



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carlsbad Caverns National Park
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

575-785-2232 phone
575-785-2133 fax

Guadalupe Mountains National Park
400 Pine Canyon Drive
Salt Flat, TX 79847-4755

915-828-3251 phone
915-828-3269 fax

Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release

Paula Bauer 575 785-3090 Carlsbad Caverns NP

Karl Pierce 915-828-3251 x2300 Guadalupe Mountains NP

Area National Parks to Waive Fees on 17 days in 2011

Seeking fun, adventure or inspiration in 2011? Then make a New Year's resolution to visit Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks!

On 17 selected dates throughout 2011, the National Park Service will waive admission fees and encourages all Americans to make a New Year's resolution to visit a national park this year. For everyone in New Mexico and Texas, national park sites are nearby and offer a range of experiences from paved trails, wildlife viewing, wilderness and caving adventure, to a chance to connect to our nation's rich cultural heritage.

"Many people have made resolutions to spend more quality time with loved ones and to get outdoors and unplug in 2011," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "There's no better place than a national park to help keep those resolutions. Parks offer superb recreational opportunities, making them perfect places to enjoy our beautiful land, history and culture, and nurture a healthy lifestyle."

Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks will join all national parks across the country in waiving entrance fees on 17 days in 2011. The fee-free dates will be the weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 15-17), National Park Week (April 16-24), the first day of summer (June 21), National Public Lands Day (September 24), and the weekend of Veterans Day (November 11-13).

On these days, at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the six dollar entry fee for the self-guided cave tours will be waived. Fees will still be charged for ranger-guided tours. At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, entrance fees will be waived, but fees for camping will still apply.

"These two national parks, Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns, are national treasures that will inspire and fill visitors with a sense of awe and wonder," added Guadalupe Mountains National Park Superintendent John Lujan. "They are wonderful places that provide visitors with opportunities to hike, explore, watch wildlife, take photographs, or create art. We invite and hope that people will take advantage of these fee free days and come visit, explore, enjoy and be inspired."

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

At Carlsbad Caverns, visitor center and cave hours vary from winter to summer. For more information about open hours and activities at Carlsbad Caverns, call 575-785-2232 or visit www.nps.gov/cave. The visitor center at Guadalupe Mountains is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 915-828-3251 or visit www.nps.gov/gumo/ for more information about hiking, fall colors, wildlife watching and other activities.

“National park vacations are always memorable and affordable,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis. “However, in these tough economic times, we added fee free days as a way to ensure everyone has the opportunity to visit a park. I encourage everyone to sample a new park or revisit an old favorite.” Many of the 394 national park sites never charge an entrance fee, so when making your vacation plans, consider including a national park, www.nps.gov.

-NPS-

January 7, 2011