

VISITOR GUIDE

A guide to the Carlsbad-Guadalupe Mountains area



Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico

(As you approach the park, tune 1610 AM for information.)

Visitor Center - Information and Exhibit Area

Recorded 24-Hr. Information 505/785-2107

Telephone 505/785-2232. Open daily

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. September thru May

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. June thru August,

(Mountain Time). *Closed December 25.*

Carlsbad Cavern Trips - Leaving continuously,

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. September thru May

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. June thru August

(Mountain Time). See schedules, back page.

Except — guided tours through the Main Corridor

(first half of Blue Tour) during days of low

visitation in winter.

Guided Flashlight Trips Thru New Cave -

Daily trips June thru August, weekends the rest of

the year. By reservation only. See page 4. Call

505/785-2232 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bat Flight Program - Ranger talk at cave entrance

amphitheater preceding nightly exit of bats. Daily

May to October just before sunset.

Desert Nature Walk - One-half mile long, self-guiding. Starts near cave entrance.

Walnut Canyon Desert Drive - 9.5 mile, one-way,

gravel road. Begins one-half mile from visitor center,

travels along the top of a ridge to edge of

Rattlesnake Canyon and back down through upper

Walnut Canyon to main entrance road. Guidebook

available.

Backcountry Hiking - All hikers are requested to

register at the visitor center information desk. Trails

are poorly defined, but can be followed by using a

topographic map. Short day hikes or extended trips.

No water in the backcountry. Permits required for

overnight hikes.

Picnicking - Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area.

Grassy, tree shaded area with water, picnic tables,

grills and toilets.

Handicapped Accessible Facilities - Visitor Center, Red

Tour and picnic area are accessible. Ask for free access

guide to park.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas

(As you approach the park, tune 1610 AM for information.)

FRIJOLE VISITOR CENTER

Telephone 915/828-3251. Open daily, 8:00 a.m. -

4:30 p.m. September thru May 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

June thru August. Located on U.S. Highway 62-

180, 55 miles southeast of Carlsbad, NM and 110

miles east of El Paso, TX.

CAMPGROUNDS

Pine Springs Campground - There are 24 tent

sites, 29 RV sites (no hook-ups or dump station),

and 2 group sites. Group sites are by reservation:

Call 915/828-3251. Fee - \$5.00 per site, per night.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passport holders

receive 50% discount.

Dog Canyon Campground - 70 miles from city of

Carlsbad, NM. Water, restrooms. No hook-ups or

dumping station. Backcountry trailhead. Charcoal

grills.

RANGER NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Evening Programs - Every evening June thru

August. Pine Springs Campground.

Conducted Hikes - June thru August. Check at

Frijole Visitor Center on bulletin boards for more

information.

Children Programs - Check bulletin boards or ask

a ranger for more information.

AREAS REACHED BY VEHICLE

Butterfield Stage Line Station - Ruins of stage

line's "Pinery" station built in 1858. One mile west of

Frijole Visitor Center. Brochure available.

Frijole Historic Site - Most complete and

substantial buildings of early ranching enterprises

in area. One-half mile north of Frijole Visitor

Center.

Williams Ranch Historic Site - 7.3-mile, four-wheel

drive road. Check out key and obtain directions at

Frijole Visitor Center. Allow 3 hours.

BACKCOUNTRY HIKING AND CAMPING

Desert, canyons, forest. Eighty miles of trails.

Carry all water. Camp in designated areas. No-fee

permit required. No fires or pets in backcountry.

Topo maps, hikers' guide, permits at Frijole Visitor

Center.

HALF-DAY HIKES (2-4 HOURS)

McKittrick Canyon - Day use area. Highway

entrance gate opens at 8:00 a.m., closes 4:30 p.m.,

Mountain Time, (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. June -

August). Drive to Visitor Center at canyon mouth

and hike 5-mile round trip to Pratt Cabin. Striking

fall colors late October, early November.

Smith and Manzanita Springs - Gentle uphill hike

from Frijole Historic Site to a natural oasis

overlooking the desert. Two-mile round trip 1½

hours.

Devils Hall - Rocky but level 4-mile trip along the

wash floor of Pine Springs Canyon to the narrows

of the canyon. Begin at Pine Springs Campground

and allow 4 hours.

ALL DAY HIKE (6-10 HOURS)

From Pine Springs Campground to Hunter Peak

and down Bear Canyon. 9-mile loop trail, elevation

gain, 2,500 feet. Trail leads through forest of pines

and Douglas fir.

TRAVELING WITH A PET?

Pets are not allowed in the park trail system. You

can walk your pet in developed areas if it is under

physical control at all times.

Lincoln National Forest

Guadalupe Ranger District

Sitting Bull Falls Picnic Area - Day use area. No

camping. Located 50 miles from Carlsbad. 21

tables with 12 charcoal grills. Water and

restrooms. Waterfall pouring over spectacular

canyon walls. Trail to pinon and juniper forest.

Closed December thru March.

Five Points Vista - Located on Forest Road 540, 74

miles from Carlsbad. Panoramic view of desert

below. Interpretive signs explain natural features.

Very scenic.

Living Desert Zoological & Botanical State Park

Experience the Chihuahuan Desert, learn about

especially adapted plant and animal life as you

enjoy a walk along trails through the exhibits.

50 species of Chihuahuan Desert birds, mammals,

and reptiles.

100's of varieties of hardy Chihuahuan Desert plants

exhibited along a mile and a half of trails.

Many varieties of exotic cacti and succulents

exhibited in the protected environment of the

greenhouse.

Welcome

Bienvenidos

Estamos sumamente encantados en tener como huéspedes distinguidos a nuestros amigos de México

The magnificent Guadalupe Mountains are visible for more than 50 miles in almost any direction, standing out clearly on the horizon for approaching visitors. Precipitous cliffs make up the southern tip of the Guadalupe in Texas and the range slopes gradually downward until it reaches the level of the plains around Carlsbad, New Mexico. Elevations range from about 3,000 feet to almost 9,000 feet. This mountain range, remote and virtually unexplored until the late 1800's, holds in its rugged canyons and cliffs some spectacular natural wonders.

