Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.
The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.
—John Muir

A journey to some of the area’s diverse ecosystems can be a tough physical challenge, but others are easily accessible and require only desire and curiosity to see. The riparian ecosystem at Rattlesnake Springs is just such a place. Located only a few miles from Highway 62/180 (turn on Rd. 48 and follow signs), this binding and picnic area is a marvelous oasis in the middle of the desert. A visit will provide you an opportunity to understand why plants, animals, and people have long considered this bountiful spring an indispensable resource. For thousands of years people have depended on these springs for water and game, and today they continue to provide water to area travelers and residents, including the water you use at the Carlsbad Caverns Visitor Center.

In addition to providing water for human use, the springs provide habitat for amphibians, mammals, and even five species of fish! Designated an important birding area by the National Audubon Society, Rattlesnake Springs provides visitors with abundant opportunities to see birds of every shape and size that come to take advantage of this rare riparian habitat. Keep your eye out for wild turkeys, wood ducks, and mallards.
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 domed chambers. Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects one of the world’s best examples of a fossil reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life.

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 86 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenuous mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile, backpacking trip called “Texas’ highest mountain,” Guadalupe Peak (8,751’).

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

Weather Conditions
Carlsbad Weather Watch
575-885-1848
www.weather.gov

Road Conditions
New Mexico: 800-452-4269
Texas: 800-452-9292

Emergency: Call 911

GPS Coordinates
Carlsbad Caverns NP
Visitor Center
Coordinate System: Lat,Long
Datum: WGS 1984
Latitude: 31.89370° 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

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.

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 badge 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.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available at the visitor center information desk. Children of all ages may participate and earn a badge or patch—it’s their choice. The program is free, but donations are always welcome. 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 Pine Springs Visitor Center. 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. Junior Paleontologist, Wilderness Explorer, and Night Sky Explorer Activity Books are also available. Participants will earn a badge (Jr. Paleontologist) or patch (Wilderness Explorer, Night Sky Explorer) upon completion.

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 Pine Springs Visitor Center 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.

The National Park Service also offers an online WebRanger program for those who are unable to visit a national park, featuring activities about sites found across the nation. The activities illustrate principles in natural science and American history in new ways. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers.

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 allowed on all paved roads, pullouts and parking areas, along Walnut Canyon Desert Drive (Loop Road), on the paved Nature trail, and at Rattlesnake Springs picnic area. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted in the cave or at the bat flight programs. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the concessions kennel for a small fee. Call 575-795-2485 for details. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70°F or higher (21°Celsius) or higher.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, pets are allowed only on the Pinery trail while on leash, but are not allowed on other 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.

As you travel and spend time in the area please remember to keep safety in mind. 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.

Dennis A. Vásquez
Superintendent
Guadalupe Mountains NP

Acting Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns NP

To become a Volunteer-In-Park (VIP) visit www.volunteer.gov or contact:
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator
575-785-3120
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Martin Christiansen, Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator
915-828-3251 ext. 2311

To learn more, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers.
A New Deadly Disease Killing Bats

by Dale Patte

The Carlsbad Caverns National Park has been affected by a new and very deadly disease. This disease, known as "White-nose Syndrome (WNS)", is spreading rapidly and is affecting summer bat colonies such as Brazilian Freetail bats at Carlsbad Caverns. WNS has been detected in nine species of bats that hibernate. Death rates of various colonies have been from 90 percent to 100 percent of all bats in that particular colony. An additional concern is that WNS is spreading rapidly. It is now found in caves and mines in 14 states. The most recent occurrence of WNS was found in a cave in western Oklahoma.

There are lots of unknowns concerning WNS. At this time, it does not appear to be affecting summer bat colonies such as Brazilian Freetail bats for which Carlsbad Cavern is famous. We must all be vigilant.

While it is known that transmission of the fungus is mostly from bat-to-bat, it may also be possible for humans to transport fungus spores on clothing, gear, shoes, or skin.

In an effort to slow down the spread of fungus and give bat scientists more time to look for a solution to this serious problem, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is asking visitors to caves in the park or the area to be aware of this problem and to help minimize the potential spread of this deadly disease.

Everyone can help in the following ways:

If you have been in a cave or mine that is known to harbor WNS, or if you have been in a cave or mine within a state known to have WNS, please do bring any of the potential contamination items (clothing, gear, shoes) used during that visit into Carlsbad Cavern or other caves.

Bats are important for ecosystems across the country and the world. They are excellent pollinators and eat millions of tons of insects nightly. Some of these insects are pests of food crops. A study completed in the 1990’s on the Mexican (Brazilian) freetail bats from Carlsbad Cavern shows that 40 percent of the insects devoured by these bats are crop pests taken along the farm-lands of the nearby Pecos River. Bats are important.

