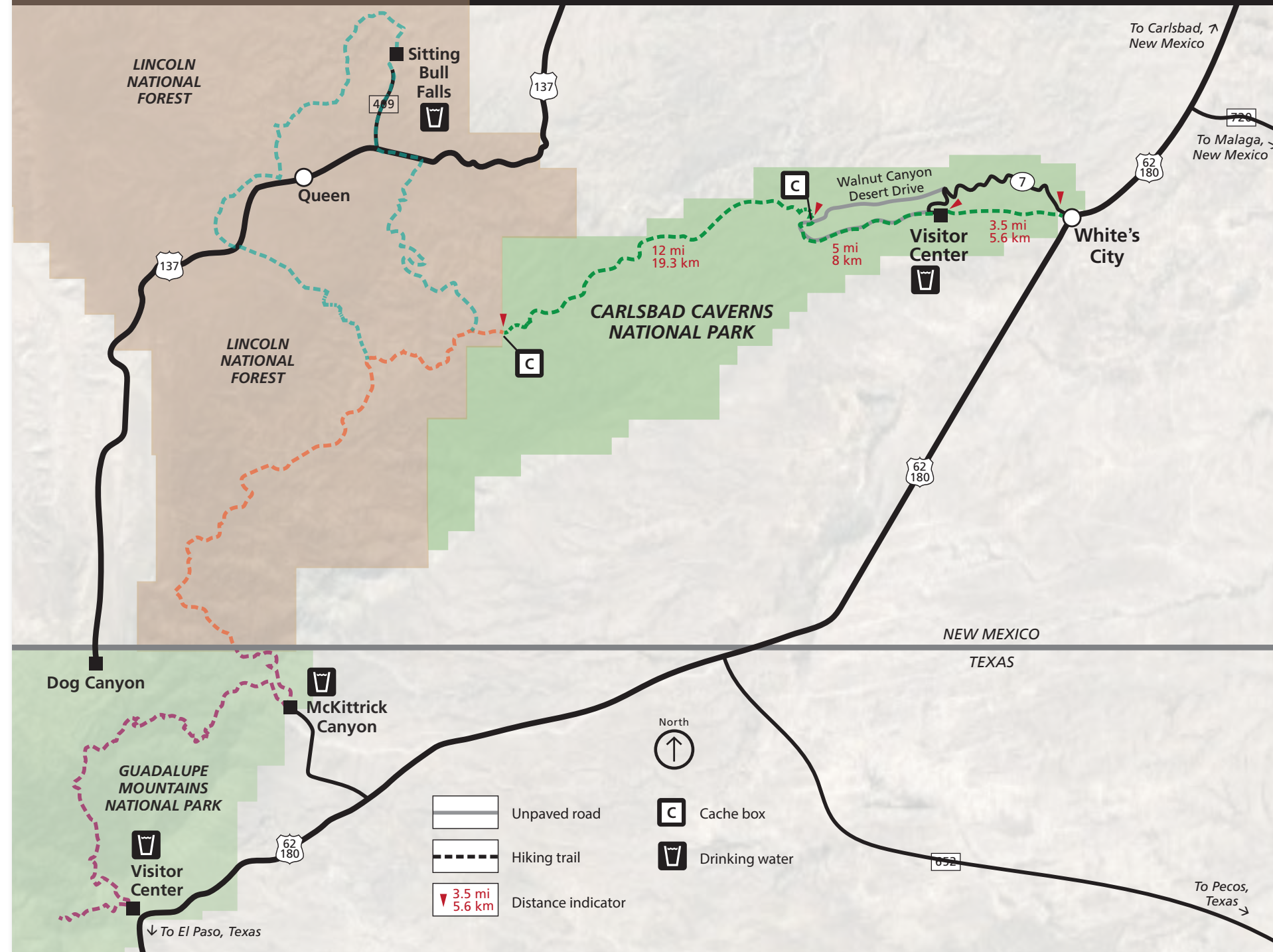


## Regulations

- Campsites must be located at least 100 feet (30.5 m) off established trails, 300 feet (91 m) from any water source or cave entrance and 0.5 mile (0.8 km) or 2,600 feet (792 m) from any road or parking lot.
- Backcountry camping groups are limited to 10 people. Larger groups must hike and camp at least 0.25 mile (0.4 km) apart (in separate areas).
- Permit holder must be age 18 years or older.
- Maximum stay in the park's backcountry is seven consecutive nights.
- Vehicle or RV camping is prohibited.
- Camping is not allowed in any other area, including along any roads, in any parking lot or trailhead.
- No open fires in the park, small cooking stoves are permitted.
- Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.
- Do not disturb or collect any plants, animals, minerals, or cultural artifacts.
