



# Forever Wild

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

—President Lyndon B. Johnson

Photo by David Lee Cook  
Wilderness 50 Artist-In-Residence  
© David Lee Cook

*“The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but in the future.”* —Aldo Leopold

By Michael Haynie

On September 3, 1964, the United States became the first country to legally define and designate wilderness. Nearly a century after the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, many recognized that public lands established for conservation purposes were still susceptible to development pressures. The country’s newfound wealth after World War II resulted in more tourists visiting national parks in their vehicles and an increased demand for more facilities to alleviate crowding. In response, the National Park Service built over one thousand miles of new roads, widened existing ones, and added new facilities such as visitor centers, administration buildings, and employee housing. For those who looked to national parks as places for plants and animals to thrive and natural beauty to be preserved, something equally important was being lost. These developed areas within the parks might have still offered scenic beauty, but they no longer seemed wild. What would happen to the vast portions of the parks’ backcountry, which were still in an undeveloped and natural state?

In response to this concern, Congress passed the Wilderness Act, which established nine million acres of wilderness and created the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The new law affected areas managed by the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. It required the four agencies to review their lands to determine which were suitable for inclusion in the NWPS. Fifty years later, Congress has added 100 million more acres to the system, representing about five percent of the land area of the United States, with the largest tracts being in Alaska.

The NWPS preserves every type of major ecosystem found in the United States including wetlands, forests, tundra, deserts, grasslands, seashores, rivers, and alpine lakes. Some of that variety and biological diversity exists in Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks’ designated wilderness areas. These two parks are located at the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert, and that biome is well represented; but the thousands of feet of elevation differences, the presence of permanent springs and streams, and seasonal rains allow plants more typical of the Rocky Mountains and

Great Plains to occur here too. These areas provide benefits to animals and people. Rare and threatened animals like the Mexican spotted owl, peregrine falcons, black bears, and horned lizards now have a refuge with guaranteed permanent protection. Wide-ranging animals such as elk and mountain lions have the space they need to live undisturbed and in the case of the latter, a better chance of not coming into conflict with an ever-expanding civilization.

While wilderness represents an act of humility on our part as a society, where we check our appetite for development and easy access, these areas are not off limits to people. In wilderness, you can hike, ride horses, backpack, explore, and discover a landscape, which in its relatively unaltered state, stands in stark contrast to those places where we work and live. Solitude and beauty are in abundance, while the signs of modern civilization and the demands of hectic everyday life are few. Experiencing natural quiet and a slower pace of activity gives you the chance to find tranquility and time for personal reflection. Many people describe their time in wilderness as spiritual, whether they see the beauty around them as the work of a deity or the power of nature.

Wilderness benefits society by providing fresh air and water. Rain that falls in the Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns Wildernesses flows into the Capitan Aquifer, which provides drinking water for nearby communities and park visitors. Wilderness areas are within a day’s drive for Americans living in the 30 most populous cities and even closer for people living in rural areas, so opportunities to experience wilderness are prevalent. For those areas so remote that visiting may be difficult, just knowing that these areas are protected forever offers consolation to those concerned about the destruction of the natural world.

Since Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, the U.S. population has increased from 200 million people to over 300 million. Cities and suburbs have expanded greatly, and Texas is now criss-crossed by over 300,000 miles of public roadway. Less than one percent of Texas’ land area is protected as designated wilderness. The wilderness found within Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns is a rare resource that will only increase in value as our society continues to grow.

As we look to the future of wilderness and what the next 50 years will bring, there is not only the assurance that the areas currently designated wilderness will be there for the next generation to appreciate and enjoy, but there is also the vision that the National Wilderness Preservation System will expand, since there are currently nearly five million acres of wilderness that the National Park Service has recommended for formal designation and inclusion in the system. These areas are currently managed as wilderness and await Congressional approval. Once designated, they too will become part of the “geography of hope”.

