

VZPOMÍNKY (15)

Guadeloupe Mountains (N. P.)

Guadeloupské pohoří se nachází se západě amerického Texasu u města Dell City. Park je součástí pohoří Guadeloupe Mountains s nejvyšší horou Texasu Guadeloupe Peak.

Místo vyniká:

- skalními útesy s řadou fosilií,
- atraktivními turistickými trasami,
- výstupem na horu Guadeloupe Peak,
- návštěvou kaňon Mc Kittrick.

Národním parkem od roku 1972.

Guadalupe Mountains

Official Map and Guide



Magnificent desolation: A view of the Guadalupe Mountains. VICTOR J. KUPCHAK

Guadalupe Mountains National Park preserves the rugged spirit and remote wilderness of the American West. Here, in the ancient Guadalupe Mountains that tower so majestically into the Texas sky, a visitor can delight in grand views, diverse landscapes, and small pleasures.



Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Texas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Guadalupe Mountains are part of one of the finest examples of an ancient marine fossil reef on Earth. Geologists visit from around the world to marvel at this extraordinary natural phenomenon,

which formed about 250 million years ago. During this time a vast tropical ocean covered portions of Texas and New Mexico. Over millions of years, calcareous sponges, algae, and other lime-secreting marine organisms, along

with lime precipitated from the seawater, built up to form the 400-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped Capitan Reef.

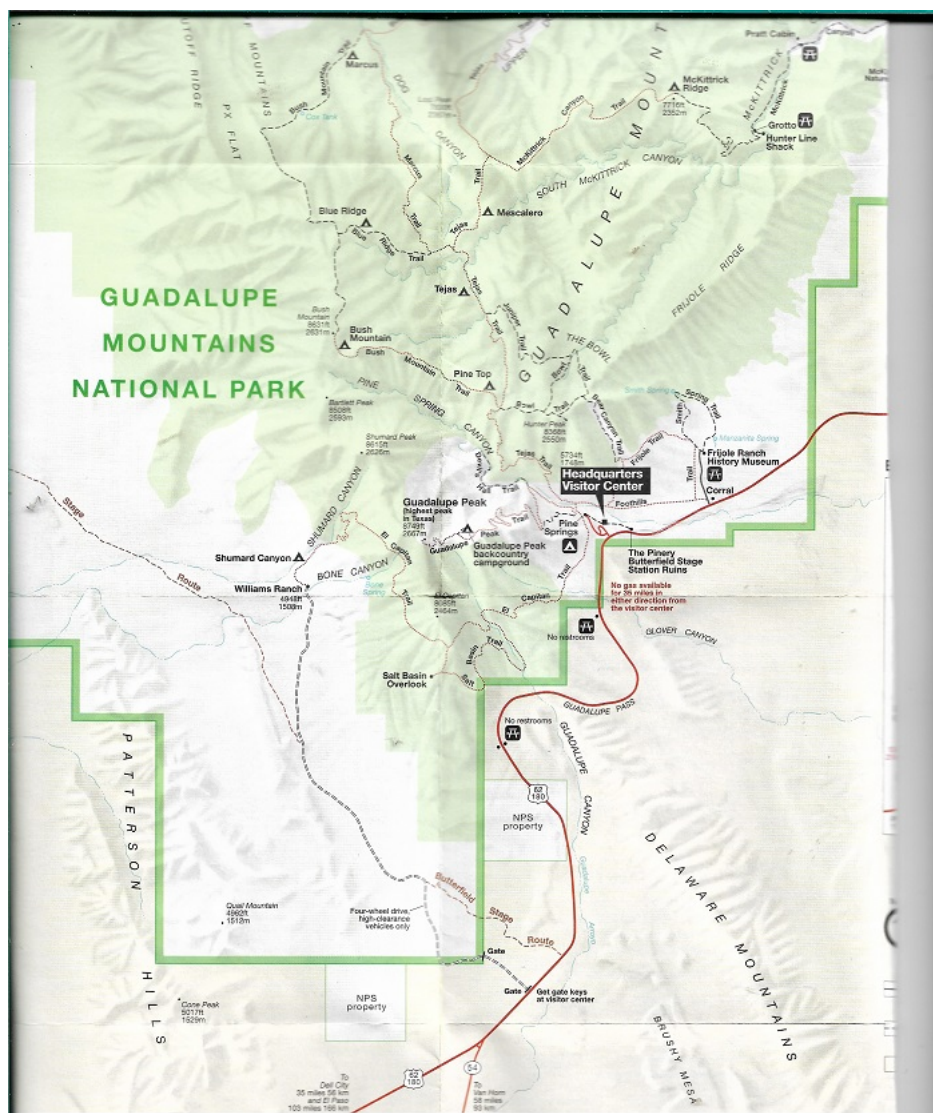
Eventually the sea evaporated. As the reef subsided, it was buried in a thick blanket of sediments

