



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Guadalupe Mountains  
National Park

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## Guadalupe Mountains News Release

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### Guadalupe Mountains National Park Announces Fall/Winter Free Interpretive Program Schedule and Change in Visitor Center Hours

(Pine Springs, TX) Guadalupe Mountains National Park Superintendent Dennis A. Vásquez announced the park's schedule of interpretation programs for Fall 2011/Winter 2012. The park will offer a wide variety of free patio, ranger-led hikes and evening program throughout the Fall and Winter. These programs will provide excellent opportunities for visitors to learn about the plant life, wildflowers and wildlife, geology, ecology, Native American Indian, Cavalry (including Buffalo Soldiers), early ranching and Butterfield Overland Mail Stage history, and night skies of the Guadalupe Mountains as well as learn outdoor skills to have a safe visit to the Guadalupe Mountains. Whether coming for a day hike on the 86 miles of trails, birding or wildlife watching, a trek into the high country vistas at Guadalupe Peak, the Bowl or Hunter Peak, a visit to historic Frijole Ranch, Williams Ranch, ruins of the Pinery Butterfield Stage Station, Pratt Cabin or Ship on the Desert, a foray into the second largest gypsum dunes in the United States, a weekend stay in the Pine Springs or Dog Canyon campgrounds or the Frijole Ranch Group Campground or a backpacking experience in the backcountry or wilderness area, the Guadalupe Mountains offers wonderful opportunities for solitude, recreation, family fun and learning and exercise, including free ranger-led programs.

There will be Patio Talks at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the Pine Springs Visitor Center on September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7, 13, 20, 21, November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1, 4, 8, 10, 15, 18, 22, 29, January 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16 (2:00 PM Only), 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, February 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 20 (2:00 PM Only), 23, March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31. These short (15-20 minute) talks may encompass any topic relating to the park, so stop by, chat with a ranger and learn about the Guadalupe Mountains.

On September 11, October 9 and 23, and March 13, there will be open houses at Ship on the Desert from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Take a tour of this historic home with a park ranger or explore on your own.

On September 25, October 30, November 6 and 20, and February 19, Pratt Cabin will be open in McKittrick Canyon from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Tour the historic cabin with a park ranger.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Please make sure to bring sun block, a hat or cap, and plenty of water and snacks.

On September 10, 17, 18, 24, October 1, 2, 8, November 27, December 3, 11, 17, January 2, 15, 16, 29, February 5, 12, 18, 20, 26, March 5, 20 26 and 27, put on your hiking boots and join a ranger on a longer hike to such places as Guadalupe Peak (the highest peak in Texas), the Permian Reef, The Bowl, Pratt Cabin or the Notch. Please visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/GUMO/](http://www.nps.gov/GUMO/) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Mountains](http://www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Mountains), or contact the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 to find out where the hike will go, the time and location where it will meet, the duration, difficulty level (Easy, Moderate or Strenuous) and any other details, and accompany a ranger on an adventure in the Guadalupe. Please make sure to bring sturdy hiking boots, sun block, a hat or cap, and plenty of food, water (at least one gallon per person per day is recommended) and snacks. The weather may change quickly, so please dress appropriately. Please call ahead, as some of these hikes may not be appropriate for small children.

Fall weather brings spectacular orange, red and yellow foliage to the Guadalupe Mountains. Join a park ranger on moderate hikes to Devil's Hall (4.2 miles round-trip) on October 14, 16, 22, 28, 30, November 5, 11, 13 or 19, or through McKittrick Canyon to historic Pratt Cabin (4.8 miles round-trip) on October 15, 21, 29, November 4, 6, 12, 18 or 20. Please visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/GUMO/](http://www.nps.gov/GUMO/) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Mountains](http://www.facebook.com/Guadalupe.Mountains), or contact the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 to find out the meeting time, duration and any other details, and accompany a ranger and enjoy Fall Colors without having to go to New England. Meet the ranger at the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Contact Station for the McKittrick Canyon hikes and at the Pine Springs Trailhead, inside the Pine Springs Campground, for the Devil's Hall hikes. Please make sure to bring sturdy hiking boots, sun block, a hat or cap, and plenty of food, water (at least one gallon per person per day is recommended) and snacks. The weather may change quickly, so please dress appropriately.

On March 12, meet a park ranger at the Dog Canyon Ranger Station at 2:00 PM until approximately 3:00 PM for an easy, one-mile ranger-led hike through this secluded section of the park. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear a hat, jacket, sturdy hiking boots and sunglasses. There will also be an Evening Program at the Dog Canyon Ranger Station from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM. To get to the Dog Canyon Ranger Station, drive two hours from Pine Springs. Turn left on Highway 62/180 and continue for 44 miles. Turn left on County Road 408 (Dark Canyon Road) and continue until you reach Highway 137. Turn left and continue to Dog Canyon. Approximately 100 miles.

