White Sands

National Park Service
Department of the Interior
White Sands National Monument

History of Commercial Filming at White Sands

Towering mountains, spectacular white dunes, crystal blue skies, stunning sunsets, and magical moonlit nights—all of these unique features form the amazing landscape at White Sands National Monument. Half a million visitors from all over the world enjoy this beautiful place every year. Commercials, feature films, fashion catalogs, music videos, made-for-TV movies, and documentaries also come to White Sands to capture this scenery and beauty on film.

History of Filming

Since the early days of film on the silver screen, national parks have been popular destinations for photographers, videographers, and cinematographers. The rolling bright white sand dunes have set the scene for westerns, science fiction, and apocalyptic films. They have also provided a spectacular entourage for still photography of dawn and dusk, as well as for commercials featuring Rolls Royce, the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, Energizer Bunny, and Marlboro Man. Well known directors Steven Spielberg (*Transformers*) and Harold Ramus (*Year One*), actors Denzel Washington (*Book of Eli*) and Willem Defoe (*White Sands: The Movie*), and music performers Boyz II Men ("Water Runs Dry") and Sara Evans ("I Could Not Ask for More") have all spent time at White Sands capturing the dunes in their creative work.

Motion Pictures

Movie	Production Date	Production House
King Solomon's Mines	1950	MGM
Hang 'Em High	1968	United Artists
Scandalous John	1970	Disney
My Name is Nobody	1973	Titanus
Bite the Bullet	1974	Columbia
The Man Who Fell to Earth	1975	EMI
Convoy	1977	United Artists
Raw Courage	1983	RB Productions
Wrong Is Right	1981	Columbia
Young Guns II	1990	Morgan Creek
Lucky Luke	1991	Paloma Films
White Sands	1991	Morgan Creek
New Eden	1993	HBO
Tank Girl	1994	MGM
Mad Love	1994	Disney
Astronaut Farmer	2005	Warner Independent
Transformers	2006	Dreamworks, LLC
Afterwards	2007	Et Apres, Inc.
Transformers 2	2008	Dreamworks, LLC
Year One	2008	Sony Pictures
The Men Who Stare at Goat	2008	Staring Goats, LLC
Book of Eli	2009	Eli Productions, LLC
Stargate Universe	2009	MGM

To learn more about White Sands National Monument, visit http://www.nps.gov/whsa

Documentary Videos & Television Shows

Documentary	Production House	Date
The West Series	PBS	1993
The Desert is No Lady	Feline Films	1993
Southwest	BBC	1994
Deserts	Discovery Channel	1994
Holloman Air Force Base	Fox News	1996
Science World	TI-IN Network	1997
Understanding Cars	Discovery Channel	1997
Extreme Machines – Military Planes	Discovery Channel	2002
Einstein's Mind	N.F.B. of Canada	2002
The Elegant Universe	NOVA	2003
The Desert Speaks	University of Arizona	2003
The Great Outdoors	Seven Networks	2004
The Wild and the West	Discovery Channel	2004
World's Greatest Scenery	Media Factory	2005
Looking for America	East West Media	2005
White Sands, New Mexico	Video Time Spa	2005
Ford Focus Rally	Profiles Television	2011

Other Promotional Videos

McGruff Crime Prevention PSA	1993
Ali Mcgraw Yoga Exercise	1994
O'Neill Sportswear: *Board Brothers*	1995
Nickelodean Nick News: *Sand Surfing*	1996
MTV: "Go Ped" Motor Scooter	1998
Wild On! Wants You: E! Entertainment	2002
Olympics Gymnastics	2004
Nick @ Nite	2004
Marc Stephens Yoga Video	2005
J. David Productions "Dr. Reese's Planet"	2005
Nine Networks "Getaway"	2006

Music Videos

The Scorpions "Under the Same Sun"	1993
Pink Floyd "The End"	1994
Boyz II Men "Water Runs Dry"	1995
George Ducas "Kisses Don't Lie"	1995
Daryl Singletary "All Because of You"	1996
Puff Daddy "Best Friend"	1999
Sara Evans "I Could Not Ask for More"	2001
Martina McBride "How Far?"	2004
Mark Lonsdale "She Should Have Gone to the Moon"	2006

Car Promotions

It is estimated that approximately 90% of every make and model of cars produced in the United States have been to White Sands to photograph or film their featured cars.

A Land in Motion

Produced by Henninger Productions in 2011, *A Land in Motion,* White Sands National Monument's 17-minute orientation film, captures the brilliant beauty of the white sands through stunning cinematography and captivating storytelling. The film crew made three trips to the monument in 2010 to record the landscape in a variety of seasons. They filmed in the spring to capture the fierce winds that are common from March through May and are a key part of the dune formation story; then, in early summer, to work with researchers and understand the confluence of science and nature that has earned White Sands the nickname, "the Galapagos Islands of North America;" and finally, in late August, to film the summer monsoons to illustrate the critical role of water in this ecosystem.

Monument staff had one goal for the new orientation film: to share the beauty, wonder, awe, and scientific and cultural significance of the world's largest gypsum dunefield with visitors. Using a mix of cinematography techniques and time lapse photography, the film guides viewers through the many moods of the dunefield and highlights the profound richness of the both natural and cultural resources of the white sands.

A Land in Motion is played every 30 minutes on the hour and half hour in the monument's visitor center during business hours. The film may also be purchased in the monument's bookstore. If we have achieved our goal, this film will motivate you to get out and explore, understand, and be inspired by your national monument.

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