Most famous among these wonders is the fabulous Carlsbad Cavern. Although the existence of the cavern was known to Indians who occasionally used its entrance for shelter, a cowboy and guano miner named Jim White is given credit for its first exploration. White first went into the cavern in the early 1900's and continued to explore for several years. The cavern became a national monument in 1923. A year later, an article in the National Geographic brought the cavern national attention. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, which encompasses 46,755 acres, was established in 1930 and has become one of the most popular attractions in the Southwest.

The National Park Service also administers the southernmost portion of the mountain range, which is Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This rugged 76,293 acre park includes Texas' four highest peaks, but was little known before it became a national park in 1972.

The northern half of the Guadalupe Mountains is in the Guadalupe Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. In addition to recreational opportunities, the National Forest provides important watershed protection, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

A scenic and educational attraction near Carlsbad is the Living Desert State Park. Located just north off Highway 285, this facility provides interpretation of a large collection of desert flora and fauna.

Geology

The Guadalupe Mountains, in which all of these attractions are located, have a fascinating geological history.

Rocks of the Guadalupe Mountains were deposited about 250 million years ago, when this area was adjacent to the deep Delaware Basin, a large inland arm of the Permian Ocean. On the shallow shelf surrounding this basin, limestones formed from the accumulation of vast numbers of the limy skeletons of various marine organisms and by direct precipitation from sea water. Along the shelf edge the Capitan Reef grew as one of the world's great ancient reefs. Eventually, water circulation in the basin was restricted, the water became very salty from evaporation, the reef organisms died, and the basin was filled to overflowing with salts. Millions of years passed until lateral compression of the region by deep seated earth movements caused the early Guadalupe Mountains to form, perhaps 30-50 million years ago. As the mountains rose, erosion by water removed the deposits that covered much of the reef and cut deep rugged canyons into the exposed portions. The mountain range fans out northward as a giant V from its southern tip at El Capitan in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. The ancient reef slopes downward to the north through Carlsbad Caverns National Park and disappears underground near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Caves developed as fresh waters beneath the mountains mixed with the briny waters still in cracks within the basin rocks, increasing the solubility of limestones. Mixing was concentrated along fractures in the shelf rocks, which were enlarged to form the caves. Later mountain building beginning about 5 million years ago, elevated some of the caves above the level of the ground water causing them to drain and dry. Continued erosion opened entrances to some of the caves. Water dripping in the caves or flowing on the walls lost some of the carbon dioxide gas, which it had dissolved as it flowed through the soil above, and



Southern end of Guadalupe Mountains

Muldrow Aerial Surveys Corp.

helped the water dissolve small amounts of limestone. The dripping water was also affected by evaporation and condensation caused by the slow circulation of the cave atmosphere. Both the carbon dioxide loss to the cave atmosphere and evaporation caused the dissolved minerals to precipitate in the fantastic array of beautiful cave formations for which Carlsbad Cavern, and other Guadalupe caves, are world famous.

History

The early explorers had little time or opportunity to study the structure of the Guadalupe Mountains, which they passed on their way west. The area was controlled by Mescalero Apache Indians who lived and hunted in the Guadalupe. Guadalupe Peak and El Capitan were important landmarks on the trail west, but few travelers lingered in the arid and dangerous region, preferring to continue on as soon as possible.

A Butterfield Overland Stage station was established near Guadalupe Pass in 1858. In fact, the first meeting of cross-country stagecoaches, one from San Francisco and one from St Louis, took place just west of Guadalupe Pass on September 18, 1858. The ruins of the Pinery, as the Guadalupe Mountains station was called, are located in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, just off U.S. Highway 62-180.

A few hardy homesteaders and ranchers were the only residents in the Guadalupe Mountains throughout the early part of the 20th century. Small mining operations dug for copper in the Dog Canyon area and removed bat guano from the caves that dot the region.

Today

The visitor can take advantage of a wide variety of experiences in the Guadalupe region, from the underground grandeur of Carlsbad Cavern to the spectacular scenery and rugged solitude of Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Lincoln National Forest, to an enjoyable and educational experience at the Living Desert State Park. The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the New Mexico Parks and Recreation Division manage these lands and facilities for public use and enjoyment. Specific attractions are detailed throughout this newspaper.

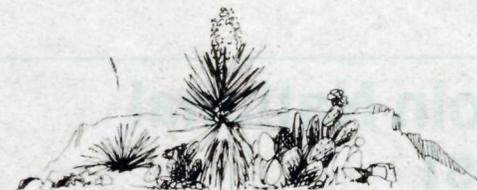
"Biodiversity: Celebrating the Unique"

Visitors to Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park enjoy the geological features, the human history, and the resident wildlife populations. Many of these visitors accept the responsibility to preserve these fragile areas for the enjoyment and understanding of generations yet to come.

As special as these areas are, we now know that they are not "Islands of Hope", special places isolated from the world in the distance. Parks are special places intimately connected to the ecosphere of the world we live in.

Biodiversity is the science that traces the interconnectedness of all living organisms and their effect on one another. Biodiversity demonstrates that the quality of life in the world is reduced as species and genetic variations decrease due to human interference and destruction of habitat.

The need to conserve, to make rational and beneficial environmental decisions exists in the national parks and everywhere else. Biodiversity teaches us to celebrate the unique, to praise the value of difference, and to speak for the world, not just our neighborhood.



The Guadalupe Journal is published by Carlsbad Caverns/Guadalupe Mountains Association 3225 National Parks Highway Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

... A non-profit, educational organization authorized by the National Park Service to aid in the interpretation of the natural and cultural features of Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

Editor, Manny Cortez
Graphic Designer, Christina Watkins

March, 1989

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

West Texas was once covered by an inland arm of the sea. In warm, shallow waters near the edge of the sea a gigantic reef grew. This reef, fossilized as limestone and long buried, was pushed upward by mountain-building forces 10 to 12 million years ago and now forms the rugged Guadalupe Mountains. The southern end of this mountain range makes up Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

The Guadalupe are rough and spectacular. Some of the features found in the national park are Guadalupe Peak (the highest point in Texas), forests of pine and Douglas fir in the "bowl," and McKittrick Canyon. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear are among the animals found here.

