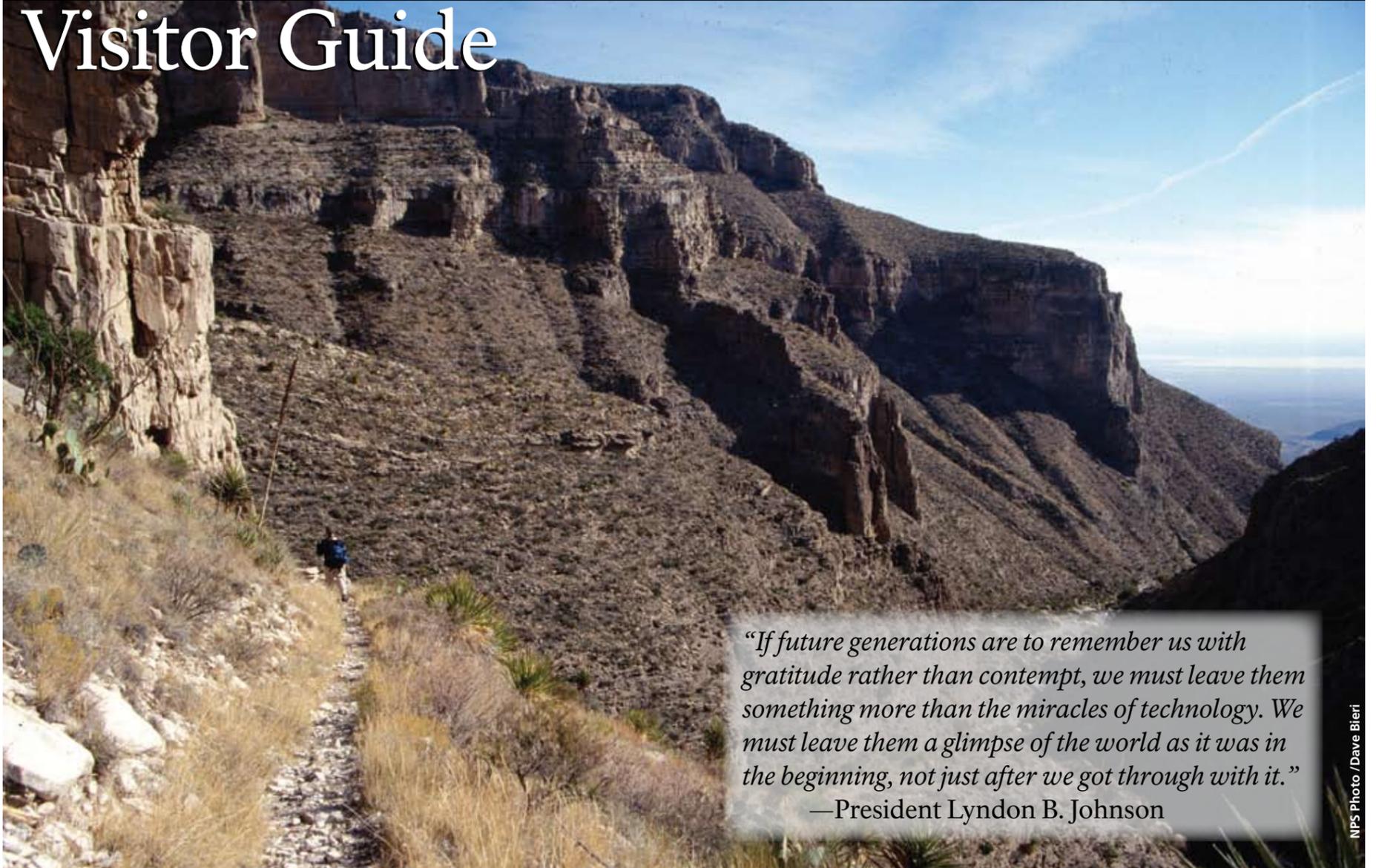




Visitor Guide



“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”
—President Lyndon B. Johnson

NPS Photo / Dave Bieri

The Wild Side of the Guadalupe

by Sharon Collyer

“Look,” the party chief explained, “you need this road.”

“Who needs it,” I said. “We get very few tourists in this park.”

“That’s why you need it,” the engineer explained patiently. “Look,” he said, “when this is built you’ll get ten, twenty, thirty times as many tourists in here as you get now.”

...He stared at me intently, waiting to see what possible answer I could have to that. ...I had an answer all right, but I was saving it for later. I knew that I was dealing with a madman.

From *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey

No, we don’t have a scenic drive through the Park. And no, we don’t have a road to the top of Guadalupe Peak. We don’t even have a tour bus that will take you to Pratt Cabin, and there is no direct route to Dog Canyon from Pine Springs. ...unless you walk the entire length of the Tejas Trail, a grueling but beautiful 11.7 mile long path of endless ups and downs. In fact, Guadalupe Mountains National Park’s 82-mile trail system is about five times as lengthy as the amount of roadway we offer visitors. For an 86,416 acre National Park with such striking terrain and so much recreational potential, it seems that Park managers have been very stingy with

their use of asphalt. Granted, the Guadalupe’s complex geological profile, a massive Permian-era limestone reef eroding away into a rugged landscape of craggy cliff faces, jagged ridgelines and serpentine canyons, was once, in itself, a formidable obstacle to vehicular exploration. But as anybody who has driven in Sequoia, Zion, the Everglades or Big Bend knows, when the Park Service has a will, it surely finds a way to build a road anywhere it needs to: to the bottoms of canyons, to the tops of mountains, through the harshest deserts and over the spongiest marshes. Nevertheless, the Guadalupe Mountains’ lack of roads has little to do with road technology; it has, however, everything to do with the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In November of 1978 over half the Park —46,850 acres, to be exact—was congressionally designated as one of America’s protected wilderness areas in our country’s National Wilderness Preservation System. Today, 756 designated wilderness areas protect 109,478,939 acres in 44 states, and are managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wilderness areas can be enormous

