



National Parks Near White Sands



Have you ever needed to just get away from everything for a day or two? Would you like to hike to the top of the highest peak in Texas, or go sledding in the desert? The national parks of the greater White Sands area offer something for everyone. Within a half day's drive or less from White Sands, you can enjoy special places cared for by the National Park Service. By preserving and protecting the nature, history, and culture of America for present and future generations, the National Park Service preserves our American story. Each national park represents a special chapter in this story.

White Sands National Monument

White Sands National Monument protects the largest gypsum dunefield in the world. Many animals and plants, including cottonwood trees, call the dunes home. When you visit the park, make sure you stop at the visitor center, drive the eight-mile Dunes Drive, and most importantly, get out onto the dunes! Call the park before you plan to visit. For public safety, the park and highway may be temporarily closed during missile tests conducted by the adjacent White Sands Missile Range.

The monument is open daily from 7:00 am to one hour after sunset. The visitor center is open daily, however times change with the season. You should call ahead for hours of operation.

White Sands National Monument is located approximately thirteen miles southwest of Alamogordo, NM.

For more information:
Call 575-479-6124, ext. 236
Visit www.nps.gov/whsa

Chamizal National Memorial

Chamizal National Memorial commemorates the Chamizal Convention of 1963, which peacefully and diplomatically ended a century-long boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico. Chamizal also celebrates the culture and heritage of the U.S.-Mexico border. The memorial includes a visitor center, museum, indoor theater, outdoor amphitheater, three art galleries, and a park atmosphere great for picnicking and walking.

The memorial grounds are open from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. The visitor center, galleries, and museum hours change depending on season. You should call ahead for hours of operation.

Chamizal is located 100 miles south of White Sands.

For more information:
Call 915-532-7273
Visit www.nps.gov/cham



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Carlsbad Caverns National Park preserves a network of caves full of mystery and awe. Inside Carlsbad Cavern, the largest cave in the park, you will see features such as stalactites and stalagmites, soda straws, and cave popcorn. A bat “fly out” program is offered nightly during the summer. The park also includes hiking trails and a scenic drive through the northernmost portion of the Chihuahuan Desert.

The park is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, with extended hours during the summer. Cave tours are offered daily, call ahead for seasonal hours.

Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservations.

Carlsbad Caverns is located 187 miles southeast of White Sands.

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



Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Guadalupe Mountains National Park preserves an ancient marine fossil reef (the Permian Reef) that was formed 265 million years ago. The highest point in Texas is found within the park. The park has many animal species including black bear, peregrine falcon, and elk. In reality a wilderness park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park is best explored on foot. Popular day hikes include the Bowl, Guadalupe Peak, and McKittrick Canyon. A campground is located at Pine Springs. Interpretive programs are offered during the summer.

The park is open 24 hours a day, every

day of the year. The visitor center is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily, with extended hours in the summer. Guadalupe Mountains is located 208 miles southeast of White Sands.

For more information:
Call 915-828-3251
Visit www.nps.gov/gumo



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument preserves one of the finest examples of Mogollon culture cliff dwellings in the American Southwest. The Mogollon people lived in the area for centuries, moving into the cliffs around A.D. 1275. But only 25 years later, they left and never came back.

Hours for the trail to the cliff dwellings as well as the visitor center change depending on the season. You should call ahead for hours of operation.

Gila Cliff Dwellings is located 210 miles west of White Sands.

For more information:
Call 575-536-9461
Visit www.nps.gov/gicl



Fort Davis National Historic Site

Fort Davis National Historic Site preserves a sliver of the “old west.” The fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1854 to 1862 and again from 1867 to 1891. The soldiers stationed here fought American Indians for control of the land and also protected stagecoach travelers, emigrants, and mail coaches.

The historic site is open daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. They are closed on some major holidays. Call ahead to confirm hours of operation.

Fort Davis is located 249 miles southeast of White Sands.

For more information:
Call 432-426-3224
Visit www.nps.gov/foda