U.S. 62-180, the route from Carlsbad, New Mexico to El Paso, Texas, passes through a portion of the park's east side. Guadalupe Peak and the precipitous cliffs of El Capitan tower 3,000 feet above the highway in historic Guadalupe Pass.

Besides the grandeur of the peaks and cliffs, the Guadalupe offer something else to visitors, a dramatic contrast with the surrounding area. At lower elevations, succulents of the Chihuahuan Desert are common. Within the protected bowls and canyons and at higher altitudes, one finds an abundance and variety of vegetation rare in this part of the country. Here are forests of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, limber pine, and Gambel oak, typical of more northern forests.

The ruins of the Pinery, a stage station on the Butterfield Overland Mail route which extended from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California, are just off the highway at Pine Springs.

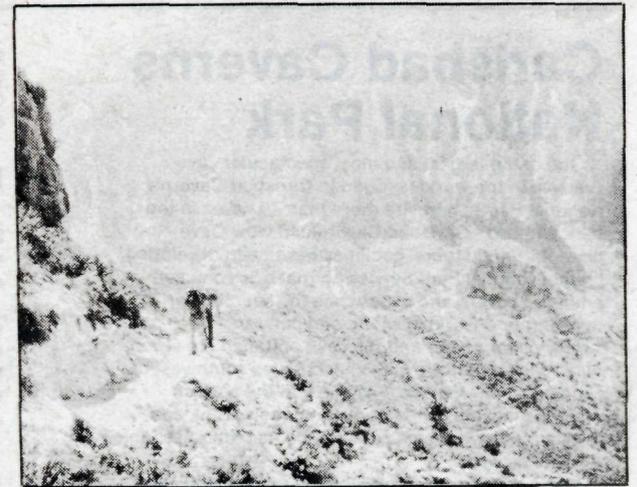
An 80-mile trail system makes the park easily accessible by foot. There are opportunities for one to two-mile hikes, all-day hikes, and overnight backpacking trips. Even the shorter hikes get off of the road and into the mountains far enough to reveal much of the scenic charm and beauty of the park.

There are vehicle campgrounds at Pine Springs and Dog Canyon. Backcountry camping is permitted at designated sites. No-fee permits are required for all overnight hikes. Hiking in the Guadalupe requires careful planning and preparation. Water is not available in the backcountry so hikers must carry all they will need. A gallon of water per person per day is a good rule of thumb for overnight hikers. Many trails are steep and rugged, and the weather in the Guadalupe is extremely variable. Hikers should anticipate high winds and be prepared for rapid changes in the weather. Rain is common in the mountains and in the winter months, snow, wind, and subfreezing temperatures should be expected.

Trail registration boxes are provided at the beginning of each trail system. These should be used by all hikers as they are checked regularly by rangers to locate or assist overdue hikers.

One of the most beautiful spots in Guadalupe Mountains National Park is McKittrick Canyon. This canyon is protected by high, sheer walls, and a wide variety of trees and other plants grow along its spring-fed stream. The canyon also offers excellent opportunities to view birds and other wildlife. From late October to mid-November maple, oak, walnut, and other hardwood trees provide an abundant array of red, orange and yellow hues, contrasting with the green of pines and juniper trees. The mouth of the canyon can be reached by a paved road from highway 62-180.

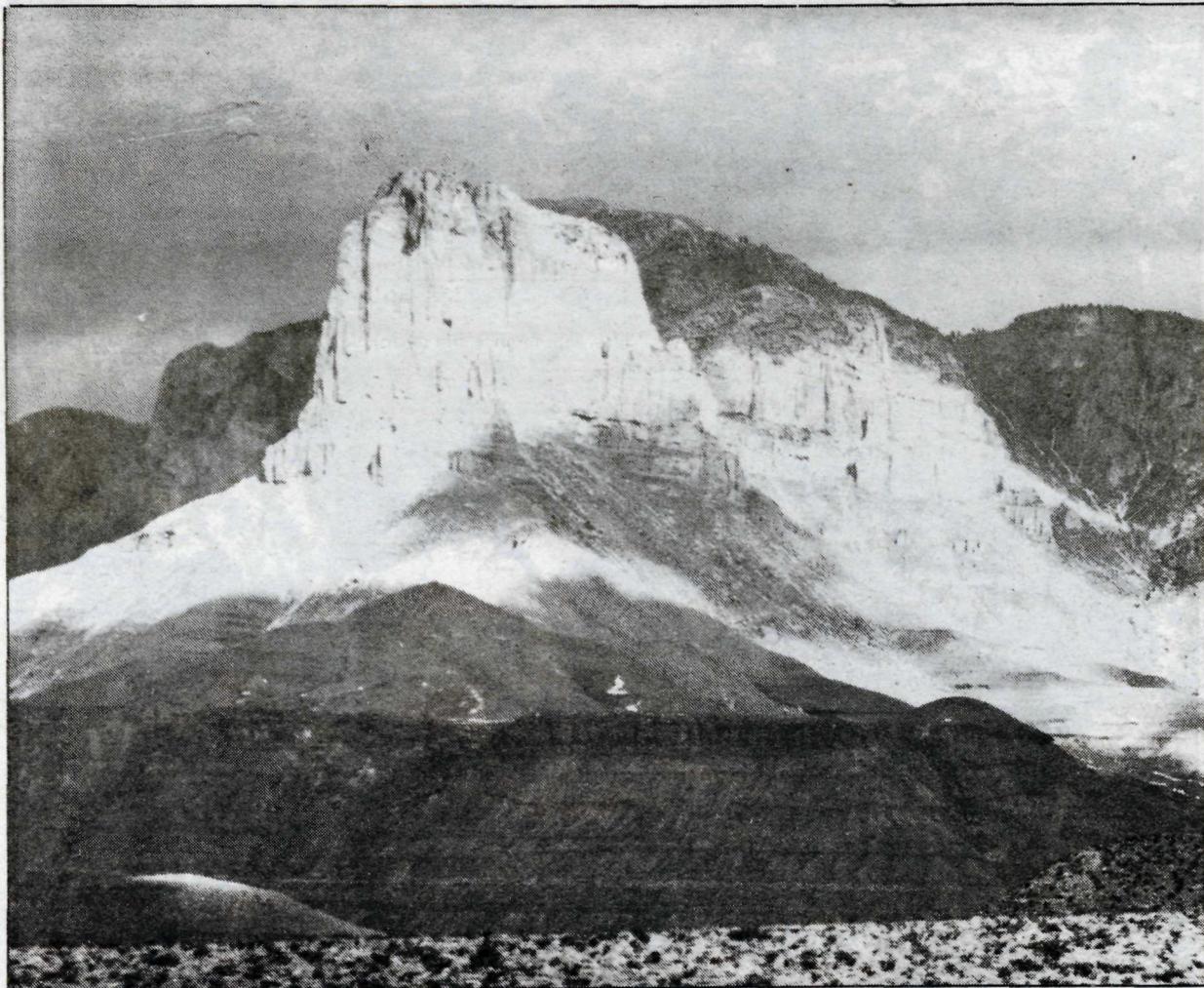
NOTICE: Fall colors viewing will be limited to the capacity of the parking area on weekend days only at McKittrick Canyon Visitor Center. Organized groups will need reservations for weekend trips. Groups should call 915/828-3251 (M-F) for reservations.



