



New Mexico, USA

@CityofAztec

### Alien Run Mountain Bike Trails

*Ranked #1 in Northwestern New Mexico*

*Ranked #17 the State of New Mexico*

*Ranked #12 in the BLM's Top 20*

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	New Mexico	National
Access	0.5	0.8	Easy	NR	NR	NR	NR
Alien Run – Short Loop	5.7	9.2	Easy	2	2	17	598
Alien Run – Long Loop	3.4	5.4	Intermediate	1	1	17	598
Alien Run Outer Limit	6.7	10.9	Intermediate / Difficult	3	3	330	16,681

NR = Not Ranked

#### Trail Difficulty Key

- Easy                    5% grade; 2 inch obstacles
- Intermediate            10% grade; 8 inch obstacles
- Difficult                    15% grade; 15 inch obstacles, occasional harder sections
- Extreme Difficulty       20% grade, 15+ inch obstacles, many harder sections

Trail Difficulty, Rating, and Ranking based on the MTB Project ([www.mtbproject.com](http://www.mtbproject.com))

#### Land Manager

Bureau of Land Management  
 Farmington Field Office  
 6251 College Blvd. Suite A  
 Farmington, NM 87402  
 (800) 842-3127  
[www.blm.gov/new-mexico](http://www.blm.gov/new-mexico)

#### BLM Mountain Biking

[www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/mountainbike](http://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/mountainbike)

#### Report Vandalism

Report any vandalism to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hot line at (505) 564-7600.

## MTB Project Trail Comments

Alien Run has a bit of everything: swooping flow trail, rim riding, slickrock sessioning, and tight turns among the pinons and junipers. It's a remarkable mix including one of the largest selections of slickrock in New Mexico. Bike Magazine chose Alien Run to represent New Mexico in a March 2008 guide to the 50 states.



The sign at the trailhead shows 5, 10, and 19 mile options. The distance is actually 16 mi, not 19, for Outer Limits. This description will cover the 10 mile loop. It is directional: ride counter-clockwise.

### Short Loop



The first section is a nice warmup on dirt tread, swooping in and out of small arroyos just back from the rim of Hart Canyon. Soon you are riding on a mixture of slickrock and distinct trail. At 2.3 mi there is an optional "Black Hole" loop that rolls around the convexities and concavities of the canyon edge. The intermediate rider can follow the arrows but experts will find interesting side features to session. Now the riding is mostly on slickrock with Moab-style paint arrows. Some are faded or missing so a bit of route finding may be needed.

### Long Loop



At 2.9 miles you can turn left and do the 5 mile loop (Short Loop). Otherwise, carry on along the rim. Alien Run was developed by Al & Deral Saiz of Aztec. Around 3.2 mi you see an example of their design skills. The trail leaves the rim and climbs up a canyon through boulders to reach another level of rim. This terrain change completely alters the character of the trail. Around mile 4, the alleged "UFO Crash Site" is off to the left somewhere. Cue the "Close Encounters" soundtrack! At 4.3 mi you reach the Alien Run Outer Limits option. Turning to the north you leave the canyon rim behind. Now the trail changes to tight and swooping turns among pinons, with occasional sandy sections.

### Outer Loop



This is a completely separate loop with very different characteristics: rocky climbs and plunging downhills.



# Alien Run Mountain Bike Trails



**Trail Difficulty**

- Easy
- Intermediate
- Intermediate / Difficult
- Parking
- UFO Crash Site
- Natural Arches & Windows

## BLM Rules:



1. Ride only on established trails.
2. Shooting is prohibited.
3. Firewood gathering is prohibited.
4. No motorized vehicles.
5. Permits are required for commercial, competitive and organized group events.
6. Pets must be under control at all times.