



**THIS ONE
IS FREE!**

**5-DAY JOURNEY
NATIONAL PARKS:
TEXAS & NEW MEXICO**



PEREGRINA

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

WWW.PEREGRINA.CO



TABLE OF
CONTENTS

Summary of National Parks

Page 3

Day-by-Day Overview

Page 4

Logistics / Accommodations

Page 5

Day 1: El Paso, TX

Page 6

Day 2: Guadalupe Mountains NP

Page 7

Day 3: Carlsbad Caverns NP & White Sands NP

Page 8

Day 4: Albuquerque

Page 9

Christina's Journey

Page 10

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PARKS & HISTORIC CITIES

The border of Texas and New Mexico is as good as it gets in the United States for authentic Mexican Food, Wild West culture, and beautiful sunsets. This trip begins in El Paso, Texas and twists and turns its way to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before we begin, let's take a look at the three National Parks and two historic cities we will be visiting.

El Paso, Texas

Sitting on the border of Texas and New Mexico, this town is far from just an obscure Northern-Texas town. This once lawless town, is now a great spot to have some of the best Mexican food in the U.S., adventure out into the beautiful mountains and caverns, visit the local shops, and learn about the Tigua, a Native American reservation established in 1682.

Guadalupe Mountain National Park

Today, this hidden gem is a hiker's paradise but over 250 million years ago, it was a tropical coral reef. When the sea dried up, the earth pushed this reef upward and it resulted in the mesmerizing mountains that stand in this Texas town. This park is different than others you've visited. The majority of the park is primitive, and only a single parking lot at the Visitor's Center is as far as you can go by car. Everything else is by foot, and since this isn't one of the U.S.'s most visited parks, you'll be guaranteed a little solitude.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Crossing over into New Mexico you will find Carlsbad Caverns buried deep below the ground. Descending over 700 ft. you will journey through a series of caves that boast gorgeous stalactites and stalagmites and chandeliers. The good news is, you will only have to walk down the path into the caverns. Today, an elevator is at the bottom to bring visitor's back up to the surface. Once you get back to the top, see if you can spot the 400,000 Brazilian bats arise. Which may leave you thinking... were they hiding in the shadows of the caves WHILE we were down there? Spoiler Alert: the answer is yes!