Hiking in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Parque Nacional de las Montañas de Guadalupe

El Parque Nacional de las Montañas de Guadalupe conserva una parte del Arrecife Capitán. Este arrecife, fosilizado como piedra caliza y luego elevado, es uno de los mejores ejemplos de todo el mundo como arrecife fosilizado y marinero. El parque contiene montañas, cañones, desiertos, y bosques. Los bosques en las alturas, junto con el río con agua refrescante y muy clara y los árboles del Cañon McKittrick, están a contraste con el desierto alrededor. En este parque están el punto más alto en Texas, Guadalupe con 2668 metros, y un lugar histórico, el Capitán. Contamos con más de 130 KM de veredas. Hay caminatas de 2 a 4 km y viajes de día y noche. El campamento de Pine Springs en la carretera 62-180 ofrece 55 campamentos, agua y baños. El precio de cada campamento es cinco dólares por noche. El centro para visitantes, cerca del campamento, ofrece información, exhibiciones, y baños.



Fall leaves, McKittrick Canyon.



El Capitan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

One of the largest and most spectacular cave systems in the world is found in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. There are more than 70 caves in the park and two - Carlsbad Cavern and New Cave - are open for public tours. Facilities have been developed by the National Park Service so that everyone can enter the cavern and experience the spectacular underground world in safety and comfort.

The visitor center and the cave entrance are seven miles west of White's City and 27 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Facilities on the surface include an exhibit room, gift shop, restaurant, and even a nursery for small children. A kennel is available for pets as well.

There are two ways to enjoy the cavern. You can either walk down into the cave through its natural entrance, or you can go down by elevator to a point 750 feet below the surface and begin the walk there. The paved walkway through the natural entrance (blue tour) winds down into the depths of the cavern and passes through a series of underground rooms. This walk is 1 1/4 miles and requires about an hour and forty-five minutes. It is steep and strenuous. The trail reaches 830 feet below the surface at its lowest point and ends in the underground lunchroom. It is at this point that persons entering the cave by elevator join the trail for a tour of the spectacular Big Room.

The tour of the Big Room (red tour) is along a fairly level path. It is 1 1/4 miles long and requires about an hour. This is the largest room in the cavern, with a floor space of 14 acres. The ceiling in much of the room is over 200 feet above the trail.

Some of the most spectacular formations, including the Hall of Giants and Temple of the Sun, are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.

Cavern visitors should wear comfortable walking shoes with rubber soles and heels, since trails are sometimes wet and slippery with steep grades. High heel shoes or floppy sandals present problems in walking and might cause a fall. The cavern has a temperature of about 56 degrees the year round; a light jacket or sweater is appropriate.

Visitors can start a trip through the cavern at any time during the designated hours. (Except when guided tours are given through the first half of the cave during periods of low visitation in the winter.) The cavern is well lighted, and you may walk at your own pace. Park rangers are stationed throughout the cave to assist visitors and to provide information. The cavern is open every day of the year except December 25, but the hours vary with the seasons. For information about the cavern's hours, see the schedule on the back page.

Each evening about sunset, from late May to October, tens of thousands of bats exit from the natural entrance of the cavern. The bats winter in Mexico, but make the cavern their summer home. They sleep in the cavern during the day and fly out each night to feed on flying insects. Bat flight programs are conducted by park rangers, usually starting about 7 p.m. Since the bat flight time varies considerably over the course of the season, visitors should inquire at the information desk in the visitor center for the exact time.



Bat flight, Carlsbad Cavern.

There are no campgrounds or other overnight accommodations in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. White's City has a motel and campground, and Carlsbad has numerous accommodations and facilities.

Radio Tour Guides Available

Hand-held radio tour guides are available to rent for \$.50 each at the visitor center. These are small radio receivers that can be held to the ear to receive information about the cavern while walking through it.

The income from these rentals is used to replace and to improve the interpretive radio system. They are rented by the Carlsbad Caverns/Guadalupe Mountains Association, a non-profit, educational organization that provides interpretive publications and financial assistance to the park.

Guided Flashlight Trips Through Undeveloped New Cave

New Cave is not really "new," having been discovered in 1937 by a goat herder named Tom Tucker, who has been searching for lost goats in the area. However, it is one of the larger and more interesting caves found thus far in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and guided tours are given.

New Cave has spectacular and unusual formations, and also intriguing evidence of the guano mining activities that went on intermittently at the cave until the late 1950's. The cave consists of a corridor 1,140 feet long, with numerous side passages. The total extent of the surveyed passage is 1 1/4 miles, and the lowest point is 250 feet below the entrance.

New Cave is an isolated area of the park and is undeveloped. A visit to New Cave is a more rugged, adventurous experience than the hike through Carlsbad Cavern and more closely parallels the spelunking expeditions that cavers regularly undertake. The trip is strenuous and should be

attempted only by those in good physical condition. The most difficult part is the hike from the parking lot to the cave entrance, where the trail climbs 500 feet within a distance of one-half mile.