tracts of land encompassing swollen frigid rivers and forbidding glaciated peaks, such as the 9,078,675-acre Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness in Alaska, or simply a narrow flyway along an unmarred coastline where millions of seabirds nest and perch among exposed reefs and miniature islands, such as the tiny 5-acre Rocks and Islands Wilderness in Northern California. Wilderness areas represent almost every single existing ecosystem in the United States: prairie grasslands, coral reefs, desert springs, mangrove forests, alpine tundra, sand dunes. ... the list is long and varied. Wilderness areas also protect little thought of and often taken for granted aspects of untrammelled nature, such as clean air, night sky, viewsheds, solitude, and silence. From bristlecone pines to bison habitat, wilderness areas guarantee that threatened and endangered species stand a chance against the encroaching wave of humanity.

Even though the National Park System preserves and protects resources, the wild and undeveloped areas of national parks are still susceptible to development, road-building, and off-road mechanized vehicular use. To designate an area of a National Park as part of the National Wilderness Preservation

System is to give it the highest level of federal conservation protection; only Congress can designate wilderness or change the status of wilderness areas. Only undeveloped Federal lands without permanent improvements or human habitation, that are affected primarily by the forces of nature, that offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and that are of a sufficient size to be practical in their preservation are considered. The laws that govern wilderness areas do not allow motorized equipment, motor vehicles, mechanical transport, permanent structures, commercial enterprises. ...or roads.

A place that is designated a wilderness area is certainly not off limits to people. In the Guadalupe Mountains’ wilderness area, visitors are encouraged to recreate and enjoy the wilderness experience in ways that best suit their abilities. Many people opt to hike or camp in the Park’s backcountry, but for less mobile people, wildlife viewing, photography, star gazing, drawing, or spending the afternoon lounging on a rock under a shady tree are great ways to immerse oneself in the quiet and solitude that the mountains and canyons of the Guadalupe offer. Although most of our Park visitors are simply driving *continued on p. 7*

Pages 4-5 Cave Tours



NPS Photo / Peter Jones

Page 6 Hiking Info



NPS Photo / Dave Bieri

Page 8 Fall Colors Info



NPS Photo / Michael Haynie

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Telephone and Web Directory

Official National Park Service sites include .gov in their web address.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

400 Pine Canyon Dr.
Salt Flat, TX 79847
915-828-3251
www.nps.gov/gumo

Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association

Operates both parks' bookstores. Books may also be purchased by mail or online.
P.O. Box 1417
Carlsbad, NM 88221
575-785-2484
575-785-2318 FAX
www.ccgma.org

Food, Lodging and Camping

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

575-887-6516
www.carlsbadchamber.com

Van Horn Texas Visitors Bureau

432-283-2682
www.vanhornadvocate.com/community-adl.shtml

Weather Conditions

Carlsbad Weather Watch
575-885-1848

Road Conditions

New Mexico: 800-432-4269
Texas: 800-452-9292

Emergency: Call 911

GPS Coordinates

Carlsbad Caverns NP Visitor Center

Coordinate System: Lat/Long
Datum: WGS 1984
Latitude: 32.174212° N
Longitude: 104.445855° W

Guadalupe Mountains NP Visitor Center

Coordinate System: Lat/Long
Datum: WGS 1984
Latitude: 31.89370° N
Longitude: 104.82214° W

Greetings

WELCOME TO CARLSBAD CAVERNS AND GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS National Parks. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, a World Heritage Site since 1995, features a spectacular cave system of highly decorated chambers. Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects one of the world's best examples of a fossilized reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life.

Fall and Winter bring their own special rewards. From late-October to early-November the colorful changes in maples, ash, and sumac delight thousands of visitors to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the summertime crowds are gone and the cave can be experienced in its natural state of quiet. Both parks offer hiking opportunities. Rare winter snows are short-lived events and can only add to the beauty of these natural areas.

Park staff are here to help make your visit a truly memorable event. They will be happy to help you plan your visit and provide information. Guided tours at Carlsbad Caverns can enrich your park experience. These tours offer a variety of caving experiences, from easy lantern tours to challenging trips involving crawling and squeezing through tight passages.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenu-

ous mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile roundtrip hike to Texas' highest mountain, Guadalupe Peak (8,749').

As you travel and spend time in the area please remember to keep safety in mind. Road conditions may be icy. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful—enjoy watching wildlife, but remember they often move across roads, especially in the evenings; be vigilant while driving during twilight hours. Hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Hikers can become dehydrated in our dry climate, so carry plenty of water (one gallon per person per day is recommended). Always check with a ranger before venturing into the backcountry.

We are wholeheartedly committed to our mission of preserving and providing for the enjoyment of our nation's most outstanding treasures. We wish you a rewarding experience in every way.

