



# Visitors Guide

10 AMAZING WAYS  
TO ENJOY THE  
OUTDOORS IN  
EL PASO

EL PASO'S  
ENCHANTING  
HISTORY & CULTURE

NATIONALLY  
RECOGNIZED  
RESTAURANTS

[VISITELPASO.COM](http://VISITELPASO.COM)



*We hope you enjoy our guide.  
If you would like to speak to us directly,  
we would love to hear from you.*

**915-534-0600**  
**[info@destinationelpaso.com](mailto:info@destinationelpaso.com)**



**El Paso Streetcar**  
[sunmetro.net/streetcar](http://sunmetro.net/streetcar)  
915-212-3333



# Bienvenidos **AMIGOS**

 **Visit EL PASO**

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A woman in a blue dress sits on a rocky ledge, looking out over a valley. The scene is framed by large, white, stylized numbers '10' that take up most of the upper half of the image. The background shows a vast, hilly landscape under a blue sky with some clouds.

# 10

## AMAZING WAYS TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS *in* **EL PASO**

Ascend to one of the highest peaks in Texas, step inside ancient caves, admire amazing rock formations and cruise the desert in your own off-road vehicle. With nearly 300 days of sunshine a year, more than 100 miles of hiking trails and all the stark mountainous beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, El Paso is a fantastic place to revel in the outdoors. Located in far West Texas in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, the “Sun City” is a vibrant place full of exciting things to see and do. Discover a few of the many ways you can get outdoors in El Paso below.



## Enjoy the View from the Aztec Caves

1

Nestled on the rugged western slope of the Franklin Mountains, the Aztec Caves are both a living piece of history and a spectacular reward at the end of a short hike. Start your journey at the trailhead of the Aztec Cave Trail in Franklin Mountains State Park, a less than 3/4-mile hike that ascends more than 400 feet past lechuguillas, ocotillos, yuccas and prickly pear cactuses. If you have hiking poles, they'll be a big help here. Reach the end of the path and step inside the caves and you'll notice walls stained by smoke, marks of those who came before. Savor some time in the shade as you take in the spectacular view of miles of Chihuahuan Desert terrain, a view that has delighted countless generations through the ages. Contact the park at **915-444-9100** for more information or to secure your pass.

## Climb to the Peak of the Franklin Mountains

2

Standing at 7,192 feet above sea level, the imposing North Franklin Mountain is almost always in view no matter where you are in El Paso. Not only can you look upon it in admiration, you can also climb to the very top. To get there, travel up Mundy's Gap Trail on the eastern slopes of the mountain until you reach the North Franklin Mountain Peak Trail. Follow the path along the mountain's eastern slope, twisting and turning over red volcanic rocks along the way. Follow the trail all the way to the summit that affords a nearly 360-degree view of El Paso, as well as New Mexico and the Mexico border. On a clear day, you may even see New Mexico's Organ Mountains. All told, this hike is nearly 13 miles round trip, so make sure to bring plenty of water and a sturdy pair of shoes.

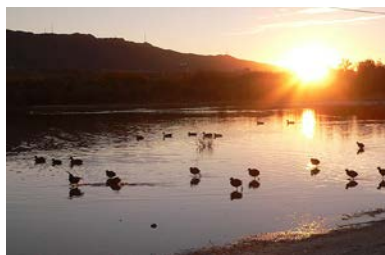
## Take Some Truly Stunning Photos

3 Towering mountains and cactus-filled valleys bathed in abundant sunlight. Desert cottontail rabbits, collared lizards, and more than 100 species of birds. Blooming poppies that blanket the landscape in vibrant yellow hues. El Paso is a wonderland for photographers, whether you're the type who always travels with your DSLR camera or you want some eye-catching shots you can share on social media. Explore the varied terrain of the Franklin Mountains on Mundy's Gap Trail, which starts in the rolling eastern foothills and climbs nearly 1,700 feet. Snap a few shots of the mountains along the way, then take a nice panoramic photo of Mexico, New Mexico, and El Paso from the peak of Mundy's Gap. For photos of the previously mentioned poppies, come to El Paso in the spring. Although you can see them throughout the Franklin Mountains, the eastern slopes have the highest concentration of blooms. No matter where you go in El Paso, always bring your camera.



## Discover Ancient Native American Pictographs

4 Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site is perhaps best known as one of the best bouldering destinations in the country. Yet this area, less than 40 miles outside of El Paso, has always been a popular place to be. People of all kinds have lived and taken shelter in Hueco Tanks for more than 10,000 years, and evidence of their presence persists to this very day. Hundreds of intriguing pictographs depicting animals, deities, masks and more are easily seen, particularly if you're on a guided tour led by a knowledgeable park ranger. Yet you can find some of them on your own as you wander through the park's self-guided area. Walk in the footsteps of the native people that once called this place home and you'll find it easy to imagine what life was like here in a different era. More information on Hueco Tanks can be found online or by **calling 915-857-1135**.