Guided flashlight tours through New Cave are by reservation only. For tour times and availability of tours, please call 505/785-2232 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Because of safety reasons, children under the age of 6 are **not** permitted on New Cave tours.

Necessary items for the tour are: one flashlight per person, hiking boots or good walking shoes, and drinking water. The cave temperature is a constant 62 degrees and the humidity about 90 percent. Photography is permitted, but it is requested that tripods not be used since the time available for photo stops is limited.

Visitors must furnish their own transportation to the New Cave parking lot at the mouth of Slaughter Canyon. The parking area is located approximately 23 miles from the visitor center of Carlsbad Caverns National Park and 36 miles from the city of Carlsbad. It is reached by turning off U.S. Highway 62-180, five miles southwest of White's City. The distance from this turnoff to the parking lot is about 11 miles. It is recommended that visitors allow 30-45 minutes for the hike up to the mouth of the cave from the parking lot. The hike through New Cave itself is about 1 1/4 miles, and the actual cave tour lasts about 1 1/2 hours.

It is important to note that all departure times are scheduled from the cave entrance rather than the parking lot. It is best to allow from 1 1/2 to 2 hours to reach the cave entrance, from the time one leaves either the visitor center or the city of Carlsbad.

Fee Per Person

	Carlsbad Cavern	New Cave
Adults	\$4.00	\$5.00
Ages 6 thru 15	\$2.00	\$3.00
Under 6	Free	\$3.00

Golden Age and Golden Access Passport holders receive a 50% discount.

Golden Eagle Passports are not applicable.



Natural entrance to Carlsbad Cavern.

To Our Visitors:

Welcome to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks! Park employees are ready to assist you in any way they can to make your visit more enjoyable and meaningful.

Some exciting things are happening in both parks. A new visitor center and operational headquarters is under construction near Pine Springs in Guadalupe Mountains National Park and will be completed in the fall of 1989 and will be open in the fall of 1990. This new facility will contain exhibits about the park, a theater for audiovisual programs, displays of interpretive literature about the park, and employee offices. At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, ongoing exploration has pushed the known length and depth of one of the park wilderness backcountry caves past that of the main developed cavern. This cave, known as Lechuguilla Cave, has attracted the interest of geologists, speleologists, and other scientists from around the world. An exhibit about this cave and its outstanding scenic and scientific values is on display in the visitor center. A short geology film is also nearing completion.

Your interest in, and support of, the national parks is appreciated. We hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding visit and that you will return often.

*Bob Crisman, Acting Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Karen P. Wade, Superintendent
Guadalupe Mountains National Park*

Parque Nacional de las Cavernas de Carlsbad

Uno de los sistemas de cavernas más extenso y espectacular en todo el mundo se encuentra en el Parque Nacional de las Cavernas de Carlsbad. Hay más de 70 cuevas en el parque y se abren al público dos de éstas, la Caverna de Carlsbad y la Cueva Nueva. El centro para visitantes, cerca de la entrada a la caverna, tiene exhibiciones, baños, un restaurante, una tienda de regalos, una guardería de niños, y un lugar para animales domésticos.

El recorrido completo por la entrada natural es de 5 Kilómetros, y el paseo corto, con entrada por elevador, es de 2 Kilómetros. Los dos recorridos regresan a la superficie por elevador. Las excursiones son continuas y se

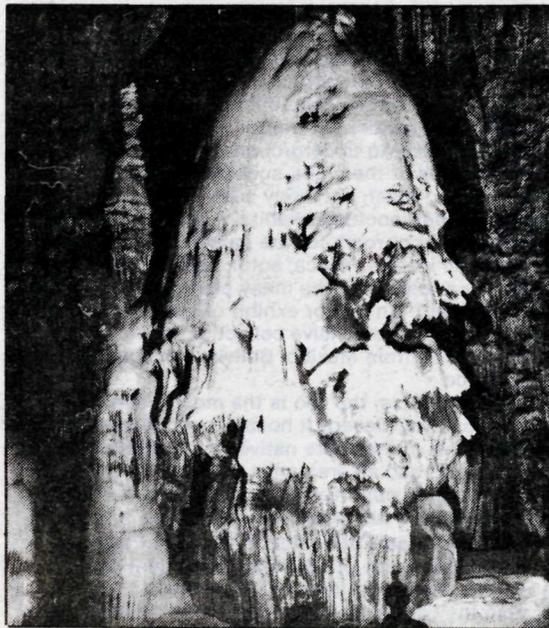
puede entrar a la caverna a cualquier hora durante las horas indicadas. Los derechos de admisión son cuatro dólares por adulto y dos dólares por niño de 6-15 años de edad.

Con cincuenta centavos se puede aquilar un radio-receptor que proporciona a cada persona información sobre la cueva en español o en inglés.