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NPS Photo/Peter Jones

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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  
www.facebook.com/pages/Carlsbad-Caverns-National-Park/270383569687673  
Check us out on Twitter:  
@CavernsNPS

### Guadalupe Mountains National Park

400 Pine Canyon Drive  
Salt Flat, TX 79847  
915-828-3251 ext. 2124  
www.nps.gov/gumo  
www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Mountains  
Check us out on Twitter:  
@GuadalupeMtnsNP

www.meetup.com/Guadalupe-Mountains-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

### Weather Conditions

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

### Road Conditions

**New Mexico: 800-432-4269**  
**www.nmroads.com**  
**Texas: 800-452-9292**  
**drivetexas.org**

## 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

## Park Partner 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 & Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. CCGMA has donated over \$2.7 million dollars to both parks and operates bookstores that carry a selection of books and items regarding the cultural and natural history of the Southwest.

# 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 fossil reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Substantial areas within both parks are designated wilderness. These areas provide you with the opportunity to find solitude and challenge, meet the land on its own terms, and experience the way the country used to be before industrialization and urbanization.

Our park staff are here to help make your visit a truly memorable event and will be happy to help you plan your visit to areas within and without the designated wilderness. Guided tours at Carlsbad Caverns can enrich your park experience. These tours offer a variety of caving experiences, from easy lantern tours to challenging trips involving crawling and squeezing through tight passages.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenuous mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile roundtrip hike to Texas' highest mountain, Guadalupe Peak (8,751').

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.

Douglas S. Neighbor  
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](http://www.volunteer.gov) or contact:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
Maggi Daly, Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator  
575-785-3132  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park  
Martin Christiansen, Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator  
915-828-3251 ext. 2311

# 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 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.

Visitor Center or Dog Canyon Contact Station. 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. 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.

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.

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 both parks.

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

Senior Ranger books are available at the Pine Springs Visitor Center, Dog Canyon Contact Station, and the Carlsbad Caverns 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](http://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. However, service animals are. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the concessions kennel for a \$10.00 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. Service animals are allowed. Both pets and service animals are permitted in the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon campgrounds. In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.

# Wilderness and Peregrine Falcons The Power of Cooperation

By Jake Bussey

When visitors imagine Guadalupe Mountains National Park, they might think about the rugged faces of mountains made 260 million years ago, mixed with the present attitude of wilderness preservation, as comprising a place like no other. Some know of the staggering diversity of plant and animal life made possible by year-round water supply, the 8,751-foot Guadalupe Peak—the highest point in Texas—and especially, El Capitan, the poster face of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Those especially lucky may get a glimpse of an American success story, the high-wheeling, thunderous-diving, and shrill-shrieking peregrine falcons. These observations are possible in part because of legislation such as the Endangered Species Act and the Wilderness Act.

Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964 and provided the following definition of wilderness: “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain.” Since then, the Act and its succeeding supporting laws have amassed 110 million acres of Congressionally-designated wilderness. Nearly 47,000 of those acres belong to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Peregrine falcons, one of the fastest animals on or above land, inhabit a few of those acres.

Peregrines are sleek, slate-gray birds whose Latin name *peregrinus* means “wandering,” subsist mainly on a diet of birds, captured on the wing. Barred white underparts and a black head are two identifying characteristics, as well as a “moustache.” As a raptor, or “bird of prey,” they are primarily hunters and meat-eaters. In a steep dive, they can attain speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.

They have a harsh life history in a world that has shown these falcons little kindness in the past seventy-five years. In the 1940s, these regal birds were hunted due to superstition. Then they lost much of their habitat to farming and other agricultural pursuits. The largest blow to them came from a pesticide called DDT. A “wonder pesticide”, it seemed to solve a multitude of insect pest problems. It did just that, until several things came to light: the pests were becoming immune, the pesticide was causing health problems to many humans, and it was disastrous to birds, in particular. DDE, the metabolized element in DDT, thinned

birds’ eggshells, accumulated in their fat tissue, and ultimately caused their demise. In no other species was this more pronounced in the eastern United States than the peregrine falcons, and it was not until 1999 that peregrine falcons were removed from the endangered species list.