Sincerely,

John C. Benjamin
Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns NP

John V. Lujan
Superintendent
Guadalupe Mts. NP

Volunteerism Makes a Difference

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO the dedicated effort and talent that volunteers have brought to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of preserving our natural and cultural heritage and sharing that heritage with the visiting public. Volunteers do everything from staffing the information desk, roving interpretation, patrolling surface and cave trails, to trail maintenance, research, cave restoration, and more. To become a volunteer contact:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Rachel Zimmer
575-785-3130

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Craig Tanner
915-828-3251 ext. 112

Junior and Senior Ranger Programs

MANY NATIONAL PARKS ACROSS AMERICA OFFER A JUNIOR Ranger program for children to encourage interest in their national parks and to promote a sense of stewardship and ownership for these special places that they come to visit. This self-paced educational program allows children to earn a patch and/or certificate upon completion of required activities that teach them about park resources. Age appropriate activities are included in the Junior Ranger booklet, typically for pre-kindergarten through upper elementary-aged children.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Junior Ranger program offers activities that teach children about the resources both above ground and below the surface (including plant and animal life of the desert, cave features and history of the park). Younger children have opportunities to color and draw, find objects on a visual scavenger hunt, use their senses to experience their surroundings and complete games. Older children will sequence events, complete word searches and write stories and poems. Each activity in the booklet is an optional activity depending on interest and age-level. Once the booklet is checked by a park ranger, the participant is presented a Carlsbad Caverns National Park Junior Ranger patch.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available through the Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association bookstore, located in the

visitor center at the park. There is a charge of \$1.00 to participate in the program, which includes the booklet and patch (given upon completion of the activities). Children of any age may participate.

At Guadalupe Mountains, children work through a separate activity booklet and visit points of interest within the park. The booklet accommodates families of varying travel plans. Many of the activities can be completed at the Headquarters Visitor Center located at Pine Springs. Children who complete three activities earn a badge and certificate, while those who do six earn a patch in addition to the badge and certificate. There is no charge for participation in the program, but donations are always welcome.

Senior Ranger programs are a new development, currently available at limited locations, aimed at an audience that enjoys a challenge and wants to use an activity book to learn about the park and help plan their visit. A Senior Ranger program is available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Senior Ranger books are available at the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs for anyone 13 years and older. Activities include visiting sites, learning about the park's history, geology, flora and fauna. Upon completion, participants earn a patch and certificate.

Traveling with a Pet?

ON A WARM DAY THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE A CAR CAN KILL a pet. Do not leave your pets unattended.

At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, pets are not permitted in the cave or at bat flight programs. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the kennel for a small fee. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70° Fahrenheit (21° Celsius) or higher.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, pets are not allowed on trails, in the backcountry, in buildings or at evening programs; they are permitted in the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon campgrounds.

In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.



Photo by CorelDraw

Backcountry Beauty: An Adventure in Science and Recreation

by Michael Garel

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF visitors come to view the wonders of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Yet, almost no one will set foot into the park's 33,000 acres of wilderness. Because of this, Carlsbad Caverns National Park's 46,000 acres of Chihuahuan Desert remain largely pristine and ready to be explored. It is here on the park's surface that the dry, inhospitable, and beautiful desert may offer itself up to those who care to explore.

While hiking through the backcountry, you may expect to see an unexpected diversity of plants within rapidly changing biomes, and depending on the time of year, an abundance of wildflowers. To the more observant eye, the geological story of the Guadalupe Mountains may play itself out before you. This limestone mountain range is the product of about 250 million years in the making, and for some, it can be enjoyed intimately throughout the trail systems of Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

Just looking east from atop the dramatic escarpment of the Guadalupe, you may see the flat expanse once containing the

vast inland Delaware Sea, an area now predominantly covered by the marine and other deposits of the Castile Formation. Though it may seem fantastic today, your trek has taken you on top of an ancient reef complex formed in the shallows of this sea during the Permian Period. Unlike modern reefs, this ancient reef was not formed from corals, but rather a multitude of different marine organisms such as sponges, algae, byozoans, and others that populated and built the reef complex. The Delaware Sea eventually evaporated for reasons not well-understood. Sediments eroding from the continent buried the reef.

It is during the turbulent times of the Tertiary period that much of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming experienced tectonic activity that warped the Earth's crust up into a broad arch almost 40 million years ago. During this time, some of the rocks overlying the buried reef were eroded and deposited as thick sheets of sand and gravel east and west of the arch. Then around 21 million years ago, tensional forces began to pull the arch apart, dropping some blocks downward and leaving others, including the Guadalupe Mountains, exposed to wind, rain,

ice, and snow. The main forces causing the arch to pull apart stopped about 6 million years ago, but the powerful forces of erosion have since removed much of the evaporite deposits exposing the reef complex, and carving out many scenic canyons.

Today, throughout the backcountry, much of this story is still evident. In the areas of the reef protected in Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks visitors can find an abundance of fossilized Permian period creatures. Steeply cut canyons expose bedding planes and depositional profiles. The western escarpment near Dog Canyon shows the remains of back reef and lagoon rock and provides a more gradual climb to the high country than from the Pine Springs trailhead. Yet, for more ambitious visitors to the area, hikes along the eastern escarpment can be very rewarding.

The Guadalupe Mountains are biologically diverse. Here, interfaces between desert, plains, and montane environments find many species of plants and animals at the extreme limit of their ranges. While walking up particularly steep trails, such as Guadalupe Mountain National Park's Bear Canyon

and Guadalupe Peak trails, visitors can expect to see rapidly changing biomes.

These elevated areas stand in stark contrast to the landscape in the surrounding hotter and drier lowlands. They also provide opportunities for clean air, stunning views, and solitude. It is quite possible to experience a whole day in the backcountry of Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks without seeing another person.

