

New Mexico / Abiquiu

## Rim Vista Trail (Mesa de los viejos)

DISTANCE: 5.4 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1300 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Out & Back

At the top of this trail, you are on the rim of the Valle del Rio Chama. You get amazing views of the valley, the Ghost Ranch area with its colorful geologic formations, Abiquiu Lake, the Jemez, and the Sangre de Cristo mountains. When it comes to views, this trail is probably one of the best in the state, and this is really saying something.

### **Getting to the trailhead:**

From Española, take US 84 north through Abiquiu. You will pass the turnoff for NM 96 (Abiquiu Lake), and Ghost Ranch. 2.4 miles after the Ghost Ranch turnoff, you should see the turnoff on your left for forest road (FR) 151 (a sign indicates Rio Chama as well as the forest road number).

Take FR 151 which starts as asphalt, but quickly turns to dirt. After about 0.7 mi, you see a road to the right, which had a small sign indicating trail 15 is to the right. Take this road. If you have a low clearance vehicle, you may want to park here. At about 0.2 mi the road forks. The more heavily traveled road to the right is the one you want. The road dead-ends about 0.1 mile further; this is the trailhead.

Note that on US 84, the Echo Amphitheater day use area is about 1.5 miles north of the turnoff to forest road 151.

### **About the hike:**

The trail is easy to follow. From the trailhead, you head across a small wash, and then up the hill on the other side. The trail climbs gently throughout the hike. The mesa top you can see in the distance is your destination. The sign at the trailhead says 2.3 miles. However, my GPS log shows that it is closer to 2.7 miles (one way).

