



Save the Night Sky!



NPS Photo

Over 3,000 stars and the Milky Way can easily be seen on most nights from Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks, but that may change if current trends continue. Light pollution is steadily increasing worldwide. In many parks, light pollution is beginning to impact the normally pristine views of the night sky.

by Valerie Glowinski

DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU WISHED upon a star? It makes a big difference where you are. Our ability to view the night sky is vanishing. The wonders of the stars above may soon become extinct except in our national parks. Currently, two thirds of the United States population can no longer see the Milky Way at night because of excessive artificial light, also known as 'light pollution'. The National Park Service is aware of the problem and is committed to protecting this endangered natural resource with the help of other groups such as the International Dark Sky Association.

The stars are not glimmering as brightly as they were a thousand years ago, a hundred years ago, and even ten years ago. Ancient civilizations studied the night sky. Our ancestors navigated using the stars as their beacons. The night sky is recorded in rock art and building alignments throughout the world. Unfortunately, today's stargazer sometimes needs more than a telescope to view the stars. Often, they need enough time and gasoline to drive towards their nearest na-

tional park, where night skies are darker than most suburban skies. City lights can bleed over a hundred miles making it difficult to view the celestial bodies. Will our children's children be able to wish upon a star? Or will they miss out on a ritual that has been passed down for generations? The choice is ours.

Why is it important to combat light pollution? The effects of light pollution extend far beyond our fading constellations. Light pollution interferes with animals' nocturnal habits, disrupts the circadian rhythm in humans, and wastes extraordinary amounts of energy each year. Light pollution is easily observed in cities, and regrettably it threatens the skies in our national parks as well. Stargazing beneath those glorious heavens is becoming a threatened pastime.

Sadly, light pollution is taking a huge toll on a variety of wildlife. When bright city lights intrude into wildlife habitats, their behaviors including finding food, sleeping, migrating, and mating are altered. Some birds use the moon and stars to navigate during their migration seasons. Often, they are drawn to bright lights, becoming fixated and disoriented. They may crash into buildings or circle until they are exhausted and drop from the sky to their deaths. Annually, 100 million birds die in North America because of lighted buildings.

Artificial lighting affects many mammals including deer, coyotes, and cougars. Animals will try to avoid unnatural light, but

that restricts their foraging activity and changes their natural movements. This can cause them to eat less, which leads to being underfed and can create long term survival issues for the species. Animals exposed to bright lights may need up to 40 minutes for their eyes to properly re-adjust to night vision. Shockingly, even a single light can change a wildlife corridor and have a huge impact on their lives.

Bats, an important predator of the night, are also succumbing to light pollution. Following their food source, bats fly towards agricultural fields and consume tons of insects, reducing the need for man-made insecticides. However, they can be unnaturally drawn to street lights or other areas that are brightly illuminated, which exposes bats to nocturnal predators such as owls, cats, and snakes. This also increases their risk of being killed by vehicular traffic. Concentrations of bats in one area can also lead to faster disease transmission.

The ecosystem is further impacted because insects are also drawn to the artificial lights, which attract bats to illuminated urban areas. The insects are consumed en masse by the bats. This can affect many other species that rely on insects for food as well as plants that rely on insects for pollination.

There are serious human health issues associated with light pollution. The disruption of circadian rhythms, our internal 24 hour clock, affects both the brain and the body. Too much light in the evening can

reduce the amount of melatonin in our blood. Melatonin is an important hormone which impacts our endocrine system and helps us sleep. Lack of sleep can cause a host of medical issues including stress, depression, weight gain, increased risk of diabetes, and even cancer.

Researchers estimate that about a third of all lighting in the United States is wasted. That means almost 30 million barrels of oil and over eight million tons of coal are expended for no useful purpose. This releases more than 14 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which adds to other pollution issues. Ultimately, outdoor lighting is intended to provide safety from crime, better visibility on roadways, and comfort in our communities. Unfortunately, much of the outdoor lighting is misdirected into trees, asphalt, empty parking lots, and of course, the night sky. When light is misdirected it lacks value, and its cost can be exorbitant.