Unfortunately, beginning in the winter of 2006-2007 in caves near Albany, New York, a new and very deadly disease began to deci-...
Carlsbad Caverns Cave Tours

Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route
Fee: Entrance Fee and $7.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1.25 miles, 1-1/2 hours

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.

Big Room Self-Guided Route
Fee: Entrance Fee
Length: 1.25 miles, 1-1/2 hours

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 Caverns should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion’s Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. Some of this trail can be navigated by wheelchair, 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.

Left Hand Tunnel
Fee: Entrance Fee and $7.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1 mile, 1-1/4 hours

Extremely strenuous. Participants navigate slippery surfaces, belly-crawl for extended periods of time, and free climb rock chimneys. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Bring four new AA alkaline batteries. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. Helmets and headlamps provided. Back packs not allowed. Recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.

Lower Cave
Fee: Entrance Fee and $20.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1 mile, 1-1/4 hours

Extremely strenuous. Participants navigate slippery surfaces, belly-crawl for extended periods of time, and free climb rock chimneys. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Bring four new AA alkaline batteries. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. Helmets and headlamps provided. Back packs not allowed. Recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.

HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT
Fee: Entrance Fee and $20.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1 mile, 1-1/2 hours

Entrance Self-Guided Route. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Caverns should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion’s Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. Some of this trail can be navigated by wheelchair, 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.

King’s Palace Guided Tour
Fee: $8.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1 mile, 1-1/2 hours

Extremely strenuous. There is a steep 80’ hill you must go down initially and then back up at the end of the tour. Walk through four naturally-decorated chambers with a variety of cave formations by descending to the deepest portion of the cavern open to the public. Rangers briefly turn off all lights to reveal the natural darkness of the cave. The trail is paved. Sturdy walking shoes required. Light jacket recommended. Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area.

Slaughter Canyon Cave
Fee: $10.00 Tour Ticket
Length: 1 mile, 1-1/4 hours

Extremely strenuous. Participants must hike a steep, rocky, and uneven 1/2 mile trail to the cave entrance. Bring water and sunscreen for the hike. The tour is slippery, muddy, and may require ascent of a 15’ slope using a knotted rope. Must wear sturdy, closed-toed hiking boots or shoes.

P catégorie: participants must bring four AA batteries. Helmets and headlamps are provided.

Carry water—weather may be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the trail and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

There is no entry 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 fees apply 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

Safe Have A Tour Cave temperature is 59°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, tobacco, 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. Wear those around you before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, trips are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. 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 any event. The Big Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

There are no entry fees for children. Seniors and adults with an Access Pass cardholders)

- 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, tobacco, 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. Wear those around you before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, trips are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. 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 any event. The Big Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

There are no entry fees for children. Seniors and adults with an Access Pass cardholders)

- 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, tobacco, 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. Wear those around you before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, trips are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. 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 any event. The Big Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

There are no entry fees for children. Seniors and adults with an Access Pass cardholders)

- 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, tobacco, 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. Wear those around you before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, trips are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. 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 any event. The Big Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

There are no entry fees for children. Seniors and adults with an Access Pass cardholders)

- 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, tobacco, 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. Wear those around you before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, trips are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. 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 any event. The Big Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

There are no entry fees for children. Seniors and adults with an Access Pass cardholders)
For Reservations call 877-444-6777

### 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 wheelchair 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 high clearance vehicles. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The scenic drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

**HIKING & CAMPING**
Visit the Rattlesnake Springs historic oasis, which includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 3.5 miles south of White’s City on Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 484. Day use only. 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.

**RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS**
This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 3.5 miles south of White’s City on Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 484. Day use only.

**BAT FLIGHT PROGRAMS (May-October)**
A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Cavern every 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.

**GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP**
**ANNUAL PASS**
Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for $20.00 for 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 or with the Guadalupe Mountains NP Annual Pass). The pass is available for purchase at the park at the Pine Springs Visitor Center.

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour</th>
<th>Trail Surface</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Tour Time</th>
<th>Adult Fee</th>
<th>Age Limit</th>
<th>Tour Length</th>
<th>Group Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>King’s Palace</strong></td>
<td>Paved Trail</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Spring, Fall, Winter 10 &amp; 1</td>
<td>Adults: $8, Children (4-15): $4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Cave</strong></td>
<td>Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, variable dirt trails, might get dirty</td>
<td>Monday through Friday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adults: $10 and General Admission Ticket (3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slaughter Canyon Cave</strong></td>
<td>Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky</td>
<td>Fri., Sat., Sun. (5/23/14 to 8/31/14) Saturday and Sunday (3/1-5/18, 9/1-10/31) Closed Nov.-Feb.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center</td>
<td>$15.00 (3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.5 hours</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Catg—caving gear provided</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Half of the White Giant</strong></td>
<td>Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spider Cave</strong></td>
<td>Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20.00 (3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**ANNUAL PASS**
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.

