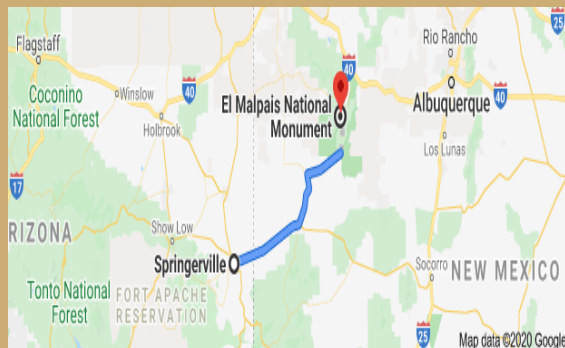


# El Malpais National Monument

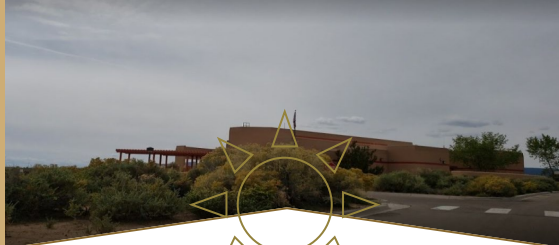
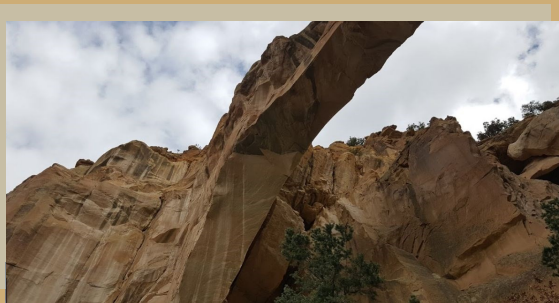


## El Malpais National Monument

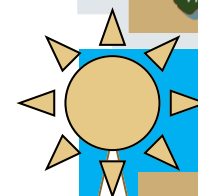
### Directions to El Malpais



Take exit 85 of I-40 in Grants, New Mexico. After you exit, head south on Santa Fe Ave, and continue straight over the freeway overpass. Take a left at the entrance sign for El Malpais Visitor Center. Continue 300 yards until you reach the parking lot.



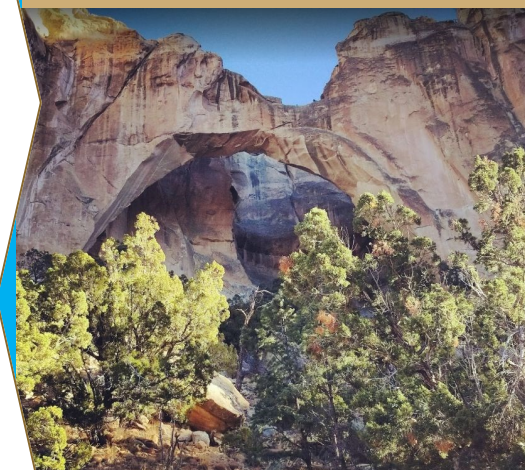
National Park Service



## El Malpais National Monument

### Visit the...

- ◇ Archeological Sites
- ◇ Petroglyphs at the Sandstone Bluffs
- ◇ Lava Tubes & Caves
- ◇ Lava Falls
- ◇ The Ice Cave
- ◇ La Ventana Arch



*El Malpais Visitor Center  
Open Daily 9:00 AM—5:00 PM*

*11900 East Santa Fe Avenue  
Grants, NM 87020*





## Ice Cave

Located in a section of Bandera's collapsed lava tube, the perpetual Ice Cave's temperature never rises above 31° F. The natural layers of ice have been forming for over 3,400 years. The perpetual Ice Cave is a natural phenomenon made possible by a combination of physical factors forming a natural ice box; a 20-foot-thick mass of ice accumulating in a well-insulated cave of porous lava and shaped just right to trap cold air, continually generating new ice as rain water and snow melt seep down and freeze.

The trail to the Ice Cave is nearly a quarter mile long and takes 20 minutes round trip to complete. The viewing platform is located 70 steps from the landing at the upper surface of the lava tube. Note the unusual transition in temperature throughout the descent. At the viewing platform, you are inside the cave but do not lose sight of day light.

The Ice Cave is a sacred place with a 1,200-year history of human interaction dating back to the Anasazi era and continuing to this day as a spiritually and refreshingly cool, peaceful space.

## Contact Us

**El Malpais National Monument**  
11000 Ice Cave Rd, Grants, NM 87020



## La Ventana Natural Arch

La Ventana Natural Arch is located along Highway 117 on the east side of the National Monument. It is one of the largest natural arches in New Mexico. The eastern escarpment of the Cebollita Mesa consists of cliffs of Jurassic Zuni Sandstone capped by Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone. The arch is formed in the Zuni Sandstone, located just outside of the National Monument on the El Malpais National Conservation Area (BLM, 2010).

## Visitor Center

Stop at the National Monument visitor center just south of I-40. They will greet you and be genuinely glad you stopped in. The monument covers a large area and contains multiple types of geology.

Shaped by multiple lava flows this area is an awe-inspiring landscape. Great for people who enjoy the outdoors and hiking.