The National Park Service is taking steps to stop light pollution and restore our night skies. One of the first steps is to measure and monitor changes in the brightness of the night sky. The National Park Service seeks cooperation from neighboring communities, park visitors, and local governments in its efforts to prevent artificial lights from intruding upon park ecosystems. The National Park Service will not use artificial lighting in areas that negatively affect wildlife. Additionally, by using outdoor lighting sensibly, the parks are maintaining security...continued on page 3

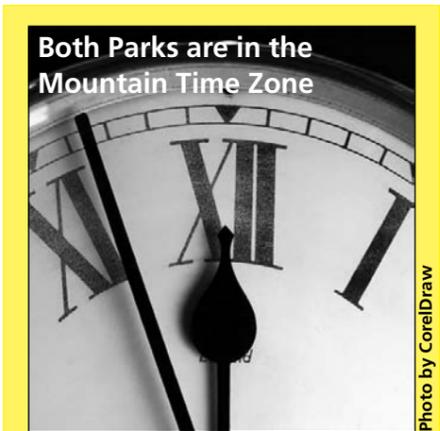


Photo by CorelDraw

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NPS Photo /Dave Bieri

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 Drive
Salt Flat, TX 79847
915-828-3251
www.nps.gov/gumo
www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Moun-
tains

www.meetup.com/Guadalupe-Moun-
tains-National-Park-Meetup-Group/

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

World Heritage Turns 40

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is among the more than 930 World Heritage Sites around the globe that are recognized for their importance to the common heritage of all humanity. The global community as a whole has a stake in ensuring the protection and preservation of these natural and cultural treasures for future generations. 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty which almost 190 nations have signed and administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). With Yellowstone and Grand Canyon National Parks, Chaco Culture and Independence Hall, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is one of 21 World Heritage Sites in the United States. It is recognized for the size of the caves, profusion, diversity and beauty of the mineral formations, and the pristine settings that provide an underground laboratory for the study of geological and biological processes.

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.

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.

In 2012, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenuous 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. 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.

John C. Benjamin
Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns NP

Dennis A. Vásquez
Superintendent
Guadalupe Mountains 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-In-Park (VIP) visit www.volunteer.gov or contact:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator

575-785-3120

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator

915-828-3251

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.

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 and Wilderness Explorer Activity Books are also available. Participants will earn a badge (Jr. Paleontologist) or patch (Wilderness Explorer) upon completion.

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.

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 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

The National Park Service also offers an online Junior Ranger 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 575-785-2281 for details. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70° Fahrenheit (21° Celcius) 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.



Photo by CorelDraw

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city and visibility with minimum negative impact on the environment.

There are some simple things that we can all do to reduce light pollution in our neighborhoods. Learn the facts about light pollution and educate others. Get involved with your community and encourage it to use dark sky friendly lighting. Use outdoor lights only when and where they are needed. Direct the light downward using shields. Use the right amount of lights and lower wattage. In dark areas, use less light to prevent disruption of your night vision. Light pollution is an issue that we can easily solve, but we must acknowledge the problem and work together to save the night sky. The choice is ours to make.

Every summer, our national parks across the country offer Night Sky programs and Star Parties. Visit Carlsbad Caverns National Park's website or ask a ranger about the dates for our next Star Party to enjoy the dark. Come out and see what you are missing. Let our children wish upon the stars by once again turning out the lights so we can make their dreams come true.

Star Parties & Celestial Events Calendar

This summer Carlsbad Caverns National Park will host several Star Party events. The park is a perfect spot for viewing the wonders of the night sky due to its location away from the lights of local communities.

No fee or advance reservations are necessary and telescopes will be available. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Join us in East parking lot after the batflight programs. The visitor center and cave will not be open.

Star Parties Schedule

June 16
July 14
August 18
September 15
October 13

Blue Moon Night Hike
August 31

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| June 4 | Full Moon |
| June 4 | Partial Lunar Eclipse |
| June 5 | Last Quarter |
| June 11 | Transit of Venus |
| June 19 | New Moon |
| June 20 | Summer Solstice |
| June 27 | First Quarter |
| July 3 | Full Moon |
| July 11 | Last Quarter |
| July 19 | New Moon |
| July 26 | First Quarter |
| July 28,29 | Southern Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower |
| August 2 | Full Moon |
| August 9 | Last Quarter |
| August 12,13 | Perseids Meteor Shower |
| August 17 | New Moon |
| August 24 | First Quarter |
| August 31 | Full Moon |
| September 8 | Last Quarter |
| September 16 | New Moon |

