

# Visitors Guide

2021 - 2022

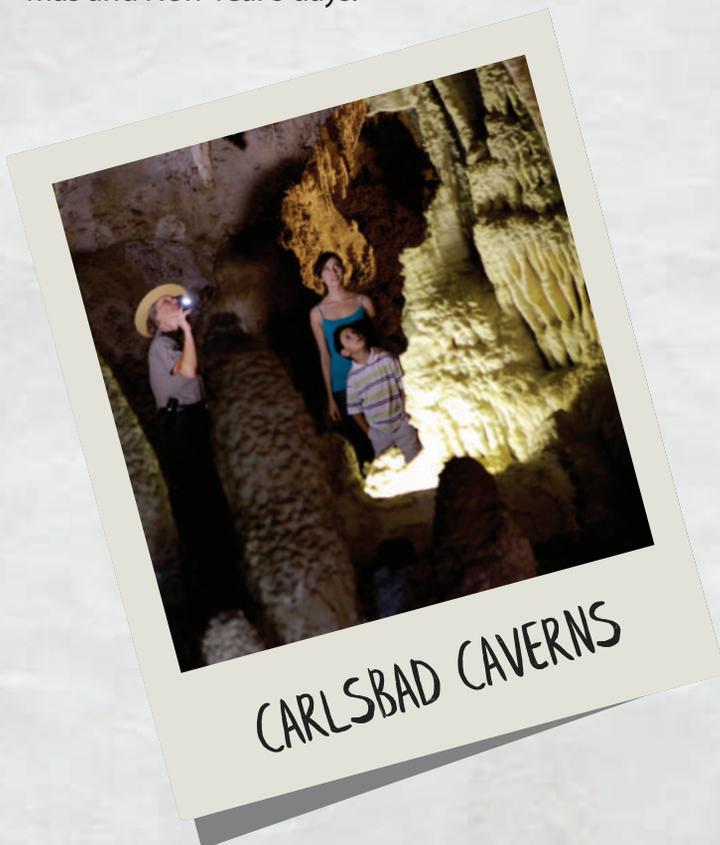
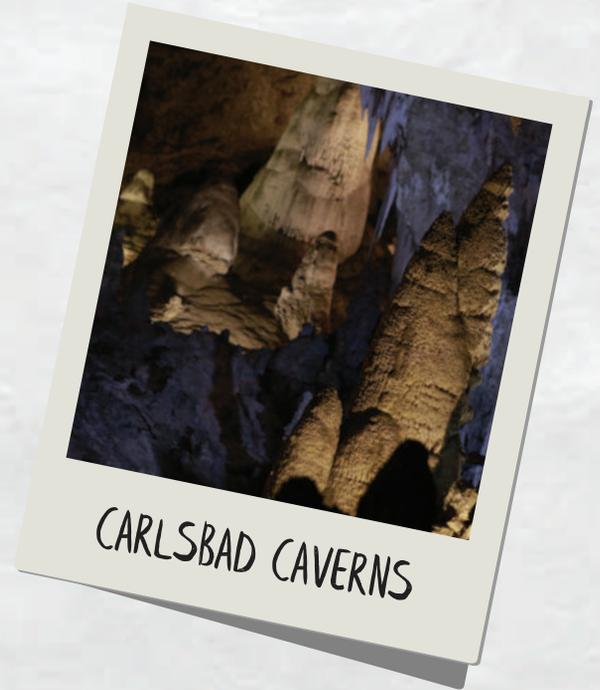
do something different

# Destination Carlsbad



# Carlsbad Caverns

Discover the subterranean wonderland of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, considered by many to be the Eighth Wonder of the World. The stalagmites, stalactites and flowstone began their formation from just a single drop of water some 250 million years ago. Take a guided tour that reveals the area's rich geologic history then stay to watch the Bat Flight, when thousands of bats leave the cave on their nightly foray for food (Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day weekend). Enjoy a 9.5-mile scenic drive through spectacular desert landscape and explore more than 50 miles of primitive backcountry hiking trails. The park is one of only 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S. Open daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.



Reservations are required for all tours.  
[nps.gov/cave](https://www.nps.gov/cave)  
575-785-2232

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Christmas and New Year's days.  
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575-785-2232

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Native Americans have known about the cave for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The Mescalero Apache called this area Jadnut?udebiga (Home of the Bat) while the Zuni Pueblo named it Asho:sti an alaluckwa (Bat Cave). If you look carefully around the cave entrance you'll find multiple mescal cooking pits and even a cave painting. The Mescalero Apache, Zuni Pueblo, and other groups were well acquainted with this piece of the Chihuahuan Desert. While there is no evidence these native peoples explored deep into the cave, they were certainly aware of its existence.

Eventually Spanish and European Americans began settling in the area. In their explorations they soon stumbled upon the gaping mouth of what is now known as Carlsbad Cavern. Several of those individuals claim to be the first to have entered the cave, but they have mostly been forgotten by history.

Our first credited cave exploration happened in the cave in 1898. Sixteen year-old cowboy, Jim White, was rounding up cattle one evening when he spotted smoke from a wildfire off in the distance. He went into high alert. Fires could be just as devastating then as they are now. He rode closer to gather information. How big was it? Was it moving quickly? What direction was it burning? These questions and more pushed Jim to ride to the fire so he could report back to camp with the most accurate information possible.

As Jim approached the smoke, he noticed something strange: he couldn't smell the smoke, hear the crackling of flames, or feel the heat of fire. Jim realized he wasn't seeing smoke. He was watching bats. Thousands-upon-thousands of Brazilian free-tailed bats. Jim finally stopped at the mouth of the cave completely mesmerized by the spectacle of flying mammals filling the air above him. He once said he watched the bats for nearly half an hour before the darkness fell so completely he had to return to camp.

Because he knew the other cowboys would mock him, Jim didn't immediately describe what he'd seen to anyone. He thought it over for several days. The deep hole in the ground and its secrets continued to gnaw at him. He had to find out what was down in the dark recesses.

Jim finally went back to the cave alone with some wire and pieces of wood. He constructed a ladder that he anchored at the mouth of the cave. It twisted and turned like a bucking bronco as Jim descended using only one hand. His other held his light source. After sixty feet, he landed on the cave floor. His light barely penetrated the cloying darkness.