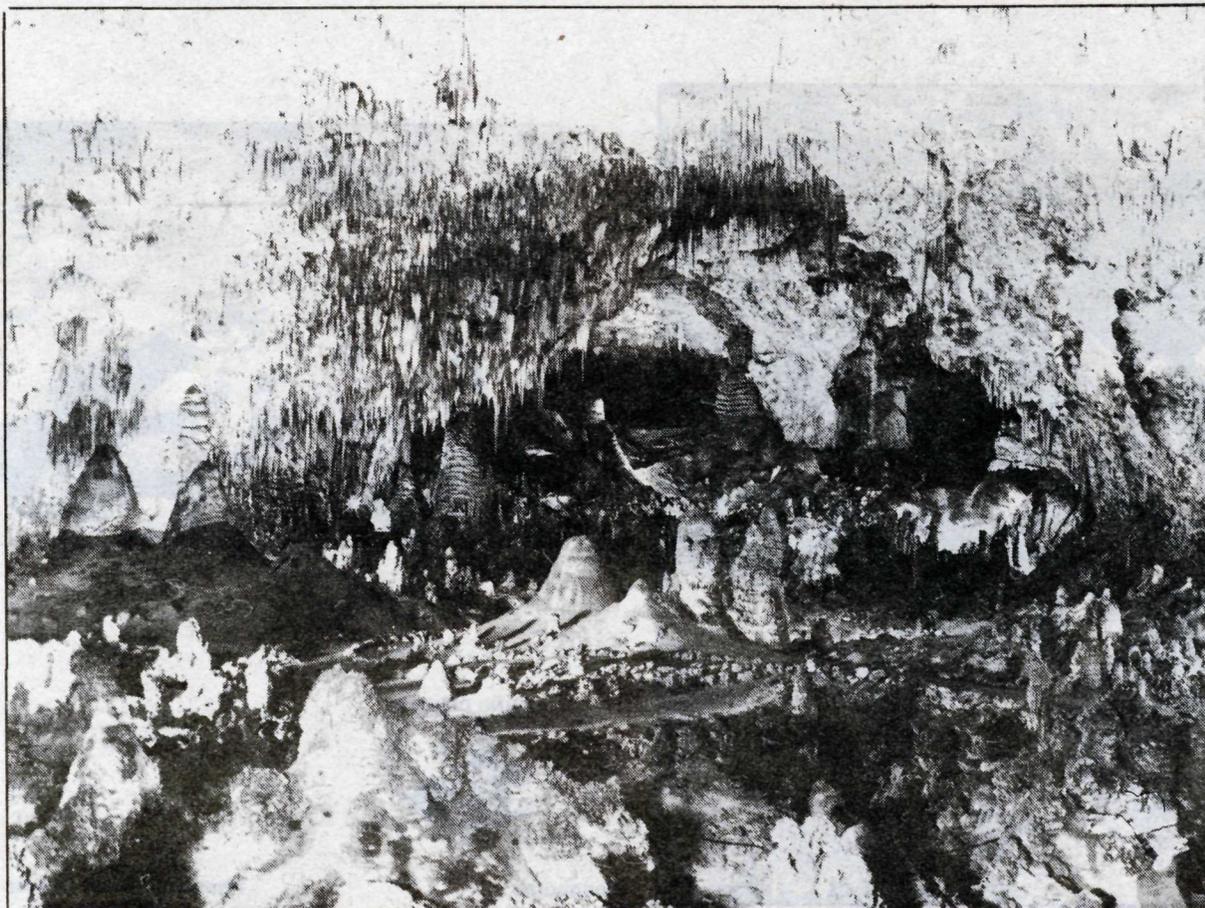
Recorridos guiados por linterna en la Cueva Nueva pueden ser solicitados por reservación únicamente.

Durante el verano visitantes pueden gozar del vuelo de los murciélagos cerca de la entrada natural de la caverna a la puesta del sol.

No deje de usar calzado propio!



The Christmas Tree, New Cave.



Children's Nursery Available

Since the long walk through Carlsbad Cavern is usually quite tiring for small children, and also for parents if they carry the children, a nursery is provided at the visitor center by the park concessioner. Baby strollers are not permitted on the narrow cave trails because of safety considerations. The nursery is well equipped, staffed with trained personnel, and government approved. The charge is \$5.00 per child for four hours.

Pets

Don't leave pets in your vehicle. Even with windows down the temperature in your car can easily become unbearable and fatal for your pet.

Air-conditioned, clean kennels are available at the visitor center. Inquire at the gift shop. The charge is \$2.50 for four hours.

Crime Pays (unless you help)

Vehicles, especially motorhomes and RVs, are frequently the target of thieves in national parks and national forests. In order to reduce the risk of your visit being marred by an unfortunate incident, we suggest that you follow these simple steps.

DO

- take valuables with you, or lock them in the trunk if you must leave them in the vehicle.
- install locking devices which are difficult to break into.
- use coin operated lockers in the Carlsbad Caverns visitor center.

DON'T

- leave vehicle doors unlocked or windows open.
- leave valuables (cameras, traveler's checks, purses, etc.) in sight.
- attempt to hide valuables under towels and blankets, under a seat, or in a glovebox.

Motorhome owners can often protect themselves by simply changing the locks on their vehicle doors. Some standard locks on these vehicles are easily picked and many thieves have "master" keys to the common motorhome door locks.

Finally, if you are a victim of a theft, or you observe someone tampering with a vehicle, call a park ranger.

At Carlsbad Caverns - 505/785-2232.
At Guadalupe Mountains - 915/828-3251.
Or Eddy County Sheriff - 505/887-7551.

Bus Service From White's City, New Mexico

Bus service is provided between Carlsbad Caverns National Park and White's City by Sun Country Tours. Buses leave from the gift shop at White's City and from the caverns visitor center. Purchase tickets at White's City gift shop. PHONE 505/785-2291

Backcountry Hiking In Carlsbad Caverns National Park

More than 50 miles of trails provide access to the 46,000 acres of scenic desert, canyon, and mountain wilderness of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, a place best known for its outstanding caves. Ask for a guide to park backcountry trails at the visitor center information desk.

Topographic maps are recommended for anyone considering a backcountry hike and free backcountry permits are required for all overnight use. You may obtain your permit at the park visitor center. Carry plenty of water as there are no dependable water sources in the backcountry. Pets and weapons are not permitted in the backcountry.

The Big Room, Carlsbad Cavern.



Living Desert State Park

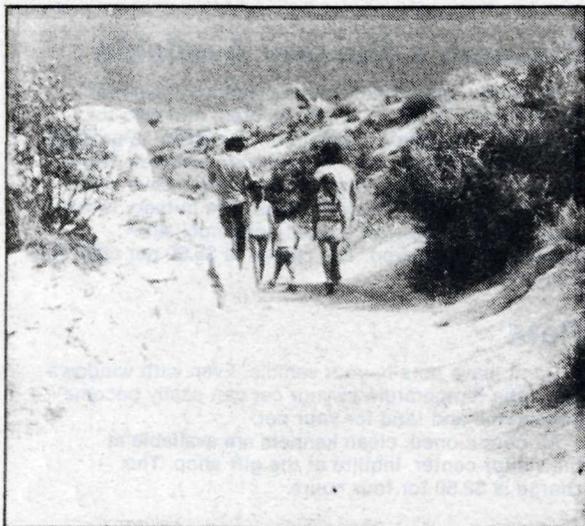
A Glimpse of life in the Chihuahuan Desert

Visitors who come to southeastern New Mexico to visit Carlsbad Caverns are often surprised to find another unusual attraction, the Living Desert State Park. Here, atop the Ocotillo Hills just northwest of the city of Carlsbad, is an assemblage of plants and animals of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Chihuahuan Desert, one of four large deserts on the North American continent, extends north from Mexico into southwest Texas and southeast New Mexico. Each of the world's deserts is different, but few are as barren and lifeless as most people believe. The Chihuahuan Desert is rich in animal and plant life and the Living Desert State Park provides visitors an opportunity to experience the variety and life of this desert.

