

# SIERRA VISTA TRAIL

Strenuous



**Challenge type:** Hiking, Biking & Trail Running  
**Challenge length:** 15.8 miles

**Trail notes:** Sierra Vista Trail runs parallel to the Organ Mountains, making it a popular mountain bike, trail running and hiking trail of scenic quality. The trail undulates through the foothills of the mountains. The trail goes in and out of arroyos with short descents and ascents and no sustained climbing, if going north to south, as there is a general, gradual descent. This segment of the trail is 15.8 miles from the Dripping Springs Road trailhead to the Vado trail head. Both trailheads are easily accessible with low clearance vehicles on mostly paved roads. Cyclists can also access the Sierra Vista Trail via the La Maria Trail. The north junction of the two trails meets just 0.3 miles from the Dripping Springs Trailhead and the south junction 1.1 miles from the same trailhead.

**Driving Directions:** To drop a vehicle at the Vado Trail Head, drive to the Vado exit on I-10 (exit 155) and head east on a paved road from the exit roundabout. In 2.1 miles, just past a power line road, you will see a Sierra Vista Trail sign to your left. Take the gravel road 0.1 mile to the parking area. To get to the Dripping Springs Road Trailhead, take Exit 1 on I-25 and head east on Dripping Springs Road. About 1.2 miles past the National Monument sign and turnout (which is also the La Maria Trailhead), there is a gravel road to the right and a sign for the trail. Drive 0.3 miles down the road to the trailhead.

**Hiking Directions:** The first selfie picture stop is 1.6 miles from the Dripping Springs trailhead at a BLM gate near a homestead. One mile later, you will cross Soledad Canyon Road and see another trailhead and parking area. About 3 miles from there the trail will parallel a stock fence until you come to an opening in the fence, where you will take your second selfie (Mile

5.9). The trail winds toward colorful Pena Blanca and the gap between that rocky outcropping and Bishop Cap. At 9.8 miles you reach the parking area for the Mesquite Trailhead (which is accessible on rough road from the Mesquite exit of I-10). There, you cross a deep arroyo and search for the trail on the other side. You will cross a power line road at 12.7 miles, where you look southwest toward another power line and the Vado Trailhead. You come to your third and last selfie stop at a trail marker on a grassy plain at about 13.5 miles. The grass gives way to a sandy creosote patch. The trail may be hard to follow here, but look for trail markers. The trail becomes much clearer after the creosote and even includes some pavers in sandy spots. A couple more sandy arroyos and you will be at the Vado parking area.



**DON'T FORGET TO**  
take your selfies at the gate,  
fence and marker

