

Texas / Fort Davis

Chihuahuan Desert Outside

DISTANCE: 2.4 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 370 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Loop

This short but beautiful and rugged trail is a must-see at CDRI's Nature Center, just outside of Ft. Davis. The trail starts right outside the visitor center and features a descent into Modesta Canyon down to a small spring, a walk around the Lion's Head Hill, dramatic views along the rim of a quarry, and an ascent to Clayton's Overlook Geology Exhibit atop an intrusive hill. This is a fee area. Be sure to bring sturdy shoes, a hat, a walking stick, and plenty of water.

There is a fee to enter but it is a nice hike through beautiful desert scenery. We hiked through a quarry/canyon and enjoyed great views of the surrounding mountains. This hike wasn't too difficult aside from a few spots that required walking over some slick uneven rock that would break apart underfoot (maybe shale or slate). Took our two dogs in the middle of the day in September which wasn't a great idea although they loved Modesta Spring. I would recommend stopping after marker 13 and cutting back towards the visitor center for a more dog friendly walk in the heat of the day.

A beautiful trail in a hidden gem near Ft. Davis! This trail is strenuous but so lovely - from the quiet solitude in the canyon to the sunny overlook where you can see for miles - every turn shows something new and different. Definitely bring water.