Paths lead through sand dunes, desert uplands and gypsum soils with outdoor exhibits of native plants and animals. An arroyo area is home to a family of javelinas, and provides the visitor with a close-up look at these animals. An underground exhibit is home for many creatures of the night, such as ringtails and kangaroo rats, which are rarely seen in the wild because of their nocturnal habits. A wolf-bear exhibit provides plenty of room for the park's black bear and rare Mexican wolves. Yucca, sotol, agave, prickly pear, and acacia are a few of the many plants exhibited for your enjoyment. An indoor exhibit of succulents of the world contains an extensive collection of exotic cacti and succulents from Mexico, Bolivia, Madagascar, and South Africa.

For many people, the zoo is the most interesting part of the Living Desert. It houses over 50 species of animals. Most of these are native to the Chihuahuan Desert region, and all are native to North America. The park provides an opportunity for visitors to see many elusive creatures which are difficult to see in the wild.

The Living Desert State Park's zoo is not a zoo in the traditional sense. Animals are not intentionally trapped for display in the park. They are in the park because they could no longer survive in the wild. Many of the animals were originally brought to the park for care because they were sick or injured. Those which have recovered enough to survive on their own in the wild have been released. Others may appear healthy but are unable to survive in the wild and have been kept.



Gypsum Trail



Fox



Pronghorns



Javelinas



While most zoos attempt to exhibit a wide range of "exotic" animals from all over the world, the Living Desert State Park limits its collection primarily to those animals found in the Chihuahuan Desert region. Many rare and unusual creatures are found in this region; in fact, some are found on no other continent in the world.

The purpose of the Living Desert State Park is to preserve a representation of the Chihuahuan Desert and to provide an entertaining and educational experience for visitors of all ages.

Open Daily, Year Round

Hours:

Labor Day thru May 14
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Last Tour - 4:00 pm
May 15 thru Labor Day
8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Last Tour - 7:00 pm

Admission:

\$3.00 per person; six and under free.
Adult groups, half price; youth groups, \$.50.
Telephone: 505/887-5516

Parque Zoológico y Botánico del Estado

Una parte del Desierto Chihuahuense se ha conservado como un parque del estado cerca de Carlsbad, Nuevo México. Veredas los conduce por las arenas y el desierto con exhibiciones al aire libre de plantas y animales nativos. La yuca, el sotol, el agave, cactus, y la acacia son unas de las cuantas plantas que se presentan al público. Se ven a cerca animales como jabalinas, osos, lobos mexicanos, alces, ciervos, búfalos, águilas, gavilanes, culebras, y lagartijos. Hay otras exhibiciones, una tienda de regalos, y baños en el centro para visitantes. Los derechos de admisión son dos dólares por persona.

Lincoln National Forest

Guadalupe Ranger District

The Guadalupe Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest encompasses 285,000 acres, and extends from the New Mexico-Texas state line in a northwesterly direction for 41 miles. The Guadalupe District is bordered on the south by Guadalupe Mountains National Park and partially on the southeast by Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation reserving certain lands in the Territory of New Mexico from settlement or entry, and set them apart as a public reservation for the use and benefit of the people. A part of this reservation became the Guadalupe National Forest and later the Guadalupe District of the Lincoln National Forest.

Elevations on the Guadalupe District range from 3,500 to 7,600 feet. Due to this wide range, a large variety of plant and animal life exists. In the lower elevations, vegetation typical of the Chihuahuan Desert may be found, with common plants being creosote bush, lechuguilla, mesquite agave, yucca, and sotol.

The areas with elevations from 5,000 feet to 6,500 feet are characterized by pinyon-juniper vegetation. Elevations above 6,500 feet contain ponderosa pine and alligator juniper vegetation. Within the canyons, bigtooth maple, walnut, and Texas madrone may be found.

The forest is managed under the multiple use-sustained yield concept. The major resources are wood, water, wildlife, forage, and recreation. Multiple use means that resources management is coordinated so that the land produces a combination of values that best serve the public. Sustained yield means that resources are managed so as to provide services and products at a level as high as can be sustained without harming the land's ability to produce.

Recreation

The Guadalupe District offers a wide variety of recreational activities. These include hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing. Two major attractions readily accessible to visitors are Sitting Bull Falls Picnic Area and Five Points Vista along FR-540.

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the District. Open roads and trails are signed for the convenience of the public. Please keep vehicles on designated open roads and respect private landowners' rights within the forest boundary.

Guadalupe District recreation maps are available for \$1.00 each from the Forest Service, Federal Building, Room 159, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

Wood

Of the many species of trees found on the Guadalupe Ranger District, only one, ponderosa pine, is considered of commercial value. Due to the distance from any active sawmill and the low volume of this species growing in the district, it is not harvested for lumber.

The predominant tree species on the district are pinyon pine, one-seed juniper, and alligator juniper. While these are not commercial species, they make excellent firewood, for which there is a great demand. Permits are required for cutting firewood and can be obtained at the Forest Service office or by calling 505/885-4181.

Water

The Guadalupe District was set aside as a Forest Reserve in 1907 for the protection of the watershed of the lower Pecos River valley. The quality of the watershed in the Guadalupe has been protected by maintaining an adequate soil cover of native grasses and limiting cattle and sheep grazing to numbers that will maintain this grass cover. This action has reduced erosion, rapid runoff, and downstream flooding.



Sitting Bull Falls, Lincoln National Forest.

Wildlife

The Guadalupe have a diversity of wildlife species. Browse vegetation of the mountains offers some of the finest deer habitat in New Mexico and the area is one of the most preferred hunting areas in the state. Other animals in the Guadalupe include elk, turkey, mountain lion, and bear.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has jurisdiction over the animal populations, and the U.S. Forest Service is charged with maintaining a healthy habitat for these animals. Monitoring animal populations, habitat improvement, and management strategies are cooperative efforts of the two agencies.

