

## COOL NEW MEXICO ROAD TRIPS

El Paso's summers can be sizzling, with the average in June around 95.5°F, but the Sun City is within a short drive from many cooler Southern New Mexico get-aways. Here's what some nearby New Mexico road trip destinations have going for those looking to escape the heat in June:

• **Ruidoso.** Average June temperatures: 82° high, 47° low

Drive time to get there is two-and-a-half hours via US 54 and US 70.

Some of Ruidoso's June events include the 2nd annual Great Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cookoff June 2, Pickleball Championships June 14-17 and the Ruidoso Marathon and Half Marathon June 23. This will also be the first year for New Mexico craft beer experience "Brewdoso" June 23-24.

Other favorite June destinations include Ruidoso Downs racing, which hosts Father's Day events, and a Mexican Fiesta weekend June 22-24, and Spencer Theater, whose summer performance season is underway.

For more information: [visitruidoso.com](http://visitruidoso.com).

• **Cloudcroft:** Average June temperature: 74° high, 45° low

Drive time to get there is just under two hours via US 54.

Cloudcroft's Light Opera Company hosts its free melodramas at Zenith Park June 1-2, and June 29-30, with the village's Independence Day weekend events beginning June 30 with a parade and Street Dance on Burro Street. The

Lodge hosts events all summer long, and Cloudcroft Art Workshops are underway for the first month of its summer long workshop series.

For more information: [coolcloudcroft.com](http://coolcloudcroft.com)

• **Silver City:** Average June temperature: 88° high, 55° low

Drive time to get there is just under two-and-a-half hours via I-10 West and US 180.

Silver City's two biggest events in June include the Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo June 13-16, at Southwest Horseman's Park, and the free family event, Fiesta Latina June 22-24 at Western New Mexico University, with artisans, workshops, live entertainment and food.

The Farmer's Market is also active every Saturday early May through late October along 7th Street between Bullard and the Big Ditch.

Information: [visitsilvercity.org](http://visitsilvercity.org).

• **Carlsbad Caverns National Park:** Average June (and year round) temperature: 56° and humid.

Drive time to get there is just under two-and-a-half hours via US 62/180 east from El Paso.

The monument's summer hours are now underway for self-guided and ranger led tours, and nightly bat flight programs are offered before dusk every day. There will also be Night Sky programs in June including Star Walks June 8-9, and 13-14, and Moon Walks June 22-23, suitable for all ages.

Information: [nps.gov/cave](http://nps.gov/cave).

## Heat

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Wet N' Wild has also hosted "The World's Largest Swimming Lesson" each summer since 2011, with this year's event on June 21.

"People all over the world join in a free, 30-minute swimming lesson on this day," Edwards-Cottingham explained. "Last year, over 41,000 people participated (worldwide). It's intended to highlight the benefits of swimming and promote drowning prevention." She estimated that the Wet N' Wild event itself has drawn more than 1,500 participants over the years.

Another annual June event is the Neon Paint Party, an after-hours, electronic dance party the park has hosted for the past seven years.

"It's an all-ages event where people get to drench each other in glow-in-the-dark paint while enjoying the music, splashing in the wave pool, and munching on delicious food and drinks from a variety of vendors, including our very own Ribbit Café," she said.

She said one reason Wet 'N Wild has been so successful is by allowing guests to make themselves at home.

"At most waterparks, the average stay is a few hours," she said. "Not so here. Our customers are often waiting outside our gates before we open, and they stay until we close those gates again. We allow guests to bring in their own food, beverages, chairs, tents, even big-screen TVs if that's what they want. They can grill or

picnic under the shade trees, relax, and make a full day of it."

The park's newest and biggest ride addition is the 42,750 square feet, 6-story-high Jaguar Falls. Past seasons have also seen the additions of cabanas, including some available for private rental, a large water-themed play area for kids, VIP suites, air-conditioned suites with private bathrooms, mini-kitchens and outdoor grill patios.

"We are always looking for ways to make things better for our guests and provide them with new rides, attractions, and amenities," Edwards-Cottingham said.

Community outreach and engagement is also important to the park, she said. This includes being a part of the Anthony Independent School District's Summer Food Program.

"For the past seven years we've been a host location and have been able to offer fresh, healthy lunches completely free to kids 18 and under, Monday through Friday, right here at the park," she said. "We also donate thousands of tickets to individuals and organizations large and small, including 500 tickets a year to Candlelighters of El Paso."

They have also offered educational scholarships to their employees, and are active in the El Paso Independent School District Education Foundation that provides classroom impact grants to teachers, and college scholarships to students. In 2016 the park was awarded Aquatics International's Community Outreach award for its efforts.

"The more we can engage with and give to the Borderland, the more we can consider ourselves successful," she said.



SEASON  
2018  
2019



Derik Nelson  
& FAMILY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018

High-Tech Trio

VOCAL TRASH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

"Best Musical Act" by Fort Worth Texas Magazine



SAXsational,  
The Next Generation

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Disney Jazz Workshop Conductor

Sergei Teleshev  
& Veronika Shabashova

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

Award-Winning Instrumentalist



Beginnings

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

The Ultimate Tribute to Chicago

## 2018-2019 Season Subscription

### Early Bird (by July 31)

(indicate quantities)

\_\_\_ Adult \$75  
\_\_\_ Family \$175

### Regular (after July 31)

\_\_\_ Adult \$95  
\_\_\_ Family \$215

Family rate good for two plus all children ages 6-18. Indicate quantity:

\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_ Children

\_\_\_ Youth/Student \$35

\_\_\_ Parking Pass \$35 (all five concerts -Conv. Center garage)

### Additional Contributions

(indicate quantities)

\_\_\_ Benefactor (\$500 or more)  
\_\_\_ Patron (\$100 - \$499)  
\_\_\_ Friend (\$25 - \$99)  
\_\_\_ Memorial Fund (please specify)  
\_\_\_ Showtime! El Paso Scholarship Fund

Send a completed form and payment to Showtime! El Paso, PO Box 3797 El Paso TX 79923

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with credit card at

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For more information, check out our site [www.showtimeelpaso.com](http://www.showtimeelpaso.com) or call 915-247-2726

All seats are general admission • All performances are scheduled at the Abraham Chavez Theatre • At City's discretion, performances may be moved to Plaza Theatre.