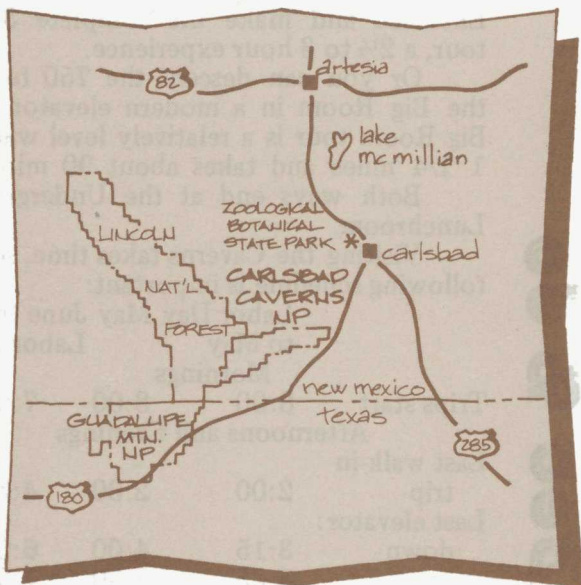


your SUPER '77 visit planner for

# CARLSBAD CAVERNS National Park



have a SUPER visit

**Safely  
Use  
Preserve  
Enjoy  
this Resource**



An arm of a great sea once extended into what is now southern New Mexico. At the northern end of this arm a barrier reef developed, built up by a lime-secreting algae and marine organisms. Then this inlet silted in and the reef was buried. Still later, forces inside our earth shoved the reef above the water table, forming today's Guadalupe Mountains. More than 47,750 acres of this fossil limestone reef is now preserved for our enjoyment as Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

In this area are more than 60 caves, formed as water dissolved the limestone when the reef was buried. The largest of these, Carlsbad Caverns, is one of the largest cavern systems in the world.

You have your choice of two ways to view the Caverns:

You can walk in through the Natural Entrance and make the complete 3-mile tour, a 2½ to 3 hour experience.

Or you can descent the 750 feet to the Big Room in a modern elevator. The Big Room tour is a relatively level walk of 1 1/4 miles and takes about 90 minutes.

Both ways end at the Underground Lunchroom.

Visiting the Caverns takes time, so the following schedule is important:

	Labor Day to May	May Labor Day	June thru Labor Day
	Mornings		
Trips start	8:00	8:00	7:00
	Afternoons and Evenings		
Last walk-in trip	2:00	2:30	4:30
Last elevator:			
down	3:15	4:00	6:00
up	4:25	5:30	7:30
V.C. closes	5:00	6:00	8:00

On all trips you must leave the caverns by the elevator. All trips are self-guiding. You start when you arrive and travel at your leisure. Rangers continuously patrol the caverns for your protection and to answer your questions.

You may photograph the cave so long as you remain on the paved trails. If you use time exposures you will need a tripod; you are prohibited from using cave features for a camera support.

At sunset, from mid-May thru September, bats leave the natural entrance en masse. This flight is a popular attraction; a schedule is posted in the Visitor Center.

Above ground is a vast backcountry. Hikers will enjoy this but it should not be attempted without a topographic map as the trails are not well defined. There is no water in this backcountry; carry a canteen. A backcountry camping permit is required for overnight stays.

The Park maintains a picnic area at Rattlesnake Springs and you may picnic at the Walnut Canyon Road turnouts. Fires are prohibited except at Rattlesnake Springs.

As you approach Carlsbad Caverns, turn your radio dial to 1610 for up-to-date information about program schedules, activities and weather conditions.

The Living Desert State Park on Ocotillo Heights at the west edge of Carlsbad. A dozen different types of animals, many birds, an extensive reptile exhibit — all in natural environment. Over 1,000 varieties of cactus.

Lake Carlsbad on the Pecos River on the east side of Carlsbad offers the Municipal Museum, the Municipal Beach Park with swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing, and the President's Park. You can take a 2-mile trip along the lake on an 1880 vintage narrow gauge steam train, visit the train museum, ride the 1903 "Teddy Roosevelt Carousel", or go for a steamboat ride on an authentic paddle wheeler.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is about 35 miles southwest of White's City off U.S. 62-180 in Texas. Guadalupe Peak (el. 8,751) is the highest point in Texas. The Park is not yet developed for visitors, unless you enjoy roughing it, just drive by and enjoy the view.

Adjacent Lincoln National Forest offers opportunities for outdoor recreation, including a picnic area at the beautiful Sitting Bull Falls.

Carlsbad Caverns is entered over a paved road from White's City which is 18 miles southwest of the city of Carlsbad on U.S. 62-180, the highway to El Paso. The city of Carlsbad is on east-west U.S. 62-180 and north-south U.S. 285. The city is served by air and bus and bus transportation is available to the Park.