**ANNUAL PASS—MILITARY**
The Military annual pass is free to U.S. Military members with a current CAT card, and their dependents with ID card Form 1173. The card is good for one year from the date it is obtained. 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 obtained at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

**SENIOR PASS**
The Senior Pass sells for $80.00 and is good for life. Any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States 65 years or older may purchase the Senior Pass.

The pass covers 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.

**ACCESS PASS**
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.

---

**For Reservations call 877-444-6777**

---

**Visitor Guide 5**
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

SERVICES
Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gas stations are 43 miles west (Dell City, TX), 35 miles east (White’s City, NM), or 64 miles south (Van Horn, TX). There is no campground; bring everything you need with you.

INFORMATION & EXHIBITS
Pine Springs Visitor Center
Elevation 5730’. On Highway 62/180, 35 miles southwest of Carlsbad, 10 miles east of El Paso, and 64 miles north of Van Horn on Highway 54 and Highway 62/180. Open every day except December 25. Open Memorial Day weekend 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. Informative, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

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

McKitterick Canyon
Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time. During daylight saving times, hours are expanded 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, show slide program, picnic tables.

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 1861. Trailside exhibits. Pets on leash are allowed on this trail.

McKitterick 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 Pratt 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 8,738’ 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 Passport (or existing Golden Age Passport) or Access Passport (or existing Golden Access Passport). No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Pine Springs Campground
Located near the Pine Springs 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 905-858-3391 x224 up to two months in advance. Campers planning on day hiking in McKitterick Canyon, to Guadalupe Peak or the Bowl will want to stay here.

Dog Canyon Campground
Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 173, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 10 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 two months in advance by calling 905-858-3391 x224.

BACKPACKING
Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and desert to ten backcountry campgrounds. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Pine Springs 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 to the backcountry.

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

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 Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

HORSEBACK RIDING
Sixty percent of the park’s trails are open to horse use. A Backcountry use permit is required for all stock use. These free permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and Dog Canyon Ranger Station. Stock riding is limited to day trips only.

Stock corrals are available at Dog Canyon and near Frijole Ranch. Each has four pens and will accommodate a maximum of 10 animals. Reservations may be made two months in advance by calling 905-858-3391 ext. 224.

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 Hiker’s 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.

El Capitan Trail 8.5 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 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.

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 watching other wildlife are higher here as well.

McKitterick Canyon McKitterick Nature Loop 0.9 miles Moderate. Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.

Dog Canyon Indian Meadow Nature Loop 0.6 miles Easy. Enjoy a stroll around a meadow frequented by a variety of birds and other wildlife. Along the way you will see evidence of recent fires and regeneration.

Salt Basin Dunes Salt Basin Dunes (Day Use Only) 3.4 miles Moderate. Hike the old roadbed from the parking area for a little over a mile to the north end of the dune field. There is one high dune to ascend that some may find difficult. No shade. Enjoy the contrast of the pure white dunes with the sheer cliffs of the Salt Basals as a backdrop. Great for sunrise or sunset hikes all year, and day hikes during the winter.

Weather
Average Temperature (°F) Average Rainfall
High Low Inches
Jan 56 34 .67
Feb 59 36 .90
Mar 65 41 1.58
Apr 73 48 .60
May 82 56 0.91
Jun 88 65 2.18
Jul 88 64 2.37
Aug 86 61 3.29
Sep 81 58 2.54
Oct 73 50 .34
Nov 63 41 .97
Dec 56 33 1.05
Average annual precipitation for Pine Springs (1980-2003) 17.4
**Peak Experiences**

**Hiking to the Top of Texas**

By Sarah Clark

Mountain tops seem to hold a special place in people’s minds. Movers came down from the mountain top with the moral code that has shaped the lives of millions of people for thousands of years. American Indians seek their visions among the mountain tops, while Buddhist monks remain to find nirvana. The mountain top is a symbol of clarity, knowledge, and enlightenment. The effort and struggles of gaining the peak are integral to the significance of gaining the summit. No one would say they had conquered a mountain by flying to the top in a helicopter. No, each step on the way to the top has its own place and meaning.