Ever since, there has been a struggle to help these marvelous aviators come back from the brink of extinction. Their nests are constantly in jeopardy. They finally achieved nesting success in places like the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico and Texas. Here, due to enormous effort from the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service, many species can live in relative safety. Peregrine falcons are among those species. They nest in limestone crevices and shallow caves, in devoted pairs, and raise their young. Best of all, there is no chance that their habitat will be destroyed; the Wilderness Act of 1964 guarantees that. As the places where peregrines nest are within the designated wilderness, it cannot be touched by humans for construction or development purposes.

Studies registering, evaluating, and exhaustively following the peregrine falcon population in Guadalupe Mountains National Park have been in the works. At first, there were few to no sightings, and never an active nesting pair. The latest study in Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Lincoln National Forest, was conducted by biologists, NPS employees, and volunteers from 1981 to 1991. During that decade, they observed and recorded data as three different eyries were populated and repopulated over and over by the same three pairs of falcons. This area has been a fantastic place for falcons to make their eyries (nests). Over that period, over thirty different peregrine falcons were marked and identified. It is a flying success story.

The success of the peregrine falcons shows what cooperation can do. When people work together, it is possible to bring a species like the peregrine falcons back from the brink of extinction. Legislation like the Wilderness Act of 1964, helps protect the peregrine falcons and their eyries. Studies like the one done in the 1980’s and 1990’s in Guadalupe Mountains National Park help us understand the habits of these birds, and now, under the watchful eyes of the USDA Forest Service and the National Park Service, peregrine falcons have found a year-round home. A home where they can nest, hatch, and exist in peace.

## Artist and Local Youth Create Traveling Mural



From the early paintings of George Caitlin to the exquisite photographs of Ansel Adams, art has helped people visualize and understand national parks. In 2012, noted mural artist, Charles “Brother Boko” Freeman, and local youth began creating a large traveling mural that would bring some of the beauty of Guadalupe Mountains National Park’s flora and fauna and its scenery to a larger audience. The mural also includes the various peoples that have interacted with this remote landscape and serves as a reminder that people have been a significant part of this area for thousands of years

In July 2012, the park contacted Joe Epstein and Eve Flanigan at the Carlsbad Mural Project about the possibility of creating a mural of the park, after reading about a mural project they had undertaken with “at-risk” youth. Epstein put the park in contact with noted muralist Brother Boko, and over the next several months, Brother Boko spoke and met with park staff many times to discuss the creation of a mural, which would similarly involve “at-risk” youth as a way of introducing them to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Volunteer effort and partnership made the vision of the project become a reality. Brother Boko created conceptual sketches, along with Ayako Sami and local youth from Grace House (Carlsbad, NM), painted the mural in studio space provided by New Mexico State University (Carlsbad). Ayako Sami and Akila Nosakhare of NMSU (Carlsbad) assisted with research and conceptual design, while the endeavor was facilitated by the Carlsbad Mural Project. Material supplies were provided by Guadalupe Mountains National Park and maintenance staff created a frame and protective case for the mural.

When asked about the project, Brother Boko stated, “I think the inclusion of so-called “at risk” youth is a great idea. The creative process

of mural making offers them a positive and productive outlet for their creative energy. The Carlsbad Mural Project is committed to working with Carlsbad’s youth through local organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club, and it has proven to be a great collaboration. Our most recent endeavor with young people from the Grace House has proven to be quite beneficial, as well. The two youth who participated in the production of the Guadalupe Mountains travelling mural were enthusiastic and open to being taught mural painting techniques. My hope is that they will continue to pursue this path and achieve great things in their lives.”

