

El Paso Zoo — 4001 E. Paisano. Zoo Entrance hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Zoo admission is \$12 (\$9 ages 60 and older and active military; \$7.50 ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and under. Information: 212-0966, elpasozoo.org, or on Facebook at ElPasoZoo.

- May the Fourth by With Zoo Star Wars event is 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, **May 4**, with costume contest, music and more.

- Hear Me Roar LGBTQ community event is 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, **May 30**, with live entertainment. Tickets: \$15 (\$5 ate 3-12; free for age 2 and younger)

- Reptilia event celebrating creepy, crawly friends is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **June 2-3**.

Natural History Outings — Southwest Environmental Center of Las Cruces offers “Back by Noon” Saturday field trips departing from the center at 275 Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. Hikes are free, and open to the public, but space is limited and advance registration required; registration opens three weeks before each hike. Some minor fees may apply. Information, reservations: (575) 522-5552.

Hike details available at wildmesquite.org.

- **May 5:** Close Look at Burrowing Owls, 7 a.m. Easy.

- **May 12:** Valles Canyon, 7:30 a.m. Moderate to strenuous.

Birdathon — The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society sponsors its annual weekend of birding and fundraising Saturday and Sunday, **May 5-6**. The event benefits chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands park, Audubon Texas and El Paso area Wildlife Rehabilitators. Volunteers raise money by collecting pledges for each species spotted during the two days. Information: Jane Fowler, 598-2448, Eddie Chew, 587-9589 or trans-pecos-audubon.com.



NM Rails-To-Trails Association — The association hosts its annual meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, **May 5**, at The Lodge in Cloudcroft. Doors open at 1 p.m. Guest speaker is Mark H Gutzman, Forest archaeologist for the Lincoln National Forest. Information: (575) 434-1949 or nmrailstotrails.org.

DinoTracks Tour — Insights Science Center host its monthly 3-mile DinoTracks tour 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, **May 6**, at Mt. Cristo Rey in Sunland Park, open to the general public. Cost: \$15 per person; available at eventbrite. Information: 534-0000 or insightself-paso.org. Upcoming tours are **June 3** and **July 1**.

Wyler Aerial Tramway — 1700 McKinley. Hikes are free; one-way optional tramway rides down the mountain are \$4 (\$2 children); bring exact change. Information: 562-9899 or 566-6622. Hikes begin at the Directisimo trailhead.

Hikes are strenuous hikes, not recommended for first-time hikers. Bring water, sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothing.

A Women-Only Hike is 7 a.m. Sunday, **May 6**, up Ranger Peak.

Last Sunday Hike is 7 a.m. Sunday, **May 27**.

Tech2O WaterSmart Landscapes Series — El Paso Water’s Tech2O Center, 10751 Montana, hosts “Efficient Irrigation,” 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, **May 12**, as Part 4 of its seven-part series on the “Seven Principles of Water Efficient Landscapes.” Information: 621-2000 or tech2o.org.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

— The society’s general meeting is 7 p.m. Monday, **May 21**, at UTEP’s Centennial Museum, 500 W. University. Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Manager John Sproul from UTEP’s Center for Environmental Resource Management will talk about current and future changes in the park. Information: Scott, 581-6071 or trans-pecos-audubon.com.

Field trips are open to the public. Information: Mark Perkins, 637-3521 or trans-pecos-audubon.com. A Memorial Day Weekend trip to Sierra Vista, Ariz. is **May 25-28**, to see hummingbirds, owls, Elegant Trogons and other specialties of Southeast Arizona.

National Trails Day Poker Hike — New Mexico Rails-To-Trails will host is free, family-friendly public poker hike celebrating National Trail Day Saturday, **June 2**, starting at the Trestle Recreation Area Trails and ending at the Bonnie Brooks cabin, where prize will be awarded. Hikers will get to view Trestle A249 on the Brooks property, the area’s newest National Historic Site, now undergoing restoration. Information, times: (575) 434-1949 or nmrailstotrails.org.

Municipal Rose Garden — The garden at 3418 Aurora (at Copia) is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. dailys. Admission is free. Information: 212-0092 or elpasotexas.gov/parks.

Franklin Mountains State Park — Most hiking and mountain-biking trails begin in the Tom Mays area, off Transmountain Drive on the west side of the park (east of I-10).