On March 6, there will be a ranger-led Evening Bird Walk at historic Frijole Ranch from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Bring sturdy walking shoes and a pair of binoculars and enjoy the beautiful, feathered inhabitants of the Guadalupe Mountains. Meet the ranger at the historic ranch house.

On February 27 and March 19, join a park ranger and explore the second largest gypsum dunes in the United States, on the west side of the park, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Meet the park ranger at the Salt Basin Dunes Trailhead Parking Lot at 4:00 PM and bring a flashlight, drinking water, snacks, sturdy walking shoes and a jacket. From the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center, turn right on Highway 62/180 and drive west for 23 miles. At Salt Flat, turn right on FM road 1576. Drive north 17 miles then turn right on William's Road. Travel 7.5 miles east to a set of gates, then continue one mile further to the parking area.

Join a park ranger on October 21, 22, 28, 29, November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, February 17, 18, 24, 25, March 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 for Evening Programs from 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center. Evening programs presented will include *Exotic Species: Strangers in your Backyard*, *Signs of Wildlife: What you may be Missing*, *Islands in the Sky*, *A Very Dry Reef: A Look at the Permian Reef*, *Across the Cosmos: Appreciating the Night Sky*, *Elk in the Desert*, *Star Party Astronomy Program*, *The Bizarre and the Beautiful: Invertebrates of the Guadalupe*, *Overlooked and Underfoot: Reptiles of the Guadalupe*, *Three Cultural Landscapes: N'de, Pioneers, and the National Park Service*, *The Burning Issue: Wildfire and our National Parks*, *Birds of Prey*, *From High Tide to High Desert: Water in the Guadalupe*, *23 Days Eating Dust: the Butterfield Overland Mail*, *Where's the Reef?*, and *Migratory Birds*.

Families with children are invited to ask about our Junior and Senior Ranger and Junior Paleontologist programs at the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center. Children of all ages who complete the activities will receive a certificate and badge and are eligible to purchase a Junior Ranger or Senior Ranger patch.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in our Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger Program ([www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/boyscouts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/boyscouts.htm)) or Resource Stewardship Girl Scout Ranger Program ([www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/girl\\_scouts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/girl_scouts.htm)), and are eligible to earn awards made available through partnerships with the National Park Service. Please inquire at the Pine Springs Visitor Center (915) 828-3251 ext. 2124 for more information.

A park slide presentation is available in the Pine Springs Visitor Center Auditorium. Ask the park ranger at the information desk to start the film for you. A push-button operated film about McKittrick Canyon, narrated by Petroleum Engineer Wallace E. Pratt who was instrumental in the creation of Guadalupe Mountains National Park is available on the patio of the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Contact Station. The McKittrick Canyon, the Frijole Ranch Ranch House, Dog Canyon or Gypsum Dunes Salt Flat (Dell City, TX) Visitor Contact Stations are open irregularly. Please call the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 ext. 2124 to find out whether they are open.

Continue your interpretive experience with a visit to the bookstore, which is operated by the park's non-profit cooperating association partner, the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association ([www.ccgma.org](http://www.ccgma.org)), inside the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs. Proceeds from bookstore sales benefit interpretation and education programs and scientific research at Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Ask about the CCGMA member's discount. The Pine Springs Visitor Center and bookstore are open daily from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (8:00 AM until 6:00 PM from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day), except Christmas Day. Be sure to stop by to get a map, site bulletin, brochure, post card, books or film about Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

The park entrance fee is \$5.00 per person, valid for 7 days, and children under 16 years of age are free. Guadalupe Mountains Annual Passes may be purchased for \$20.00, America the Beautiful Annual Passes, under the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program, may be purchased at the park for \$80.00 and are valid for all federal public lands. America the Beautiful Senior Passes (lifetime passes) may be purchased by U.S. citizens or

permanent residents, 62 years of age or older, for \$10.00. America the Beautiful Access Passes (lifetime passes) for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with qualifying permanent disabilities may be obtained free of charge. For more information about those passes, please see <http://www.nps.gov/gumo/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm>. Golden Age and Golden Access passes are honored, as well.

Overnight RV and tent camping is available at the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon Campgrounds. Campsites are \$8.00 per night.

Park information, including park conditions, closures or restrictions, weather and program information, may be found on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/GUMO/](http://www.nps.gov/GUMO/), on the park's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/](http://www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/), or by contacting the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124. The Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center is open daily (except for Christmas) from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (8:00 AM until 6:00 PM from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend).

Weather may change quickly so dress appropriately. Make sure to fill your tank and bring plenty of food, water (at least one gallon per person per day, if you are hiking), and snacks, as there are no gasoline, lodging, groceries or food services available in the park. The nearest are 35 miles east of Pine Springs in White's City. There is no public transportation to the park. Motorists traveling past the park along U.S. Hwy 62/180 may tune in to the park's Traveler Information Station at 1610 AM for up-to-date park information.

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