The then unfinished, 8’ high x 16’ wide mural, consisting of four painted, plywood panels, was displayed publicly for the first time at the Pine Springs Visitor Center, during the park’s 40th Anniversary Celebration on October 6, 2012. After that event, work continued on the mural in between several other mural projects for which Boko was commissioned. When not being used for outreach, the mural may be seen inside the Pine Springs Visitor Center Auditorium, which is open daily (except for December 25) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park thanks the following people for helping to bring this project to fruition: Brother Boko and the two young artists from Grace House, Eve Flanigan and Joe Epstein of the Carlsbad Mural Project, Dr. John Gratton, Sharon Young, Linde Merry, Bobby Keys, Ayako Sami, and Akila Nosakhare of New Mexico State University (Carlsbad), Melissa Roberts of Grace House, and Jesus “Chuy” Melero, a Carlsbad high school teacher who assisted with this project during his time as a Teacher- Ranger-Teacher at the park, as well as after he returned to the classroom.

# Deadly Disease Continues to Kill 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: AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, ME, MA, MD, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, TN, VA, VT, and WV. Provinces in Canada known to have WNS include New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.

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.

# 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

Hours subject to change. Call 575-785-2232 for more information.

## Summer Hours

### May 23 - August 9, 2014

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

Hours subject to change. Call 575-785-2232 for more information.

## Entrance Fees

Adults—age 16 and older.....	\$10.00
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, Annual Pass (Military), 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](http://www.Recreation.gov)

Reserved tickets must be picked up no later than ten minutes prior to the posted tour starting time. Tickets will not be issued if within ten minutes of the start of any tour. No refunds for late arrivals.

## 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, 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. 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, Main Corridor, or Natural Entrance. 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, Senior Pass, and Access 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, Senior Pass, and Access Pass cardholders)  
Moderately strenuous. This is a historic candle-lit lantern tour through an undeveloped section of the cave on unpaved trails. The dirt trail winds over uneven surfaces with some steep slippery slopes. Careful footing is required to navigate on steep slippery slopes, around cavern pools and fragile formations. Not recommended for anyone who has difficulty seeing in dim-lit or candle-lit conditions. Lanterns are provided. Sturdy closed-toed shoes or hiking boots required. No backpacks. Tour departs from the Visitor Center.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## LOWER CAVE

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children, Senior Pass, and Access Pass cardholders)  
Strenuous. Initial descent is 10' down a flowstone slope by knotted rope, then a 50' descent down three sets of ladders. Bring three new AA alkaline batteries. 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. Tours depart from the visitor center.



NPS Photo/Dale Pate

## SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE

Fee: \$15.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children, Senior Pass, and Access 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 with 500' elevation gain 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 three 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, Senior Pass, and Access 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 three new AA alkaline batteries. 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, Senior Pass, and Access 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 three new AA alkaline batteries. 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 a steep, rocky, and uneven trail for 1/2 mile to the cave

## 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 or TDD 1-877-833-6777

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 (S, T, Th, S) 9,10:30,12,1:30, & 3 Summer (M, W, F) 9,10:30, 12, 3	Adults \$8 Children (4-15), Senior Pass, and Access Pass cardholders \$4  A General Admission Ticket is also required.	4	1.5 hours	55
Left Hand Tunnel	Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes	Mon., Wed., Fri.	1:30 p.m.	\$7.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)	6	2 hours	15
Lower Cave	Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, low light, and slippery, dirt trails. Might get dirty.	Sun., Tue., Thu., Sat.	8:30 a.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)	12	3 hours	12
Slaughter Canyon Cave	Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky.	Friday	8:30 a.m. <b>Meet at the Visitor Center</b>	\$15.00 (\$7.50 ages 8-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)	8	5.5 hours	20
Wild Caving—caving gear provided							
Hall of the White Giant	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Monday	8:30 a.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass, and Access Pass holders)	12	4 hours	8
Spider Cave	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	\$20.00 (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass, and Access 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.



## America the Beautiful—

## The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass



### 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 CAC 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 \$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



### 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.

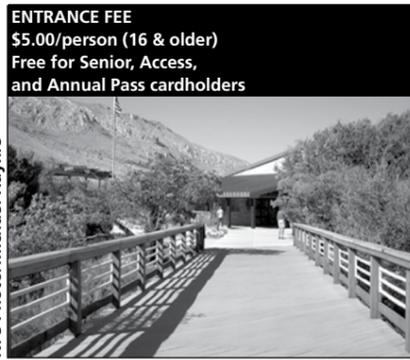


### GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS

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.