and mineral salts. The reef was entombed for millions of years until a mountain-building uplift exposed part of it. This ancient reef complex now towers above the Texas desert in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Other parts of the reef are exposed in the Apache Mountains and the Glass Mountains.

Brachiopod fossil of the Guadalupe Mountains
Smithsonian Institution





backcountry. Cooking is prohibited. Pets are prohibited.

Available year-round on a fee basis at Pine Springs and Guadalupe Peak. Both have water, fully equipped picnic areas, and sites for tents (no dump station). Fee: \$5.00.

Guadalupe Peak Learn about the history of the park and the



reached directly off U.S. 62/190, or by paved trail from the Headquarters Visitor Center; the 0.7-mile round-trip trail is wheelchair accessible.

Williams Ranch 4-wheel-Drive Trip The 7-mile road to historic Williams Ranch is open only to 4-wheel-drive vehicles. The road partially follows the historic Butterfield route and leads to a remote ranch site in the shadow of the mountain's western escarpment. To visit, borrow a key to the

steep and rough; the ascent may be as much as 3,000 feet. Desert and canyon trails are less strenuous. Pets and bikes are prohibited on trails or in the backcountry.

McKittrick Canyon Hike this trail for its variety of plant and animal life, the grandeur of its landscape, and the peace of its shady creek. Historic Pratt Cabin lies 2.3 miles into the canyon. Stay on the trail and out of the fragile stream. The gate to the backcountry is at the Pratt Cabin.

Guadalupe Peoples

Nde (Mescalero Apaches), westward-bound pioneers, explorers, stagecoach drivers, U.S. Army troops, ranchers, and conservationists are all part of the colorful history of the Guadalupe Mountains. Until the mid-1800s these remote highlands were the exclusive domain of Nde, who hunted and camped here. Later came explorers and pioneers, who welcomed the imposing sight of the Guadalupe peaks rising boldly out of the Texas desert not only as an important landmark but also for the water and shelter the mountains provided. But cultures conflicted.



Nde (Mescalero Apache)
Museum of New Mexico

The ruins of the Pinery stagecoach station are a reminder of this service.

In the years that followed, ranches developed around the Guadalupe. Wallace Pratt, a petroleum geologist charmed by the



Williams Ranch Getty Images

and the Nde did not welcome the intrusion of new people into their domain. In 1849 the U.S. Army began a campaign against them that was to last three decades. The Guadalupe became the only sanctuary from the soldiers and a staging ground for their own attacks. By 1880 the last of the Nde had been driven out of the Guadalupe.

Amidst this conflict, Butterfield stagecoaches began carrying mail through the Guadalupe on the nation's first trans-continental mail route.

The Butterfield Stage
Denver Public Library Western History Dept.



The Desert

The bloom of a cactus flower . . . the thunder-and-light show of a summer storm . . . the howl of a coyote at dusk . . . a lizard basking in the warm morning sun . . .

