



Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area NPS

1 Rattlesnake Springs
Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is a lush oasis in the desert. This riparian ecosystem features a natural spring and a large grove of cottonwood trees planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It's an ideal place for bird watching year round.

Rattlesnake Springs is a day use area only, open during daylight hours. It includes a picnic area with shaded picnic tables and cooking grills, trash cans, and pit toilets. Swimming is not allowed in the spring.

This area is located 5.5 miles (8.9 km) south of White's City on Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles (4.0 km) west on County Road 418.

For more information:
575-785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave



NPS



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2 Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Only a 45 minute drive from Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the rugged landscape of Guadalupe Mountains National Park provides opportunities for hiking and backpacking, camping, and learning about the natural and cultural history of an ancient fossil reef.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is in west Texas on US 62/180, 110 miles (177 km) east of El Paso and 55 miles (89 km) southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

For fees and other information:
915-828-3251
www.nps.gov/gumo

3 Brantley Lake State Park
The southernmost lake in New Mexico is an oasis of water, wildlife, and plant life. Located 12 miles (19.3 km) north of Carlsbad, New Mexico, the state park offers boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking trails, bird watching, developed and primitive campsites, and restrooms with showers.

For fees and other information:
575-457-2384
www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd/brantleylakestatepark.html

4 Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park

Experience the many habitats of the Chihuahuan Desert on a 1.3 mile (2.1 km) self-guiding tour of the zoo. See various native fauna including the rare Mexican gray wolf, cougars, and the roadrunner, and a large collection of cacti and succulents from around the world.

For fees and other information:
575-887-5516
www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd/livingdesertstatepark.html

5 Cottonwood Day Use Area

This is part of the 1,200-acre (486 ha) Black River Recreation Area and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The day use area includes a wildlife viewing platform, swimming area, picnic tables, cooking grills, trash cans, and a pit toilet.

Travel 5.5 miles (8.9 km) south of White's City on US 62/180, then two miles west on County Road 418. Turn left at the fork in the road (opposite direction from Rattlesnake Springs), and it will be on the left shortly thereafter.

For fees and other information:
575-234-5972
www.blm.gov/visit/black-river-recreation-area



BLM

6 Lincoln National Forest: Guadalupe District

The forest encompasses 1,103,441 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Maps are available at the Guadalupe Ranger District Office located at 5203 Buena Vista Drive, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

7 Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area

This desert oasis features a series of spring-fed waterfalls that fall 150 feet (45.7 m) to a large pool of water below. There is an ADA accessible path to the falls viewing area a short distance from the parking lot, along with several hiking trails. Sheltered picnic sites with tables and grills are available, along with fresh water, trash cans, and restrooms.

Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area is 42 miles (67.6 km) west of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and can be reached via two routes. From north of Carlsbad, take Highway 137 from US 285, and then follow Forest Road 276. From south of Carlsbad, take Dark Canyon Road/County Road 408 from US 62/180, and then follow Forest Road 276.

For fees and other information:

575-885-4181

www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln/home



Area Map

