



DISCOVER

PENDARIES

HIKING TRAILS

HIKING PREPARATION

You'll Need:

- Sturdy walking shoes or ankle-high hiking shoes
- Hat with good brim
- 1-2 bottles of water
- Sun lotion
- Loose clothing
- Optional walking stick

With the following descriptions you should be able to take most of these walks on your own.

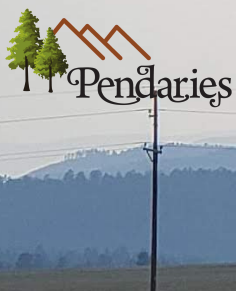
Best time to start between May - September is 8.00 am.

Enjoy an easy to moderate walk with modest elevation changes, beautiful environments, excellent vistas and scenery for Pendaries guests & residents.

1.

East Side Water Tower Walk: Drive on CR43 (Pendaries Village Dr.) to Cumbre Rd. (big direction ign). Drive up Cumbre (keep to the right) to the junction with Pasqual(R) and Consuelo (L) and park c]long the bank of either. Walk up Cumbre toward the East water tank (about .5 mile). Several short optional detours to the right onto once-intended home driveways above the main road are possible. The detours provide even better views of the valley below and above toward the top of Goat Mountain but the "going" is rougher than on the road. Heading back down Cumbre after a breather, about 2/3s the way down, you will see a yellow rope on the right. Follow the rope down a narrow trail into Ron Kveton's wooded property, then go left on a narrow, unused road which connects to Mulo Court. You pass two lovely homes then connect with Cumbre to return to the car. The entire walk should take about 1 to 1.25 hours. This is a good exercise for acclimation to our 7500 ft. elevation.





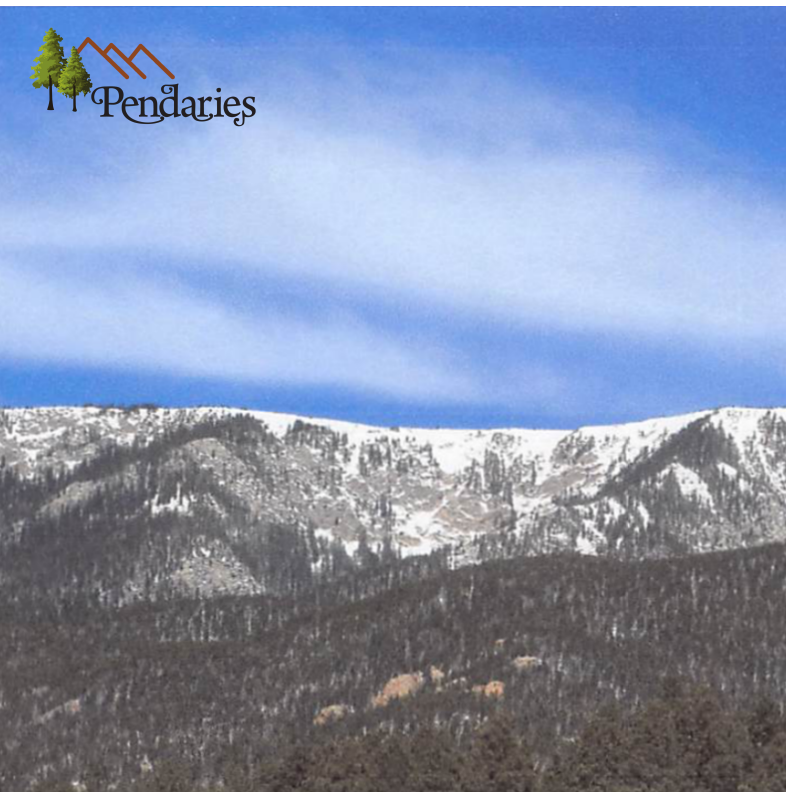
2.

Ponderosa Canogy Walk: Exit Pendaries at the main entrance. Turn left on State 105, past the P.O. Park at the gravel parking area left of the San Miguel County "Solid Waste Convenience Center" which is 1/8 mile West of the Post Office. Walk to the left, parallel to the barbed wire fence in front of you cJlong a grassy depression for about 30 yards. You will pass a pair of five ft. high wood poles with qarbed wire between, then two more wooded poles without wires. Walk between these poles to the right onto the beginning of an old mining road leading gradually upward to the East for about 1/2 mile. You will see numerous small and large quartz stones and varied colored sandstone along the road. At several points you will walk under a canopy of small ponderosa. After ½ mile the road flattens and yop walk through a wider stand of ponderosa on each side. NOTE: Do NOT turn left to follow a rock arrow laid on the ground. At a small flat spot a few feet further the road divides at a capped iron pipe (probably a mine vent). Take the spur to the left (lined with small tree limbs) onto a slightly higher road that continues for 1/3 mile. From the road (soon just a trail) there are numerous good view points on the right down into the Pendaries Valley and as far off as Hermit's Peak. You pass an unusual 30 ft. section of mica on the bluff to the left. This upper spur ends in a very thick group of small ponderosa. Turn around and go back to the iron pipe. From there, go left onto a lower spur, lined with rocks on the right. The lower spur continues for 1/4 mile, also ending in a thick group of small ponderosa. Return on the lower spur and continue back down the road to the parking area. If both the higher and lower trail spurs are walked the total walk is about 2 miles and should take about 1.3 to 1.5 hours. This is not a difficult walk but it takes you a little higher than Walk 1 - very worth doing.