At first, Jim was very uncomfortable in the cave. The names he assigned to formations give us some insight into what he was feeling when he came across new features for the first time. He named the first drip pool "Devil's Spring." That was soon followed by the "Devil's Armchair," "Devil's Den," and finally the "Witch's Finger." These features are still easily seen today as you walk down the natural entrance route. As he spent more time in the cave, Jim became more comfortable with his surroundings. His naming became more matter of fact: "The Big Room" and "Left Hand Tunnel." There were some places that sparked Jim's imagination. He named the "King's Palace" and even found a royal family in residence.

Jim's exploration of the cave continued for many years. While he investigated other caves in the area, none ever captured his imagination the same way Carlsbad Cavern did. He was its chief promoter his entire life (though supporters of Colonel Thomas Boles may beg to differ!).

Today, his legacy lives on. Every time a person leaves the cave and shares the story of his visit, he is carrying on Jim's love of this place. Every time a student researches the cave and shares her results with others, she is sharing what Jim found so awe inspiring. Carlsbad Caverns National Park owes its existence to the bats who call this place home and a young cowboy who had to know more about the dark hole that teased his imagination.

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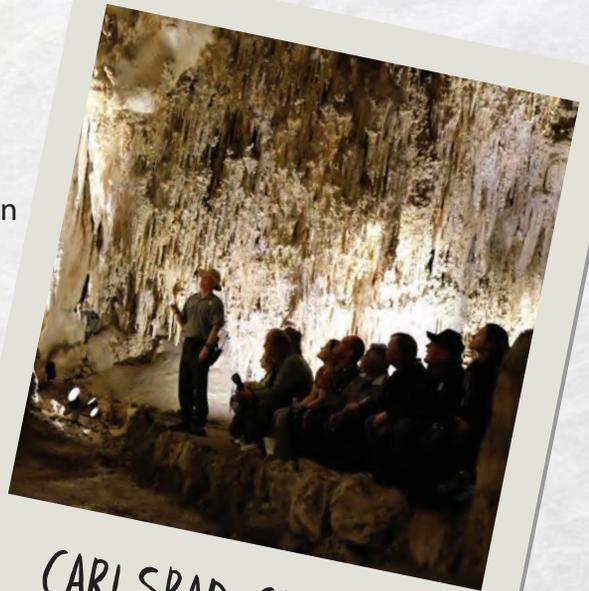
# Carlsbad Caverns

## Guided Tours

Whether it's walking among beautiful cave formations in King's Palace or challenging yourself in Hall of the White Giant, taking a ranger-guided cave tour can be an exciting experience. Carlsbad Caverns National Park offers numerous ranger-guided cave tours into areas other than exploring on your own along the Big Room and Natural Entrance trails. Find out which tour is right for you by clicking on the tour name below.

Availability on all ranger-guided tours is limited. It's recommended that you plan ahead and reserve early.

Make tour reservations by calling 877-444-6777 or visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

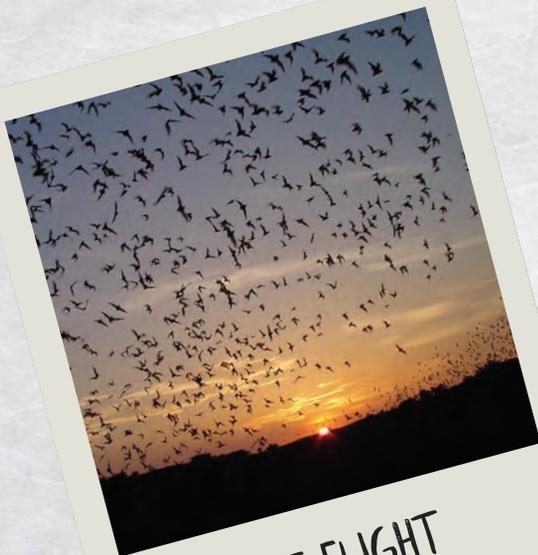


CARLSBAD CAVERNS

## Bat Flight

Please join us for the free Bat Flight Program (late May-October), an evening ranger talk about bats prior to their flight. No reservations are required for this program that occurs every evening from Memorial Day weekend through October. The program takes place at the Bat Flight Amphitheater, located at the Natural Entrance to Carlsbad Cavern. The start time for the program changes as the summer progresses and sunset times change.

If you are here before late May, you are welcome to watch the bats exit the cavern nightly at the outdoor Bat Flight Amphitheater from the time they return from migration (usually mid-to-late April) until the Bat Flight Program begins Memorial Day weekend.



BAT FLIGHT

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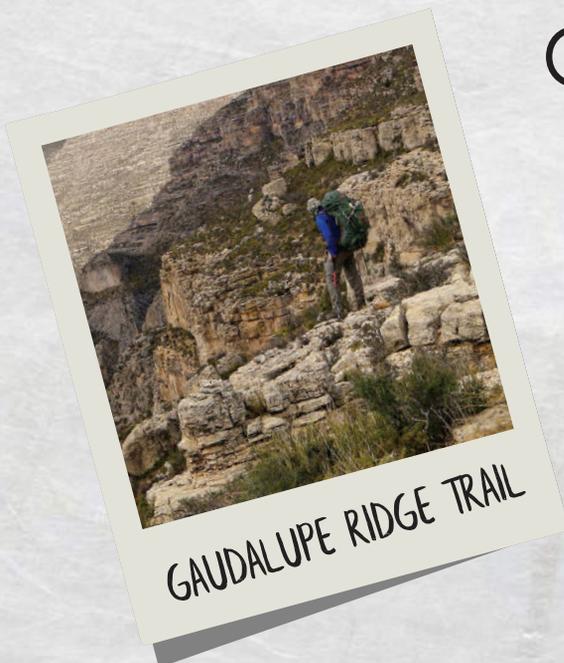
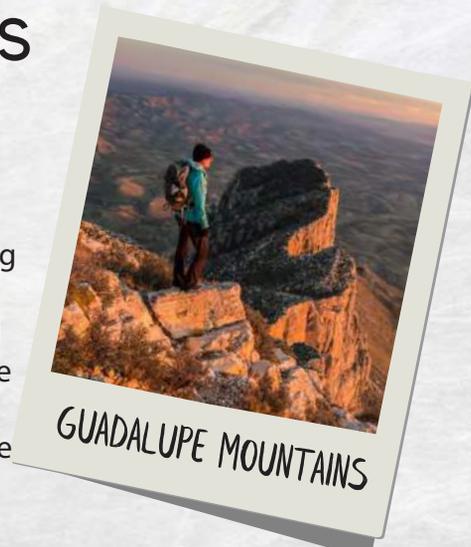
# Adventure