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| September 22 | Autumnal Equinox |
| September 22 | First Quarter |
| September 30 | Full Moon |
| October 8 | Last Quarter |
| October 15 | New Moon |
| October 22 | First Quarter |
| October 21,22 | Orionids Meteor Shower |
| October 29 | Full Moon |
| November 7 | Last Quarter |
| November 13 | New Moon |
| November 17,18 | Leonids Meteor Shower |
| November 20 | First Quarter |
| November 28 | Full Moon |
| November 28 | Penumbral Lunar Eclipse |
| December 6 | Last Quarter |
| December 13 | New Moon |
| December 13,14 | Geminids Meteor Shower |
| December 20 | First Quarter |
| December 21 | Winter Solstice |
| December 28 | Full Moon |

I have long thought that anyone who does not regularly—or ever—gaze up and see the wonder and glory of a dark night sky filled with countless stars loses a sense of their fundamental connectedness to the universe. And as the astounding vastness of the universe becomes obscured, there is a throwback to a vision of a universe that essentially amounts to earth, or one's country, or state or city. Perspective becomes myopic. But a clear night sky and a little instruction allows anyone to soar in mind and imagination to the farthest reaches of an enormous universe in which we are but a speck. And there is nothing more exhilarating and humbling than that.

—Dr. Brian Greene, physicist and author of **The Elegant Universe**

A New Deadly Disease Killing Bats

by Dale Pate

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 Brazilian (Mexican) freetail bats from Carlsbad Cavern shows that 40 percent of the insects devoured by these bats are crop pests taken along the farmlands 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 decimate bats that hibernate. Bat deaths were immediately associated with a white fungus growing around noses, ears, and on wing membranes. This condition was later named "White-nose Syndrome (WNS)".

Since 2006, over five million bats have been killed by this disease and as of this summer, 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 not bring any of the potentially contaminated items (clothing, gear, shoes) used during that visit into Carlsbad Cavern or other caves.

States known to have WNS include: CT, DE, IN, MA, MD, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, TN, VA, VT, and WV.

If you are taking one of the ranger-guided off-trail trips offered by Carlsbad Caverns National Park, please use the gear furnished by the park on those tours. Also, clean your shoes and other clothing before entering the cave.

As the weather warms, Carlsbad Caverns National Park will be increasing efforts to inform the public about this devastating disease. Check when arriving at the park for any updates on WNS and what you can do to help prevent its continued spread to other areas and other bat species.

Over \$2.7 Million Donated to Parks by CCGMA

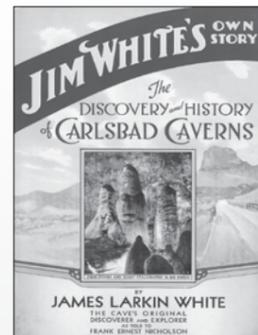
THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS-GUADALUPE Mountains Association (CCGMA) is a private, nonprofit organization whose main objectives are to provide interpretation for the park visitor and to support the purposes and mission of the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National 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.

Books may also be purchased by mail or online:

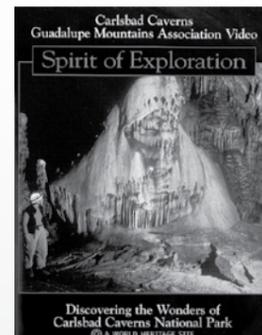
PO Box 1417
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 785-2484
(575) 785-2318 FAX
www.ccgma.org

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.

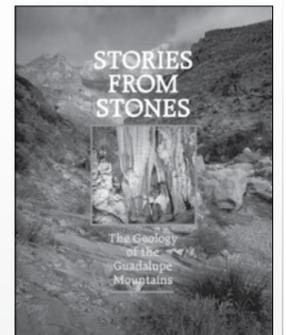
Membership (1 year) \$25.00



**B & W photos, 32 p,
6x9.5 inches.
\$6.95**



**54 minutes.
Color.
\$19.95**



**Color photos, 40 p,
8.5x11 inches.
\$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

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

May 25 - September 3, 2012

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 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..... | \$5.00 |

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, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. **For safety reasons, tripods 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 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.



