



National Parks of the El Paso Region



Why National Parks?

Have you ever needed to just get away from everything for a day or two? How do you feel when you see a 'mama' mule deer and her fawn meandering through the thicket? Would you like to hike to the top of the highest peak in Texas, or experience the culture of the borderland? The national parks of the greater El Paso area offer something

for everyone. Within a half-day's drive or less from El Paso, you can enjoy special places cared for by the National Park Service. By preserving and protecting the nature, history, and culture of America for present and future generations, the National Park Service preserves our American story. Each national park represents a special chapter in this story.

Chamizal National Memorial

The flags of the United States and Mexico fly high over Chamizal National Memorial. The memorial commemorates the Chamizal Convention of 1963, which peacefully and diplomatically ended a century-long boundary dispute between the two countries. Chamizal also celebrates the culture and heritage of the U.S.-Mexico borderland. The memorial includes a visitor center, museum, indoor theater, outdoor amphitheater, three art galleries, and a park atmosphere ripe for picnicking and walking.

The memorial grounds are open from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. The visitor center, galleries, and museum are open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Chamizal is located in El Paso, Texas, by the Bridge of the Americas.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events:
Call 915-532-7273
Visit www.nps.gov/cham

White Sands National Monument

White Sands National Monument protects the largest gypsum dune field in the world. Many animals and plants, including cottonwood trees, call the dunes home. When you visit the park, make sure you stop at the visitor center, drive the eight mile Dunes Drive, and most importantly, get out onto the dunes! Call the park before you plan to visit—the adjacent White Sands Missile Range sometimes closes the park and access highway when it is doing missile testing.

summer hours.

White Sands National Monument is located approximately 107 miles north of El Paso (2 hours).

For more information:
Call 575-479-6124
Visit www.nps.gov/whsa

The monument is open daily from 7:00 am to one hour after sunset. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, with extended



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Carlsbad Caverns National Park preserves a network of caves full of mystery and awe. Inside Carlsbad Cavern, the largest cave in the park, you will see features such as stalactites and stalagmites, soda straws, and cave popcorn. A bat “fly out” program is offered nightly during the summer. The park also includes hiking trails and a scenic drive through the northernmost portion of the Chihuahuan Desert.

The park is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, with extended hours during the summer. Cave tours are offered from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm daily.

Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservations.

Carlsbad Caverns is located 151 miles east of El Paso (3 hours).

For more information:
Call 575-785-2232
Visit www.nps.gov/cave



Guadalupe Mountains National Park

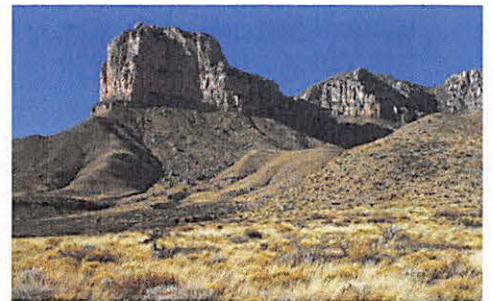
Guadalupe Mountains National Park preserves an ancient marine fossil reef (the Permian Reef) that was formed 265 million years ago. The highest point in Texas is found within the park. In the higher portions of the Guadalupe Mountains, Ponderosa pine forest rules supreme. The park has many animal species including black bear, peregrine falcon, and elk. In reality a wilderness park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park is best explored on foot. Popular day hikes include the Bowl, Guadalupe Peak, and McKittrick Canyon. A campground is located at Pine Springs. Interpretive programs are offered during the summer.

The park is open 24 hours a day, every

day of the year. The visitor center is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily, with extended hours in the summer.

Guadalupe Mountains is located 110 miles east of El Paso (2 hours).

For more information:
Call 915-828-3251
Visit www.nps.gov/gumo



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument preserves one of the finest examples of Mogollon culture cliff dwellings in the American Southwest. The Mogollon culture lived in the area for centuries, moving into the cliffs around A.D. 1275. But only 25 years later, they left and never came back.

The trail to the cliff dwellings is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, with extended hours in the summer. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Gila Cliff Dwellings is located 195 miles northwest of El Paso (4 hours).

For more information:
Call 575-536-9461
Visit www.nps.gov/gicl



Fort Davis National Historic Site

Fort Davis National Historic Site preserves a sliver of the “old west.” The fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1854 to 1862 and again from 1867 to 1891. The soldiers stationed here fought American Indians for control of the land and also protected stagecoach travelers, emigrants, and mail coaches.

The historic site is open daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Fort Davis is located 210 miles southeast of El Paso (3 hours).

For more information:
Call 432-426-3224
Visit www.nps.gov/foda