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## Guadalupe Mountains National Park

For over 10,000 years, the Guadalupe Mountains have witnessed a constant stream of human history, including bloody conflicts between Mescalero Apaches and Buffalo Soldiers, the passing of the Butterfield Overland Mail, the coming of ranchers and settlers, and finally, the making of a national park. Today, the history is preserved at the Frijole and Williams Ranches, and at the ruins of the Pinery Station.

Learn about the park's colorful history, study its unique fossils, and take a close look at its native plants and numerous animal inhabitants. Other activities, such as attending a ranger program, taking a hike, or visiting the stage ruins, may substitute for an activity in the workbook.



## Guadalupe Ridge Trail

The Guadalupe Ridge Trail (GRT) is a designated National Recreation Trail and at 100 miles (161 km) long, provides hikers and backpackers with a true wilderness experience in the Chihuahuan Desert and Guadalupe Mountains. The GRT begins atop the highest point in Texas, Guadalupe Peak, located in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, winds through the Lincoln National Forest and Bureau of Land Management property, and ends at Carlsbad Caverns National Park's eastern boundary in White's City, New Mexico.

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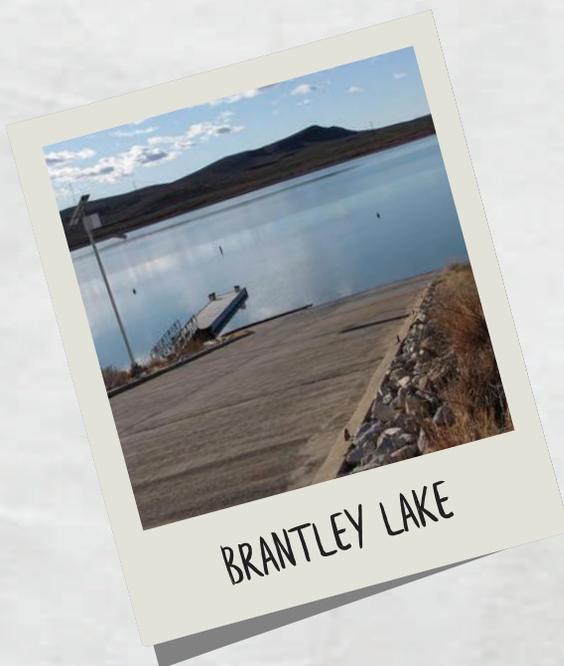
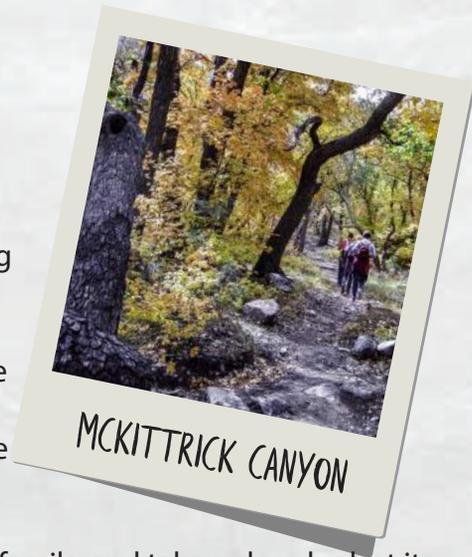
# Adventure

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## McKittrick Canyon

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## Brantley Lake State Park

By day, Brantley Lake State Park is a popular spot for boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing. At night, however, the focus turns to the skies, where stunning sunsets and a canopy of stars take your breath away. Located less than 20 miles from Carlsbad, this southernmost lake in New Mexico is a great spot for hiking, bird watching, picnicking and camping.

[emnr.state.nm.us/spd/brantleylakestatepark.html](http://emnr.state.nm.us/spd/brantleylakestatepark.html)  
575-457-2384

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# Adventure

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## Sitting Bull Falls

The Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area is a rare gem in the hot desert, this oasis offers cool pools of water and the awesome Sitting Bull Falls. Day-use area only. Pavilions, picnic tables, water, and restrooms provided. Access to many trails can be found from this site. From US285 north of Carlsbad, turn west onto NM137.

Continue on NM137 for about 20 miles until you find County Road 409. Turn right on this road and continue. The Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Site is at the end of this road.

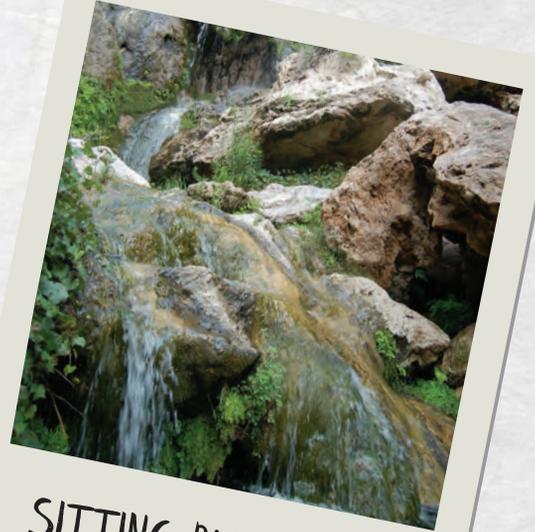
Daytime Use Fee:

\$5 per vehicle, up to ten people

\$10 per vehicle, 10+ people

Free entry with Senior/Golden Age/Access/ America the Beautiful

[recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)



SITTING BULL FALLS



SITTING BULL FALLS



SITTING BULL FALLS

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## Cottonwood Day Use Area

This developed portion of the Black River Recreation Management Area is located south of Whites City in the area of Washington Ranch and Rattlesnake Springs. A paved trail leads visitors down a short path to a wildlife viewing deck along the river's edge. The area, well known as a diverse bird habitat, offers picnic facilities, a vault toilet, and three primitive hiking trails. All are rated easy.