Just a final note. Remember to prepare yourself for any endeavor into the backcountry, especially in the harsh environment of the Chihuahuan Desert and Guadalupe Mountains. Bring plenty of water (a gallon per person a day), a topographical map and compass, and perhaps most importantly, evaluate your own abilities. Remember, Leave No Trace ethics apply to our National Parks, and it is up to us to act as stewards in protecting these areas of natural wonder. Contact Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks for more information regarding accessibility, weather conditions, safety needs, and trail conditions.



From the CCGMA Bookstore

THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS-GUADALUPE Mountains Association (CCGMA) is a private, nonprofit organization whose main objectives are to provide interpretation for the park visitor and to support the purposes and mission of the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the lands related to them in New Mexico and west Texas since 1957. To date, CCGMA has donated over \$2.7 million to both Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. The goals of CCGMA are accomplished through educational programs using a variety of educational media and scientific investigations resulting in a greater appreciation of those resources being conserved for this and future generations. CCGMA has three retail bookstore outlets located at Carlsbad Caverns, the Guadalupe Mountains, and the administration office building in the city of Carlsbad. Plans are underway to open additional outlets in Carlsbad.

Books may also be purchased by mail or online:

PO Box 1417
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 785-2484
(575) 785-2318 FAX
www.ccgma.org

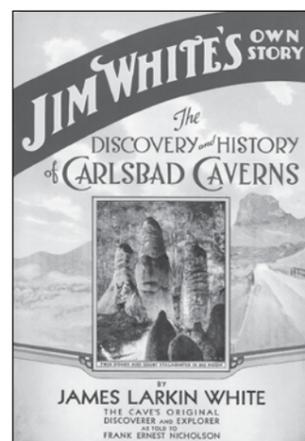
Consider joining CCGMA. As a member you will receive a 15 percent discount on

all purchases. This discount is extended to several cooperating associations of other national parks as well. You will also receive the CCGMA newsletter and the Visitor Guide for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks (2 issues a year). In addition to these benefits, you will receive a free dvd on Carlsbad Caverns National Park or Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Most importantly, your contribution helps further our mission of providing aid to these parks.

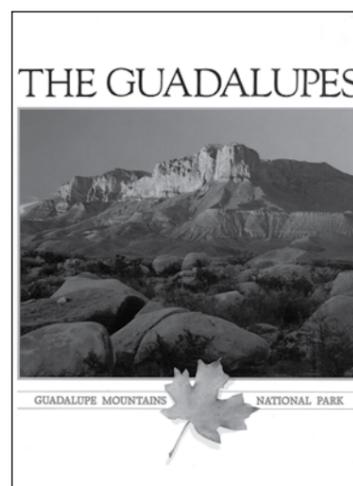
Membership (1 year)	\$25.00
Jim White's Own Story	\$6.95
Spirit of Exploration DVD	\$19.95
The Guadalupe	\$4.00
Stories from Stones	\$7.95

Purchases may be made by credit card or check. Include your address and daytime phone number. If ordering by credit card include the card number, the date of expiration, and the signature of the cardholder. The following cards are accepted: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Make checks payable to CCGMA.

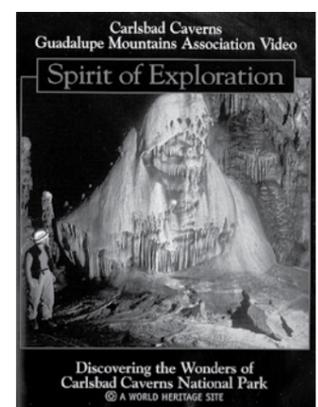
Shipping and handling charges for book orders are as follows:
\$4.00 for purchases up to \$15.00
\$5.00 for purchases \$15.01-30.00
\$6.00 for purchases \$30.01-50.00



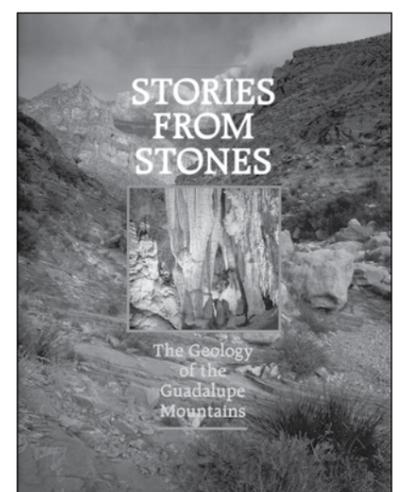
In this book, Jim White tells of his initial discovery and early adventures in Carlsbad Cavern. Numerous historic black and white photos, 32 pages, 6x9.5 inches. \$6.95



This picture book provides a general overview of Guadalupe Mountains National Park history, biodiversity, and geology. Full color photography throughout, 32 pages, 8.5 x 11 in. \$4.00



This DVD allows viewers to see and enjoy the beauty of the main caverns, batflight and rarely visited portions of the park including newly discovered Lechuguilla Cave. 54 minutes \$19.95



This introduction to Guadalupe Mountains' geology has explanatory diagrams and photos. Includes sections on cave and speleothem formation. Color photography, 40 pages, 8.5 x 11 inches. \$7.95

Carlsbad Caverns Cave Tours

Spring, Fall & Winter Hours

Natural Entrance	8:30 - 2:00
Big Room	8:30 - 3:30
Visitor Center	8:00 - 5:00

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day—Labor Day)

Natural Entrance	8:30 - 3:30
Big Room	8:30 - 5:00
Visitor Center	8:00 - 7:00

Entrance Fees

Adults—age 16 and older.....	\$6.00
Children—15 and younger.....	free
plus Audio Guide.....	\$3.00

There is no entrance fee for those who own any of the following passes (up to three individuals plus the cardholder): The Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass (all three are part of the America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass), Golden Age Passport and Golden Access Passport all cover the basic entrance fee. Pass holders must still obtain entry tickets.