Surrounding the Guadalupe Mountains are the sparsely populated plains of the Chihuahuan Desert. This vast and realm extends south for hundreds of miles into Mexico. The Chihuahuan Desert receives between 10 and 20 inches of rain a year; in the summer, temperatures rise to 90°F and above. Although it can look barren at first glance, the desert is full of life. Many of



Caret-cup cactus Tom Rago

the Chihuahuan Desert's most common plants and animals are found in the park. Agaves, prickly pear cacti, walking-stick chollas, yuccas, and sotol are abundant, and lizards, snakes, coyotes, and mule deer are seen frequently. Adaptation to this demanding environment is the key to survival.

Like many other reptiles, the collared lizard escapes the midday heat by concentrating most of its daily activities in the cooler morning and evening hours. Snakes and many mammals move about more frequently at night.



The Canyons

Fall colors brighten McKittrick Canyon. Maple, walnut, ash, oak, and chokecherry trees grow here and in other shaded canyons of the park where moisture is plentiful.



The reflection of tall trees rugged walls of rock woodland . . . a mule deer the edge of a patch of wet autumn leaves rustling

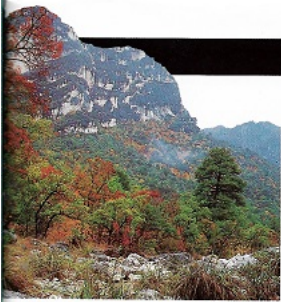


On a hike through the twisting gorge of McKittrick Canyon you can see the transition from desert to forest.

The deep, sheer-sided McKittrick Canyon shelters an impressive variety of plants and animals. This variety of life that is part desert and part highland forest. I willows, ferns, Texas madrone, junipers, and ponderosa pines, grey foxes, mule deer

Moderate temperatures and wind provided by the canyon community, McKittrick stream is bordered by bigtooth maple. Mule deer October and early November brilliant reds, yellows, and reminiscent of more northern exudes a lushness that





The Highlands

The solitude of a mountaintop pine-fir forest . . .
the bugle of a bull elk in autumn . . . sweeping
views from rocky 8,000-foot-high peaks . . .
tracks that tell of a mountain lion's passing . . .

In the mountain highcountry of the Guadalupe thrives a dense forest of ponderosa pine, southwestern white pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen. This conifer forest is a relict of about 15,000 years ago when the prevailing climate throughout Texas was cooler and moister. As the climate warmed, fragments of this forest survived in the higher elevations of mountains such as the Guadalupe. The forest is especially lush in the Bowl, a 2-mile-wide depression atop the Guadalupe Mountains. Throughout this highland wilderness roam elk, mule deer, raccoons, wild turkeys, vultures, mountain lions, black bears, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons.



Elk range throughout the highcountry and down into the canyons and lower slopes of the Guadalupe. An estimated 50 to 70 elk inhabit the park. The herd grew from groups of animals brought from Wyoming and South Dakota in the 1920s. The original population, which probably was never very large, was hunted to extinction in the early 1900s.

Mountain Lion
Robert P. Carr

is in a sparkling pool . . .
beltering a streamside
deer browsing quietly at
pods . . . brightly colored
in the wind . . .

myons of the Guadalupe
ressive diversity of plants
of life is displayed in its
trick Canyon, which has
at beautiful spot in Texas.
the desert below and the
t, part canyon woodland,
trickly pear cacti, agaves,
ines, Texas walnuts, alliga-
sa pines all grow in the
ckrabbits, coyotes, porcu-
r, mountain lions, and elk.

Among the trees found in
the canyons is the rare
and picturesque Texas
madrone. It is easily iden-
tified by its smooth red-
dish bark and evergreen
leaves. Clusters of white
flowers appear in early
spring. In autumn, brilliant
red berry-like fruit ripen,
providing food for birds.

Robert and Linda McInnes



d protection from the sun
e high cliffs nurture this
ek Canyon's unique, spring-
grey oak, velvet ash, and
drink from its pools. In late
ber the foliage turns to
branges, creating a scene
rn woods. McKittrick Can-
is rare in this part of Texas.

Mule deer
Robert P. Carr



El Capitan
John Bowers