Dam Trail - The trailhead is located on the west side of the parking area and follows a two-track road to a small concrete dam on the Black River. This 1.5 mile round trip takes about 1 – 1 1/4 hours.



COTTONWOOD @BLACK RIVER

## Hackberry Lake OHV Area

Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) has two areas designated for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use: Alkali Lake, east of Illinois Camp Road and Hackberry Lake OHV Areas off of Shugart Road (Hwy 222). Each area provides opportunity for diverse recreation experiences. Alkali Lake OHV site has trails consisting of sand,

limestone hills, and draws, giving the rider a variety of skill testing opportunities. Hackberry Lake has two distinct environments – a large, open sand dune complex and an extensive trail area. The 132-acre dune area provides the OHV rider with 30-40 foot red sand dunes on which to test their skills. Just a short distance from the dunes is the trail area where the Carlsbad Desert 100 Race is held each year. This Hackberry Lake OHV site has nearly 100 miles of trails through sandy desert terrain and rocky, rolling hills. Both Hackberry sites allow free overnight camping and are developed with sheltered picnic areas, a vault toilet and large, graveled parking lots.



HACKBERRY SAND DUNES

[blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad\\_Field\\_Office.html](http://blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad_Field_Office.html) 575-234-5972

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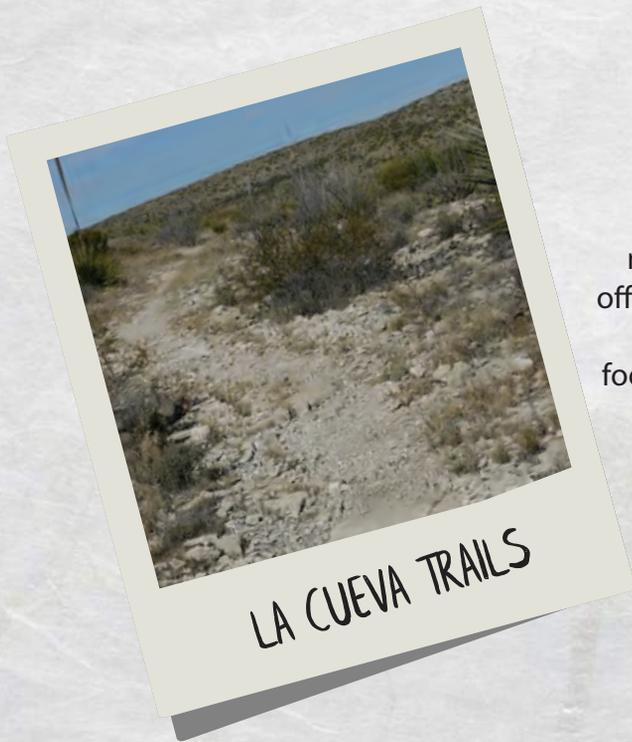
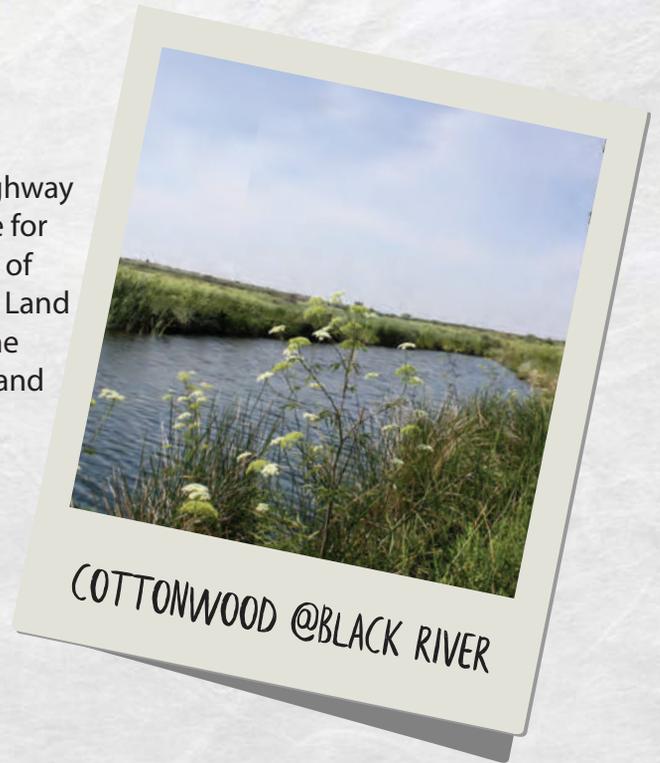
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# Adventure

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## Bureau of Land Management

Hiking, Biking, Wildlife Viewing, Byways and Off Highway Vehicle Use. The Carlsbad Field Office is responsible for the management of about 2.2 million surface acres of public lands in and around Carlsbad. The Bureau of Land Management's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



## La Cueva Trails

Mountain bikers, hikers and trail runners will enjoy 12.5 miles of fun desert terrain single track trails, located just off the south end of Standpipe Road. Trail difficulty ranges from easy to moderate in rolling terrain in limestone foothills. Trail signs are minimal, so be sure to bring a map of the trails available at:

[blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/carlsbad.html](http://blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/carlsbad.html).

