

Nature

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for official holidays. The garden has many types of roses at the sprawling park area with a waterfall, shade canopy and many other amenities. Admission is free. Information/rentals: El Paso Parks and Recreation, 541-4331.

Keystone Heritage Park and El Paso Desert Botanical Garden — 4200 Doniphan (across from Frontera). Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: \$3 (free for members). Information: 584-0563, keystoneheritagepark.org or elpasobotanicalgardens.org.

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). Additional activity cost for tours (including morning hike): \$2 (free for age 4 and younger). Information: 857-1135 or texasstateparks.gov. Reservations are recommended for the self-guided area and for camping: (512) 389-8911.

A Women's Only Hike is 9 a.m. Saturday, **June 10**, for women who are not normally comfortable with the outdoors. Space limited to 25; reservations required: 849-6684.

A Rare Plant Tour is 8:30 a.m. Saturday, **June 10**. Limited to 10 participants.

Yoga on the Rocks Tour is 7 a.m. Saturday, **June 10**. Spots are limited to 10; reservations are recommended.

Birding tour is 7:30 a.m. Saturday, **June 17**. Sign up in advance; space limited to 25 guests.

Father's Day Family Campout is **June 17-18**, with check-in at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, with hiking, Dutch oven cooking, cowboy campfire stories, stargazing and more. Space is limited to 15 family (up to six members per family); reservations required.

Stargazing is 8 p.m. Thursday, **June 22**, with stories, and planetary viewing. Binoculars and telescopes welcome; but not required. Space available on first come, first serve basis.

For other tours, call 849-6684 or 857-1135.

North Mountain is available for self-guided day use, for up to 70 people at a time; reservations recommended. There is an annual orientation program for visitors. Guided access is offered to the rest of the site. Bicycles permitted only on designated paved areas. Pets allowed only in camping or picnic areas. Call for reservations: 857-1135.

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 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sept. 10. Park hours are 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. through May 27; 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 28-Sept. 2. Entrance fee: \$5 age 16 and older. Free for children. Information: (575) 479-6124, ext. 236 or (575) 679-2599, ext. 232; or go to nps.gov/whsa.

Sunset strolls are offered daily one hour before sunset; 7 p.m. through Aug. 6.

"Skins and Skulls" mammal identification talks are 3 p.m. daily.

Full Moon Hikes are 8 p.m. Thursday, **June 8**, and Friday, **July 7**. Reservations required starting one month in advance of each hike; online only. Cost: \$8; \$4 age 15 and young, plus monument entrance fees.

The 1st Armored Division Band's "Iron Outlaws" perform at 8:30 p.m. Friday, **June 9**, as part of the Full Moon Nights series. The band performs music from classic favorites to

contemporary hits. No reservations required.

The Mexican Arts Show and Sale is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **July 1-2**, on the visitor center patio. Admission is free to the show and sale.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

— 110 miles east of El Paso on the way to Carlsbad, the 86,416-acre park includes the highest point in Texas: Guadalupe Peak, 8,749 feet. Entry fee: \$5 for ages 16 and older, good for one week and all trails. Pine Springs Visitor Center hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Camping is \$8 per site per night. Information: (915) 828-3251 or nps.gov.

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.

Hours through May 28: Visitor Center open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; tours available 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last entry into cave via natural entrance is 4 p.m. Last entry into cave via elevator is 5 p.m.

Plan 3-1/2 hours for a walk-in tour and 1-1/2 hours for Big Room tour of the Caverns. Cost is \$10 (free or ages 15 and younger). The park's audio self-guided tour is \$3 extra (also available in Spanish).

The "bat season" generally lasts through mid-October. Daily bat flight talks begin at 7:30 p.m. (about 15 minutes long) are offered just before sunset at the amphitheater outside the natural entrance. Admission is free. Then — bats willing — visitors are treated to the sunset spectacle of clouds of bats flying out of the cave entrance. Best flights are usually in August and September.

Other guided tours are available; call or check website for details.

New Mexico State Parks — Day-use fee is \$5 when visiting any state park. Camping fees: \$8 for primitive site; \$10 for developed site (electrical hookup \$4 extra). All programs are free with park entrance, unless otherwise listed. Information: (575) 744-5998 or nmparks.com.

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

Wounded Warrior adaptive water sports are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, **June 2-4**, for wounded warriors, warriors in transition and members of the general public.

Boating Safety Classes are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, **June 10** and **July 15**.

The 26th annual Chili Cookoff is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, **June 10**.

American Bass fishing tournament is 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **June 10**.

Boat, RV and Adventure Show is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, **June 16-18**.

Sandcastle Competition is noon to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, **June 16-17**, with competitions for various age groups.

The annual Fireworks Extravaganza is 9 p.m. Saturday, **July 1**.

• Oliver Lee State Park, Highway 54 south of Alamogordo at the Dog Canyon turnoff. Information: (575) 437-8284.

Ranch House Tours are 3 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, **through June 25**. Meet at the Visitor Center; visitors drive their own vehicle.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park

— 1504 Miehls Drive N., Carlsbad, N.M. Admission: \$5 (\$3 ages 7-12; free for 6 and under). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (last entry at 3:30 p.m.). Information: (575) 887-5516.

Full Moon Walks are 8 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, **June 9**, and Saturday, **July 8**.

The zoo features animals native to the Chihuahuan Desert.

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