

# T201

## McKittrick Canyon Ridge Trail

### Guadalupe Ranger District



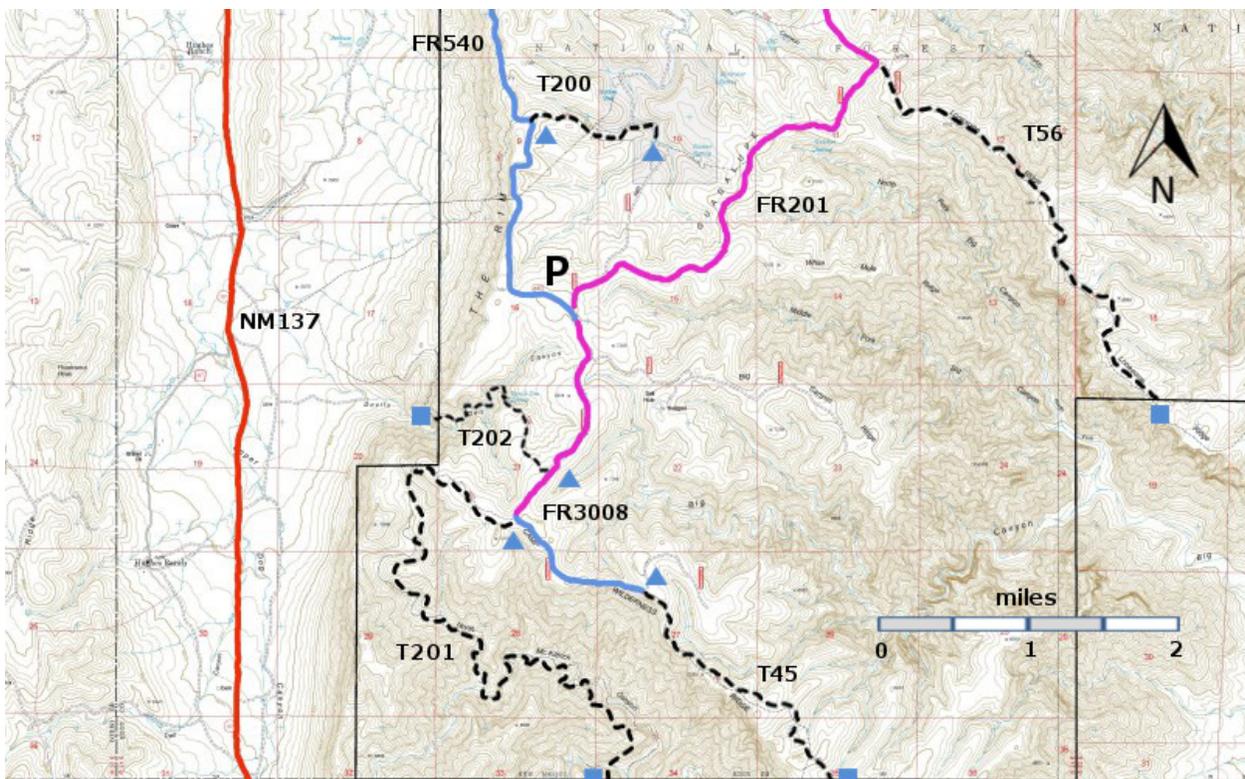
## T201

GPS Track (as .GPX)

Left click to open in your browser; then save from browser.

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
5.5 miles See Text	5640 - 7380 ft 1740 ft difference	Difficult	3

Allowed Usage				



[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

T45, T56, T200, T201 and T202 are shown as black dashed lines on the map. The portions of FR3008 and FR201 shown in magenta are so bad that they are impassable for most high clearance 4WD vehicles. The large "P" shows the location of an open gravel pad where most hikers will park. In this area there is

also a "kiosk" with decent cell phone contact (Verizon, at least) and the GPS coordinates for the site. In case of emergency, you will need to state where you are.

**NOTE:** Welcome to the Guadalupe Ranger District and really bad roads. Lovely hikes are coupled with difficulty in driving to the starting points of the trails! The segment of FR540 south of the parking area (P) (.0.3 miles) and the segment of FR3008 from its junction with FR540 to the canyon rim (1.2 miles), and all of FR201 are so bad that they require a high clearance 4WD vehicle. In planning hikes that might make use of these roads, count the bad road distance as part of the hike rather than part of the "drive to" access.

### **CAUTIONS:**

- (1) You cannot access the lower trailhead from Guadalupe Mountains National park, nor can you continue from T201 into the National Park. T201 is an "out and back" hike. Plan carefully. Consider your stamina and how much water you will need in the high desert environment.
- 2) Once you leave the rim at mile 0.8 there is no trail. You will have to work your way down slope through several ledges and then follow the canyon bottom. I have only hiked about 0.4 miles along the canyon bottom (no problem), and I cannot guarantee that the remainder of the route is hikeable – there may be rock falls and dropoffs.
- (3) Be sure to have a back up and a safety plan.

**DESCRIPTION:** From the upper trailhead, T201 follows an old road 0.8 miles to the rim. A short hike to the north along the rim allows a nice view into Devil's Den Canyon. From here you are on your own. Make your way 300 feet down the slope. Sometimes there are cairns to lead you to openings in the modest ledges. Hike down the canyon. I have been told that there are very nice views, but I did not hike far enough down canyon to see them.

Trail designations can be confusing. At one time the forest Road now designated as FR201 (or at least part of it) was designated as T201. Indeed, there is a weathered wooden T201 sign on FR201. The current T201 is correctly described here.

### **ACCESS:**

**Upper Trailhead:** To reach T201, take US285 northwest from Carlsbad (about 12 miles) to 0.6 mile beyond milepost 45 at its junction with NM137, Queen Highway. Turn left and follow the paved road 32 miles to milepost 22. If you need to get water, take the FR68E turnoff (right) to Guadalupe Ranger District Administrative Site and the public water hydrant. Otherwise continue along NM137 for 6.5 miles to the turnoff (left) for FR540 (which may also be signed as Klondike Gap Road). FR540 is a very good gravel road. Follow it 11.6 miles to a large open gravel are ("P" on the map). Park in this area, and hike south 0.3 miles along a bad segment of FR540 and 1.2 miles along a bad segment of FR3008 to the canyon rim and the trailhead for T201.

**Lower Trailhead:** The lower trailhead is at the upper end of North McKittrick Trail within the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. In order to preserve the ecology of McKittrick Canyon, the National park serviced does not allow hiking in that portion of McKittrick Canyon. You cannot access the lower trailhead from the National park, nor can you continue from T201 into the National Park.

### GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Trailhead	N32 01 25.2 W104 48 22.6	518294 3543074
Guadalupe NP Boundary	N32 00 01.3 W104 47 40.2	519412 3540495
Parking Pad - "P"	N32 02 31.0 W104 48 00.9	518859 3545103

### Links to Other Resources

[Guadalupe Ranger District Trails](#)

[Area Topo Map \(36 MB\)](#)

[Six Topo Maps](#)

Last Hiked: 3/19/2017

1/2/2020