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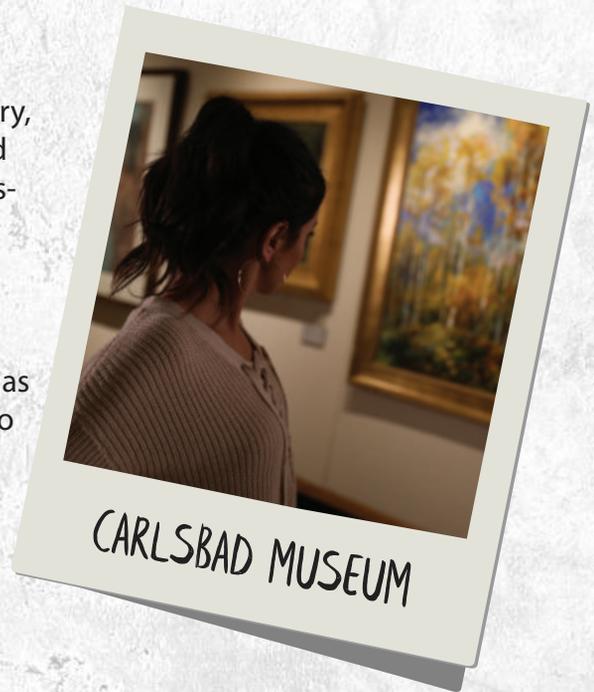
# Culture

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## Carlsbad Museum

With exhibits devoted to early Native American pottery, textiles and artifacts as well as paintings by acclaimed New Mexico artists of the early 20th century, the Carlsbad Museum has long been considered the jewel of Carlsbad. Opened in 1931, it's the oldest municipal museum in New Mexico, with permanent exhibits devoted to local, regional and Southwest history. The museum also hosts special exhibits and events, and has a gift shop full of jewelry, art posters, books relating to the Southwest, and more.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm;  
free admission  
[cityofcarlsbadnm.com/museum.cfm](http://cityofcarlsbadnm.com/museum.cfm)  
575-887-0276



## Halagueno Arts Park

With winding paths, refreshing fountains and gorgeous artwork to enjoy, the Halagueno Arts Park is a beautiful respite area, or the perfect venue for your next arts or cultural event. With two performance stages, the park welcomes patrons to stage concerts or other performance events.

Located at 101 S Halagueno  
575-887-1191



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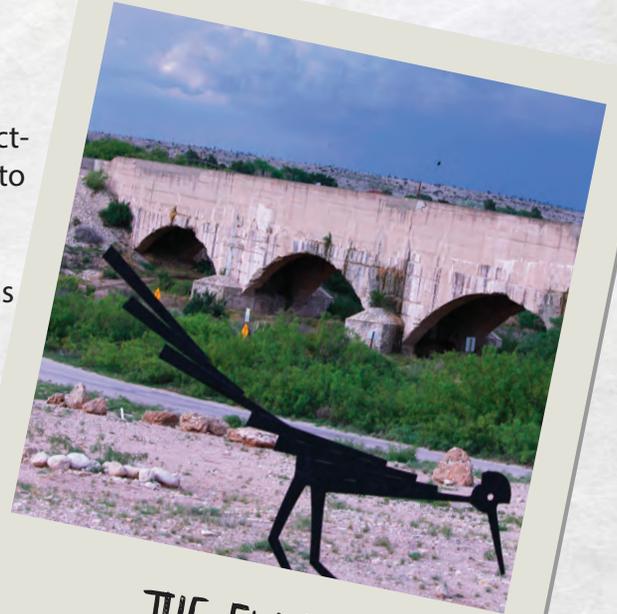
# Culture

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## Flume

The Pecos River Flume is an aqueduct over the Pecos River in Carlsbad, New Mexico. It was originally constructed of wood in 1890 as part of the Southern Main Canal to carry irrigation water to dry areas from Lake Avalon. Pecos River-originated water flows through the flume, which once led "Ripley's Believe It or Not" to feature it as "the world's only river that crosses itself."

The Pecos River Flume is located off Callaway Drive on Westridge Drive. It is about one block northeast of U.S. Highway 285.



THE FLUME

## Heritage Park

Located on Callaway Drive on the south side of the Pecos River, this historical park contains the first homestead built in the County of Eddy, The Eddy House. There is a covered picnic shelter where an annual event is held honoring the pioneer families of Carlsbad and surrounding areas.



HERITAGE PARK

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# Culture

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## Veterans Park

The Veterans Memorial Park Committee was established late 2009 by Carlsbad city ordinance. The responsibility of the Committee is to plan, design, and build a memorial park for all Carlsbad veterans who have honorably served.

Up on the crest of the hill north of the walkway, major monuments are standing above ground. The first monument installed commemorates the Vietnam Veterans from Carlsbad. We have 12 veterans from Carlsbad KIA in Vietnam; their names are on the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC. The monument is a 4' square of black granite on a base. The DOD information on the Virtual Wall website as well as the photo of the veteran is laser etched onto the black granite stone. This is a stunning monument for our veterans.

We also have a large polished black granite monument honoring Bataan Veterans. 135 Eddy County Veterans were on Bataan. A granite stone etched with the 135 names will be installed in front of the Bataan Monument, September 2013.

Two sculptures of Korea War Soldiers on patrol grace the area between the Bataan (WWII) and Vietnam War monuments forming a chronological line of defenders of our nation.

An arc of War Monuments backed by an arc of Service Flags flying above the War Monuments stand majestically to the east of the Bataan monument.

Out front and center of the monuments is a M42 "Duster" up on a 4' pedestal, a centerpiece of the Park. Many Carlsbad Army National Guard Soldiers trained and served on the Duster.



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# Sports

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## Lake Carlsbad Municipal Golf Course

When you're looking to tee off, Carlsbad has you covered. The Lake Carlsbad Municipal Golf Course hosts a nine-hole par three course along the Pecos River and a regulation 18-hole course in the foothills. Enjoy twilight play for discounted green fees. Lake Carlsbad Municipal Golf Course also features a driving range, putting green and pro shop.

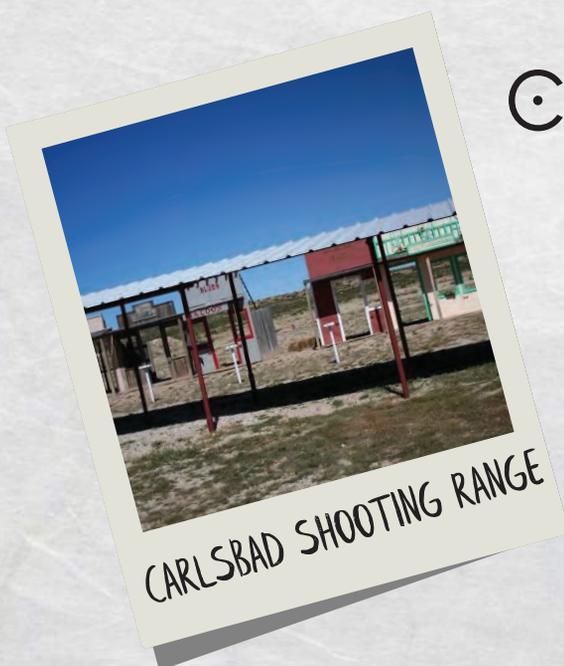
lakecarlsbadgolfcourse.com  
Call for tee times: 575-885-5444



## Carlsbad Shooting Range

Carlsbad Shooting range is a multipurpose range. There is a skeet/trap, pistol, hunter pistol, cowboy action, long range rifle and metal silhouette ranges. They even have a known distance and 3D archery ranges. There is no cost for use of the range.

