

Yerba Canyon Trail #61

Type: Out & Back

Length: 4 miles one-way

Difficulty: Expert

Elevation Gain: 3,715 ft.

Trail Beginning: 8,400 ft.

Trail Ending: 12,115 ft.

Access:

Trail begins one mile east of Cuchilla Campground on NM State Highway 150 on the way to Taos Ski Valley. Parking is available at the trailhead located at the end of the short access road.

Trail Description:

This 4 mile trail, characterized by an abundance of aspen and willows in the lower elevation and spruce and fir toward the ridge is located on the south facing slope of the Rio Hondo Canyon. The trail, which follows the Yerba Canyon bottom most of its length, climbs steadily gaining 3,700 feet in elevation. The first two miles ascend gently but increase to much steeper terrain after that. For this reason, avalanche hazard during the winter and early spring is a special consideration. Horseback riding is not recommended. Water is available for the entire length of the canyon, but is not recommended for drinking without proper treatment. For short trips, take a supply of water from home or other domestic source. Day hiking, backpacking, as well as backcountry camping opportunities are available along the entire length of the trail. If you pack it in, please pack it out. Motorized vehicle use is not allowed. This trail provides access to Lobo Peak and Flag Mountain. Upon reaching Lobo Peak, you'll have a magnificent view of the Wheeler Peak area and the expansive valleys below.

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Taos Ski Valley

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