The Chihuahuan Desert Gardens on Centennial Museum grounds display the plants of the Chihuahuan Desert and adjacent regions in the United States and Mexico. They contain over 625 different species of plants, one of the largest collections of Chihuahuan Desert flora in the world. Self-guided tour brochures in English and Spanish, and current lists of plants found in the Gardens, are available from the reception desk or from the website.

**El Paso Zoo**

4001 East Paisano Drive
(915) 581-7099
www.elpasozo.org

The 35-acre El Paso Zoo serves as a regional center for family fun, education and conservation efforts for wildlife and habitat. Currently the Zoo is home to over 220 species of animals, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates from around the world in several habitat exhibits: the South American Pavilion, Amazonian Rainforest, Desert, Birds of Prey, Forest Attraction, Asia Grasslands, Asian Endangered Species Elephant Complex and the new Africa exhibit. The Zoo offers food and beverages at the Grasslands Café.

**Franklin Mountains State Park**

Visitor Center: 1331 McKelligon Canyon Road, Park entrances on Transmountain Road and McKelligon Canyon Road, (915) 566-6441
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/franklin/

Towering above the city of El Paso is the Franklin Mountains State Park, the nation's largest state park in an urban setting. Here you can hike rugged terrain in 37 square miles of desert wilderness, scrub vegetation and open space, with 125 miles of multi-use trails that are suitable for nature lovers as well as experienced hikers. Trails are available to experienced hikers. The 4-minute ride soars above a canyon 240 ft. deep. From Ranger Peak, 5,300 ft. above sea level, visitors can enjoy a view of 1,300 square miles, encompassing three states and two nations. Telescopes and interpretive markers describing the major points of interest are available at the viewing area.

**Hueco Tanks State Historic Site**

6900 Hueco Tanks Road #1
(915) 857-1135
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/hueco_tanks/

World renowned for rock climbing, Hueco Tanks State Historic Site is also known for its many Indian rock art paintings and unique geology. Photograph tours are offered, as well as hiking, picnicking, climbing and camping opportunities. To preserve its priceless historical and cultural heritage, the Park admits limited numbers of visitors. Please call in advance to arrange reservations.

**Keystone Heritage Park**

4200 Doniphan Drive, (915) 584-0563
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Keystone Heritage Park comprises an Archaic period archaeological site, wetlands, and a desert botanical garden. The 4.83-acre site is one of the oldest villages in the United States. The wetlands are home to many birds, and over 400 species have been spotted there on their seasonal migratory routes. The botanical garden features a variety of native plants, including a pavilion and a replica of an Archaic period brush hut. The newest component, the Chihuahuan Desert Interpretation, is a work in progress that will feature a chance for visitors to stroll the 900-mile length of desert over a 17-acre recreation of the indigenous plant life.

**Rio Bosque Wetlands Park**

Visitor Center: Pan American Drive & Riverside Canal
(915) 747-8663
http://research.utep.edu/Default.aspx?
PageContetID=888&tabid=18875

Rio Bosque is a 372-acre city park, managed by the Center for Environmental Resources Management of the University of Texas at El Paso, which began restoration efforts at the park in 1988. In the fall and winter, water flows through the park along the route of the river before it was confined within levees in the 1930s. Many animals and birds have returned to the area as the restoration proceeds, and over 200 species of birds have been sighted.

**Wyler Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park**

Wyler Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park
1700 McKinley Ave., (915) 586-6622
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/wyler_aerial_tram/