The hike to the top of Guadalupe Peak is no different. As you work your way up the trail, the desert floor falls away; the sounds of the highway gradually fade. Valleys and hills unfold before you, curving away to join ridge upon ridge, knitted together by rock and tree. Rounding a corner opens new worlds, as barren hillsides and sheer cliff faces become mountain slopes covered in pines, only to give way to the grayish shoulders of the peak. The air, thin enough to give pause as you switchback your way through the steepest sections of the trail, fills with the scent of pine. Even with your eyes closed, the air near the peak would tell you that you are far from the rest of the world. The last scramble to the summit, full of white fossil-rich rocks of a long vanished reef, brings you face to face with the goal of your long climb. The mountain top is yours. Below is the work-a-day world. But here, on the top, the press of everyday affairs is far away.

Whether the first or the hundredth time to the top, the summit brings its own sense of time and scale to your perspective. As you gradually make your way back down the trail the headiness of the summit will remain. Distances seem changed, perspectives reframed. The memory of the view from the top is contrasted with where you are. Once returned to the base, the moments of clarity on the mountain top, with only the sky above you, the winds around you, and all the world below, remain.

The air, thin enough to give pause as you switchback your way through the steepest sections of the trail, fills with the scent of pine. Even with your eyes closed, the air near the peak would tell you that you are far from the rest of the world. The last scramble to the summit, full of white fossil-rich rocks of a long vanished reef, brings you face to face with the goal of your long climb. The mountain top is yours. Below is the work-a-day world. But here, on the top, the press of everyday affairs is far away. Whether the first or the hundredth time to the top, the summit brings its own sense of time and scale to your perspective. As you gradually make your way back down the trail the headiness of the summit will remain. Distances seem changed, perspectives reframed. The memory of the view from the top is contrasted with where you are. Once returned to the base, the moments of clarity on the mountain top, with only the sky above you, the winds around you, and all the world below, remain.

---

**Where Imagination & Nature Meet**

By Michael Haynie

The beauty of the natural world causes many to pause and savour the moment. It impels others to recreate something of that beauty in a painting, photograph, essay, or poem. Whether done in a realistic style or using the elements of a scene to transform it, artwork about the natural world often results in a relived moment and a desire to save the landscape that made the art possible. The painter Thomas Moran and the photographer Ansel Adams are perhaps two of the most famous artists that recognized the need to conserve natural areas, and their work enabled a larger public to gain a sense of what might be lost. Writers such as John Muir and Rachel Carson have moved many to action with the power of their language. The history of artists representing national parks is a long one and the National Park Service has created an Artist in Residence program to ensure that it continues.

In the summer of 2013, Artist in Residence Jena Camp spent three weeks in Guadalupe Mountains National Park where she was able to immerse herself in its many environments and have the time and solitude necessary to reflect and find inspiration. Her journal entries show the stark contrasts between city life in El Paso and the park, and her poetic prose creates vivid mental images of the scenes she encountered.

---

**After Storm**

Haunting the land, clouds come to earth cradling and veiling ridge line and cliff.

Swallows slice suddenly close—wingbeat—gone. Mists move subtly, meeting as thought.

Hard edges melt into pointillist screens; features fade dreamlike.

Permian seas arise where least sought; rolling white waves fill the skies.

---

**Hiking in Mountain Lion Country**

When you hike in mountain lion country:

**Travel in groups.** Lions may key in on easy prey, like small children. Make sure children are close to you and within your sight at all times—do not let children run ahead of adults! Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.

**If a lion is sighted, there are several things to remember:**

Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay calm, speak calmly, yet firmly. Move slowly. Avoid prolonged eye contact.

Face the lion and stay upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms, or open your jacket.

Protect small children by picking them up so they won’t panic and run.

Back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Do not run! Running may stimulate a lion’s instinct to chase and attack.

If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.

Fight back if a lion attacks you. People have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, jackets, and their bare hands. Protect your head and neck with your arms. Remain standing or try to get back up.

---

**Where Imagination & Nature Meet**

By Michael Haynie

The beauty of the natural world causes many to pause and savour the moment. It impels others to recreate something of that beauty in a painting, photograph, essay, or poem. Whether done in a realistic style or using the elements of a scene to transform it, artwork about the natural world often results in a relived moment and a desire to save the landscape that made the art possible. The painter Thomas Moran and the photographer Ansel Adams are perhaps two of the most famous artists that recognized the need to conserve natural areas, and their work enabled a larger public to gain a sense of what might be lost. Writers such as John Muir and Rachel Carson have moved many to action with the power of their language. The history of artists representing national parks is a long one and the National Park Service has created an Artist in Residence program to ensure that it continues.