# 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, TX), 35 miles east (White's City, NM), or 65 miles south (Van Horn, TX). 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 daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone). Information, natural history exhibits, 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. Open 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.

## HIKING

### Pinery Trail

#### 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

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 8,751' 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 two months 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 two months 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 two months in advance by calling 915-828-3251 ext. 2124.

## OTHER POPULAR HIKES...

Trailhead	Trail	Distance Roundtrip	Description
Pine Springs	Devil's Hall Trail	4.2 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> 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	<b>Strenuous.</b> 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	<b>Moderate.</b> 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	<b>Easy.</b> 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	<b>Moderate.</b> 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	<b>Moderate.</b> Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.
	Permian Reef Trail	8.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> 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	<b>Easy.</b> 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 regrowth.
	Marcus Overlook	4.6 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridgetop for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 800'.
	Lost Peak	6.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> 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'.
Salt Basin Dunes	Salt Basin Dunes (Day Use Only)	3-4 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Follow 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 the Guadalupe as a backdrop. Great for sunrise or sunset hikes all year, and daytime hikes during the winter.

# Climate Change: Is it Real or Hype?

By Beverly Swift-Pony

For many, the discussion of global warming is a hot topic (no pun intended). There are those who believe that climate change is normal behavior for our planet Earth. It is something that has been going on for eons, long before we arrived on the scene, which is true, to a point. Others argue it is caused by our careless use of fossil fuels, deforestation, the industrial age, and our huge carbon footprints.

It is a fact that our planet is in constant flux. Ice ages come and go; the planet warms and cools down. This is all within natural variability and has been going on since the big blue marble we call earth was formed. Evidence is found in wood, ice, coral, sediment, pollens, and caves.

Scientists tell us the problem is that it is happening much more rapidly than in the past. It is also important for people to know that the data extends further back than the approximately 140 year-old thermometer records. Using indirect measures from sources such as ice cores and tree rings, scientists can make accurate observations about baseline temperature trends. When they look at this kind of data, they say that the average global temperature has most likely never been this high for at least 1000 years and the atmospheric concentration of the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> has not been this high since the Pliocene Epoch (over 3 million years ago).

Examining tree rings is one way to get a glance at the big picture of climate history. Trees, like the bristlecone pines found in remote areas of the southwestern United States, can reach incredible ages of up to nearly 5000 years. These trees are the only living organisms that contain traces of ancient and contemporary sunlight, temperature, water and soil conditions. Year-to-year variations in temperature greatly impact the growth of wood. The wider the rings the warmer was the year, so width variations of the rings provide a proxy record.

Ice cores allow us to see the composition of the atmosphere in the past. The oldest ice core collected is from Antarctica; it contains ice from as far back as 800,000 years ago. Ice cores show CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere started increasing in the 1800's. The increase from 280 parts per million (ppm) to 390 ppm today corresponds with the industrial

revolution. Methane concentrations have more than doubled. Ice cores drilled out of the Antarctic Peninsula region show that the recent warming of the last 50 years is unusual in the context of the last few hundred years.

