

ACHENBACH CANYON

Moderate to Strenuous



Challenge type: Hiking

Challenge length: 3.3 miles

Trail Notes: The trail for this out and back hike leaves the rear of the parking area and takes you 1.65 miles to a shallow cave. There are several places where the trail is steep and rocky. Tread carefully, especially on the downhill, to avoid slipping. Dogs are allowed, but should be leashed.

Driving Directions: From Las Cruces, take I-25 Exit 1 and head East on University Avenue (which becomes Dripping Springs Road) for 4.6 miles. There you will turn right on Soledad Canyon Road and continue 4 miles toward the mountains to Ladera Canyon Road. Turn right on the gravel road for 0.6 mile before turning left on a rocky jeep track just past trash dumpsters. Go 0.2 mile to a parking area.

Hiking directions: From the parking area, the trail heads into the arroyo, then begins to climb back out. At 0.2 miles there is a retention dam. You will see a trail across the retention pond that heads through Ladera Canyon. Stay on your side of the dam on the main trail. There is considerable climbing for the first half mile to a saddle overlooking Ladera Canyon. Bear left here following the contours of side canyons for another half mile, where you will arrive at a good

resting place under a juniper tree overlooking a dry waterfall. Take the trail to the left toward a rock outcropping. (The trail to the right is the entrance to an arroyo.) Near the rocks, at about 1.25 miles, there is a left fork which heads to an east-facing overlook at the boundary of the military reservation. To head to the cave, stay right and head to a saddle to the south. From there you can see the cave on the far wall of the next canyon. Follow the trail to

the bottom of the canyon. As you start up toward the cave a right fork splits from the trail at about 1.55 miles. Do not take the right fork that heads down Ladera Canyon. Stay left for a steep tenth of a mile climb to the cave. The cave makes a great picnic or camping spot and it is the place for your selfie. Retrace your steps back to the parking area for a total of 3.3 miles.



DON'T FORGET TO
take your selfie
at the cave.

