Guadalupe Mountains

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

Day Hikes

Visit safely

- Bring food and plenty of water.
- Wear sunscreen and a hat.
- Carry a trail map.
- Pack 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 Visitor Center.

Headquarters Visitor Center

Pinery Trail

Discover the desert as you walk from the Visitor Center to the ruins of the Pinery, a Butterfield Trail stagecoach station. The Pinery Trail ends at the Pinery parking area on Hwy 62/180.

-0.75 miles round trip.
-Rated: Easy, wheel chair-accessible.
-Trailside exhibits.

Pine Springs Campground

Devil's Hall Trail

Climb the Hikers Staircase of natural rock to the Devil's Hall in Pine Springs Canyon. Follow the Guadalupe Peak Trail to the Devil's Hall turnoff. The trail route is marked by rock cairns along the canyon floor. When the trail meets the wash, turn left and continue to "End of the Trail" sign.

-4.2 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Moderate, level but very rocky.

Guadalupe Peak Trail

On clear days, the views from "The Top of Texas" (8,749 feet, 2,667 meters) are outstanding. The trail is well established and does not require rock-climbing abilities.

-8.4 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Strenuous, 3,000 feet of elevation gain.
-Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms.

The Bowl

Take this high country hike to gain excellent views and hike through a coniferous forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail, Bowl Trail, Hunter Peak side trip, Bear Canyon Trail, Frijole Trail.

-8.5 miles round-trip, or
-10.2 miles if additional portions of the Bowl Trail are added.
-Rated: Strenuous, 2,500 feet of elevation gain.

El Capitan Trail

This trail leads through Chihuahuan Desert to the base of El Capitan at the southern end of the Guadalupe Mountain range. Recommended route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook Trail, El Capitan Trail. Beyond Salt Basin Overlook, the trail continues to Williams Ranch, an additional 4.7 miles one-way.

-11.3 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Moderate.

Frijole Ranch

Smith Springs Trail

Look for birds, deer and elk as you pass Manzanita Springs on the way to the shady oasis of Smith Springs.

-2.3 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Easy, wheelchair accessible to Manzanita Springs. The trails then becomes rocky and is rated moderate.
-Please do not drink the water or wade in the springs.

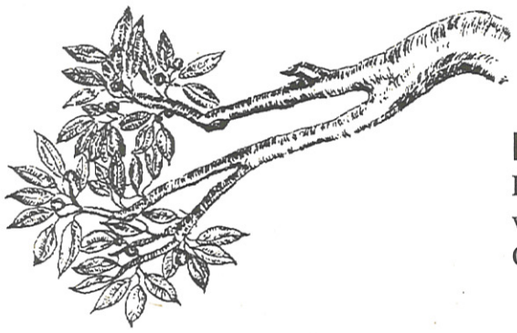
Frijole-Foothills Trail

The Frijole and Foothills Trails make a loop connecting the Pine Springs Campground and the Frijole Ranch. Start at either end.

-5.5 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Moderate.

McKittrick Canyon

Day-use area only.
Be aware of gate closing time.



McKittrick Canyon Nature Loop

Stroll through the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert.

-0.9 miles round trip
-Rated: Moderate.
-Trailside exhibits.

McKittrick Canyon

Follow an intermittent stream through the desert, transition, and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Lodge, Grotto Picnic Area, and Hunter Line Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead visitor center.

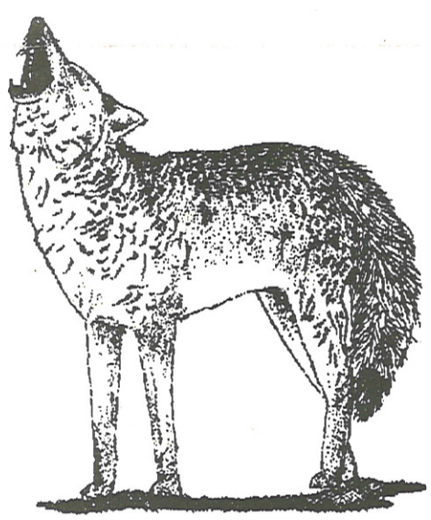
-4.8 miles round-trip to the Pratt Lodge.
-6.8 miles round-trip to Grotto and Hunter Cabin.
-Rated: Moderate
-Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek.
-To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.

Permian Reef Trail

For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guide book available at park visitor centers. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the top of this ancient Permian structure.

-8.4 miles round-trip
-Rated: Strenuous, 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

Dog Canyon



Indian Meadow Nature Loop

This trail's guide booklet describes the plants and animals of a meadow.

-0.6 miles round-trip
-Rated: Easy.

Lost Peak

Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the coniferous forest above. Outstanding views from Lost Peak. There is no trail the last 1/4 mile to the peak.

-6.4 miles round-trip.
-Rated: Strenuous, 1,500 feet of elevation gain.

Marcus Overlook

Follow the Bush Mountain Trail for 2.3 miles to the ridge top for a view into West Dog Canyon.

-4.5 miles round-trip
-Rated: Moderate, 800 feet of elevation gain.

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