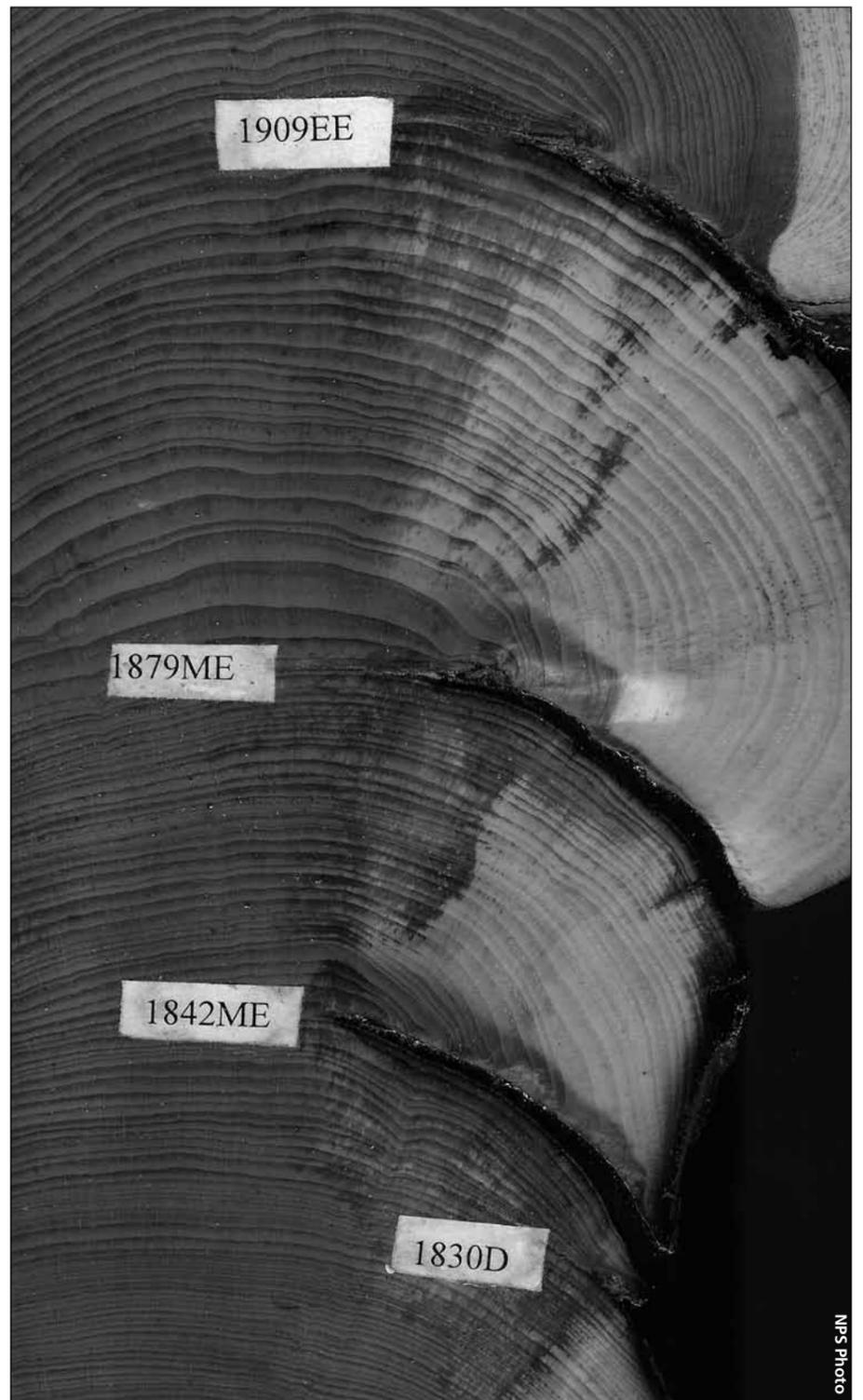
Coral reefs not only provide a habitat for thousands of species of sea creatures; they also build up an immense climate archive. Large corals like the Great Barrier Reef developed domes of calcium carbonate. The organisms that produce the calcium carbonate are sensitive to the temperature of the ocean water.

Just like with corals, climate changes influence the growth of stalagmites. Differences are especially remarkable in the transition from cold and warm stages. A cold climate can "lock down" the growth of stalagmites. Then permafrost prevents water from penetrating the ground. The last time stalagmites resumed growth was 8000 years ago when the last ice age ended.

Even lakes preserve the records of climate history; the findings from extracted sediments relate to the thickness and grain size of each sediment layer. The thickness and grain size depends on the amount of rainfall or the rate of snow melting in spring. Pollen grains or spores, which are washed or blown into water, eventually sink and are well preserved in the sediment layers in the bottom of ponds, lakes or oceans. Due to their resilient outer walls, both pollen and spore fragments are the best preserved and the most abundant plant remains.