Entrance fee applies to self-guided tours. Guided tours require an additional fee.

All fees and tours are subject to change.

Reservations

We recommend that you make reservations for guided tours at least six weeks in advance. Some tours fill quickly. Reservations are not necessary for self-guided tours. To make reservations call the National Park Reservation System at: 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov

Have a Safe Tour

Cave temperature is 56° F (13° C) year-round. A light jacket or sweater and good walking shoes are recommended. Do not wear sandals. For your safety:

- Stay on the paved trail.
- Supervise children closely; children under 16 must remain with an adult at all times.
- Ask park rangers for help.
- Take prescribed medications with you.
- High humidity in the cave can affect respiratory problems; bring your inhaler just in case.
- If you are DIABETIC, be sure you have eaten enough calories.
- If you have an infant with you, child-carrying backpacks are recommended. **Strollers are not allowed.**
- Leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car.

Protect the Cave

- Never touch, tap or handle the cave formations; the oils on your skin damage the formations.
- Never take gum, food or drinks into the cave.
- Never throw coins or other objects into the pools.

Photography

Photography is permitted on most tours; however, please use good etiquette. Warn those around you before you flash, keep tripods on the trail, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. Video cameras are permitted on the Big Room, Natural Entrance, and King's Palace tours. Please use caution and do not use the ultra-bright lights available on some cameras. Photography is **not** allowed at the Bat Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

NATURAL ENTRANCE SELF-GUIDED ROUTE

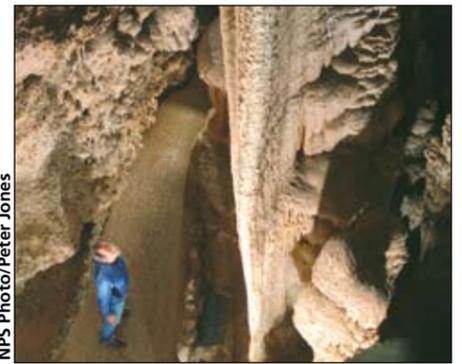
Length: 1.25 miles, 1 hour
Fee: Entrance Fee
This hike is similar to walking into a steep canyon (a descent of about 800 feet in one mile). It is recommended only for those physically fit and healthy; sturdy footwear required. Highlights include the Natural Entrance, Devil's Spring, Whale's Mouth, and Iceberg Rock.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

BIG ROOM SELF-GUIDED ROUTE

Length: 1.25 miles, 1.5 hours
Fee: Entrance Fee
Descend by elevator to start the tour in the Underground Rest Area. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Cavern should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion's Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. This trail can be navigated by wheelchairs, with assistance. The park does not provide wheelchairs. This trail can also be accessed after hiking the 1.25-mile Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

KING'S PALACE GUIDED TOUR

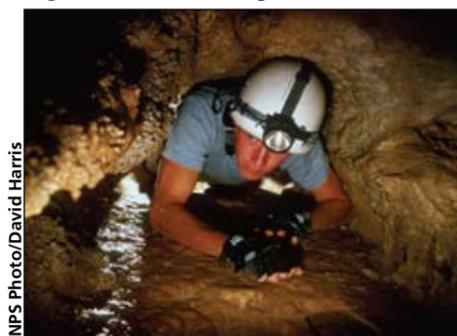
Length: 1 mile, 1.5 hours
Fee: Entrance Fee and \$8.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area. Tickets may be purchased at the visitor center; however, reservations are recommended. You will visit four highly decorated chambers: King's Palace, Papoose Room, Queen's Chamber and Green Lake Room. The tour guide will turn out the lights for a blackout experience. The trail is paved; however, there is a steep hill that you must walk down and then back up.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

LEFT HAND TUNNEL

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$7.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
On this lantern-lit tour your guide will highlight cavern history, formations, cave pools and Permian Age fossils. Moderately difficult on dirt trail and uneven ground. Be aware that the dirt trail winds over small uneven or slippery slopes and careful footing is required to avoid cavern pools and fragile formations. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/David Harris

HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
This is a strenuous, challenging tour to a remote chamber in Carlsbad Cavern. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices and climb up slippery passages. Bring gloves, kneepads and four new AA alkaline batteries per person. We provide helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/Dale Smith



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

LOWER CAVE

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
This moderately strenuous tour begins with a ranger-supervised descent down a 10-foot flowstone slope using a knotted rope, followed by a 50-foot series of three ladders. Bring gloves, four new AA alkaline batteries per person and optional kneepads. The park provides helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area. You will see cave pools and beautiful formations.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

SPIDER CAVE

Fee: \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
On this strenuous tour you can expect tight crawls, canyon-like passages and bizarre formations. Bring gloves, kneepads and four new AA alkaline batteries per person. The park provides helmets and headlamps. The tour departs from the visitor center for a short drive and then a short hike to the cave.



NPS Photo/Dale Pate

SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE

Fee: \$15.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
This strenuous tour is through a well-decorated backcountry cave. It is mandatory for each person to bring a minimum of a two C-cell battery flashlight with fresh batteries. Penlights are not sufficient. The route is slippery, muddy and may require an ascent of a 15-foot slope using a knotted rope.
Do not drive to the visitor center for this cave tour.

Allow plenty of time to drive to Slaughter Canyon and 45 minutes for the steep and strenuous half-mile hike to the cave entrance. Attempt this hike only if you are in good health.