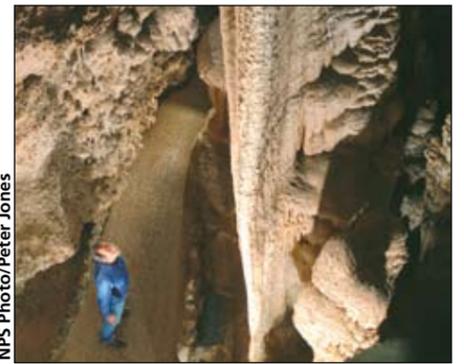
NPS Photo/Peter Jones

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. Some of 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)

Moderately 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.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

LEFT HAND TUNNEL

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$7.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)

Moderately strenuous. This is a historic lantern-lit tour through an undeveloped section of the cave on unpaved trails. The dirt trail winds over small uneven surfaces and slippery slopes and careful footing is required to navigate around cavern pools and fragile formations. Lanterns are provided. Sturdy walking shoes required. No backpacks. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

LOWER CAVE

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)

Strenuous. Initial descent is 10' down a flowstone slope by knotted rope, then a 50' descent down three sets of ladders. Bring closed-fingered gloves and 4 new AA alkaline batteries. Kneepads optional, but no hard plastic components. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. Helmets and headlamps provided. Backpacks not allowed. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/Dale Pate

SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE

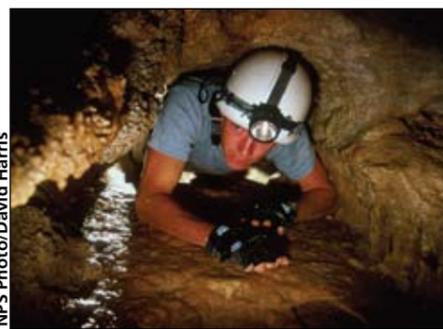
Fee: \$15.00 Tour Ticket

(Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)

Strenuous. Tour meets at the visitor center. Participants will then caravan to the cave site. **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.

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.



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)

Extremely strenuous. Participants navigate ladders, ropes, and 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 closed-fingered gloves, 4 new AA alkaline batteries, and kneepads (no hard plastic components). Sturdy, closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. Helmets and headlamps provided. Backpacks not allowed. Tours depart from Visitor Center.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

SPIDER CAVE

Fee: \$20.00 Tour Ticket

(Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)

Extremely strenuous. Participants navigate slippery surfaces, bellycrawl for extended periods of time, and free climb rock chimneys. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces, heights, or darkness. Bring closed-fingered gloves, 4 new AA alkaline batteries, and kneepads (no hard plastic components). Sturdy, closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. Helmets and headlamps provided. Backpacks not allowed. Tour departs from Visitor Center. Participants drive their vehicles to the trailhead and hike 1/2 mile to the cave entrance.

AUDIO GUIDES

Enhance your visit with an audio guide rental. As you tour the cavern, you will learn about the natural and cultural history of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Audio guide rentals are administered by Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association (CCGMA), a non-profit organization. The cost is \$5.00 and proceeds are donated to the park.

For Reservations call 877-444-6777

| Tour | Trail Surface | Offered | Tour Time | Adult Fee | Age Limit | Tour Length | Group Size |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------|-------------|------------|
| King's Palace | Paved Trail; 80' hill must be climbed on return trip | Daily | Spring, Fall, Winter 10 & 1 Summer 10,11,12,2, & 3 p.m. | 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. | Fri., Sat., Sun. (5/25/12 to 9/3/12) Saturday and Sunday (Rest of year) | 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center | \$15.00 (\$7.50 ages 8-15, Senior Pass holders) | 8 | 5.5 hours | 20 |
| 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 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 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 (MAY-OCTOBER)

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.

BATFLIGHT BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 21
5:00 A.M. - 7:00 A.M.
Watch the bats re-enter the cave after a night of feeding. You can then enjoy breakfast at the concession restaurant.



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 next 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 U.S. citizen or 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.