3.

Campo Santo walk: Exit Pendaries at the main entrance. Turn left on State 105, past the P.O. and the Solid Waste Convenience Center. Continue straight onto NM 276 about .7 miles. Park in the Lower Rociada Santo Nifio Chapel parking lot. This walk is not difficult with little elevation change but is a little longer than the first two. From the chapel, walk up the paved road a few yards to an extension of old County Rd. A4A which leads to the right toward the Santo Nifio Santo Campo (cemetery). This road goes past the cemetery then along good views of the Gascon lower valley for about a mile. If not muddy and you are interested, your walk can continue to the right (NE) on a section of the old CR A3A now overgrown, to the paved road, NM 105, just below Upper Rociada. (There are usually a few small water pools to avoid.) Then you walk to the right on NM 105, for .75 mile, then right onto NM 276 back to your car at the chapel - - another .3 miles. Total time for this longer walk is about 2.25 hours. For a shorter walk, return to the car on the dirt road past the cemetery rather than heading down to the paved road, for a 1.5 mile walk If cemeteries interest you, the Campo Santo is not locked.





4.

A Peek at Gascon Peak: Exit Pendaries at the main entrance. Turn left on NM 105, past the P.O. and the Solid Waste Convenience Center. Continue on NM 105 which turns to the right. Drive about 7 miles (lots of interesting scenery along the way). Park at the end of the paved road on the right side. The .5 mile walk up the gravel road has great views in every direction-upper Gascon Valley, Hermit's Peak, Gascon Peak, a small acequia next to the road, a rapidly flowing river. The walk ends at the locked gate to a ranch. If not muddy you can then walk down the beginning of the Gascon Peak trail and back (The entrance is about 50 ft down the road from the gate). The entire trail to the top of Gascon Peak is a full day's HIKE, but you can get a little taste of things by walking 1/4 to 1/2 mile up the easement trail between private properties - nice aspen grove, interesting ranch land. Do this only if not muddy. Turn around after your short walk, or after reaching the ranch gate. Total time for this short but interesting walk is about 1 hour.

5.

The Sapello River Adventure: Meet at the golf course parking lot. Then go left up Forest Dr., which soon becomes Camino Sur, to Camino Facil where you turn right. Take the 1st left. onto Aspen Dr. Go in lower gear up this steep grade to where Aspen ends at Crescent Dr. Go Right on Crescent Dr. past a the large home on the left. Go another 1/8 mile to the locked fire road gate. Park to the right of the gate off the road. Walk around the gate and head down the fire road about .4 miles to the Sapello Valley Rd. (unmarked CR60). Climb over, or go around the metal gate on the right and begin walking up the road to the right, along the Sapello River (more like a creek). You will pass interesting scenery, permanent and seasonal homes, apple trees, a few horses and cows, and after about a mile, past the summer community of Rincon Montoso on the left. You can turn around there (about 1 mile so far) or continue on to a gated ranch .5 mile further. Return the way you came. If you are getting tired go around the fire road gate and walk back up the fire road to your car. But, if you are ready for more, continue down the road past the gate as far as you wish. You'll see more wonderful scenery, several ponds, unique homes and a quaint barn. Don't go too far - - you have to walk back up the fire road!



6. The Maestas Canyon Hike

Meet at the Lower Rociada Chapel (See Walk 3, for directions). Then continue the drive up NM276 (paved) for about 7 very scenic miles (small ranches, aspen groves, wild flowers (if in early summer)). The paved road ends and becomes a poorly maintained county gravel road. All but very low-rider cars will be OK if driven slowly. After a mile or so you will come to a metal gate which may be closed. Open it, drive through, close it. Keep driving for another 1/2 mile to the "End of County Maintenance" sign where the road divides. Park along the edge of the spur to the right. Get prepared to walk on the irregular, rocky, Forest Rd. 391 on your left, along Maestas Creek for .5 mile. Lovely views. Take the wide gravel crossing of the creek on your left, which rises onto the beginning of a long, wide meadow. If it is early June you will see thousands of wild iris in bloom for the next .5 mile as you weave in and out of tree clusters and a modest elevation change. Follow the "jeep rutted" road upward. In about .5 mile you will spot an old abandoned cabin on the right. After you have a look, continue up the canyon road toward a large stand of aspen. Enter them and take the continuing trail to the right. You will follow a fence line toward a small creek which you will cross on rocks, then another slightly larger creek. Walk up the bank and go through a "cattle block" and you find yourself in the backyard of what was once Gov. David Cargo's cabin. After a sit down break on the open front porch head down the trail/road to the east away from the cabin. Soon you come to a gate to climb and you find yourself on the gravel road on which you began this walk, but about .5 above where you crossed the creek into the large meadow. Continue down this road for about mile to your car.

Option: If you want to venture out further another day. after crossing the first of the two small creeks below the Gav's. Cabin, immediately turn left and follow a fairly faint trail which widens and goes through a nice stand of aspen toward Lost Lake. You'll take several short climbs upward, cross several flat spots, then begin a "serious" upward switchback toward your final destination. From your car, the total distance upward is about 2.5 miles with 500 ft. elevation change.