Carry water—weather may be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the trail and wear sturdy hiking shoes. *Tours depart from the cave entrance at the scheduled time.*

SPECIAL HOLIDAY TOURS

Mark your calendar for special lantern tours on November 27, and the annual Rock of Ages lantern tour and programs on December 19 and December 27. Space is limited.

For more information call 575-785-2232.

For Reservations call 877-444-6777

Tour	Trail Surface	Offered	Departure Time	Adult Fee	Age Limit	Tour Length	Group Size
King's Palace	Paved Trail; 80' hill must be climbed on return trip	Daily	Fall through Spring 10 & 2	Adults \$8 Children (4-15), Senior Pass holders \$4 A General Admission Ticket is also required.	4	1.5 hours	55
Left Hand Tunnel	Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes	Daily	9:00 a.m.	\$7.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass holders)	6	2 hours	15
Lower Cave	Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, variable dirt trails, might get dirty.	Monday through Friday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	3 hours	12
Slaughter Canyon Cave	Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky.	Saturday and Sunday	10:00 a.m.	\$15.00 (\$7.50 ages 8-15, Senior Pass holders)	6	2 hours	25
Wild Caving—kneepads required							
Hall of the White Giant	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	4 hours	8
Spider Cave	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	4 hours	8

Surface Activities

SERVICES

Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, bookstore, restaurant, gift shop and kennel service. Ranger programs are offered daily. Other activities include:

NATURE TRAIL

This one-mile paved, partially accessible trail begins near the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

SCENIC DRIVE

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5-mile gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except trailers and motor homes. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The scenic drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-May to mid-October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS

This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 5.5 miles south of White's City on Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 418. Day use only.

HIKING & CAMPING

The park's wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. The bookstore sells topographic maps, which are considered essential for desert hiking.

BAT FLIGHT PROGRAMS (SUMMER ONLY)

A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Cavern each evening from mid-May until the bats migrate to Mexico sometime in mid-October. The ranger program generally begins each evening 30 to 60 minutes before sunset at the park amphitheater, though weather and lightning can cause cancellation of the program. Check at the visitor center for the exact time the program starts or call 575-785-3012. Cameras are **not allowed**. The lights and high frequency sounds made by the cameras disturb the bats. This rule is strictly enforced.



NIGHT SKY WATCHING

Celebrate the Night

October 17, Saturday

Dusk until 10:30 P.M.

After the batflight, join park rangers for an evening of star gazing and talks on the animals and insects that inhabit the night. Telescopes provided, bring a flashlight.

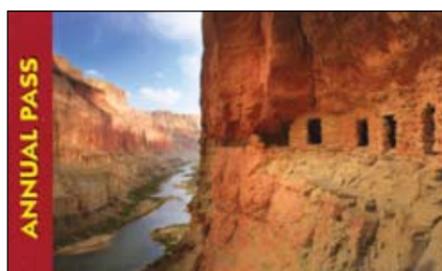
Leonid Meteor Shower & Star Gazing

November 17, Wednesday

Dusk until 10:30 P.M.

The annual Leonid meteor shower should be at its peak tonight with up to 500 meteors per hour in some locations. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Telescopes also available.

America the Beautiful—The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass



ANNUAL PASS

The America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Annual Pass replaces the Golden Eagle Passport, the National Parks Pass, and the National Parks Pass with Golden Eagle Sticker. The annual pass is replaced each year. A federal lands photo contest is held each year, with the winning image featured on the subsequent year's annual pass. Information on the current contest for the 2010 annual pass image can be found at www.sharetheexperience.org.

The annual pass sells for \$80.00 and is good for one year from date of purchase. The pass covers entrance fees at National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U. S. Forest Service sites. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



SENIOR PASS

The new Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored.

The Senior Pass sells for \$10.00 and is good for life. Any permanent resident of the United States 62 years or older may purchase the Senior Pass.

It covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U. S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

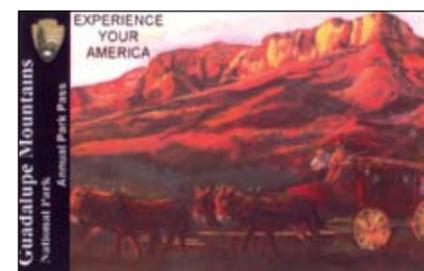


ACCESS PASS

The new Access Pass replaces the Golden Access Passport. Existing Golden Access Passports will continue to be honored.

The Access Pass is available for free to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of any age that has been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

The Access Pass covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The free pass can be obtained upon signing a medical affidavit at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS

Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for \$20.00 for regional visitors who plan on visiting the park more than once a year, but may not visit other federal fee areas.

The pass covers entrance fees and is good for 3 individuals plus the cardholder (persons 15 years and younger are free with or without the Guadalupe Mountains NP Annual Pass). The pass is available for purchase at the park.

Painting by Wilma Schaffert

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

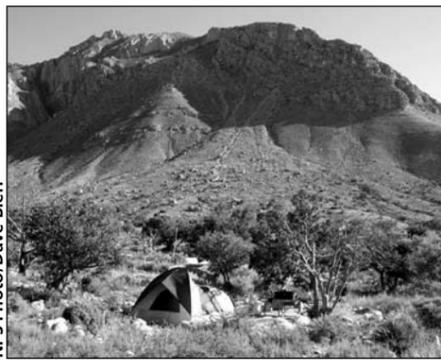


Entrance Fee \$5.00/person (16 & older)
Free for Senior, Access and Annual Pass
cardholders

NPS Photo/Michael Haynie



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri



NPS Photo

SERVICES

Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gas stations are 32 miles west or 35 miles east. There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

INFORMATION & EXHIBITS

Headquarters Visitor Center

Elevation 5,730'. On Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad and 110 miles east of El Paso. Open every day except Christmas. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone); after Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

Frijole Ranch History Museum

The ranch house features exhibits describing historic and current use of the Guadalupe. Grounds include a picnic area near a spring shaded by large oak trees. Staffed intermittently.