- Mountain bikes and motorized vehicles are prohibited on all park trails.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Horses and pack animals are only permitted on the Guadalupe Ridge Trail from the Walnut Canyon Desert Drive to the park's west boundary. Advance arrangements are required.

## Guadalupe Ridge Trail Map



## National Recreation Trails

The *National Trails System Act of 1968* (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national system of trails comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails.

A National Recreation Trail (NRT) is a designated part of America's National Trails System. Each NRT must demonstrate that it represents its region, supports a diverse community, and is among America's best trails. NRTs can be nominated by anyone, but must be supported by the landowner(s) whose property the trail passes through and be endorsement by the state's State Trail Administrator.

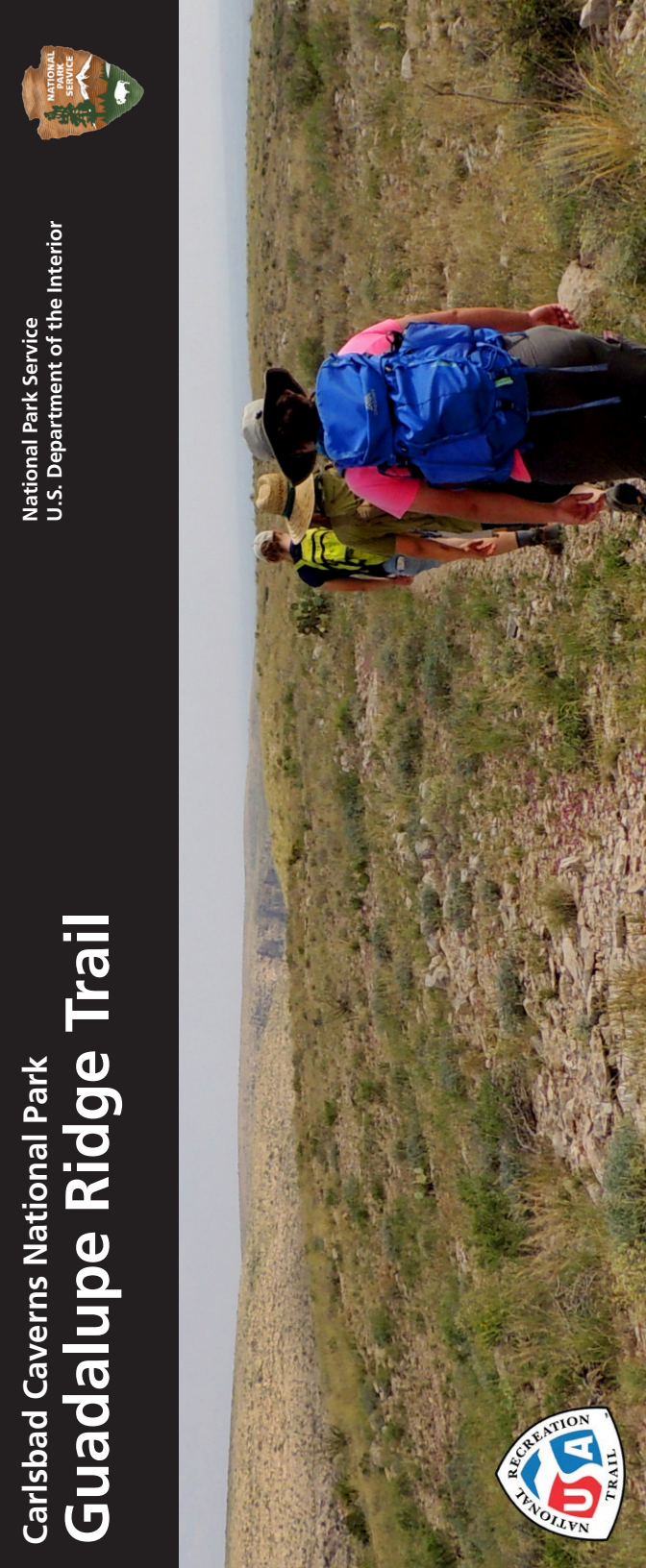
On May 30, 2018, Guadalupe Ridge Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail.