There is a range of overnight accommodations available in the city of Carlsbad and in White's City at the entrance to the Park.

The Park does not operate a campground but privately operated camping facilities are available at both White's City and Carlsbad. The City of Carlsbad operates a campground on Lake Carlsbad.

A concessioner operates a restaurant in the Visitor Center and the Underground Lunchroom in the Caverns. You can enjoy a meal, a box lunch, or individual sandwiches.

The Park operates a picnic ground at Rattlesnake Springs, but it is not convenient to visitors to the Caverns. It is located off the main highway, about 9 miles southwest of White's City.

A variety of dining facilities are available in White's City and the city of Carlsbad.

The climate of southeastern New Mexico is moderate; the average annual temperature is 63 degrees. In summer there are short periods of high temperatures and occasional brief but heavy downpours. Winters have occasional short periods of severe cold; snowfall is usually light and doesn't last long.

The temperature in the Caverns is a constant 56. A light jacket or sweater is recommended for the trip.

Except for holiday periods, visitation is lowest from early September to mid-May. The greatest visitation comes during the summer months and on the Christmas and Easter holidays.

fry weather food night directions

near by

do % do see



read

be safe

rules

In preparation for your visit you might enjoy reading:

- Carlsbad Caverns National Park* (color illustrated) by John Barnett . . . . \$1.25
- What About Bats?* by James K. Baker . . . . . \$ .75

You may order these from the Carlsbad Caverns Natural History Association, 3225 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM, 88220. Payments must include 25 per cent of the total purchase for handling and postage. Your check or money order should be made payable to the Carlsbad Caverns Natural History Association.

Wear shoes with rubber soles or heels on the Cavern trip to avoid slips.

Do not run or stray off the paved trails in the Cavern.

Parents, please keep small children by your side.

Should electric power fail while you are underground, stop and stand quietly. Standby lights will come on in a few moments. You need not worry; lighting failures are rare.

Observe posted speed limits when driving park roads. Be alert for visitors enjoying views or taking pictures and for wildlife crossing the road.

Be alert for rattlesnakes when hiking in the Park. Do not try to kill them; detour around them and be sure.

Beware of cactus and other desert plants; their spines can inflict painful injury. The knife-like lechuguilla agave can even pierce leather shoes.

Do not touch or tap cave formations; smaller formations are fragile and all are stained by repeated handling.

Collecting or disturbing rocks, plants or wildlife is prohibited.

Smoking in the Caverns is prohibited.

Pets are prohibited in the Caverns and public buildings. Kennel service is available. Outside the prohibited areas, pets must be kept on a leash.

Entering backcountry caves is prohibited without written permission of the Park Superintendent.

The Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Hunting, molesting wildlife and the use of firearms is prohibited.

Prospecting for mining claims and the use of metal detectors is prohibited.

### PARKS AND FORESTS

When you are enjoying yourself, what difference does it make if you are in a National Park or a National Forest? Both offer outstanding recreational opportunities and special facilities and services to enhance your visit.

Differences are in concept — which determines the way they are managed. National Forests are managed as renewable natural resources — timber, forage, water, wildlife. National Parks are set aside to be preserved, as they are, in perpetuity.

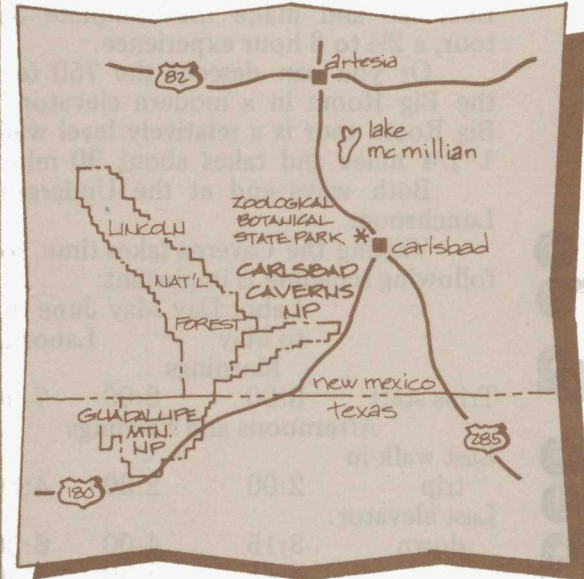
National Forests are managed for your benefit by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included in the National Park System are great natural areas, as Parks, Monuments, Seashores, Lakeshores, Rivers and Riverways. The System also includes prehistoric and historic areas, as Monuments, Memorials, Memorial Parks, Historic Sites, Historical Parks, Battlefields and Battlefield Sites. "National" is generally part of their title.

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



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