



VIEW OF PAJARITO SKI HILL FROM UPPER QUEMAZON TRAIL

The Quemazon Trailhead is located on the edge of the Western Area neighborhood. It is the launching point for the Quemazon Nature Trail, the Satch Cowan Trail, and further away adventures via the Quemazon Trail. About the first mile of this area is located on Los Alamos County open space and beyond that point is the Santa Fe National Forest.

### FINDING THE QUEMAZON TRAILHEAD

Finding the Trailhead: From 15th Street and Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos, head south on 15th. Turn right at the traffic signal at Trinity Drive. Head west to the intersection with Diamond Drive at the Los Alamos Medical Center. Continue straight into the Western Area on Trinity. In about 0.6 miles, the road begins to swing right and becomes 48th Street. Turn left to stay on Trinity Drive and immediately make another left onto a narrow access road between two houses. The trailhead is a few yards ahead on the right. There is parking for about six vehicles.



### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

A 58-mile network of trails links the foothills, canyons, and mesas in and around Los Alamos. Hikers, runners, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and other trail users delight in the variety of trails from which to choose. The trails offer a quick escape from the hectic pace in town; a route to commute to work, an easy stroll or a physical challenge, the chance to observe wildlife, or simply soaking in the impressive views. The County Trail Network connects over 100 miles of trails on the surrounding Santa Fe National Forest and the adjacent Valles Caldera National Preserve.



SUNRISE ON THE LOWER SECTION OF QUEMAZON TRAIL



FOOTHILLS PAINTBRUSH



WHILE RARE, MOUNTAIN LIONS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED IN THIS AREA



QUEMAZON TRAIL IS POPULAR DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO TOWN



LATE AFTERNOON VIEW OF LOS ALAMOS

### USING LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE

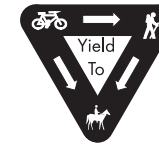
The Los Alamos County Trail Network is open to non-motorized use only.

### RESOURCE PROTECTION

All cultural resources such as Ancestral Pueblo room blocks, pot shards, petroglyphs, and historical artifacts are protected by Federal and State law. Let all cultural resources lie undisturbed.

### SHARE THE TRAIL

These are multi-use trails for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists. Bicyclists should yield to all other users.



### DOGS IN LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE

All dogs must be on a leash when within 100 yards of a trailhead. Dogs must be under voice and sight control at all times.

### SAFETY

When exploring, please stay on marked trails. Always carry water, sunscreen, a hat, extra clothing, a flashlight, and a navigational aid.

Trailhead guides are available at major trailheads, the Los Alamos County Customer Care Center in the Municipal Building, the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce, and online.

For more information, visit [www.losalamosnm.us](http://www.losalamosnm.us), then follow the links to Open Space and Trails.



# Quemazon Trailhead

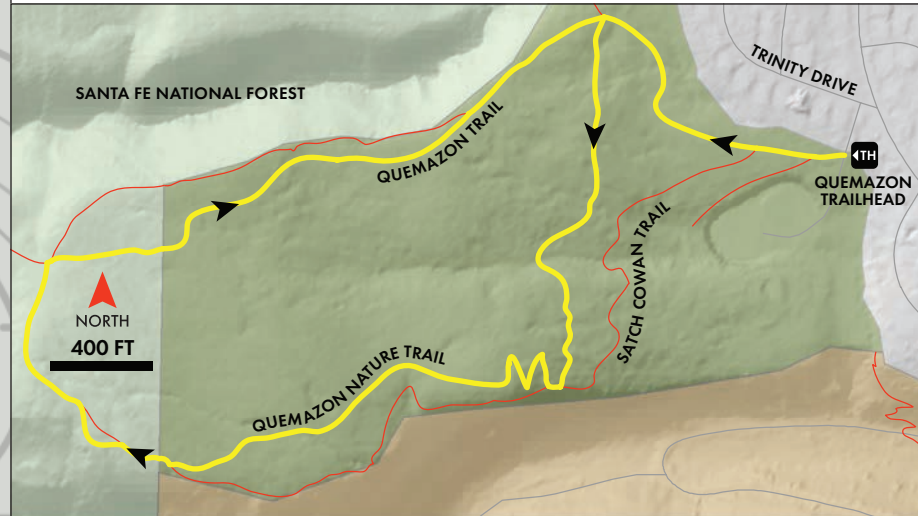


## QUEMAZON NATURE TRAIL

LENGTH: 1.86 MILES ROUNDTrip	ELEVATION GAIN: 400 FEET
FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATELY EASY	FEATURES: WILDFIRE RECOVERY GUIDE
TRAIL SURFACE: PACKED DIRT, ROCK	FIELD NOTES: RECOMMENDED FOR FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY

A local favorite, the Quemazon Nature Trail is a 2-mile loop suitable for all hikers. The trail gains about 400 feet in elevation, but the grades are gentle. Trail guides keyed to the number posts along the trail are available at the trailhead or on the trails page of the Los Alamos County web site.

Starting at the trailhead, travel up hill on a wide dirt road, passing the Satch Cowan Trail. In a few minutes, pass to the left of a green gate at a water tank and turn left onto the nature trail. Follow the trail as it winds up the mesa. Continue on the trail as it swings to the north. In a minute, reach the Quemazon Trail, turn right, and return to the trailhead.



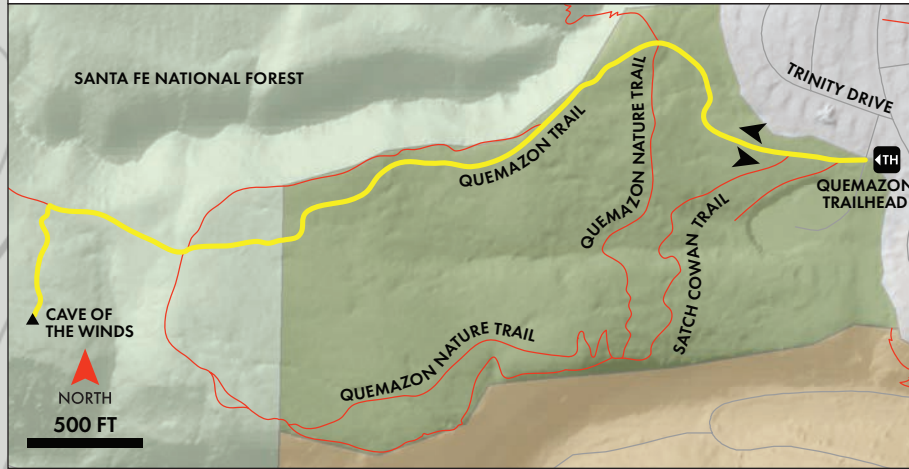
## CAVE OF THE WINDS

LENGTH: 2.2 MILES OUT-AND-BACK	ELEVATION GAIN: 450 FEET
FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE	FEATURES: CAVE
TRAIL SURFACE: PACKED DIRT, ROCK	FIELD NOTES: RECOMMENDED FOR FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY

The Cave of the Winds is a small cave that has long been a favorite destination of the kids of Los Alamos. It is reached via the Quemazon Trail and a short spur. Take a flashlight for the cave—it isn't very big, but it is dark in the back.

Begin at the Quemazon Trailhead near the intersection of 48th and Trinity. Walk up the wide road behind the information kiosk, passing the Satch Cowan Trail to the left. After a few minutes, continue to the left of a water tank and a green gate at the lower intersection with the Quemazon Nature Trail. Steadily climb on the well-worn road for about 0.8 mile. Where the trail finally levels for a bit, meet the upper section of the Quemazon Nature Trail. Continue across a long, flat stretch and watch for the rock cairns that mark the entrance to the Cave of the Winds Trail (this is just after the trail begins climbing again).