5

## Go Off Road

Looking for your next off-road adventure? Get behind the wheel of a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) with Rent a UTV Off-Road Adventures and explore El Paso's Red Sands, an area that was once under an ancient sea 34 million years ago. Rent a UTV has 1.5 and 2.5 hour guided excursions through an array of scenic desert landscapes. Choose a one, two, or four seat UTV and learn how to handle your vehicle in the staging area before setting out on your adventure. Revel in the feeling of pure exhilaration as you bound over sand dunes and along rugged trails, all while taking in the sheer beauty of the Red Sands. Lose track of time and your ride will be over before you know it. After all, time flies when you're having fun. Book your off-road adventure at [rentautv.com](http://rentautv.com) or **915-855-4288**.

## Hike, Bike & Jog Along the Rio Grande

On one side, you see the trickling waters of the mighty Rio Grande River. In the other direction, the majestic peaks of the Franklin Mountains decorate the horizon. If you're looking for a better backdrop for a long run or a bike ride, you'll have a hard time finding anything more arresting than El Paso's Rio Grande Riverpark Trail System. Extending for 10.5 miles along the Rio Grande all the way to the New Mexico border in nearby Anthony, the trail is just the place to go whether you're training for a 5K or a marathon.

6

As remarkable as this trail system is, it's not your only option in town. When it's finished, the Paso Del Norte Trail will be an 8.5-mile concrete path that takes you to Ascarate Park and just a stone's throw away from the U.S.-Mexico border. Not only do both trails offer plenty of space to run or bike, they're also a great place to be on your own without having to wander too far from town. For information on trail access **contact 915-544-7636**.



## Explore Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Settled along the Texas-Mexico border just southeast of El Paso, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is a 372-acre park home to riparian wetlands that once flourished along the Rio Grande. As you explore the 4.5 miles of trails that meander through the verdant park, you may encounter swallowtail and monarch butterflies, hares and rabbits, bobcats, turtles and more.



7

If you like to go bird watching, this is the spot for you. More than 240 species have been recorded here, with common nesters including burrowing owls, greater roadrunners, blue grosbeaks and painted buntings. Each season has something of its own to offer, with winter seeing an abundance of raptors and all the majestic yellow blooms of the annual Forb Bittersweet in the spring. Visit at any time and you'll always see something new. For additional information **contact 915-747-8663**.

## Enjoy Some First-Rate Fishing

Hook your bait, cast your fishing line, and savor the soothing glow of the West Texas morning sun as it rises over the still waters of a tranquil lake. This may not sound like something you could do in the desert, but it's exactly what you'll find at El Paso's Ascarate Park. Home to a 48-acre lake stocked with largemouth and black bass, blue gill, carp, crappie, shad, catfish in the summer, and trout in the winter, the park is one of the southwest's top fishing destinations.

8

Although the lake is great for anglers, there's more to do here. Rent a kayak or pedal boat and paddle the day away or bring your golf clubs and play a round on either the 18-hole, par-72 or nine-hole executive golf courses. Want to take it easy? Lay out a picnic and relax as you savor the cool winter and spring sunshine. If your schedule allows, take a moment to reflect and visit the Healing Garden Memorial that honors the victims of the August 3, 2019 mass shooting. Located about six miles from downtown El Paso, Ascarate Park is an easy-to-reach desert oasis.

Additional information can be found at **[www.epcountyparks.com](http://www.epcountyparks.com)** or **915-771-2380**.





## Keystone Heritage Park

9

Keystone Heritage Park and the El Paso Desert Botanical Gardens is an archeological site, an archaic wetland and a botanical garden. The 52-acre park in El Paso's Upper Valley offers an interpretive experience, providing walking paths for views of the wetlands where a substantial number of bird species can be sighted, as well as a guided tour of the archeological site. In addition, the park hosts the El Paso Desert Botanical Gardens, an artful landscape of native plants and architecture encompassing a healing garden composed of species with medicinal attributes, a culinary garden, cactus and succulent garden, and a butterfly garden. Visit them online [www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com) or **915-584-0563**.

## Scenic Drive

10

Known as the best view of the city accessible by car, Scenic Drive wows visitors every time. The winding road skirts around the east side of the mountain offering up some of the most stunning views of the city. The road is cut along the edge of the mountains and traverses the southern tip of the Franklins. One side of the winding road is lined by beautiful stately homes while the other features fabulous views of El Paso and Juarez. Get the most out of your drive by pulling over at the small park and scenic overlook. The road is closed off to motorists every Sunday offering visitors a safe haven for walking, running, biking, and just about anything not motorized. To access Scenic drive from west El Paso, turn onto Rim Rd. from Mesa. To access from east El Paso, take Alabama and turn onto Richmond Ave.

Download the Official  
Visit El Paso App





Old El Paso County Jail Museum  
915-830-2563

EL PASO's

# Enchanting History AND Culture

Long before El Paso was El Paso, our desert home was known by a different name. Spanish explorers first lent the name El Paso del Norte to the combined areas we now identify individually as El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.