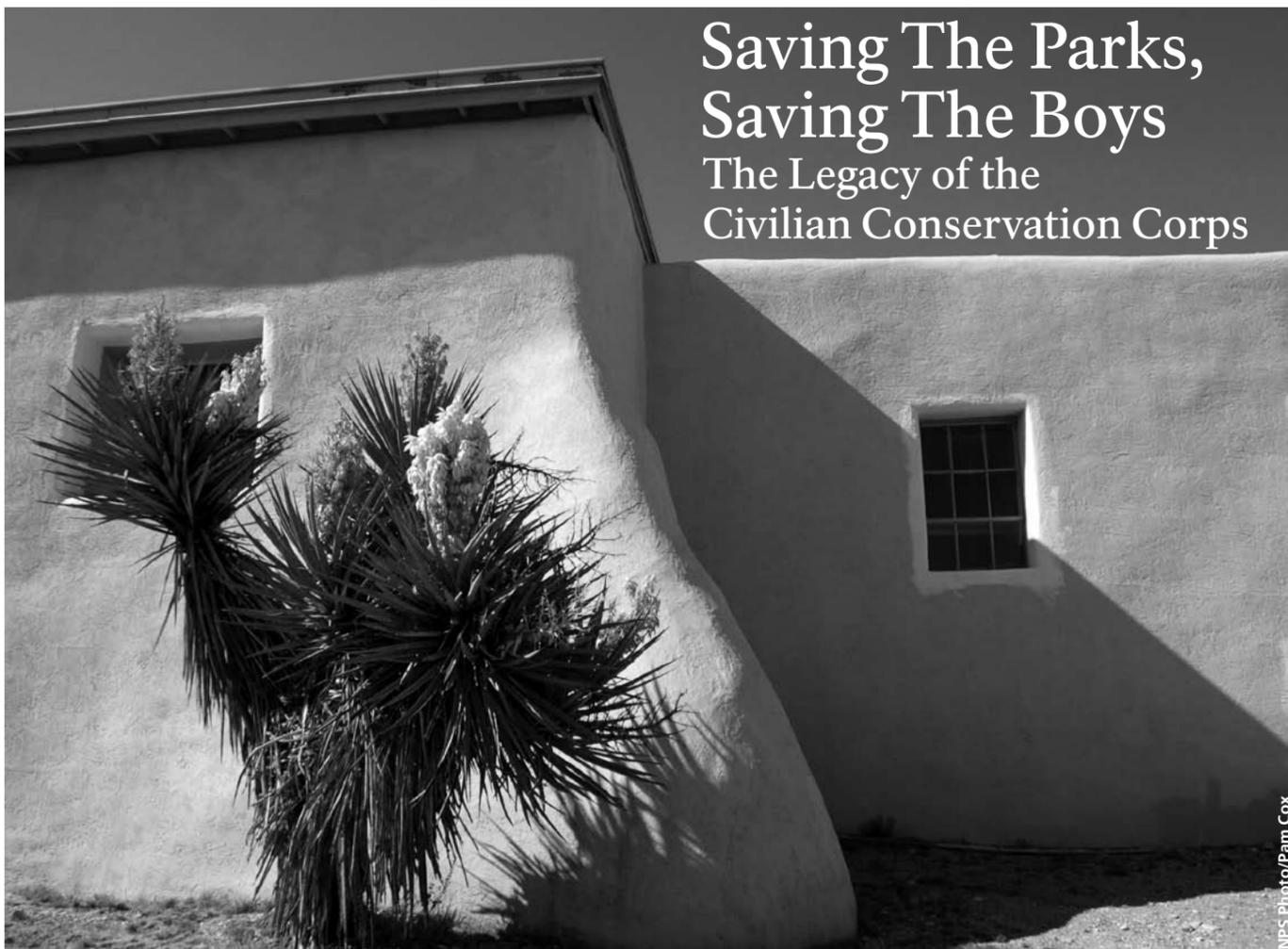


GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS

Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for \$20.00 for 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 at the Pine Springs Visitor Center.

Saving The Parks, Saving The Boys The Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps



NPS Photo/Pam Cox

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) made numerous lasting contributions to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, including the stuccoed adobe buildings on the hill across from the visitor center. Their camp, based at Rattlesnake Springs, operated from 1938-1942.

By Pam Cox

PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER THE world to visit Carlsbad Caverns National Park for many reasons. Most are here to enjoy the spectacular subterranean splendor of the main cavern. Others want to experience the thrill of a crawl-on-your-belly, face-in-the-dirt, wild cave adventure. There are those who visit to photograph the surreal formations or enjoy a hike through the Chihuahuan desert. Countless visitors come during the summer months to marvel at the sight of nearly half a million bats swirling out of the natural entrance as the sun goes down. Everyone who leaves here takes away special memories of their visit.

