



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Switchback Trail

New Mexico



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The Switchback Trail is a moderately difficult 3-mile loop constructed along portions of the former Alamogordo and



and its stunning views of the Mexican Canyon Trestle.

The Switchback Trail is a moderately difficult 3-mile loop constructed along portions of the former Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountain Railroad. In the middle of the trail, there is one especially steep (35 percent grade) section, though it's short.

It offers good views, scattered wooded areas and meadows with wildflowers in season. The lower end of this trail has a shelter and explanatory sign describing the historical switchback on the railroad which is in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The trail safely avoids US Highway 82 once by pedestrian bridge and, in another location, by culvert underneath the roadway. The bridge connects the trail with others in an 8-mile network, including the [Cloud-Climbing Trestle Trail](#)



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Switchback Trail

New Mexico

States: New Mexico

Counties: Otero

Length: 3miles

Trail end points: Old Cloudcroft Highway Trail
to Bailey Canyon Road (Forest Road 206)

Trail surfaces: Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Horseback Riding, Mountain
Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

On the north end of Cloudcroft, a trailhead is available on Bailey Canyon Road, along US Highway 82.



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Switchback Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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