This means different types and concentrations of pollen and spores indicate environmental conditions. The earliest spores apparently produced by land plants are about 420 million years old. What scientists are trying to determine is whether or not homo-sapiens are the direct cause of this rapidly changing climate and, if so, what can be done about it before it is too late.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park the concerns over global warming are very real. The mountains are referred to as "sky islands" and are surrounded by the vast Chihuahuan desert. Even slight changes in the climate could have significant impacts on the park's flora and fauna. Conifers in the higher elevations could become stressed due to extreme heat and a lack of adequate mois-



Fire scars from trees sampled in the high country provide a record of fire history spanning hundreds of years. Observed, and projected, climate change will likely result in an increase in the frequency, size, and duration of wildfires.

ture, making them susceptible to the damaging bark beetle. The Mexican vole lives in the tall grasses in an area called the Bowl and would be threatened by severe drought. This little rodent might seem insignificant, but it is a valuable food source for many other species. Sadly, it is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Many of the plant species we enjoy while hiking could perish. Endemic plants, such as the Guadalupe violet, found in limited numbers, and other rare taxa, may

find the one place they can grow is no longer suitable.

Should there be concern? Is this global warming all hype? Does it matter which side you are on? Whether one believes it or not the signs are obvious; there is something dramatic going on with our climate. What matters is the continued protection of these special places, the places we enjoy now, and, hopefully, generations will continue to enjoy in the future.

## HIKING IN MOUNTAIN LION COUNTRY

WITH THEIR LARGE SIZE AND VERY LONG TAILS, mountain lions are unmistakable. Adult males may be more than eight feet in length and weigh an average of 150 pounds. Adult females may be up to seven feet long and weigh an average of 90 pounds. Their tracks show four toes with three distinct lobes present at the base of the pad, which is generally greater than 1.5 inches wide. Claw marks are usually not visible, since their claws are retractable.

### 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.

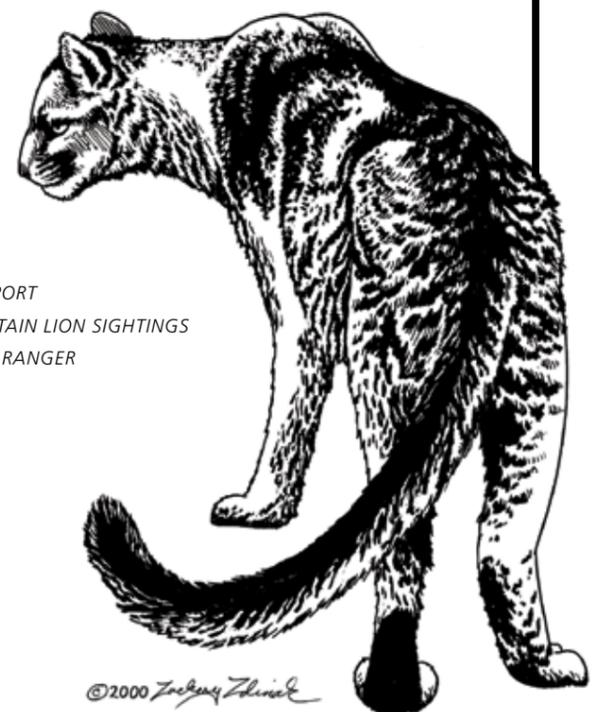
Face the lion and stay upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms, or open your jacket.

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.