From that former name, to the influence of pachuco's zoot-suiting around "El Chuco," or to the familiar landscape and infamous heat rooting the idea of the Sun City—which ever way you choose to reference it, the name, the land and the sites all possess a piece of history waiting to be discovered.

Some of the most well-known facts that are shared among El Pasoans revolve around the alligators that once roamed around San Jacinto Plaza. Perhaps you're aware of Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa's visits to the tip of Texas or how the very first high-rise Hilton Hotel, now known as The Plaza, was first built here. But, did you know that in 1902 there were 86 saloons in El Paso and one of the most notable, The Coney Island Saloon, was where Mannen Clements, cousin of gun-slinger, John Wesley Hardin, was fatally shot in one of the last Old-West-style gunfights.

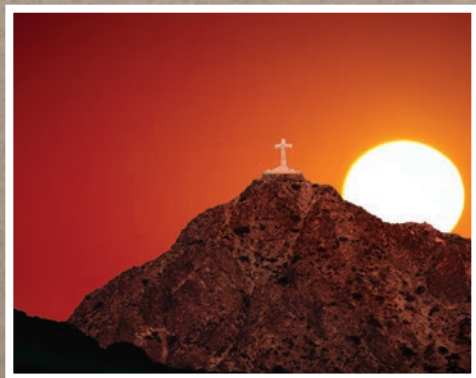
Wherever you find yourself in El Paso, you are living some part of the past. Take a step back in time with us as we travel to some popular places that make El Paso's history special.



## CONCORDIA CEMETERY

Lying just below I-10's "Spaghetti Bowl" is one of El Paso's most historic cemeteries. Dating back to the 1800s, Concordia Cemetery, in central El Paso, is famous for being the resting place of notorious gunslinger, John Wesley Hardin, and El Paso's first mayor, Benjamin S. Dowell. The cemetery was originally a ranch owned by Hugh Stephenson and his wife, Juana Maria Ascarte, who was the first person buried in the cemetery. One of El Paso's oldest Catholic churches, San José de Concordia el Alto, also stood in the middle of the grounds. So, explore the 52-acre land and snap a few photos of the historic tombstones as well as the sites like the Buffalo Solider Memorial.

[concordiacemetery.org](http://concordiacemetery.org)  
915-842-8200



## MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

Do you ever find it hard to imagine what it was like to live during a certain period? Find yourself thrown back in time when you visit El Paso's only historic house museum. The Magoffin Home housed pioneer, politician and civic leader Joseph Magoffin and his family for more than 100 years. The home comprises 19 rooms made of adobe brick. As you venture throughout the home, admire the milled, wood beam ceilings said to have traveled from the Sacramento Mountains in New Mexico to El Paso by wagon. The home offers insights to home and design styles, furnishings, art and décor from the 1890s and 1930s. Take a tour to learn more about this historic home that once hosted one of El Paso's most prominent families.

[thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov)  
915-533-5147

## MOUNT CRISTO REY

Mount Cristo Rey is more than an identifier to those in El Paso. The 29-foot-tall statue of Christ is a symbol of faith and peace for our border town. Located in Sunland Park, New Mexico, the twisting path welcomes hikers from all areas of the southwest. Sculpted with concrete, steel and Cordovan cream limestone, creator Urbici Soler spent hours on end molding the statue for those to admire. Take notice of the palms of Christ facing downward in a gesture of blessing. Upon arriving to the top, visitors can take in stunning views of two nations and three states.

[mtcristorey.com](http://mtcristorey.com)

## EL PASO MISSION TRAIL

The El Paso Mission Trail guides you to three beautiful historic missions, allowing visitors to take a look into the past and travel the path that Juan de Oñate once traveled. The Ysleta Mission is the first and oldest mission established, not only in El Paso but in the state of Texas. Currently, it is the second oldest continually active parish in the United States. The Socorro Mission, completed in 1691, is the second oldest mission in Texas. Make time to visit Casa Ortiz on the trail as well. Constructed in the 1700s, it is a prime example of New Spain's frontier architecture. Lastly, there is the San Elizario Presidio and Chapel established by the Spanish in 1789.

[visitelpasomissiontrail.com](http://visitelpasomissiontrail.com)  
915-851-9997

## UNION DEPOT

Attracting thousands of travelers daily, the El Paso Union Passenger Station, or the Union Depot, was a place of hustle and bustle connecting the world for the past 100 years. Standing in central El Paso with its red brick and green spire, the Union Depot opened its doors in 1906. The neo-classical design came from architect Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago and contractor Frank Powers of El Paso. During this busy time, the depot established one of the city's finer restaurants named the Harvey House, which was located on the second floor of the depot. Among its contributions to the growth in El Paso, the Union Depot was also the first international train station, and it helped with trade between the United States and Mexico.

[amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com)

Explore more at  
[visitelpaso.com](http://visitelpaso.com)



# Museums

## **Chamizal National Memorial**

nps.gov/cham  
915-532-7273



The Chamizal National Memorial, a National Park Service site, commemorates the 1963 Chamizal Treaty that peacefully ended a century-long boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico, caused by changes in the course of the Rio Grande. It includes a museum, theater, art galleries, walking trails, and picnic areas, and hosts several festivals and special events during the year.

## **El Paso Museum of Archaeology**

archaeology.elpasotexas.gov  
915-212-0421

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology tells the story of the first inhabitants of the El Paso area, the greater Southwest, and northern Mexico. Dioramas and exhibits reveal American Indian lives from the Paleoindians of the last Ice Age to their modern descendants.

## **El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center**

elpasoholocaustmuseum.org  
915-351-0048

The permanent exhibit tells the historical narrative of the Holocaust, beginning with Pre-World War II Jewish Life, then the rise of the Third Reich, the mass deportations to ghettos and concentration camps, the resistance and rescue efforts, and the liberation of the camps by Allied Forces in 1945.

## **Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Cultural Center & Museum**

ysletadelsurpueblo.org  
915-859-7700

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Cultural Center and Museum celebrates over 300 years of tribal history in El Paso. Attractions include a museum, gift shops, bread making and social dance performances.



## **El Paso Museum of History**

[epmuseumofhistory.org](http://epmuseumofhistory.org)

915-212-0320

The El Paso Museum of History is the home of North America's first and only interactive TouchCity Digital Wall. Located in the museum's welcome pavilion, DIGIE, allows visitors to interact with an immersive, moving 3-D collage of El Paso's history & contemporary life. The museum displays the rich history of the border region through traveling and collaborative exhibits and permanent galleries with authentic artifacts and hands-on components.

## **Centennial Museum & Chihuahuan Desert Gardens**

[museum.utep.edu](http://museum.utep.edu)

915-747-5565

Permanent exhibits focus on the Chihuahuan Desert region. Temporary exhibits depict the life and culture of the border area, and the Americas, and also highlight UTEP research and other programs. Extensive gardens display native plants in a variety of settings.

## **El Paso Museum of Art**

[epma.art](http://epma.art)

915-212-3000

The El Paso Museum of Art houses a permanent collection of more than 7,000 works of art, including the Samuel H. Kress Collection of 13th-18th century European art; American art from the 19th to the 21st century; and Mexican colonial art and retablos from the southwestern United States and Mexico.



## **International Museum of Art**

[internationalmuseumofart.org](http://internationalmuseumofart.org)

915-543-6747

Permanent exhibits of western and regional art, including many local artists, and a collection of African art and artifacts. Another highlight is a Mexican Revolution gallery, featuring a replica of Pancho Villa's death mask and a reconstruction of a Revolution-era Mexican home.

## **National Border Patrol Museum & Memorial Library**

[borderpatrolmuseum.com](http://borderpatrolmuseum.com)

915-759-6060

Exhibits cover the history of the US Border Patrol, from the old West, Prohibition, and WWII, up to current operations, through displays of weapons, paintings, documents, equipment, photos, artifacts, and "hands-on" vehicles.

## **Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at The University of Texas at El Paso**

[utep.edu/rubin](http://utep.edu/rubin)

915-747-6151

The Rubin Center houses three galleries devoted to contemporary art by recognized artists from around the globe. The Rubin Center brings recent and compelling ideas in the visual arts to El Paso and the surrounding region.

*New*





# Chihuahuan Desert Exhibit

## at the El Paso Zoo

*By Rick LoBello, Education Curator*

Recognized globally as a hotspot for wildlife conservation, the Chihuahuan Desert surrounding El Paso is one of the most biologically diverse eco-regions in North America. Thanks to a City of El Paso bond election, the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens has a new \$16M Chihuahuan Desert exhibit that features the flora and fauna of this amazing region. The exhibit includes an arroyo and a flash flood feature that helps people better understand an important natural force helping to shape the desert landscape, plus common plants and animals including a number of endangered species.

The Lobo Vista classroom with viewing windows looks into Mexican wolf and Thick-billed Parrot exhibits. Both species are critically endangered and facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. There are also new exhibits for prairie dogs, desert birds, bolson tortoises, jaguars and peninsular pronghorns. An abandoned Ranch House exhibit is home to smaller



**El Paso Zoo**  
elpasozoo.org  
915-212-0966



animals of the desert that have moved inside. Just outside the house you can see coatimundis. Coatis are very rare in the northern Chihuahuan Desert and are the only carnivore in the Western Hemisphere that lives in groups made up of four to 25 individuals.

A mountain exhibit surrounded by a grassland zone is home to big cats like the jaguar and mountain lion. Natural landscapes featuring common plants of Chihuahuan Desert habitats help to tell the story of how wildlife and people have adapted to this arid region. Habitat zones include creosote, grasslands, pinyon-juniper woodlands and Madrean woodland.



The Chihuahuan Desert covers the surface of our planet for nearly 400,000 square miles. During the Pleistocene, not long after the last ice age, the climate changed dramatically in this part of North America. The ensuing aridity made way for a desert landscape.