## For More Information



**Carlsbad Caverns National Park**  
3225 National Parks Hwy  
Carlsbad NM 88220  
575-785-2232  
cave\_park\_information@nps.gov  
www.nps.gov/cave





### Trail Description

The 100 mile (161 km) Guadalupe Ridge Trail starts in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, at the highest point in Texas—Guadalupe Peak (8751 ft / 2667 m). Some sections of the trail in the Guadalupe Mountains climb and dip over a 60% solid rock grade and are very rugged terrain. The trail travels through Chihuahuan Desert, mixed coniferous forest, and riparian woodlands before exiting the national park to the Lincoln National Forest.

The national forest has mixed coniferous forest along with spectacular rocky canyons.

An optional loop will take trekkers through Last Chance Canyon and Sitting Bull Falls, a desert oasis with a series of small waterfalls and pools.

The trail continues through Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Bureau of Land Management land with stunning views of the rugged and unforgiving Guadalupe Ridge. Hikers can stop at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park Visitor Center before dropping into White’s City, New Mexico and the end of the Guadalupe Ridge Trail.

### Backcountry Permits

All backcountry users who camp overnight in Carlsbad Caverns National Park are required to obtain a free backcountry use permit at the visitor center on the day you arrive. Permits can’t be reserved in advance.

Permits may be required for overnight camping in other areas along the Guadalupe Ridge Trail. Contact the appropriate office for more information.

**Carlsbad Caverns National Park**  
575-785-2232

**Guadalupe Mountains National Park**  
915-828-3251

**Lincoln National Forest**  
575-885-4181

**Bureau of Land Management**  
575-234-5972

### Safety

- The only potable water sources in Carlsbad Caverns National Park are located at the Guadalupe Mountains National Park Visitor Center, McKittrick Canyon Restroom, Carlsbad Caverns National Park Visitor Center, and the Bat Flight Amphitheater. Water can be cached along the proposed route, prior to your hike. Carlsbad Caverns has two cache boxes (metal). One is located at the western boundary of the park and the other is located at the intersection of the Guadalupe Ridge Trail with the Walnut Canyon Desert Loop Road. These two caches are 12 miles (19 km) apart.
- Take along plenty of water. Bring a gallon of water per person per six hours of hiking during the summer season.
- Pace yourself, take water breaks often, and drink even if you don’t feel thirsty. Note: As soon as you begin to feel thirsty, you are already starting to become dehydrated.
- Apply sunscreen liberally before your hike and reapply as needed. Dress for the weather. During hot weather, protect skin with lightweight, light-colored clothing
- including long sleeved shirts and pants. Always wear a wide-brimmed hat and sturdy closed-toe hiking boots with ankle support. Be prepared with rain gear.
- During summer thunderstorms, lightning and flash floods can come suddenly and may pose threats. Avoid open and low-lying areas at these times.
- Pack a park map showing accurate trail information. Maps are available for purchase at the visitor center bookstore.
- Avoid getting lost by staying on established trails at all times and keep track of your location on the map.
- Leave itinerary with a friend or relative and take a cell phone.
- Watch for prickly plants.
- Be alert for wildlife. Always maintain a safe distance from wildlife and treat them with respect. Know what to do if you encounter rattlesnakes, centipedes, and mountain lions.