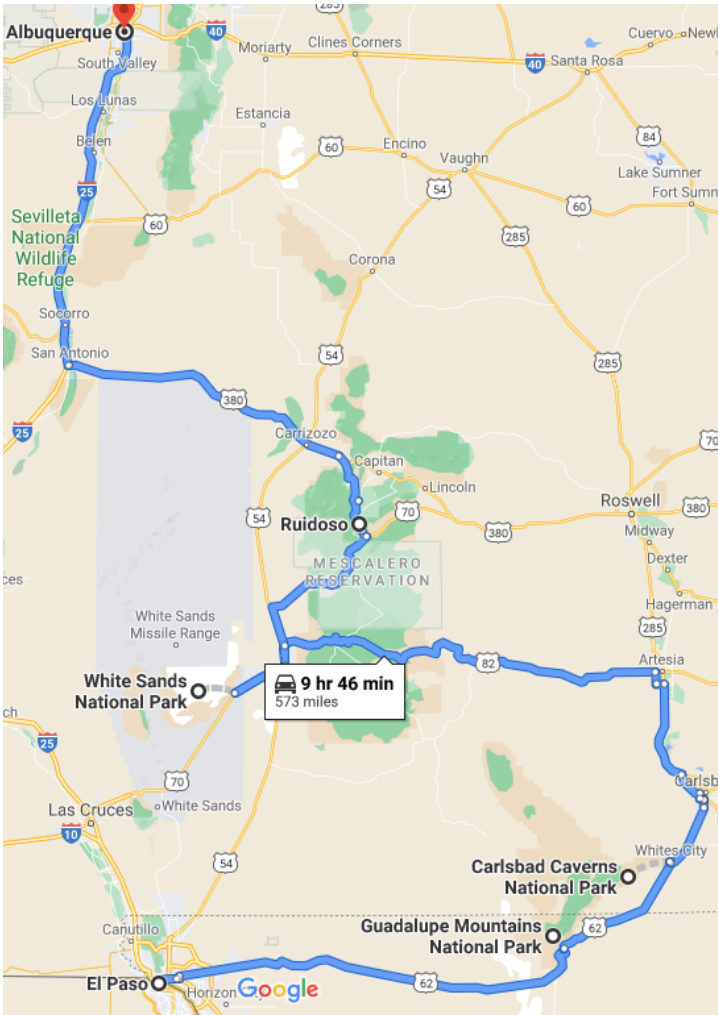
White Sands National Park

Established as a National Park in only 2019, White Sands is one of the U.S.'s newest parks, and there is no where else in the world like this. Spanning 275 miles, these gypsum sand dunes are the largest in the world and can even be seen from space. This is really rare, because this crystalized sand typically dissolves in water, but since this area is so dry, these dunes have continued to grow strong and remain. Just a few miles away sits the White Sands Missile Range, the DoD's largest open-air range for missile testing.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

New Mexico's largest city, Albuquerque sits on top of a high desert and is the culture center for Indian Puebloan history in the U.S.. Touring the historical Old Town is a fun experience as the shops and restaurants are very unique. We will also be taking a hot air balloon ride; a tradition in this New Mexico town.

OVERVIEW



Day 1: Travel / El Paso, TX

Arrive into El Paso, Texas
Explore El Paso, Texas

Day 2: Guadalupe Mountain NP

Drive to Guadalupe Mountains NP
Day hikes in Guadalupe Mountain NP
Drive to Carlsbad, New Mexico

Day 3: Carlsbad Caverns / White Sands

Day hikes in Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Drive to White Sands National Park
Sunset Hikes in White Sands National Park
Drive to Ruidoso, New Mexico

Day 4: Ruidoso, NM / Albuquerque, New Mexico

Explore Ruidoso, New Mexico
Drive to Albuquerque, New Mexico
Explore Albuquerque, New Mexico

Day 5: Travel

Explore Albuquerque, New Mexico
Fly home

El Paso, Texas

-  [Coffee Box](#)
-  [Savage Goods](#)
-  [DeadBeach Brewery](#)
-  [Kiki's Mexican Restaurant](#)
-  [Frontera Churros](#)

Ruidoso, New Mexico

-  [Sacred Grounds](#)
-  [The Village Buttery](#)
-  [Tall Pines Beer & Wine Garden](#)
-  [Cafe Rio Pizza](#)
-  [Ruidoso Sushi](#)

Carlsbad, New Mexico

-  [Blue House Bakery & Cafe](#)
-  [Carniceria San Juan](#)
-  [de Los Lagos](#)
-  [Milton's Brewing](#)
-  [Red Chimney BBQ](#)

Albuquerque, New Mexico

-  [Castle Coffee](#)
-  [Campos at Los Poblanos](#)
-  [Sidetrack Brewery](#)
-  [Boese Brothers Brewing](#)
-  [Sawmill Market](#)

Logistics



Arrival and Departure Logistics:
Arrival Airport
El Paso International Airport (ELP)
Departure Airport
Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ)

Accommodation Recommendations: (Distance to Park)

Night 1 : El Paso, Texas

- H** [The Palace Hotel Pioneer Park](#)
- H** [Stanton House Downtown](#)
- H** [Hotel Indigo El Paso Downtown](#)
- A** [Casita Baltimore](#)
- A** [Casa Mina #1 Central Rio Grand District](#)
- C** [Spur-C Desert Oasis](#)

Key:
U: Unique
C: Camping / RV
M: Motel
H: Hotel
L: Lodge
R: Resort
A: AirBnB

Night 2: Carlsbad Caverns National Park (Carlsbad, NM)

- A** [The Cozy Modern Farmhouse](#) (30 minutes)
- H** [TownePlace Suites by Marriott](#) Carlsbad (34 minutes)
- A** [The Bungalow on Blodgett](#) (38 minutes)
- C** [Pine Springs Campground](#) (Inside Guadalupe Mountains NP)

Night 3: White Sands National Park (Ruidoso, NM)

- L / R** [MCM Elegante Lodge & Resort](#)
- H** [Sitzmark Chalet Inn](#)
- A** [Luxurious 5-Star Cabin with Hot Tub](#)
- A** [Mountaintop Ruidoso Cabin w/ Panoramic Views!](#)
- A** [Vista Celestial - Amazing views & quiet seclusion](#)