According to the World Wildlife Fund this magnificent desert landscape is threatened by population growth, poor water management, agricultural expansion, invasive species, illegal wildlife trade and a lack of understanding about the desert's ecological importance. The greatest challenge we have today in protecting the Chihuahuan Desert is finding ways to encourage

people who live in the region to value the desert as an important part of their quality of life and as a natural resource important to their own survival. The new Chihuahuan Desert exhibit at the El Paso Zoo helps people of all ages connect with this natural resource with great opportunities to observe desert wildlife and plant species up close with appealing interpretive graphics.

In planning a trip to the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens and in staying connected with zoo news and more, you can both visit and follow the Zoo's interesting Conservation Education blog at [elpasozoo.home.blog](http://elpasozoo.home.blog).

# Extrem

## **iFLY**

[iflyworld.com/elpaso](http://iflyworld.com/elpaso)  
915-626-4359

iFLY offers the thrill of flying in the comfort of an indoor facility—a fun experience without the risk! They inspire the youth in the community with a flight school that includes One-on-one coaching for ages 4-16. Instructors are knowledgeable and helpful and there are a variety of programs available. Make your next celebration a fun one and let iFly host.

## **Relaxe Axe Throwing Range**

[relaxetx.com](http://relaxetx.com)  
915-500-6136

Relaxe offers a unique setting to relieve stress or engage in some friendly competition and have a good time. Participate in the axe-throwing craze and launch axes at marked targets. Safety is priority and the staff will show you proper form. Walk-ins are welcome or you can make a reservation for your next event.



# Attractions



## Rent a UTV Off-Road Adventures

rentautv.com  
915-855-4288

### Rent A UTV Off-Road Adventures

Here in El Paso, there's another way you can get behind the wheel. Cruise through the scenic landscapes of the Chihuahuan Desert on your very own Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) at Rent a UTV Off-Road Adventures. Strap in and push your foot on the gas as much of El Paso's Red Sands area is open for you to discover. Drive along trails and over sand dunes on the 25-mile Desert Quail trail as you admire the stark beauty of the mountains in the distance. At the end of your 1.5-hour adventure, you'll probably be raring to go off road again.

## Miller Horse Farm

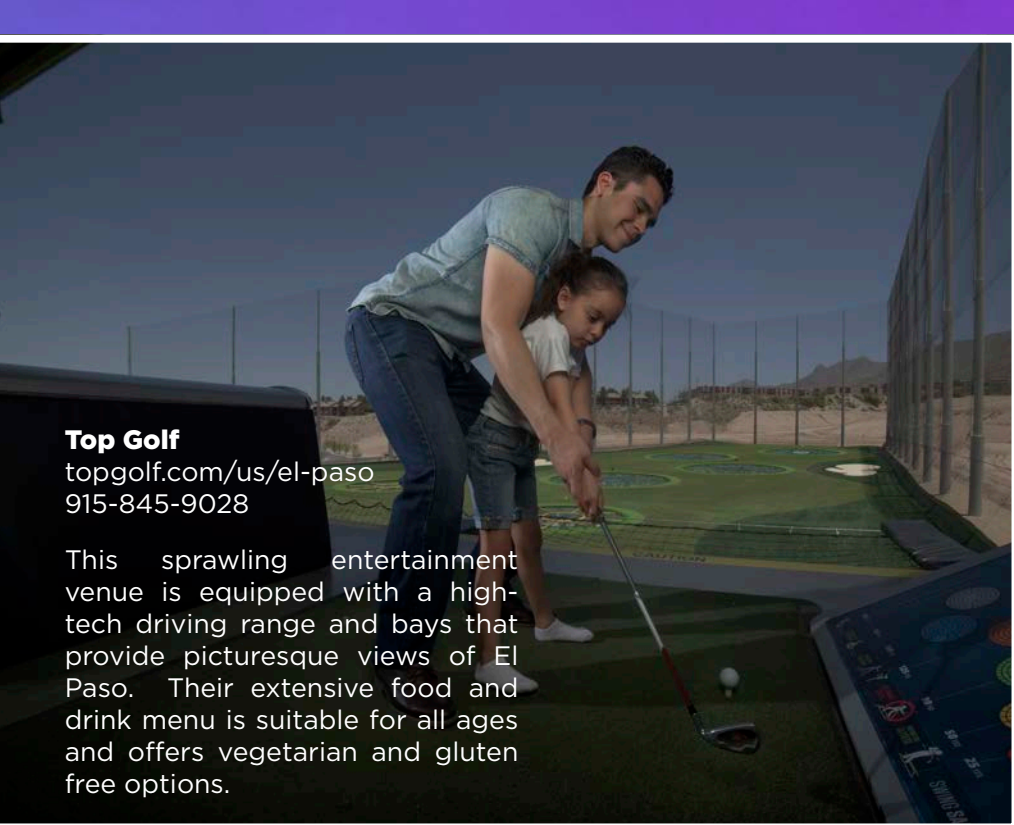
millerhorsefarm.com  
575-618-7577

Miller Horse Farm offers horseback riding for children and adults alike as well as Ride and Wine Tours to the nearby winery. Ride along the beautiful farm roads along green fields planted with southern New Mexico crops through the wide-open desert. Regardless of your riding experience, there is a horseback adventure awaiting you at Miller Horse Farm that will fulfill your riding expectations. Visit their website for all the details.