However, not everyone who has come to Carlsbad Caverns came here to recreate. Between July, 1938 and May, 1942, hundreds of young men came here to find hope. These men, boys really, were all part of one of the most incredible chapters in the history of this country. They were enrollees in the Civilian Conservation Corps. They took away special memories, but each one of them also left something special behind. They left a legacy that will last for generations to come.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came about because of a great need of this country. The stock market crash of October 1929 was the beginning of the Great Depression. For the next dozen years, desperation and despair gripped the entire nation. Jobs were lost which brought the loss of homes and farms. Families took to the road, lived in shantytowns, and did whatever they could to survive. A mother with seven children would glean undigested grains from fields where horses grazed. Another family survived on a diet of tumbleweed. Others were not as lucky finding food and would go days without anything to eat. A gentleman from Fort Worth, Texas recalls growing up during the Depression. He has vivid memories of his family going eight days without food. "I still hear the sobbing of my siblings as they cried themselves to sleep because of the hunger in their bellies." The misery and gloom during these dark days also brought a great feeling of hopelessness for an entire generation of young people who saw no future ahead of them.

A tiny glimmer of hope emerged in 1932, when the country elected Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. He had pledged "a new deal for the American people" to help get the country back on its feet economically. One of his many New Deal programs was the creation of the CCC. Inaugurated as president on March 4, 1933, Roosevelt sent a message to Congress on March 21 declaring, "I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects." The CCC became a reality on March 31, 1933.

An amazing display of cooperation between numerous government agencies had occurred and by July, more than 250,000 "boys" had enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The U.S. Army was in charge of mobilizing the enrollees to camps all over the country where an unprecedented amount of work on public lands began, including many of our national parks. Carlsbad Caverns would eventually be among those that benefitted from the work of the CCC.

Not just anyone could join the Corps. Enrollees had to meet certain requirements. The CCC was for unemployed and unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 26. He had to commit to a six-month enrollment period, weigh at least 107 pounds, and possess no fewer than three of his own teeth. Many of the enrollees lied about their age because their families were so desperate for money. There were boys as young as 14 who joined the Corps. A huge number of enrollees only had an eighth grade education, the Depression having forced them to quit school.

Once enrolled, the boys would be assigned to a company and sent to a camp somewhere in the country. They were provided with uniforms, a soft cot to sleep on at night, three hearty meals a day, and they earned a wage for their work, a whopping \$30.00 a month. The rule was the boys could only keep \$5.00; the remaining \$25.00 was sent home to their families.

Between 1933 and 1938, there had been a continuous CCC presence in national parks and monuments all over the country, from Washington to Florida and every state in between. These men had already constructed thousands of miles of roads and trails, they had restored deteriorating historic buildings, and the CCC had installed miles of phone and electrical lines. However, there was still more work to be done.

Carlsbad Caverns had been a national park for eight years when the first CCC boys arrived in July of 1938. Company 831 set up their camp, NP-1-N, at Rattlesnake Springs, located six miles from the park. Rattlesnake Springs, which is the source of the park's water supply, did not become part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park until 1963, although the National Park Service administered it beginning in 1934.

Company 831 completed dozens of projects during their four-year stay, along with countless daily maintenance jobs. At Rattlesnake Springs, the boys built a ranger residence, constructed a service road and a water diversion ditch. They lined the spring's pond with masonry walls and planted dozens of cottonwood trees.

In Carlsbad Caverns National Park's historic district on the surface they constructed two triplex houses for employees, and two maintenance buildings. They built stone trails and walkways in the residential area and installed guardrails along the Walnut Canyon Road. The men quarried rock to make adobe bricks for structures.

In the cave, Company 831 assisted with electrical projects. One of these jobs required them to carry a one-ton cable down the Natural Entrance to the Big Room. They prepared cave trails for the building of rock walls and resurfaced the concrete floor in the underground lunchroom. These are only a handful of the countless jobs the CCC completed at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

The work done by Company 831 and the millions of other boys during the Great

Depression brought about a tremendous transformation in this country. Our public lands, including national parks, benefited, the economy was stimulated, and hope was returned to the American people. However, even more change was on the horizon.

December 7, 1941 changed the entire world. The bombing of Pearl Harbor marked the beginning of World War II. By July of 1942, the last of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps closed, including NP-1-N. Many of the boys of Company 831, along with thousands of former CCC enrollees, had gone off to fight for peace. Historians tell us the men who fought in WWII were the most battle ready soldiers this country has ever had due to the discipline, the military lifestyle, and the "can do" attitude they had learned while in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Today, most of the men of the CCC are gone, but their legacy lives on. Nearly eighty years after the establishment of President Roosevelt's most successful New Deal program, we still are reaping the benefits of the work done by the CCC. Here at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, rangers live in the residence Company 831 built at Rattlesnake Springs. You can visit Rattlesnake Springs today and in the heat of the summer, relax in the shade of the cottonwoods the men planted. In the historic district, many rangers call the adobe triplexes home, and the parks maintenance division is still using the structures built by the CCC.

