

Cross Country Ski Routes

All mileages shown are one way only.

Trail 1, South Crest Trail, TR 130 This 16-mile trail begins at the Sandia Crest parking lot and travels south to the Canyon Estates trailhead in Tijeras Canyon. Portions of the trail are steep and rocky. The last 5 miles to Canyon Estates run along south facing slopes and are ski-able only after heavy snowfall. Elevation change is 4,000 feet.

Trail 2, North Crest Trail, TR130 An 11-mile route that runs north from the Sandia Crest parking lot and ends at Tunnel Springs near Placitas. Elevation change is 4,200 feet.

Trail 3, Kiwanis Meadow Road/Kiwanis Meadow

The 1/4 mile road and meadow area are excellent for beginners after a fresh snow. The meadow area may be more difficult after sun and winds make the snow surface icy and rough. Trail 3a connects the meadow to the South Crest Trail (trail 1). Trails 3b and 3c connect the meadow to the Service Road (trail 8).

Trail 4, Switchback Trail A 1.7 mile trail beginning south of the Crest parking lot on Kiwanis Meadow Road and ending on the service road a few hundred feet south of Ellis Trailhead. It roughly parallels the switchbacks of the Crest Highway. Elevation change is 320 feet.

Trail 5, Buried Cable Trail A 0.4 route that parallels the Kiwanis Meadow Road. Steep in spots, Buried Cable is for more experienced skiers. Elevation change is 150 feet.

Trail 6, Survey Trail A narrow, 3 mile trail with short, steep pitches that begins at Switchback Trail, crosses the Crest Highway and 10K Trail and continues north to Osha Loop Trail. Elevation change is 800 feet.

Trail 7, Gravel Pit Trail This 0.8 mile trail begins in the woods just north of the restaurant at the Upper Tram Terminal and emerges at Kiwanis Meadow. Elevation change is 100 feet.

Trail 8, Service Road A wide, 1-mile beginner's route extending from the Ellis Trailhead to the Upper Tram Terminal. Elevation change is 50 feet.

Trail 9, Rocky Point Trail An alternative to the service road and just below it, this 0.9-mile trail weaves through the trees and offers a less crowded experience than the road. Elevation change is 50 feet.

Trail 10, Ellis Trail A 3.5-mile trail north of Ellis Trailhead. Short, steep sections follow a wide road clearing to the north over snow that is usually wind blown and icy. This trail intersects 10K Trail two miles out and can be combined with either 10K North or North Crest Trail to form an enjoyable loop for intermediate to expert skiers. Elevation change is 600 feet.

Trail 11, .Challenge Trail This steep, 4-mile trail originates at the Ellis Trailhead and descends to the base of the Sandia Peak Ski Area. Elevation change is 1,700 feet.

Trail 12, 10K Trail This 4.4-mile trail is divided into a northern and southern section, with the Crest Highway as the divider. The trail has steep sections along its northern half. Elevation change is 600 feet.

Trail 13, Ninemile Picnic Area A mix of several trails makes this area a good choice for beginner and intermediate skiers.

Trail 14, Capulin Trail This 1-mile trail with 2 short, steep sections originates at the north end of the Capulin Snowplay Area parking lot. After crossing the Crest Highway, it ends near the lower end of Ninemile

Picnic Area. Elevation change is 200 feet.

Trail 15, Capulin Peak Trail This 0.5-mile trail begins at the Capulin Snowplay Area parking lot just south of the restrooms and extends to Capulin Peak. Elevation change is 150 feet.

Trail 16, Las Huertas Road This road to Placitas can be reached from Balsam Glade or Capulin Picnic Area. It offers a wide clearing for beginners. Snowmobiles are sometimes present, and parts of the road are steep.

Trail 17, Tree Springs Trail A steep, rocky 2-mile trail not recommended for cross country skiing. This route is outside the wilderness and intersects 10K South and South Crest Trails near their termination. Elevation change is 1,000 feet.