

## Nature

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**White Sands National Monument** — 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, N.M., on U.S. 70. Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Nov. 4. Park hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Oct. 7; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 9-Nov. 4. 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](http://nps.gov/whsa).

Sunset strolls are offered daily one hour before sunset: 5:45 p.m. through Oct. 8; 5:30 p.m. Oct. 9-22; 5:15 p.m. Oct. 23-Nov. 4.

Full Moon Hike is 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 4**. Reservations required, starting one month in advance of each hike; online only. Cost: \$8; \$4 age 15 and young, plus monument entrance fees.

The final Full Moon Night program of the season is 7 p.m. Thursday, **Oct. 5**.

Journey through Time at Lake Lucero with rangers and living history actors from the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum is 10 a.m. Saturday, **Nov. 4**.

A Full Moon Bike Ride is 8 p.m. Friday, **Oct. 6**. Reservations required via [nps.gov/whsa](http://nps.gov/whsa). Fee is \$8 per person; \$4 ages 15 and younger, plus park entrance fee.

Sunrise photography is 6 a.m. Saturday, **Oct. 21**. Registration required; starting one month before event. Program fee is \$8 (\$4 age 15 and younger); reservations required and available one month prior to tour.

**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. Camping is \$8 per night. Information: (915) 828-3251 or [nps.gov](http://nps.gov).

**New Mexico State Parks** — Day-use fee is \$5 when visiting any state park. All programs are free with park entrance, unless otherwise listed. Information: (575) 744-5998 or [nmparks.com](http://nmparks.com).

• Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Information: (575) 744-5923. Boating Safety Classes are Saturday, **Oct. 14**.

• Oliver Lee State Park, Highway 54 south of Alamogordo at the Dog Canyon turnoff. Information: (575) 437-8284. Shadows of Once Great Stars night sky viewing is 7 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 21**.

• Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. 5000 Calle del Norte in Mesilla. Information: (575) 523-4398.

Audubon Bird Walks are 7:15 a.m. Saturdays, led by park volunteers. Ranger-led Nature Hikes are 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Fitness in Nature walks with the Second Chance Walker Program are 8:30 a.m. every Saturday beginning at the Visitor Center.

• Pancho Villa State Park, Columbus, N.M., State Roads 11 and 9. Day use hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Information: (575) 531-2711. The 12th annual Pancho's Car Show is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 21**.

• Leasburg Dam — 12712 State Park Road in Radium Springs, two miles off Interstate 25 at Exit 19. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for day use. Information: (575) 524-4068.

A History of Nature and Man hikes at LDSP are 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 11 and 25**, and Saturday, **Oct. 14 and 28**.

Music in the Park is 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 14**, with live music and stargazing.

Mammoths to Mescaleros guided hike is 10

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, **Nov. 1**.

• Caballo Lake State Park, 60 miles north of Las Cruces. Information: (575) 527-8386.

The annual 4x4 Rock Climbing Challenge weekends are Friday through Sunday, **Oct. 6-8**, and **Oct. 13-15**.

A star program is 7:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 14**.

• City of Rocks State Park, off Hwy 61 in Faywood, N.M., about 130 miles west of El Paso. Information: (575) 536-2800. Star Party is 6:15 to 9:45 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 21**.

**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. The last Full Moon Walk the season is 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, **Oct. 5**.

**Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument** — 44 miles north of Silver City on NM Highway 15 in the middle of the majestic Gila Wilderness, the first and one of the largest wilderness areas. Entrance fee: \$5 per person; \$10 per family. Information: (575) 536-9461 or [nps.gov/gicl](http://nps.gov/gicl).

The trail to the cliff dwellings is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. year round. Everyone must be off the trail by 5 p.m. Visitor center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Alameda Park Zoo** — Alameda Park, 1321 North White Sands Blvd. (U.S. 54/70), Alamogordo. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission: \$2.50 (\$1.50 ages 3-11 and 60 and older; free for ages 2 and younger). Information: (575) 439-4290.

The annual Zoo Boo trick-or-treat event is 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, **Oct. 21**.

**Aguirre Spring Campground** — Off U.S. 70 about 15 miles east of Las Cruces. Day-use fee is \$3 per vehicle. Information, group reservations: (575) 525-4300.

**Dripping Springs Natural Area** — Base of the Organ Mountains at the end of Dripping Springs Road, about 10 miles east of Las Cruces. Entrance gate is open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 per vehicle. No pets allowed (except for assistance animals). Information: (575) 522-1219.

**Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park** — The park, part of Asombro Institute for Science Education, is northeast of Las Cruces, off Jornada Road. Park hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Information: (575) 524-3334 or [asombro.org](http://asombro.org).

**Area hiking websites** — A variety of organizations in the El Paso/Las Cruces area offers hiking opportunities. Hikes typically are rated as easy, moderate, or strenuous. Solo or new hikers are welcome.

• Meetup.com offers a variety of groups for all activities, including the El Paso hiking meet-up club ([meetup.com/El-Paso-Hiking](http://meetup.com/El-Paso-Hiking)) and the Las Cruces hiking meet-up club ([meetup.com/jornada-hikers](http://meetup.com/jornada-hikers))

• Celebrations of Our Mountains offers an ongoing calendar of hiking and related events at [celebrationofourmountains.org/](http://celebrationofourmountains.org/)

• Elpasonaturally is a blog by Jim Tolbert on various environmental topics and includes information about Sunrise Hikers morning events. Information: [elpasonaturally.blogspot.com](http://elpasonaturally.blogspot.com) or [diegotolbert@gmail.com](mailto:diegotolbert@gmail.com).

• The El Paso chapter of the Sierra Club posts its hikes at [sierraclub.org/elpaso](http://sierraclub.org/elpaso).

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