Entry fee is \$5 per person, free for age 12 and under (with family). Correct cash or check only. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Information: 566-6441 or on Facebook at FranklinMountainsSP. Web: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/franklin-mountains.

Guided hikes and bike rides are \$8 per person (\$3 State Park Pass holder; \$1 children 12 and under); price includes entry. Dogs welcome on leash on some hikes. Reservations required: 566-6441 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

- Hike to Ron Coleman Trail is 6:30 a.m. Saturday, **May 5**, as part of the Peak Fitness challenge. Very strenuous hike. Meet at Smugglers Pass parking lot.
- Upper Sunset Hike is 8 a.m. Sunday, **May 6**, suitable for families and beginners.
- Women Only Hike to Aztec Cave is 8 a.m. Saturday, **May 19**.
- Prospect Mine Tours are 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday, **May 20**.

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park — UTEP’s Center for Environmental Resource Management offers free guided walking tours and other activities at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 10176 Socorro Rd. in El Paso’s Mission Valley. Tours last about two hours. Information: 747-8663 or riobosque.org.

- Birding tour is 7 a.m. Saturday, **May 12**.
 - Community Workday is 8 a.m. Saturday, **May 19**.
 - Introductory tour is 8 a.m. Sunday, **May 20**.
- Meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. Take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left and travel 1.5 miles.

Keystone Heritage Park and El Paso Desert Botanical Garden — 4200 Doniphan (across from Frontera). Hours are 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; closed Tuesdays. Admission: \$2 (free for members); \$1 children. Information: 584-0563, keystone-heritagepark.com.

Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site — Ranch Road 2775 off U.S. 62/180 (Montana Ave.).Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Admission: \$7 (free for children 12 and younger). Admission including tours or hikes is \$9 (13 and over); \$2 (ages 5-12). Information: 857-1135, ext. 0, or texas-stateparks.gov.

White Sands National Monument — The glistening gypsum dunes are about 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, N.M., on U.S. 70. Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through May 26; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 27-Sept. 15. Park hours are 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. through May 26; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 27-Sept. 15. Last entrance is one hour before park closes. Entrance fee: \$5 age 16 and older. Free for children. Information: (575) 479-6124, ext. 236 or (575) 679-2599, ext. 232; nps.gov/whsa.

Sunset strolls offered one hour before sunset. Ranger-guided Lake Lucero Tour is offered the last weekend of the month. Program fee is \$8 (\$4 age 15 and younger). Check website or call for details; reservations required, available one month prior to tour.

Full Moon Hike is 7:45 p.m. Monday, **May 28**. Reservations required, starting one month in advance; online only. Cost: \$8; \$4 age 15 and young, plus monument entrance fees.

The first Full Moon Night of the season is 8 p.m. Tuesday, **May 29**. Call for program.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park — The park is about 160 miles east of El Paso, off the Carlsbad Highway (U.S. 62-180). Information: (575) 785-2232 or nps.gov/cave.

Daily bat flight talks (starting **May 26**) begin at 7:30 p.m. at the amphitheater outside the natural entrance. Admission is free.

New Mexico State Parks — Day-use fee is \$5 when visiting any state park. All programs are free with park entrance. Information: (575) 744-5998 or nmparks.com.

- Oliver Lee State Park, Highway 54 south of Alamogordo at the Dog Canyon turnoff. Information: (575) 437-8284. Ranch house tours are 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays and 3 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Star Party is 8 to 10 .m. Saturday, **May 1**.

- Leasburg Dam — 12712 State Park Road in Radium Springs, two miles off -25 at Exit 19. Information: (575) 524-4068. Music & the Stars night sky programs and musical performers are 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, **May 5**. Monthly bird ID walking tour is 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, **May 26**.

- Percha Dam State Park and Caballo Lake State Park, 60 miles north of Las Cruces on I-25. Information: (575) 743-3942 (Percha Dam) or (575) 527-8386 (Caballo Lake).

Movie screening of the comedy “The Big Year” and guided bird tour is 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, **May 5**. Migratory Bird Day Tour is 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, **May 12**, meeting at the Percha Dam Visitor Center.

Courtesy Recreational Boat Safety Inspections are offered 8 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sunday, **May 19-20**.

Free Fish Day celebrating National Fishing and Boating Week is 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, **June 2**.

- Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Information: (575) 744-5923.

NM Bass Team Trial Tournament is 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, **May 23**.

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