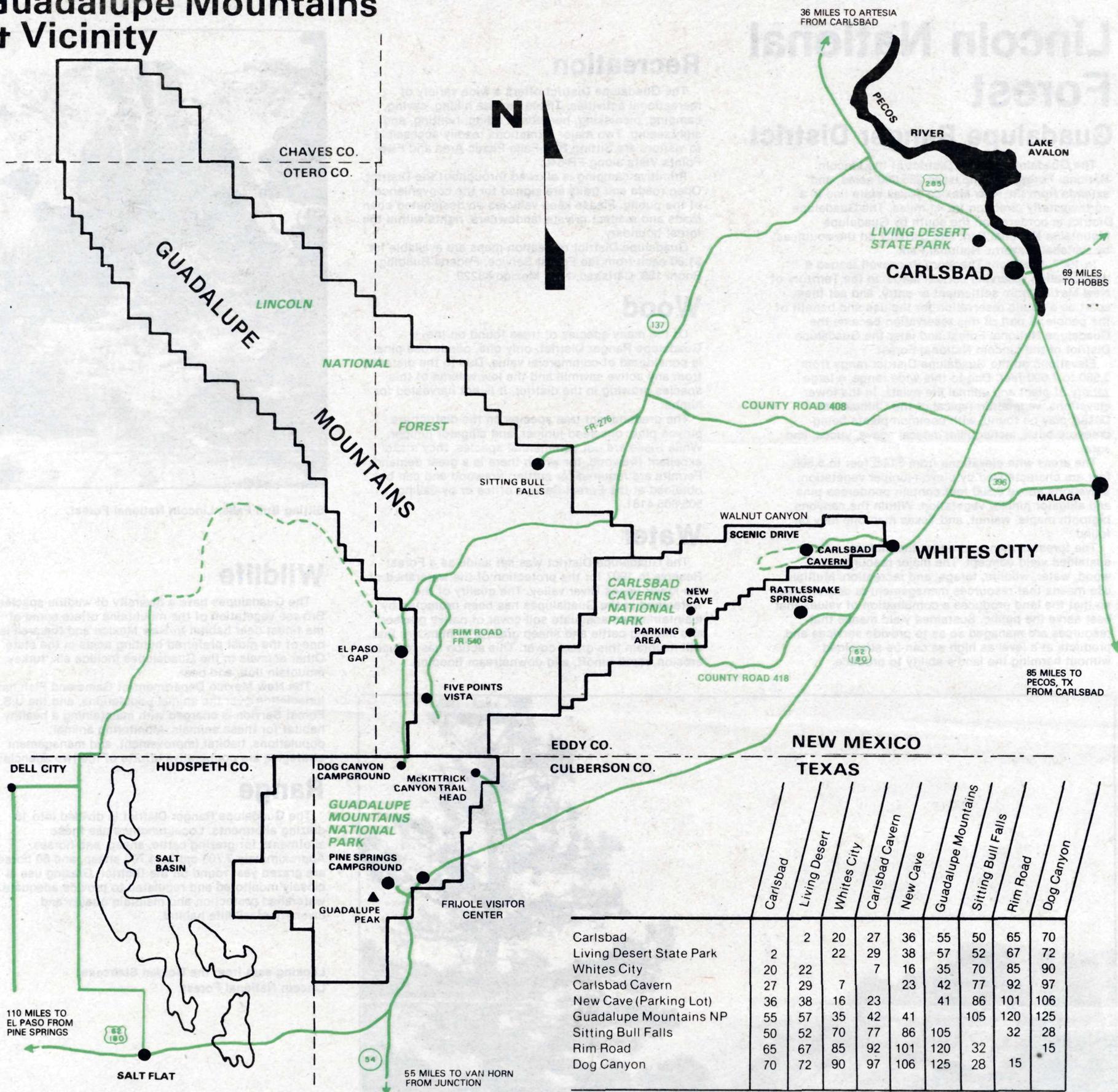
Range

The Guadalupe Ranger District is divided into 18 grazing allotments. Local ranchers use these allotments for grazing cattle, sheep, and horses. Approximately 3,700 cattle, 1,700 sheep, and 60 horses are grazed year round on the District. Grazing use is closely monitored and regulated to provide adequate watershed protection and maintain quality and diversity of wildlife habitat.

Looking east from the Golden Staircase, Lincoln National Forest



Carlsbad, the Guadalupe Mountains & Vicinity



Carlsbad Cavern Hours

Mountain Time

Visitor Center Opens
 First Blue Tour
 First Red Tour
 Last Walk-In Trip—Natural Entrance—Blue Tour
 Last Big Room Trip—Red Tour
 Last Elevator from Cave to Surface
 Visitor Center Closes

Trips are continuous and visitors may enter the cave anytime during hours listed. Summer hours may change. Contact the park for current schedules.

WINTER Labor Day - Memorial Day	SUMMER Memorial Day - Labor Day
8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
2:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

Horario De La Caverna De Carlsbad

Tiempo de Montana

El Centro para Visitantes se abre
 Primer Paseo Azul
 Primer Paseo Rojo
 Ultimo Paseo Azul
 Ultimo Paseo Rojo
 Ultimo Elevador a la Superficie
 El Centro para Visitantes se Cierra

Escursiones son continuas y se puede entrar a la cueva durante las horas indicadas. Horario del verano puede cambiar. Llame el parque.

INVIERNO Septiembre - Mayo	VERANO Junio - Agosto
(Sujeto a Cambio)	(Sujeto a Cambio)
0800	0800
0830	0830
0830	0830
1400	1530
1530	1700
1700	1830
1730	1900

For More Information

Carlsbad Caverns National Park
 3225 National Parks Highway
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
 Recorded 24-Hr. Info. 505/785-2107
505/785-2232

Guadalupe Mountains National Park
 HC 60, Box 400
 Salt Flat, Texas 79847-9400
915/828-3251

Lincoln National Forest
 Guadalupe Ranger District
 Federal Building, Room 159
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
505/885-4181

Living Desert State Park
 P. O. Box 100
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
505/887-5516