## Roaring Rage

roaringrage.com  
915-843-8854

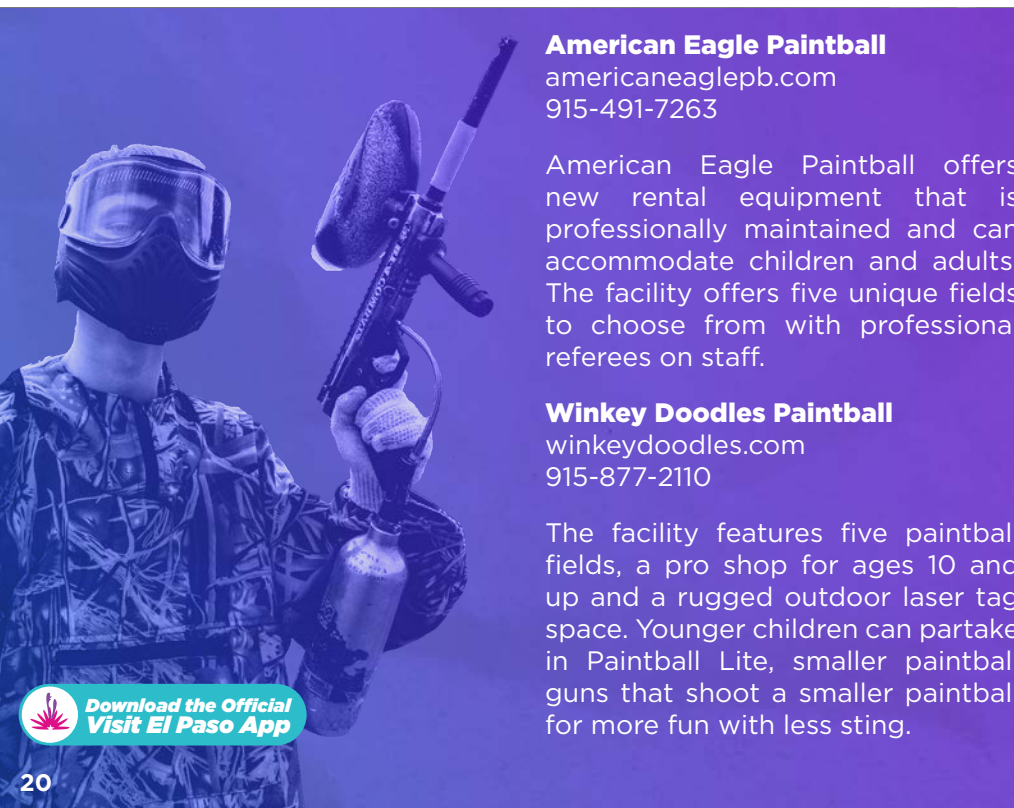
Stressed, angry or just need relief? This place is for you. Break glass, electronics, windshields and more fun. Open by appointment only



### **Top Golf**

[topgolf.com/us/el-paso](http://topgolf.com/us/el-paso)  
915-845-9028

This sprawling entertainment venue is equipped with a high-tech driving range and bays that provide picturesque views of El Paso. Their extensive food and drink menu is suitable for all ages and offers vegetarian and gluten free options.



### **American Eagle Paintball**

[americaneaglepb.com](http://americaneaglepb.com)  
915-491-7263

American Eagle Paintball offers new rental equipment that is professionally maintained and can accommodate children and adults. The facility offers five unique fields to choose from with professional referees on staff.

### **Winkey Doodles Paintball**

[winkeydoodles.com](http://winkeydoodles.com)  
915-877-2110

The facility features five paintball fields, a pro shop for ages 10 and up and a rugged outdoor laser tag space. Younger children can partake in Paintball Lite, smaller paintball guns that shoot a smaller paintball for more fun with less sting.

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# NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RESTAURANTS

## **Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch**

3450 S. Fabens Carlsbad Rd.  
915-544-3200

Voted “Manliest Steakhouse in America” by Men’s Health magazine and featured on the Travel Channel and the Discovery Channel, Cattleman’s boasts what many locals claim as the best steak in town. The lengthy menu incorporates a variety of options of grilled meats, from a standard NY Strip to the famous “Cowboy,” a two-pound T-bone steak. Baked beans, and Cole slaw are familiar sides, but chances are you won’t find a better steamed wine mushroom recipe in town. The homemade Pecan Pie makes for an appropriately decadent finish. Situated on a working ranch you’ll want to arrive early to check out the exotic animals that roam free, hayrides and the stunning, never-ending scenery.