Night 4: Albuquerque, NM

- U / H** [Los Poblanos Inn and Lavender Farm](#) (highly recommend)
- A** [Boho Chic Casita With Outdoor Lounge](#)
- A** [Urban Cabin Retreat](#)
- A** [Bluffside Mountain Views](#)
- H** [Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town](#)

Drive Times:

- El Paso International Airport to El Paso, TX 13 minutes
- El Paso, Texas to Guadalupe Mountains National Park 1 hour, 47 minutes
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park to Carlsbad, NM 50 minutes
- Carlsbad, NM to Carlsbad Caverns National Park 26 minutes
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park to White Sands National Park 3 hours, 20 minutes
- White Sands National Park to Ruidoso, NM 1 hour, 18 minutes
- Ruidoso, NM to Albuquerque, NM 2 hours, 48 minutes
- Albuquerque, NM to Albuquerque International Sunport 7 minutes

Day 1: El Paso

Texas

After you land in El Paso, check in to your hotel or store your luggage at your hotel. From there, we will visit a few of our favorite places in this unique and exciting border-town.

AFTERNOON



[Ristramnn Chili Company](#)

Address: 2531 NM-28, Las Cruces, NM 88005

Getting There: This farm is approx. a 1 hour drive from downtown.

Details: Ristramnn is a working and functioning chili farm, where they grow, dry and sell beautiful (and hot!) chilies. A staple in the southwest cuisine, these chilis are packed with flavor. While you're visiting, you can tour the market where chilis are hanging from the ceilings to dry. Visit the gift shop to get some goods to bring home.

[Visit Mexico and the World Famous Bar Kentucky](#)

Address: 2Av. Benito Juárez 643, Centro, 32000 Cd Juárez, Chih., Mexico

Getting There: You read that right, this bar is located just over the Rio Grand River in El Paso's sister city, Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The best way to get here is on foot, by crossing the pedestrian bridge at Paso del Norte.

Details: The World Famous Bar Kentucky gained notoriety during prohibition in the U.S in the 1920s. When the U.S. government passed the 18th Amendment to prohibit the sale of alcohol, producers in Kentucky moved their whiskey south to Mexico. After prohibition was repealed, many of these Kentucky companies moved back home. However, this bar remained. On July 4, 1944 someone poured a little tequila in with some Grand Marnier, added some lime juice and salted the rim. Just like that the Margarita was born.

Important: Please use caution and remain vigilant while crossing the border on foot. You must carry your U.S. Passport with you. Check with the U.S. Department of State on travel restrictions and warnings prior to your trip.

EVENING



[Dead Beach Brewery](#) (open Thurs - Sat.)

Address: 406 Durango St, El Paso, TX 79901

Details: We love this brewery and never miss an opportunity to take a photo in front of the lit El Paso sign. They have a ton of beer on tap, great merch and live music. The tavern also offers great food and snacks.

[El Paso Brewing Company](#)

Address: 810 Texas Ave Suite B, El Paso, TX 79901

Details: This is another great spot for good drinks and even better food. Check out both breweries and let us know which one is your favorite!

[Frontera Churros](#)

Address: 501 S Campbell St e1, El Paso, TX 79901

Details: For a late night snack, check out the creative and delicious churros at Frontera. It closes most nights at 9PM, so don't miss it!



Day 2: Guadalupe Mountains NP

Utah

Address to Pine Springs Visitor's Center: 400 Pine Canyon Dr, Salt Flat, TX 79847

MORNING

Box Coffee

Address: 401 N Mesa St, El Paso, TX 79901

Details: Before you head out to Guadalupe Mountains, make sure to stop by this trendy and popular (for good reason!) coffee joint. The people who work here are just as great as the cup of coffee you'll get for your morning drive.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Recommended Time in the Park: 6 hours

Getting to the Park

Getting to Guadalupe Mountains National Park is relatively easy. The drive from El Paso, TX is a little less than 2 hours, and it's a straight shot across US-62 E. We will begin at the Pine Spring's Visitor's Center. Then we will drive to the McKittrick Canyon Visitor's Center for a second hike. Pack a lot of water, because this is a very primitive park, and refilling water bottles could be difficult.