314 N Happy Valley Rd, Carlsbad, NM 88220  
Open 7am - 8pm



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# Sports

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## Bob Forrest Youth Sports Complex

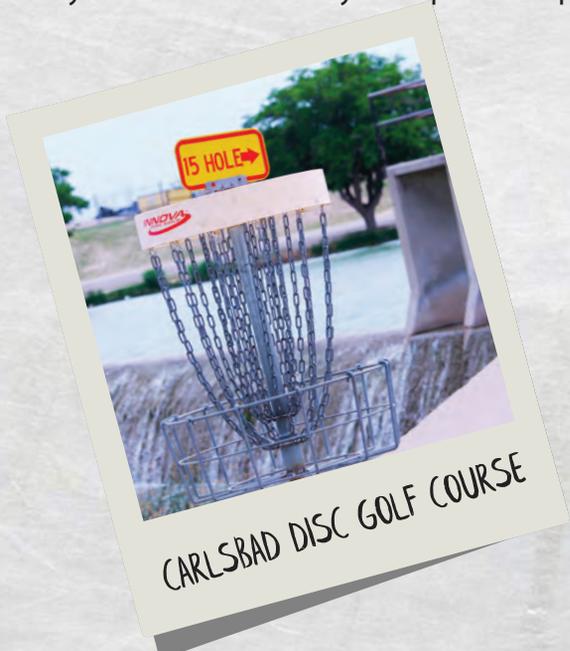
The Sports Complex located at 3001 W. Lea Street is arguably the finest in New Mexico. The vision of this initiative was to design and construct a “state of the art” sports complex for the youth of Carlsbad. The centrally located complex provides a safe, secure facility, housing softball, baseball, soccer and football fields, which greatly compliments the community’s strong support and participation in organized youth sports. These fields are utilized year round for youth recreation league play, tournaments and other special events. Each area is equipped with large concession facilities and restrooms. Central parking accommodates multiple, simultaneous events.

3213 W. Lea, Carlsbad NM 88220  
575-887-1191  
[Cityofcarlsbadnm.com/youthsportscomplex.cfm](http://Cityofcarlsbadnm.com/youthsportscomplex.cfm)



## Carlsbad Disc Golf Course

The 18-hole Carlsbad Disc Golf Course winds through some of Carlsbad’s most beautiful park area, including the Bataan Recreation Area and MLK Jr. Park. The course, established in 2009, features concrete pads and DISCcatcher holes. The course plays along both sides of the railroad track near Lower Tansil Dam of the Pecos River and includes one shot over the water. Each tee includes a recreational and an advanced path; several public bathrooms are located within the course. The course’s first tee is located right off of East Lea Street, just to the northwest of Lower Tansil Dam.



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# Sports

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## La Cueva Trails

For over 10,000 years, the Guadalupe Mountains have witnessed a constant stream of human history, including bloody conflicts between Mescalero Apaches and Buffalo Soldiers, the passing of the Butterfield Overland Mail, the coming of ranchers and settlers, and finally, the making of a national park. Today, the history is preserved at the Frijole and Williams Ranches, and at the ruins of the Pinery Station.

Learn about the park's colorful history, study its unique fossils, and take a close look at its native plants and numerous animal inhabitants. Other activities, such as attending a ranger program, taking a hike, or visiting the stage ruins, may substitute for an activity in the workbook.



## Riverwalk Recreational Center

The Riverwalk Recreation Center is one of Carlsbad's most inviting family recreational facilities. The facility is three (3) stories of Drug Free fun and exercise!

Activities include:  
(1st Floor)

Pool Tables, Big Screen Television  
Foosball, Ping-Pong, Half-Court Basketball  
Racquetball Courts, Fitness

(3rd Floor)  
Full Court Basketball

(Outdoor Facilities)  
Skate Park  
Hockey Rink



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# Sports

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## Tennis Courts

(at the Pecos River)



## Pickleball Courts

(at the Pecos River)

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# Eat

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Blue House Bakery & Cafe

Domino's Pizza

Dragon China Buffet

The Flume at Stevens Inn

Guadalupe Mountain Brewing Company

IHOP

Java Nicks Coffeehouse

Joe Brews

McAlister's Deli

Miltons Brewing

Pizza Inn

Red Chimney

Rosy's Mexican Restaraunt

Simplky Snowies

Thalma's Wangs and Thangs

Thirsty's

Trinity Hotel and Restaraunt

Wendy's

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# Stay

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Best Western Plus  
2601 Patrick St.  
575-637-5104

Candlewood Suites  
3711 San Jose Blvd.  
575-941-3711  
candlewoodsuites.com

Carlsbad Inn  
2019 S. Canal St.  
575-887-1171

Caverns Motel of Carlsbad  
844 S. Canal St.  
575-887-6522

Comfort Inn & Suites  
2600 W. Pierce St.  
575-689-8222

Continental Inn  
3820 National Parks Hwy.  
575-887-0341  
choicehotels.com

Days Inn  
3910 National Parks Hwy.  
575-887-7800

Econolodge  
3706 National Parks Hwy.  
575-887-2861  
econolodge.com

Economy Inn  
1612 S. Canal St.  
575-885-4914

El Rey Motel  
3515 National Parks Hwy.  
575-887-5331

Executive  
Suites & Hotel  
601 S. Canal St.  
575-885-8500

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
By Marriott  
2525 S. Canal St.  
575-887-8000  
marriott.com/fairfield.com

Fiddler's Inn B&B  
705 N. Canyon St.  
575-725-8665  
fiddlersinnbb.com

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# Stay

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AOK RV Park  
2700 E. Greene St.  
1-877-625-6626  
aok-rv.com

