

# Hike Up Cristo Rey

Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m.

Family and friends in town? This easy-to-hike trail, with spectacular panoramas of two countries and three cities, leads 2.5 miles to the summit to the famous statue of Christ on the Cross.

The hike begins at 11 a.m. and lasts about 2 1/2 hours.

No reservations needed.

Information: (915) 328-4110

Requested \$5 donation (\$2 children) to support the Mt. Cristo Rey Restoration Committee.

*Hike subject to cancellation because of rain or snow.*

To get there: Take Sunland Park Drive past Doniphan to McNutt Road (Highway 273). Go about 1 1/2 mile and turn right on road leading to the Mt. Cristo Rey parking lot.

*Security will be provided along trail and in parking lot.*

Sponsored by  
Destination El Paso and El Paso Scene



## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

— Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Rescue overnight trip is Saturday and Sunday, **Dec. 2-3**, to look for sandhill cranes and snow geese. Call for details. Field trips are open to the public. Information: Mark Perkins, 637-3521 or trans-pecos-audubon.com.

**Otero Mesa Field Tour** — Southwest Environmental Center hosts a free educational outing to Otero Mesa, some of Southern New Mexico's most stunning wilderness, Saturday, **Dec. 2**. Transportation and lunch provided; space is limited. Information, RSVP: peter@wildmesquite.org (575) 522-5552.

**Dino Tracks Tour** — Insights Science Center host its monthly Dino Tracks tour 9 a.m. to noon the first Sunday of each month (**Dec. 3, Jan. 7**) at Mt. Cristo Rey in Sunland Park, open to the general public. The 3-mile hiking tour covers topics such as "Dinosaur & Crocodylian Trace-fossils," "Volcanism," "Plate Tectonics," "Sedimentation & Metamorphic Processes" and more. Cost: \$15. Information: 534-0000 or info@insightselpaso.org.

**Wyler Aerial Tramway** — 1700 McKinley. Information: 562-9899 or 566-6622.

- A Women-Only is 8 a.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**, up on Directisimo Trail.
- A last Sunday hike is 8 a.m. **Dec. 31**, up Ranger Peak. Meet in the parking lot for the 1-mile hike.

**El Paso Zoo** — 4001 E. Paisano. Zoo Entrance hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is \$12 for ages 13 to 59; \$9 for ages 60 and older and active duty military (including spouse) with ID; \$7.50 ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and under. Zoo members admitted free. Information: 212-0966 or elpasozoo.org.

Santa at the Zoo is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **Dec. 9-10**, with photos, snow play area, live entertainment and other activities.

The "Wings of the World" Bird Show is 12:30 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. weekends at the new Wildlife Amphitheater.

"Meet The Keeper" talks are 10:30 to 3:15 p.m. at various locations.

"African Star" Train ride tickets are \$2 plus tax (\$1.50 for children and society members).

Asian Elephant Training Encounters scheduled at noon daily.

## Mesilla Valley Christmas Bird Count

— The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society's 43rd annual Christmas Bird Count is Saturday, **Dec. 16**. Learn the history and methods of the count, go through a collection of bird photos of likely species, organize CBC teams, distribute maps, bird lists and prepare for the count. Participation is free. Information: (575) 528-8696, waylmike@yahoo.com or mvaudubon.org.

## Cut down your own Christmas tree

— Permits are available for people to cut down their own Christmas tree in designated areas of the Lincoln and Gila National Forests in New Mexico **through Dec. 24**. Limit is one tree — up to 10 feet in height — per household, and the permit includes a map of areas where cutting is allowed.

Permits available to purchase for \$5 per tree; special permits available for trees over 10 feet.

Forest officials advise people to check weather and road conditions before entering the forest. Tree-cutters should dress appropriately,

take a vehicle suitable for the area and leave information at home where they are going. Maps of tree-cutting areas available at each ranger station. Applications must be received by Dec. 14; available online at fs.usda.gov.

Non-traditional holiday season trees (century plant, agave, and yucca stalks) may be obtained with a Decorative Material permit.

**Christmas Tree Recycling** — The City of El Paso Environmental Services' Citizen Collections Sites will accept Christmas trees Dec. 26 through mid-January. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Trees must be free of decorative items. Information: 212-6000 or elpasotexas.gov/environmental-services. Locations:

- Westside/Upper Valley, 121 Atlantic
- Central, 2492 Harrison
- Northeast, 4501 Hondo Pass (entrance off Stahala)
- Eastside, 1034 Pendale

Residents are also encouraged to recycle cardboard gift boxes, wrapping paper and cards.

**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. Group rates available. 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 offered for a \$5 additional fee (free for age 12 and younger).

**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.

- Introductory tour is 3 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**.
- Bird tour is 8 a.m. Saturday, **Dec. 9**.

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. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: \$3 (free for members). Information: 584-0563, keystone-heritagepark.org or elpasobotanicalgardens.org.

Keystone Heritage Park has 189 species of migratory and local birds, and a 4,500-year-old archaeological site. The site is open for bird watching 9:30 a.m. to noon the second and last Saturday of the month.

Keystone's Chihuahuan Desert Experience (immediately west of the wetland) is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for walking and bird watching.

## Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site

— Ranch Road 2775 off U.S. 62/180 (Montana Ave.). The site is famed for many Native American rock paintings and unique geology. 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-

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# El Paso Scene USER'S GUIDE

## Publication Schedule & Monthly Deadlines

El Paso Scene comes out on the Wednesday following the fourth Monday of the month. The deadline for news announcements is the third Monday of the month. The deadline is Dec. 18 for the January 2018 issue, which will be distributed beginning Dec. 27. The deadline for camera-ready advertising is Dec. 20. For ads that require design work, please submit requests by Dec. 13.

## Submitting News

El Paso Scene accepts news items by mail (P.O. Box 13615, El Paso TX 79913) and email (news@epsce.com). There is no charge for news announcements. All items will be edited for brevity and style. News items should include an event name, description, time, date, place, sponsoring organization, information phone number and admission prices, if any. Please include a contact name and phone number. A "fill in the blanks" online press release form is at [www.epsce.com/pressrelease.html](http://www.epsce.com/pressrelease.html)

## Circulation & distribution

El Paso Scene publishes about 40,000 copies each month, distributed throughout El Paso and also Las Cruces, including area Village Inns, Walgreens, Wing Stop, Leo's, The Cleaners and many more locations.

## Advertising information

A full media kit on El Paso Scene advertising rates, sizes and specifications is at [www.epsce.com/adrates.html](http://www.epsce.com/adrates.html). You may also request a media kit by calling us at 542-1422, or call our advertising director, Albert Martinez, at 920-7244.

## Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions to El Paso Scene are \$10 a year, \$18 for two years and \$25 for three years. A subscription form is provided on Page 38. Subscriptions are sent via 3rd class mail. Copies sent outside El Paso and neighboring counties may be delayed.

## El Paso Scene Online

The entire content of each issue is posted on our website, [www.epsce.com](http://www.epsce.com). Besides monthly listings and columns, the entire issue may be downloaded in PDF format. The website contains a digest of events listed by week and annual calendar listings for each month's scheduled events. The website also provides a press release form and a media kit on El Paso Scene advertising.

## El Paso Scene Weekly

A weekly digest of El Paso Scene events is available for free by email, and is also posted on our website. To request our **free weekly email newsletter**, go to [www.epsce.com/newsletter.php](http://www.epsce.com/newsletter.php)