Inside the Park

You can either park at the Visitor's Center for the Pinery hike or drive a bit further to the parking lot at the end of Pine Canyon Dr. for the other two hikes below. This National Park does not have any other roads open to vehicles. It is a true "hiker's paradise".

The Pinery (easy)

Type: Out and back

Length: 1 mile (30 minutes)

Elevation Gain: 78 ft.

Starting Point: Pine Springs Visitor Center

Details: Located behind the Visitor's Center, this short hike will provide great views. This is a great option for those who are short on time and want a leisure walk.

SHORT
HIKES

Devil's Hall Trail (moderate)

Type: Out and back

Length: 3.6 miles (2 hours)

Elevation Gain: 577 ft.

Starting Point: Parking lot past Pine Spring's Visitor's Center

Details: The trailhead is at the Northwest tip of the parking lot. Please make sure you are hydrated and carry multiple liters of water.

Guadalupe Peak Texas Highpoint Trail (hard)

Type: Out and back

Length: 9 miles (5 hours, 45 minutes)

Elevation Gain: 1,982 ft.

Starting Point: Parking lot past Pine Spring's Visitor's Center

Details: The trailhead is at the Northwest tip of the parking lot. This trail is only meant for those who have a good fitness level. Please make sure you are hydrated and carry multiple liters of water with you.

LONG
HIKES

McKittrick Canyon to the Notch (moderate)

Type: Out and back

Length: 7.9 miles (4 hours)

Elevation Gain: 574 ft.

Starting Point: Parking lot past McKittrick Canyon Visitor's Center

Details: This is a great trail and offers really rewarding views. Make sure to stay hydrated and bring lots of water.

Day 3: Carlsbad Caverns NP & White Sands NP

New Mexico

Address to Pine Springs Visitor's Center: 727 Carlsbad Cavern Hwy, Carlsbad, NM 88220

Reservations are currently required to enter Carlsbad Caverns. Please visit [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) to book the date and time of entry that you choose. No reservations are available on-site. Some areas of the cave are wet, so we recommend wearing closed toe shoes with good traction. The temperatures inside the caves can be cool, a light jacket is recommend at all times of the year. Please pay attention to the signs posted about food and drink. Water is permitted, but no flavored drinks or food is permitted inside the caves.

Getting to the Park

Driving to the park will take about 30-45 minutes depending on the location of your accommodations. When you arrive at the entrance gate, you will be required to show your self-guided tour ticket.

Inside the Park

There is plenty of parking at the Visitor's Center. From there, the trail is a short walk away. You will have the option to either hike or take the elevator in the Caverns. We recommend taking the Natural Entrance down and the elevator back up. The Natural Entrance is approx. 1.5 miles with a very steep incline (or decline). It is the equivalent of climbing a 75 story building.

Natural Entrance Trail

Type: One-way or out and back if you hike both directions.
Length: 1.5 mile (1 hour)
Elevation Gain: 750 ft.
Starting Point: 6 minute walk to the Northeast of the Visitor's Center.
Details: These are the footsteps of some of the first explorers of the Caverns. If you can, we highly recommend taking this entrance into the caverns. Don't worry - you won't have to walk up.

Big Room Trail

Type: Loop
Length: 1.5 mile (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Elevation Gain: 70 ft.
Starting Point: At the end of the Natural Entrance Trail or at the bottom of the Elevator.
Details: Take a journey in the dark and see if you can spot stalactites hanging tight to the ceiling and stalagmites growing mighty tall from the ground. Keep your eyes peeled for the bats that like to lurk in the shadows. At the end, take the elevator back up to the top.

SHORT HIKES

Sunset at White Sands National Park

Address: 19955 US-70, Alamogordo, NM 88310
Getting There: The scenic drive from Carlsbad Caverns NP to White Sands NP will be worth the trip, including the sunset hike.
Details: When you arrive at the Visitor's Center, either rent or purchase a sled. You will most definitely want this while adventuring into the White Sand Dunes. The Visitor's Center closes around 5PM, so make sure you make it in time. Once you get your sled, follow Dunes Dr. in your car, and park at the White Sands Backcountry Trailhead.