The Wyler Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park features an aerial cable car situated on nearly 200 acres on the east side of the rugged Franklin Mountains. Swiss-made gondolas travel on a 2,500 ft. long, 339 in. diameter steel cable. The 4-minute ride soars above a canyon 240 ft. deep. From Ranger Peak, 5,300 ft. above sea level, visitors can enjoy a view of 1,300 square miles, encompassing three states and two nations. There are accessible ramps and paved grounds leading into an observation deck with pay-per-view high power telescopes to enhance the experience. Challenging hikes off the deck onto ridge-top trails are available to experienced hikers.
El Paso, Texas
Boasting more than 300 sunny days a year, El Paso is a great place for year-round outdoor activities. Located in the fascinating and biodiverse northern Chihuahuan Desert, the largest desert in North America, El Paso offers visitors many ways to enjoy the sunshine with an excellent array of outdoor recreational opportunities. The region is home to hundreds of species of plants, birds, reptiles, and mammals, many of them unique to the area, and also features a great diversity of landscapes, ranging from riverine grasslands to open desert to rugged mountains. Visit the El Paso Zoo or one of the city’s parks and nature trails to explore the natural beauty of this unique region.

El Paso Municipal Rose Garden
11
Located on the south eastern side of the Franklin Mountains and surrounded by desert canyon walls, McKelligon Canyon is a popular destination known for rock climbing, hiking, running, walking and biking. Visitors have a variety of rock climbing routes to choose from and the symmetric terrain is filled with caves and cracks. All hiking trails including the Ron Coleman Trail begin at the end of McKelligon Canyon and are open year round. Please note, McKelligon Canyon is part of the Franklin Mountains State Park and therefore is subject to fees and restrictions from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

McKelligon Canyon
13
The wrought-iron fenced garden has wide walkways with handicap accessibility, raised beds, a waterfall, and trees and shrubs. Several new rose varieties are planted each year, as well as spectacular canyons, sheer cliffs along mountain trails, sand dunes, lava fields, caverns and a host of other natural attractions. Hikers, runners, cyclists, backpackers, campers and adventurers are sure to find something to enjoy in this magnificent corner of North America where the United States and Mexico come together. This brochure provides a brief introduction to some of the natural sites and opportunities for outdoor activities in and around El Paso. Additional information is available at www.outdoorpasso.com.

Pat O’Rourke Memorial Trail
12
The 4.4 mile trail (round trip) boasts a thoroughfare with native landscaping and an astonishing view of the Franklin Mountains. Located on El Paso’s Westside of town, the trail is a popular place for walking, running, and recreational cycling. This quintessential trail offers signage, parking and fun for the whole family!

Ascarate Park
14
Encompassing 448 acres, Ascarate Park is the largest public-use recreational park in El Paso County. Occupying 18 acres, Ascarate Lake allows visitors to take in the sights via canoe and pedal boat rentals. The park allows for a variety of recreational activities including picnicking, playgrounds, an 18-hole golf course and more.

Annual Outdoor Events
- Franklin Mountains Poppies Celebration (March)
- El Paso Marathon (March)
- El Paso Marathon (March)
- Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta (September)
- Chihuahuan Desert Desert Fiesta (September)
- Elephant Festival (September)
- Elephant Festival (September)
- Celebration of Our Mountains (October)
- Celebration of Our Mountains (October)
- Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair (September)
- Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair (September)
- Luminaria Walk (December)
- Luminaria Walk (December)
- Movies in the Canyon (August-September)
- Movies in the Canyon (August-September)
- Jazz on the Rocks (May-September)
- Jazz on the Rocks (May-September)
- Movie Night (August-September)
- Movie Night (August-September)
- Viva El Paso (May-August)
- Viva El Paso (May-August)
- BugFest (August)
- BugFest (August)
- FrogFest (August)
- FrogFest (August)
- Mardi Gras in the Canyon (August)
- Mardi Gras in the Canyon (August)
- Fiesta (August)
- Fiesta (August)
- Scenic Drive (June-August)
- Scenic Drive (June-August)
- Hueco Tanks State Historic Site (September)
- Hueco Tanks State Historic Site (September)
- Viva El Paso (May-August)
- Viva El Paso (May-August)
- Sunrise (May-September)
- Sunrise (May-September)
- Teddy Roosevelt Marathon (September)
- Teddy Roosevelt Marathon (September)
- National Park (August-September)
- National Park (August-September)
- Viva El Paso (May-August)
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