In the summer of 2013, Artist in Residence Jena Camp spent three weeks in Guadalupe Mountains National Park where she was able to immerse herself in its many environments and have the time and solitude necessary to reflect and find inspiration. Her journal entries show the stark contrasts between city life in El Paso and the park, and her poetic prose creates vivid mental images of the scenes she encountered.

---

**After Storm**

Haunting the land, clouds come to earth cradling and veiling ridge line and cliff.

Swallows slice suddenly close—wingbeat—gone. Mists move subtly, meeting as thought.

Hard edges melt into pointillist screens; features fade dreamlike.

Permian seas arise where least sought; rolling white waves fill the skies.

---

**Hiking in Mountain Lion Country**

When you hike in mountain lion country:

**Travel in groups.** Lions may key in on easy prey, like small children. Make sure children are close to you and within your sight at all times—do not let children run ahead of adults! Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.

**If a lion is sighted, there are several things to remember:**

Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay calm, speak calmly, yet firmly. Move slowly. Avoid prolonged eye contact.

Face the lion and stay upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms, or open your jacket.

Protect small children by picking them up so they won’t panic and run.

Back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Do not run! Running may stimulate a lion’s instinct to chase and attack.

If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.

Fight back if a lion attacks you. People have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, jackets, and their bare hands. Protect your head and neck with your arms. Remain standing or try to get back up.

---

**Where Imagination & Nature Meet**

By Michael Haynie

The beauty of the natural world causes many to pause and savour the moment. It impels others to recreate something of that beauty in a painting, photograph, essay, or poem. Whether done in a realistic style or using the elements of a scene to transform it, artwork about the natural world often results in a relived moment and a desire to save the landscape that made the art possible. The painter Thomas Moran and the photographer Ansel Adams are perhaps two of the most famous artists that recognized the need to conserve natural areas, and their work enabled a larger public to gain a sense of what might be lost. Writers such as John Muir and Rachel Carson have moved many to action with the power of their language. The history of artists representing national parks is a long one and the National Park Service has created an Artist in Residence program to ensure that it continues.

In the summer of 2013, Artist in Residence Jena Camp spent three weeks in Guadalupe Mountains National Park where she was able to immerse herself in its many environments and have the time and solitude necessary to reflect and find inspiration. Her journal entries show the stark contrasts between city life in El Paso and the park, and her poetic prose creates vivid mental images of the scenes she encountered.

---

**After Storm**

Haunting the land, clouds come to earth cradling and veiling ridge line and cliff.

Swallows slice suddenly close—wingbeat—gone. Mists move subtly, meeting as thought.

Hard edges melt into pointillist screens; features fade dreamlike.

Permian seas arise where least sought; rolling white waves fill the skies.

---

**Hiking in Mountain Lion Country**

When you hike in mountain lion country:

**Travel in groups.** Lions may key in on easy prey, like small children. Make sure children are close to you and within your sight at all times—do not let children run ahead of adults! Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.

**If a lion is sighted, there are several things to remember:**

Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay calm, speak calmly, yet firmly. Move slowly. Avoid prolonged eye contact.

Face the lion and stay upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms, or open your jacket.

Protect small children by picking them up so they won’t panic and run.

Back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Do not run! Running may stimulate a lion’s instinct to chase and attack.

If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.

Fight back if a lion attacks you. People have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, jackets, and their bare hands. Protect your head and neck with your arms. Remain standing or try to get back up.
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 5:00 p.m.
Last tour entry—3:30 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
575-457-2314
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.

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
575-884-4816
The forest encompasses 1,013,441 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback 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.

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.

RECREATION AREAS
Black River Recreation Area
The 1,200-acre Black River Recreation Area is managed to provide low-impact recreation and environmental education opportunities while maintaining a healthy river system and riparian habitat. This oasis in the Chihuahuan Desert is home to rare species of plants, fish, and reptiles in and around the river. The most frequently visited site is the Cottonwood Day Use Area, which includes a wildlife viewing platform, picnic tables, and a toilet. Turn west onto CR418, travel two miles, and then turn left at the fork.

La Cueva Non-Motorized Trail System
The trail system covers approximately 2,200 acres and contains more than 15 miles of maintained trails. The non-motorized trails are used by mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. The trails wind through the rolling limestone foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains and the rugged Chihuahuan Desert environment. A variety of cacti and wildlife add to the desert experience.

The area is located partially within the city limits of Carlsbad, NM. From Lea Street, go west to Standpipe Rd. Turn south and travel 3 miles to the gravel access road. Turn right and travel approximately 0.3 miles to the trailhead and parking area. There are no facilities other than the parking area and trail signs.