White Sands Backcountry Trail (easy)

Type: Loop
Length: 1.8 mile (1 hour)
Elevation Gain: 6 ft.
Starting Point: At the edge of the parking lot
Details: If you feel like going a little further in, check out this quick and beautiful hike.

After you've left White Sands NP, drive to your accommodations in Ruidoso, NM (approx. 1 hour, 20 minutes)

GENERAL
INFORMATION

MORNING &
AFTERNOON

AFTERNOON &
EVENING

Day 4: Ruidoso & Albuquerque

New Mexico

MORNING &
AFTERNOON

We hope you had some time last night to enjoy a brewery or wine shop. Today, take some time to explore the old town, grab some coffee from Sacred Ground and enjoy lunch and a glass of wine at Enchanted Vine before heading to Albuquerque.

[Sacred Ground Coffee and Tea House](#)

Address: 2704 Sudderth Dr, Ruidoso, NM 88345

Details: The town of Ruidoso, NM is small and very special. Check out this cool cafe tucked away on a creek in the woods. Before you go, confirm the opening time by calling. Their hours never seem to be right on google maps.

[Enchanted Vine](#)

Address: 492 Fort Stanton Rd, Alto, NM 88312

Details: This location is the production facility for Noisy Water Winery and is a fun place to spend an early afternoon. Sit around the fire pits, listen to live music and taste some great wines... all "under the pines."

Once you're ready to leave Ruidoso, make your way to Albuquerque, NM (approx. 2 hours 30 minutes)

We hope you're staying at Los Poblanos, or somewhere equally as great close by. After you check into your accommodations, get ready for your sunset hot air balloon ride (offered seasonally). If you do this trip in the Summer, try a late afternoon sunset or even sunrise the next morning.

[Sunset Hot Air Balloon Ride](#)

Details: Follow the link above to check availability and book a flight that works best with your schedule. They will also send you all the necessary information for meeting points, arrival time etc.

Duration: These tours usually take approximately 4 hours round trip, with 45 minutes - 1 hour in flight.



[Dinner at Sawmill Market](#)

Address: 1909 Bellamah Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

Details: There are so many great kitchens under one roof here at the Sawmill Market. You will easily find something for everyone.

AFTERNOON
& EVENING

TOMORROW



[Brunch at Campo at Los Poblanos](#)

Address: 4803 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Los Ranchos De Albuquerque, NM 87107

Details: This place is fantastic! Enjoy a leisure brunch (try the LP Champagne Cocktails) before heading out to catch your flight. If you have time, take a walk among the Lavender and visit the farm shop for some great gifts to take home.



The trio of these unique National Parks in Texas and New Mexico is a hidden gem. I did this trip for New Years with my best friend and was constantly surprised and amazed by the beauty that exists in the Southwest.

The border-town culture in El Paso is so fun, and the Mexican influences that have trickled across the Rio Grand is how I will always remember this city (holy Margarita!). We spent quite a bit of time at the Chili Company, and picked up great gifts for friends and family back home. I have never witnessed the chili drying process before, so seeing them hang from the ceiling in these colorful bunches was a treat (both visually and we ate some!).

When we got up on Day 2 to head to Carlsbad, we were so excited to experience Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks. Guadalupe was a true hikers paradise. It was primitive and remote. I have been to quite a bit of National Parks, but never quite experienced a park like this before.

We did a moderate hike. I felt like we had the entire park to ourselves. It was so peaceful.



Carlsbad Caverns were remarkable. We took the natural entrance in, and were rewarded with an up-close view of history. I kept thinking of all the people who came before us to explore these caves. Make sure to bring a good camera with you, because the darkness sure makes it hard to capture the beauty you are experiencing.

My favorite part of the trip was sunset in White Sands National Park. We had the place to ourselves, which surprised us. We rented sleds and had so much fun sliding down the dunes. It was cold when we were there and not a cloud in the sky. The sunset was simply spectacular.

Heading over to Albuquerque was the perfect way to end our trip. We stayed at Los Poblanos which definitely tested the expander-zipper of my luggage. Because I bought EVERYTHING! Between touring the lavender fields and having brunch at Campo, I had the best time. I would come back just to visit this place again.