McKittrick Canyon

Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. During daylight savings time, hours are expanded 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, slide program, picnic tables.

Hike Safely...

- There is no water available along park trails, so be sure to bring plenty with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Trails are rocky—wear sturdy shoes.
- Carry a trail map.
- Pack warm clothing and rain gear; sudden weather changes are common.

Protect the Park...

- Stay on trails; don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.
- Carry out all trash, including cigarette butts.
- Report any trail hazards to the visitor center.
- Collecting of natural, historic or prehistoric objects is prohibited.

Weather

	Average Temperature (° F)		Average Rainfall
	High	Low	Inches
Jan	56	34	0.67
Feb	59	36	0.90
Mar	65	41	0.58
Apr	73	48	0.60
May	82	56	0.91
June	88	62	2.18
July	88	64	2.37
Aug	86	63	3.29
Sep	81	58	2.54
Oct	73	50	1.34
Nov	63	41	0.97
Dec	56	33	1.05
Average annual precipitation for Pine Springs (1980-2003)			17.4

HIKING

Pinery Trail

Distance: .67 mile
Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, slight incline on return trip.

Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits.

McKittrick Canyon Trail

Distance: to Pratt Cabin 4.8 miles roundtrip, to the Grotto, 6.8 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate, level but rocky trail, 200' elevation gain to Grotto.

Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead. The Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin are one mile beyond the Pratt Cabin. Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek. To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.

Guadalupe Peak Trail

Distance: 8.4 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous. Approximately 3,000' elevation gain, steep, rocky path.

Hike to the "Top of Texas" at 8,749' for spectacular views. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms. During warm temperatures, carry a gallon of water per person.

CAMPING

Water and restrooms are available, but there are no showers, RV hookups, or dump stations. The fee is \$8.00 per night, per site, \$4.00 with a Senior Pass (or existing Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (or existing Golden Access Passport). No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Pine Springs Campground

Located near the Headquarters Visitor Center, there are twenty tent and nineteen RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site) available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning 915-828-3251 up to 60 days in advance. Campers planning on day hiking in McKittrick Canyon, to Guadalupe Peak or the Bowl will want to stay here.

Dog Canyon Campground

Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 110 miles from Park Headquarters, at an elevation of 6,290' in a secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park. The campground has nine tent and four RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site). There is one group site for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations for the group site only can be made up to 60 days in advance by calling 915-828-3251.

BACKPACKING

Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and desert. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station. For those coming through Carlsbad, Dog Canyon is a great place to begin a backpacking trip because it requires less elevation gain to get into the backcountry.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Pets are not allowed on park trails. Firearms are not permitted within the park.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry. Topographic maps, hikers' guides, and information can be found at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Other Popular Hikes...

Trailhead	Trail	Distance Roundtrip	Description
Pine Springs	Devil's Hall Trail	4.2 miles	Moderate. Rocky hike in Pine Spring Canyon to the Hikers' Staircase and Devil's Hall. After the first mile, the trail drops into the wash. Turn left and follow the canyon bottom to Devil's Hall, where a sign marks the end of the trail.
	The Bowl	8.5 miles	Strenuous. The Bowl shelters a highcountry conifer forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail to Pine Top, Bowl Trail to Hunter Peak, Bear Canyon Trail, Frijole Trail back to campground. Trail climbs 2,500'. Bear Canyon Trail is very rocky and extremely steep.
	El Capitan Trail	11.3 miles	Moderate. Desert lovers will appreciate the rocky arroyos and open vistas while skirting along the base of El Capitan. Recommended route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook, and return to Pine Springs on the El Capitan Trail.
Frijole Ranch	Manzanita Spring	.4 miles	Easy. Path is paved and wheelchair accessible. Hike to a small pond that serves as a desert oasis. Dragonflies, butterflies, and birds are active here in the warmer months. During winter, bluebirds frequent the area. Opportunities for chancing upon other wildlife are higher here as well.
	Smith Spring Trail (entire loop)	2.3 miles	Moderate. Look for birds, deer and elk as you pass Manzanita Spring on the way to the shady oasis of Smith Spring. Trees around Smith Spring include madrones, maples, oaks, chokecherry, ponderosa pines and others.
McKittrick Canyon	McKittrick Nature Loop	0.9 miles	Moderate. Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.
	Permian Reef Trail	8.4 miles	Strenuous. For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guidebook sold at the Visitor Center. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the ridgetop. Trail climbs 2,000'.
Dog Canyon	Indian Meadow Nature Loop	0.6 miles	Easy. A guide pamphlet describes ecology and geology.
	Marcus Overlook	4.6 miles	Moderate. Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridgetop for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 800'.
	Lost Peak	6.4 miles	Strenuous. Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the conifer forest above. Outstanding views from Lost Peak. Lost Peak is a short distance off trail to the right before the horse hitches. Trail climbs 1,500'.

through and will not physically enter the designated wilderness area, they still experience the Park as an outstanding scenic backdrop on their way to Carlsbad, Van Horn, or El Paso.

Now, let's imagine for a moment that we did have a scenic drive through the Park. Or, perhaps a road to the top of Guadalupe Peak, a tour bus route to Pratt Cabin, or even a direct route overland to Dog Canyon. What would we gain? More importantly, what would we lose? What, exactly, would we lose if a two-lane road was cut over the imposing crags, crevices and cliff faces of these limestone mountains, winding through

once-serene relict ponderosa pine forests and soft meadows, leading hundreds, perhaps thousands of visitors a day to the top of Texas?