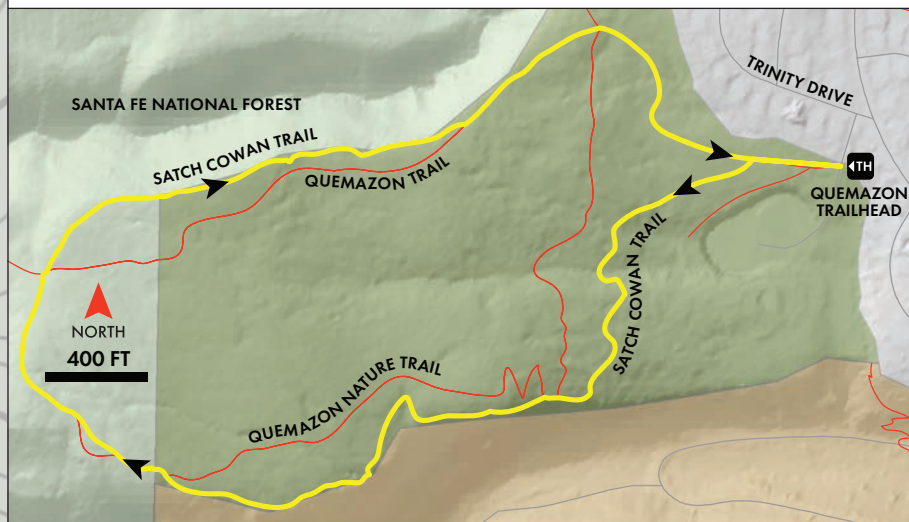
Turn left and follow the winding trail to the edge of Los Alamos Canyon. The cave is 100 feet below the rim, down a staircase of rock in small notch in the cliff. You have to watch carefully for the entrance to the cave, which is a horizontal slit in the rocks.



## SATCH COWAN LOOP

LENGTH: 1.9 MILES	ELEVATION GAIN: 400 FEET
FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE	FEATURES: VIEWS ALONG CANYON EDGE
TRAIL SURFACE: PACKED DIRT, ROCK	FIELD NOTES: RECOMMENDED FOR FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY

A bit steeper and more rugged than the nature trail, the Satch Cowan Trail hugs the north rim of Los Alamos Canyon to provide spectacular views. From the Quemazon Trailhead, travel about 200 feet up the wide dirt road behind the information kiosk and bear left onto the Satch Cowan Trail. In a few minutes come to another road. Turn left onto the road and in a few yards; turn right onto the marked trail. Meander uphill on a rocky slope and in 0.2 mile, you will join the Quemazon Nature Trail. Around the first turn



to the right, the Satch Cowan Trail bears left and steeply ascends the mesa along the rim of Los Alamos Canyon. Enjoy grand vistas as the trail gains about 200 feet in elevation along the rim. About a mile from the start, rejoin the Nature Trail near marker 27. Turn left onto the Nature Trail as it swings to the north and crosses the main Quemazon Trail. Now heading downhill, enjoy sweeping views. The trail meets the main Quemazon Trail near a water tank. Turn left on the wide trail, pass the water tank, and follow the road back to the trailhead.

## QUEMAZON/PIPELINE LOOP

LENGTH: 7.8 MILES	ELEVATION GAIN: 1,600 FEET
FITNESS LEVEL: DIFFICULT	FEATURES: 360 DEGREE VIEWS
TRAIL SURFACE: PACKED DIRT	MOUNTAIN BIKING SKILL LEVEL: CHALLENGING

This long loop can be hot in summer, but makes a great early or late season journey. Head up the main Quemazon Trail as it ascends the mesa, gaining 1,500 feet over three miles. At Pipeline Road, turn right and follow its winding route that offers outstanding views of Los Alamos and its surroundings. After about 2.5 miles on the road, turn right onto the Perimeter Trail. The trail winds around several drainages as it traverses above Los Alamos. Near the rim of South Pueblo Canyon, the trail swings to the east, crosses a pipeline, and then wiggles downhill over rocky terrain. After a hairpin turn through a drainage, watch on the right for signs that mark a steep trail that crosses the branch of Pueblo Canyon. On the other side, the trail ascends, turns to the right and passes between two houses on an easement. At the road, head straight on 49th Street. At the t-intersection with Trinity, turn left and in 300 feet, turn right onto the access road for the Quemazon Trailhead.



**THINK SAFETY:** Keep your high desert hike safe & enjoyable! Stay on marked trails, know your limitations and your route. Avoid hiking in the heat of the day, drink plenty of water, use sunscreen, bring snacks, wear a hat and appropriate footwear. Remember that cell phone coverage may not be available for navigation or summoning help—consider other options and carry a map.