

BAYLOR PASS

East=Moderate / West=Strenuous



Challenge type: Hiking & Trail Running

Challenge length: 4.4 or 7.1 miles

Trail notes: From the Baylor Pass saddle, you will have expansive views of the Mesilla Valley to the west and the Tularosa Basin to the east. The saddle can be approached from the east side of the Organ Mountains at Aguirre Springs Recreation Area or from the west side at the parking area on Baylor Road. The east approach starts at a higher elevation and the hike to the saddle is shorter (2.2 miles). The west approach starts at a lower elevation and is a 3.55-mile hike to the saddle. Completion is based on ascending to the saddle. The trails are well-used and easy to follow. Leashed dogs are allowed.

Driving directions (East side-Aquirre Springs):

Take I-25 to Hwy. 70 east toward Alamogordo. Take Hwy. 70 over San Agustin Pass. In approximately one mile from the top of the pass, just past mile marker 165, turn right on Aguirre Springs Road. Take the road 5.6 miles to the first fee station (day fee required). The trail head is there.

Hiking directions (East side):

This well-maintained and well-traveled trail requires little description. There is a bench to rest on at 0.85 miles. A spring crosses the trail at about 1 mile in. The trail temporarily goes downhill from there. You pass a side trail to the right going to a viewpoint before the final climb to a fence opening at the saddle. Take a selfie where an old juniper snag allows you to sit in front of a juniper bush.

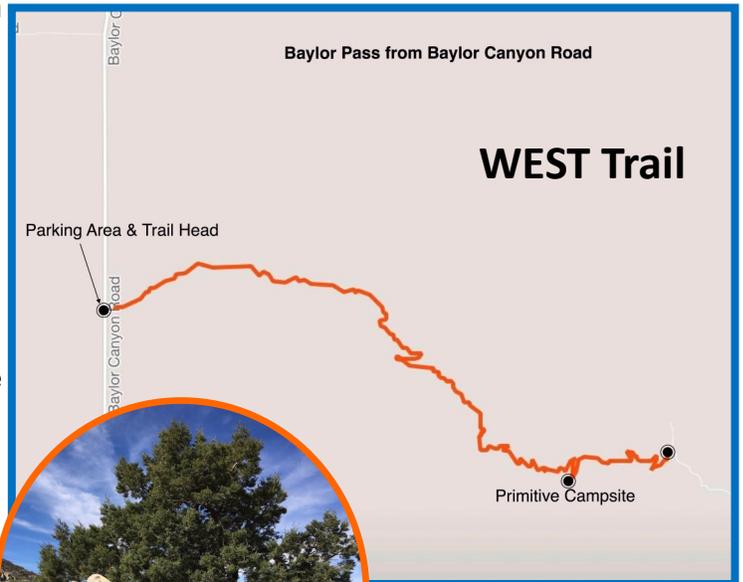


Directions (West side-Baylor Canyon Road): I-25 to Hwy. 70 east toward Alamogordo. Travel to the Baylor Road exit. Travel south. In approximately 1.5 miles you will see a national monument sign. In another 0.5 mile the trailhead parking is on your left.

Alternatively, you can approach the trailhead from I-25 exit 1 at University Avenue. Head east on University/Dripping Springs Road 7.5 miles and turn left on Baylor Road. Travel 4.7 miles to the trailhead parking on your right.

Hiking Directions (West): The trail is equipped with mile markers at 1, 2 and 3 miles. The first mile is fairly open and often has cattle grazing nearby. An old walk-through gate where fencing once was is at

the first mile marker. From there you begin a climb up the side of the canyon. A bench to rest on is at 1.4 miles. A side trail to a primitive camp site is at 2.65 miles. About a third of a mile past the last mile marker is the saddle. (Note: Our GPS measures each mile marker a little longer than one mile, for a total of 3.55 miles.) Take your selfie at the snag in front of the juniper bush



DON'T FORGET TO
take & post your selfie
at the juniper snag