Each of us benefits from this legacy every time we recreate on public lands or in our national parks. It is impossible to list every project the men of the CCC completed during the nine years it was in existence. Even this partial list of accomplishments only begins to help us see the magnitude of their work. They built 125,000 miles of roads, strung 89,000 miles of phone lines, developed 800 state parks, restored nearly 4,000 historical structures, built 20,000 miles of foot trails, and planted nearly three billion trees.

I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work...more important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

The 3.5 million boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps did all of that and more. The only thing they ever asked for in return was three hearty meals a day, a soft cot to sleep on at night, \$30.00 a month, and that we never forget them. If we could ask a former CCC boy what the Civilian Conservation Corps did for them, they would probably answer, "The Corps prepared me for life. It taught me how to work hard, how to cope and get along with others, and it made a man of me." But the voices of these men are growing ever silent.

So, as you travel this great land, visiting our national parks and other public lands, remember that the trail you are hiking, the road you are driving on, or the tree that is providing you with shade on a hot summer day is likely part of the legacy left for us and for future generations, by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Let none of us ever forget them.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

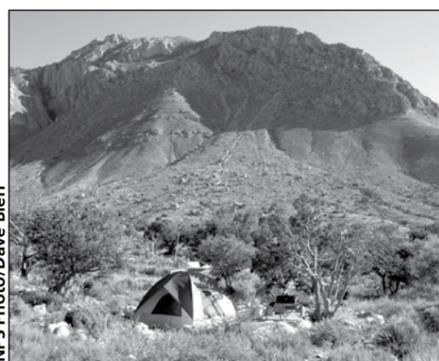


ENTRANCE FEE
\$5.00/person (16 & older)
Free for Senior, Access,
and Annual Pass cardholders

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 43 miles west (Dell City) or 35 miles east (White's City). There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

INFORMATION & EXHIBITS

Pine Springs Visitor Center

Elevation 5,730'. On Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad, 110 miles east of El Paso, and 65 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. 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. Trekking poles are recommended.
- 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 Pine Springs Visitor Center or any park staff member.
- 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. Pets on leash are allowed on this trail.

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 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 915-828-3251 x2124 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 x2124.

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 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.

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

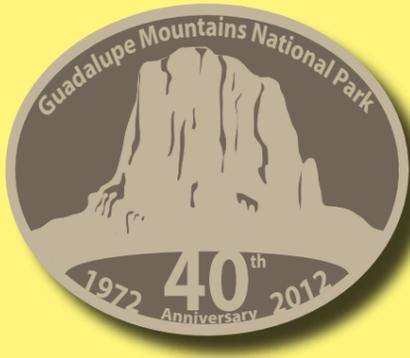
Sixty percent of the park's trails are open to stock use. A backcountry permit is required for all stock use. These free permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and Dog Canyon Ranger Station. Stock riding is limited to day trips only.

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 by calling 915-828-3251 x2124.

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'. |

Just Over the Hill



Guadalupe Mountains National Park turns 40 on September 30, 2012. Anniversaries are excellent times to reflect on the past and plan for the future. During the year, ranger-led activities will help you discover why Guadalupe Mountains National Park was created and what makes the area unique. Call 915.828.3251 for the current schedule.

With over 80 miles of trails and 95% of the park managed as wilderness, the opportunities for solitude abound. Trails range from easy nature trails to moderate hikes through canyons and strenuous hikes in the moun-

tains, including Texas' high point, Guadalupe Peak (8,749').

Just over the hill, you'll discover a relict conifer forest consisting of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and southwestern white pine. On the clearest days, you can see over 100 miles away, and on clear nights the Milky Way stretches from horizon to horizon.

Looking to the future, park managers are planning to preserve wilderness character through the creation of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which will help protect the

untrammelled, natural, and undeveloped qualities of wilderness character while providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. The human story of the Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness will be preserved as well from the earliest traces of the big game hunters 10,000 years ago to its ranching past in the 20th century.

What will the next 40 years bring and what role will you play in helping to preserve one of our national treasures? Join us this year in celebrating 40 years as a national park.

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 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

575-457-2384

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.

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

575-885-4181

The forest encompasses 1,103,441 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.