Custom Touch Village  
4219 Boyd Dr.  
575-361-5022  
customtouchvillage.com

Southwest RV Parks  
908 N. Main  
308 E. Orchard Lane  
575-361-1783

Brantley Lake  
State Park  
12 Miles North of Carlsbad  
US Hwy 285  
575-457-2384

Guadalupe Mountains  
National Park  
55 Miles South of Carlsbad on  
Hwy 62/180  
915-828-3251  
nps.gov/gumo

Sun West Mobile City  
4219 Boyd Drive  
575-885-1900  
sunwestmobilecity.com

Bud's Place  
900 Standpipe Rd.  
575-200-1865

J&B Homes  
3302 National Parks Hwy  
575-885-1900  
jbmob@carlsbadnm.com  
jbhomes.net

Windmill RV Park  
3624 National Parks Hwy  
575-885-6333

Camp Washington Ranch  
18 Rattlesnake Springs Rd.  
575-785-2228

North Star RV Park  
2519 Pecos Hwy  
575-361-3303  
northstar285@gmail.com

White's City RV Park  
6 Carlsbad Caverns Hwy  
White's City, NM 88268  
1-800-CAVERNS  
575-785-2291  
CarlsbadNMTrue.com

Carlsbad KOA  
15 Miles North of Carlsbad  
#2 Manthei Rd. on US Hwy 285  
Toll Free: 1-800-562-9109  
575-457-2000  
carlsbadkoa.com

Pecos River RV Park  
320 E. Greene St.  
575-887-9835

Carlsbad RV Park & Campground  
4301 National Parks Hwy  
1-888-8RV-Park  
575-885-6333  
carlsbadrvpark.com

Queen Store & Cafe  
3670 Queens Hwy  
575-981-2439  
Queenstore\_cafe@yahoo.com

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# Sports

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(3rd Floor)  
Full Court Basketball

(Outdoor Facilities)  
Skate Park  
Hockey Rink



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# Welcome to Carlsbad

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We're so glad that you've come to explore our beautiful community, which was recently selected as Expedia's No. 1 Most Scenic City in the Southwest.

Many of you are probably here to visit our world-famous Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The UNESCO World Heritage Site allows visitors to travel to a different world 754 feet underground to marvel at the breathtaking formations, painstakingly created over the eons by dripping water. Guests can make a choice between taking the elevator or the natural entrance. Please check the park's web page for information on special tours.

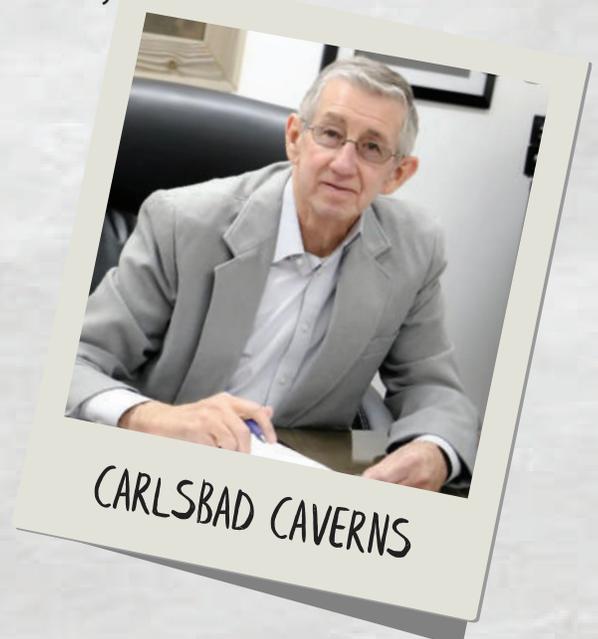
Nearby Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers a chance to hike Guadalupe Peak – the tallest mountain in Texas, and McKittrick Canyon, famous for its fall colors. Carlsbad's Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park and nearby Brantley Lake State Park make extending a visit always worthwhile. Of course, some of Eddy County's true gems are just a little more off the beaten path. The Guadalupe Mountains Scenic Byway takes you to popular Sitting Bull Falls and Dog Canyon. Six-Mile Dam, a birding and fishing hotspot, is just east of town, while Rattlesnake Springs and the Cottonwood Day Use area are among the popular destinations a few miles to the south.

Carlsbad itself is blessed to have its own Lake Carlsbad Recreation Area, an oasis for swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding and more, as well as our new water park. Miles of trails let you stroll past new pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, golf courses, disc golf courses, tennis courts and playground facilities.

We also hope you'll visit our beautiful downtown arts and culture district and check out the wonderful local shopping and dining options there. Please swing by the Carlsbad Museum and make sure to stop by our Hall of Fame exhibit, which celebrates some of Carlsbad's most prominent citizens. We love our parks in Carlsbad, and our Halagueno Arts Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Bob Forrest Youth Sports Complex, together, offer something for everyone. Several of our local restaurants, and our two microbreweries, feature regional bands and performers nightly.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Carlsbad. While we have plenty of outdoor and cultural attractions, we think you'll discover that our best attraction of all are our friendly residents. Welcome to Destination Carlsbad.

Mayor Dale Janway



# Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

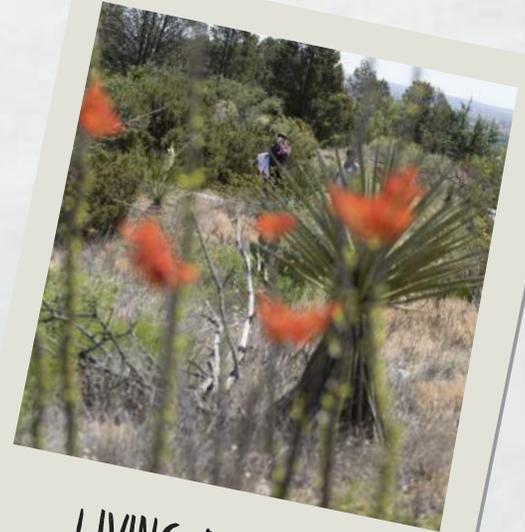
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Discover more than 40 animal species and hundreds of plants that make their home in the region's Chihuahuan Desert as you explore the 1.3-mile trail through the Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park.