Quite simply, we would lose what we lose every time we take a wild area and make it tame.

Wilderness areas are the last strongholds of wild landscapes in our country. Although they often protect vast tracts of roadless terrain, they are not necessarily remote and unapproachable. Most wilderness areas are easily accessed from trailheads, roadsides or parking spaces. Chances are that within 200

miles of your front door, there is a wilderness area where you can immerse yourself in the quiet of an undisturbed moment. The clean, mossy scent of Smith Spring, the cool shade of McKittrick Canyon and the howl of the wind against El Capitan are less than a two-hour drive from bustling and hectic urban centers; yet, when entering the Guadalupe Mountains' wilderness area, we may feel like the rest of the world is a million miles away.

So, perhaps building a road to the top of Guadalupe Peak may bring ten, twenty or thirty times more visitors than what Guadalupe Mountains National Park receives

now. Perhaps the Park's budget and staffing would increase tenfold; perhaps we could even open a restaurant with a salad bar to accommodate waves of hungry visitors. The truth is, we'll never know, because in 1978, 46,850 acres were set aside in the Guadalupe Mountains to preserve and protect the essence of wilderness in these stark Chihuahuan desert mountains, and this is why the National Wilderness Preservation System exists: to remind us that there is a degree of wildness that is fundamental to our existence, that this wildness is an inherent part of our humanity, and that we need to protect that very wildness from ourselves in order to call it our very own.



The Wilderness Act

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

Nearby Attractions

LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS STATE PARK

575-887-5516

Come face to face with a mountain lion at this unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, the state bird of New Mexico. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of Carlsbad, just off U.S. Highway 285, and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.

Open daily except December 25.
Wheelchair accessible.

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Last tour entry—6:30 p.m.

Winter Hours (after Labor Day)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Last tour entry—3:30 p.m.

Fees

Ages 13 and up	\$5.00
Children 7 - 12	\$3.00
Children 6 and under	free
Group (20+) discount available.	

BRANTLEY LAKE STATE PARK

575-457-2384

Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 285, the campground has 51 RV sites with water and RV electric hookups (a few with sewer), a dump station, playground, restroom with hot showers, shelters, tables and grills. Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered tables and grills, playground, a fishing dock, boat ramps with docks, and a visitor center.

Open all year—24 hours/day.
Wheelchair accessible.

Fees

Day Use Only—\$5.00 per vehicle

Camping—\$14.00 per night (\$10.00 for each additional vehicle driven into the same site)

Primitive Camping Area—\$8.00 per vehicle per night.



NPS Photo

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

575-885-4181

The forest encompasses 1,103,441 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horse-back riding, hunting and sightseeing. Maps are available at the Guadalupe Ranger District Office located in the Federal Building, 114 S. Halagueno, Room 159, in Carlsbad.

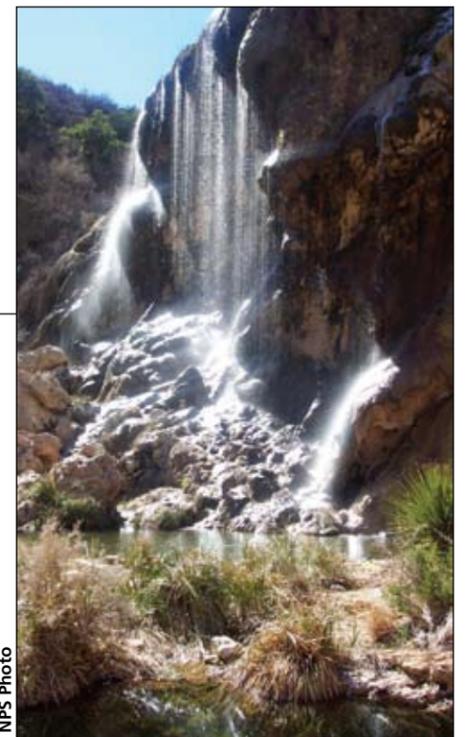
Sitting Bull Falls (in Lincoln National Forest)

Wheelchair accessible.

Day use only—no camping.

Entrance fee—\$5.00 per vehicle or free with interagency Annual Pass.

Seven miles southwest of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 276, this 130 foot falls is one of the highest in New Mexico. Picnic area, trails and restroom.



NPS Photo

Five Points & Indian Vistas

Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540, an improved gravel road. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.



NPS Photo

Fall Colors at Guadalupe Mountains National Park



Located 55 miles south of Carlsbad, NM on Hwy 62/180 and 65 miles north of Van Horn, TX on Hwy 54, the park offers a range of hiking trails through wooded canyons that blaze with color from late October to early November. Call 915-828-3251 for updates on the color progression.

Fees

\$5.00 per person (16 years and older)

Free for Senior, Access and Annual Pass cardholders

Hours

McKittrick Canyon

Through November 1, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

After November 1, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time)

The best color viewing is in McKittrick Canyon between the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. The roundtrip distance for the Pratt Cabin hike is 5 miles and takes 2-3 hours to complete. The roundtrip distance for the Grotto Hike is 7 miles and takes 4-5 hours to complete. Both hikes are on level, but rocky trails. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

There are no restrooms available in McKittrick Canyon. Hikers must carry their own food and water. Picnic tables can be found at the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. Please pack out all of your trash.

Weekends can be very busy. To avoid crowds, try visiting on weekdays or hiking in Devil's Hall or Dog Canyon as alternatives.

