

FILLMORE LOOP

Moderate



Challenge type: Hiking & Trail Running
Challenge length: 3.8 miles

Trail notes: This 3.8-mile loop in the Dripping Springs National Recreation Area includes an out and back side trail to Fillmore Canyon and its falls, which will flow after significant rains. Leashed dogs are allowed on this loop, but not on other trails within the Recreation Area.

Driving Directions: Take I-25 Exit 1, drive east on University Avenue/Dripping Springs Road for 9.3 miles and turn left at the La Cueva picnic area. (The Recreation Area gate usually opens at 8 a.m.) A day fee is required at the self-service kiosk. The trail begins in the parking area across from the rest rooms. One can also start this walk at the Visitor Center, which is another half-mile past the La Cueva picnic area turnoff. You may pay the day-use fee there as well.

Mileages start at the La Cueva picnic area trailhead and head clockwise. Proceed straight across the arroyo 0.14 mile and stay left at the fork in the trail. (The right hand fork leads to La Cueva, the hermit's cave.) The trail goes to the left and around the major rock outcroppings and parallels a fence line. You will pass a large live oak tree at about 0.67 mile. In another tenth of a mile you come to the pass-through on the fence line near a historic marker. Here, going through the gate, you leave the loop for a one-third mile trek to Fillmore Falls. Continue making sure you

stay on the main trail through the arroyo. (Another trail to the right, before the arroyo will take you above the canyon.) After passing the arroyo, stay right following the trail marker to go to the falls. Short trails to the left explore the remnants of the mine. The main trail follows the arroyo to the rock face at Fillmore Falls. Take a selfie here.



Retrace your steps the one-third mile through the gate and take up the loop by turning left onto the Crawford Trail. In 0.9 mile the Crawford Trail intersects with the Dripping Springs Trail. Take a selfie here. (Dogs are not allowed to the left on the Dripping Springs Trail.) Turn right for the downhill half-mile walk to the Visitor Center. There you will find the La Cueva Trailhead, which follows a broad gravel path past an overlook of La Cueva, doubling back a short way and taking you into the Ice Canyon arroyo. At 0.5 mile from the Visitor Center trailhead, you will see a trail to the right going to La Cueva. Dogs are not allowed on that trail. Staying on the arroyo trail, you will shortly see a concrete water retention structure in the arroyo. Take a selfie here. The trail winds around the back of the structure into the arroyo bottom. In another 0.3 miles the trail intersects with trail from the La Cueva parking lot. Turn left uphill to complete the loop.



DON'T FORGET TO
take your selfies at the Fillmore falls, trail intersection and the water retention structure
silcnm.org ~ hikewithyourheart.org ~ hikewithyourheart.com