## **Chico's Tacos**

With 4 locations to choose from you are never far, no matter what side of town you are on!

Featured on the Food Network and considered a local legend, Chico’s Tacos is famous for their rolled tacos drenched in their special tomato soup-like sauce. Around since 1953, Chico’s has served up an uncountable amount of singles and doubles. Drenched in red sauce and smothered in cheese, these tacos won’t compare to anything you’ve ever had!

## **Kiki's Mexican Food Restaurant**

2719 N. Piedras St.

915-565-6713

You haven't arrived in El Paso until you've had Kiki's Beef Machaca Plate. Kiki's has been an El Paso staple since 1976 and is considered a No frills, Mexican home-style eat.-  
**Aaron Sanchez**, *Food Network Best Thing I Ever Ate*

## **ELEMI**

313 N. Kansas St.

915-532-2090

Featured on Padma Lakshmi's "Taste the Nation", ELEMI is inspired by El Chuco culture, la agricultura along the Rio Grande, y maíz that is cultivated from within the navel of the moon.

## **Desert Oak Barbecue**

1320 N. Zaragoza Rd.

915-309-4322

Showcased on Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, this local hot spot serves up oak-smoked BBQ, comfort-food sides, and banana pudding all in rustic digs with outdoor seating.



## **Ruli's International Kitchen**

4716 N. Mesa St.

915-313-4806

This cozy, relaxed eatery serves up small plates, panini & salads paired with craft beers & select wines. Featured on the Food Networks Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, this is a certainly a place you won't want to miss!

## **Tasty Kabob**

6110 N. Mesa St.

915-234-2255

This Persian restaurant was recently featured on the Food Networks Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, and we can see why! Tasty Kabob serves up delicious marinated and grilled to perfection veggies and meats. Their world-class cuisine is sure to satisfy every pallet.

## **Lick it Up El Paso**

114 E. Mills Ave.

915-303-7768

As seen on Food Network's Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, Lick it Up is located in the heart of downtown El Paso and serves some of the best authentic vegan Mexican + American street food.



# El Paso's Margarita Trail

Legend has it that the margarita was first introduced in the 1940s in the El Paso/Juárez region, to then be introduced to the rest of the world. The story goes like this—in 1942, a now-legendary bartender by the name of Pancho Morales mistakenly created the drink after a woman ordered a Magnolia at a bar in Juárez known as Tommy's Place. This new creation spread through the southwest and helped to immensely speed up the importation of tequila in the states with its widespread popularity. With the origin of this story being located so close to El Paso, it's only logical that we can boast about some of the best margaritas around. With so many quality options heavily populating the city, you can't go wrong ordering a margarita from most bars and authentic Mexican or Tex-Mex restaurants here. To help you on your search, we've provided a list of some of the most respected and highest quality margaritas in town from iconic and family-owned restaurants. Experience the unique and authentic El Paso vibe.

## Los Bandidos de Carlos & Mickey's

1310 Magruder St.  
915-778-3323

The "Texas-sized" margarita from Los Bandidos de Carlos and Mickey's says all that you need to know about it in its name. Limited to one per customer, this massive margarita takes on both classic, as well as bold flavored recipes, with big results. Enjoy it with their fresh chips and salsa and impressive bar.

## Julio's Mexican Food

8050 Gateway Blvd. East  
915-591-7676

Julio's Cafe Corona originated across the border in Juárez, the home of the margarita. It's fitting that their massive margaritas are often touted as the best in town. Settle in with some familiar, highly praised classic Mexican cuisine, live music and many unique and traditional takes on the classic drink. With an extensive selection of margarita flavors and combinations, you'll never get bored. The Jalapeno Margarita is concocted with jalapenos, your choice of tequila and cilantro. The rim is packed with flavor and a sure win for those who can handle the heat.



### **L&J Café**

*3622 E. Missouri Ave.*  
915-566-8418

As one of the oldest family-owned establishments on this list, it's only fitting that L&J Cafe serves some of the most well-respected food and drinks in town. With enchiladas that are to die for, it's widely agreed that L&J is a cornerstone for quality Tex-Mex meals in El Paso, including immaculately made classic margaritas. If you don't try L&J Cafe at least once during your time in El Paso, you're seriously missing out.