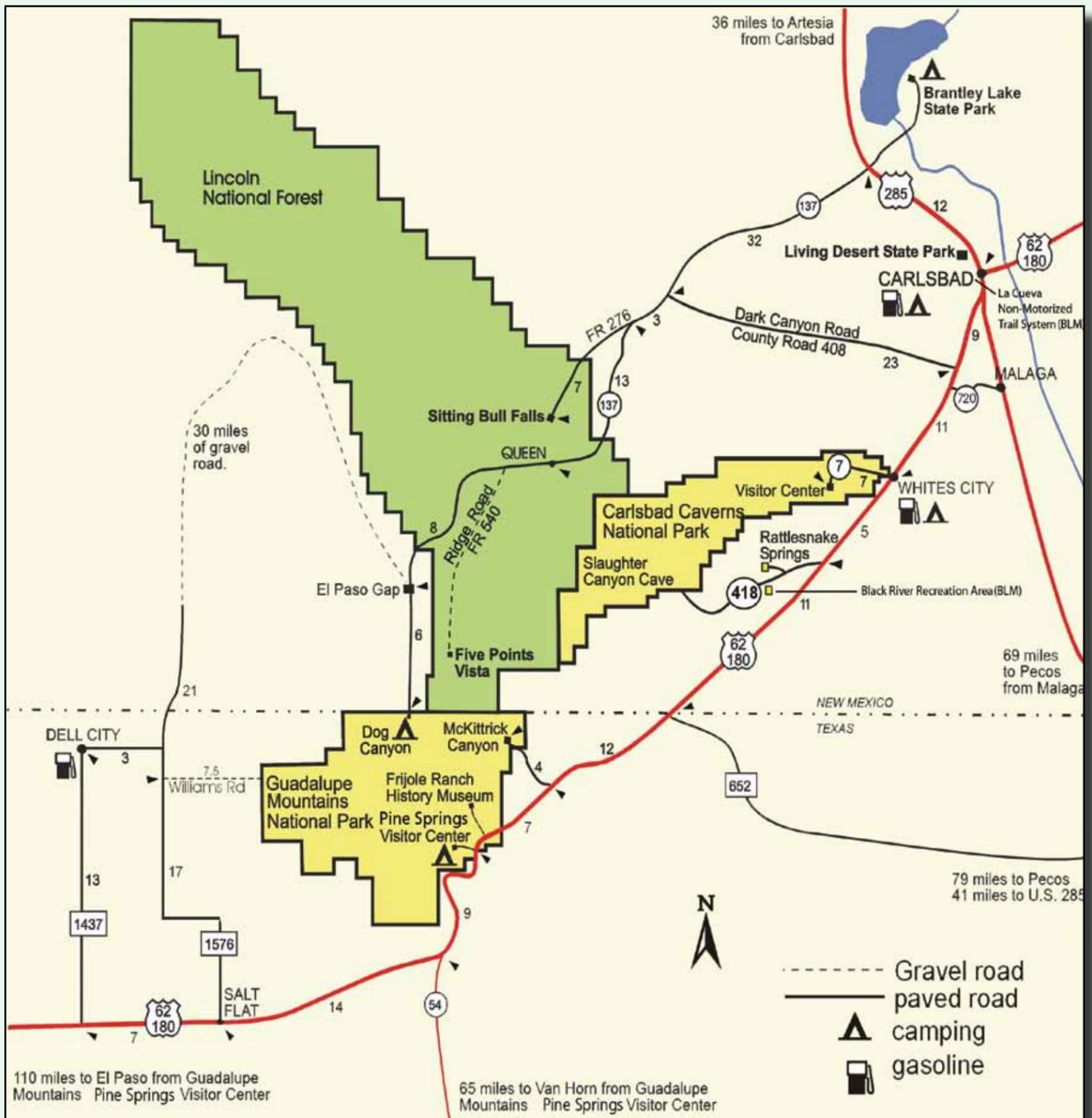
If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.

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.



PLEASE REPORT  
ALL MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTINGS  
TO A PARK RANGER

# Nearby Attractions



## BRANTLEY LAKE STATE PARK

575-457-2384  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/brantley-lakestatepark.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/brantley-lakestatepark.html)

Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 285, the campground has 51 RV sites with water and RV electric hook-ups (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.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

575-234-5972  
[www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad\\_Field\\_Office](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad_Field_Office)

### 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.

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.

## LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST (GUADALUPE DISTRICT)

575-885-4181  
[www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln/home)

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 at 5203 Buena Vista Drive Carlsbad, NM 88220.

**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.

## LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS STATE PARK

575-887-5516  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/livingdesert-statepark.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/livingdesert-statepark.html)

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.	