The bison, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn and other animals in this 1,200-acre desert garden are all injured or orphaned, unable to survive in the wild. Park programs include Wolf Awareness, Full Moon Walks, Star Parties and more.

Stop in at the Visitor Center, which includes an extensive mineral exhibit, informational displays and a gift shop.

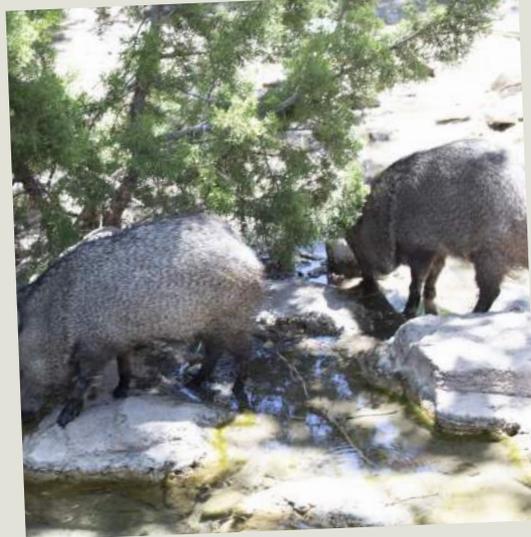
Open daily, excluding Christmas Day  
[emnr.state.nm.us/SPD/livingdesertstatepark.html](http://emnr.state.nm.us/SPD/livingdesertstatepark.html)  
575-887-5516



LIVING DESERT



LIVING DESERT



LIVING DESERT

do something different

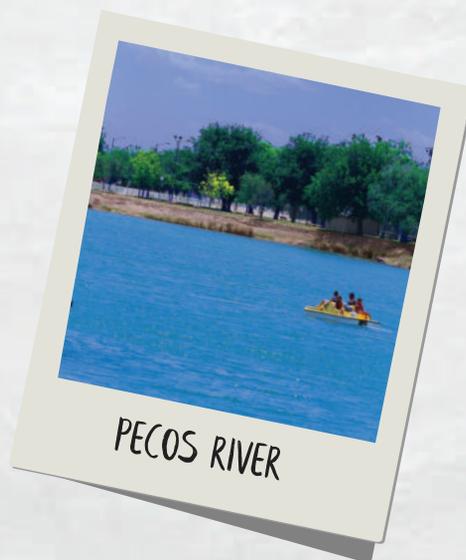
# Destination Carlsbad

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# Pecos River

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Great adventures await at the Pecos River Recreation Area, located in the heart of downtown Carlsbad. Enjoy boating, waterskiing and fishing on Lake Carlsbad, where you can rent kayaks and paddle boats or set out on a boat tour. You'll find plenty of picnic areas, parks, golf courses and a lakeside walkway that meanders for nearly five miles. The area also offers sand volleyball, pickleball, tennis and racquetball, splash pad, along with plenty of playgrounds with grills available for use. The Pecos River Recreation Area is also home to the Carlsbad Water Park. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day, and admission is just \$5!



## Playgrounds



do something different

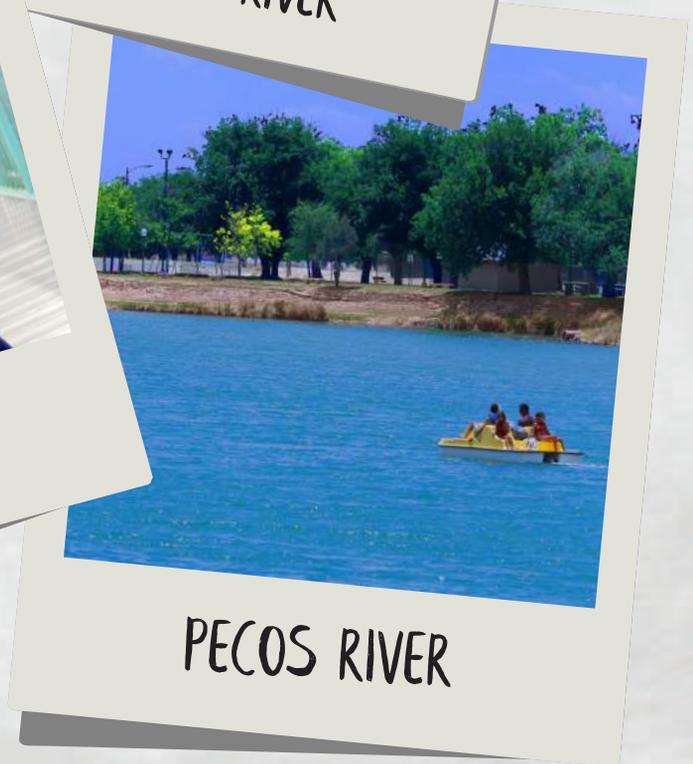
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# Pecos River

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## Water Activities



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# Pecos River

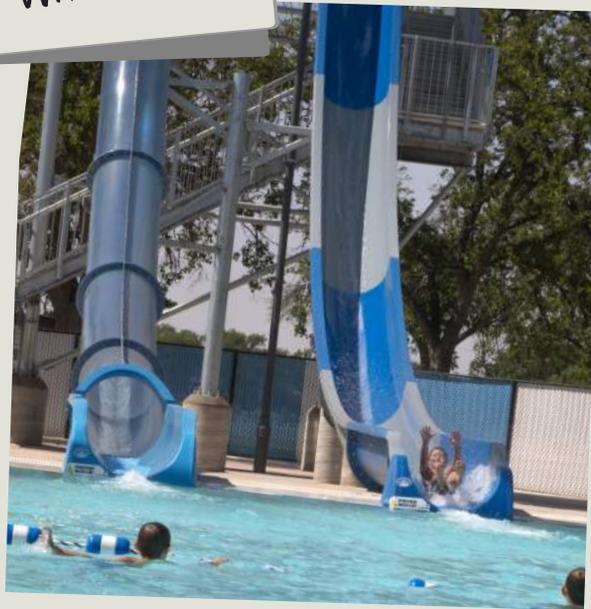
## Water Park



CARLSBAD WATER PARK



CARLSBAD WATER PARK



CARLSBAD WATER PARK

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