Grande Trail- pet friendly, 2 miles out and back, stunning views and elk viewing opportunities. Duration: 1-2 hours, Location: Valle Grande Trailhead

- Missing Cabin Trail- 0.5 mile out and back, leads to old movie set cabin with excellent views. Duration: 20-30 minutes, Location: Missing Cabin Trailhead

- South Mountain Trail- 8.2 miles out and back, some steep climbing required, passes through shady groves of trees and a meadow with beautiful views. Duration: 3-4 hours, Location: South Mountain Trailhead.

- Northwest Corner Trail- Strenuous 9.7 miles out and back, through shady groves of trees and beautiful meadows with birdwatching opportunities. Duration: 5-7 hours, Location: Northwest Corner Trailhead

- Cerro Del Medio Loop- 13.8 miles round-trip, trail is long but nearly flat, stunning views and excellent elk sighting opportunities. Duration: 7-8 hours, Location: Cerro Del Media Trailhead.

- Northwest Rim Trail- longest trail in the park at 18.6 miles out and back, not steep and has so much to offer, beautiful hidden high meadows, extensive aspen groves and elk sighting opportunities. Duration: 9-10 hours, Location: Northwest Rim Trailhead.

- **Wildlife Viewing-** Valles Caldera stretches an astounding 89,000 acres providing plenty of opportunities for viewing wildlife.

- **Night Sky Viewing-** there are pullouts along Highway 4 that are open 24/7 for night sky viewing opportunities.

- **Fishing the Valle Caldera-** with a valid Valles Caldera fishing permit, you can fish the frontcountry stream: the East Fork Jemez River. Access to the East Fork Jemez river is available by foot or bicycle. Backcountry fishing in the San Antonio Creek, Rito de los Indios or

Jaramillo Creek are also available with a valid backcountry vehicle permit (visit <https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/10089849>). All anglers are responsible for being familiar with **New Mexico Department of Game and Fish** fishing regulations and must have a valid NMDGF fishing license and a Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) stamp.