### **Cantina Malolam**

*5001 N. Mesa St.*  
915-875-8670

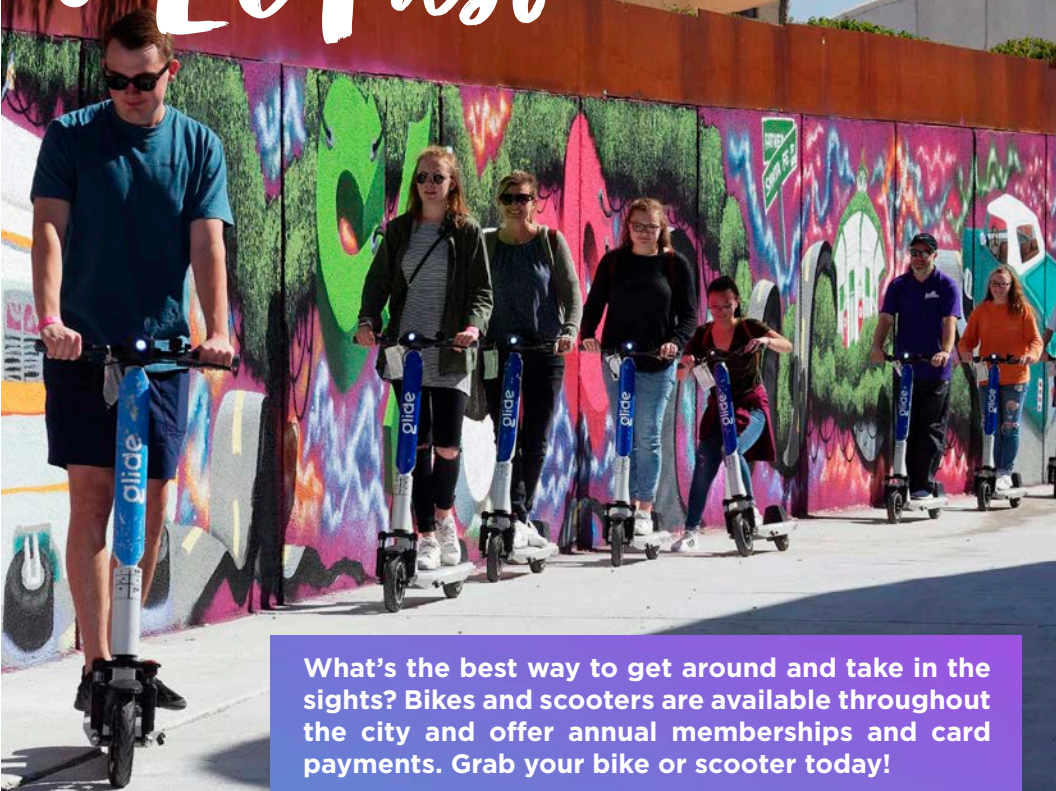
Malolam takes it up a notch with a few margaritas that are nothing short of exceptional. By exceptional we mean they evade the usual margarita requirements. The Mint Jamaica Margarita pairs fresh hibiscus, mint and fresh limes. The full-flavored drink sets the mood for Malolams inventive tacos, street dogs and tortas.

### **Carnitas Queretaro**

*7410 Remcon Circle*  
915-584-9906

Carnitas Queretaro mixes up terrific margaritas with fresh lime and agave, served over fresh ice, some with a spicy Tajin rim and other with slices of fresh cucumber and Topo Chico. Carnitas only uses the freshest lime juice, squeezed daily and perfectly ripe fruits. Our favorites include the Pepino Fresco and Dona Paloma.

# GETTING AROUND El Paso



What's the best way to get around and take in the sights? Bikes and scooters are available throughout the city and offer annual memberships and card payments. Grab your bike or scooter today!

## Bikes

The SunCycle Bike Share Program offers you two choices between a traditional or an electric-assisted bike to explore at your leisure. With front baskets, three speeds and automatic lights, they are a convenient and safe way to move around downtown. Purchase a day pass directly at any kiosk with a credit card and ride like a local.

## Scooters

Looking for a convenient, fun, green, affordable way to explore downtown and the surrounding areas? Look for two options of electrical vehicle sharing with Glide and Blue Duck scooters on nearly every corner to ride the day away. Don't forget to download the apps first!

# OUR HOTELS HAVE

# History



Peel back the layers of El Paso's intriguing history and you'll uncover stories unlike anything else in the Lone Star State. Located on the northern bank of the Rio Grande River among the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, the Sun City's rich and colorful legacy is best experienced at these one-of-a-kind places.

## Stanton House

The 100-year-old edifice is a city heirloom turned into a stylish boutique hotel. It is part of the El Centro district in Downtown El Paso, which is rich in history, culture, and shopping. The four-story light well that the hotel is centered around illuminates the inside and houses mesmerizing moving light sculptures that light up the restaurant at night. The mezzanine art gallery is home to a collection of art that features up and coming local artists as well as artists from Mexico and Europe.

## The Plaza Hotel Pioneer Park

Debuting in the 1930s, The Plaza Hotel Pioneer Park was Conrad Hilton Jr.'s first high-rise hotel. It is the tallest hotel in the Sun City, and as the sun sets in the horizon it is one of the defining features of the El Paso skyline. The former penthouse, now turned rooftop bar, used to be utilized by Conrad Hilton Jr.'s former wife and queen of Hollywood's golden age, Elizabeth Taylor.

## Hotel Paso Del Norte

Having opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1912, Hotel Paso Del Norte has given us much to be thankful for. The seven and a half meter diameter stained glass dome is iconic to the 108-year-old property. A number of celebrities and U.S presidents have walked through those doors and dwelled in their rooms. The return of this historic hotel will bring together stylings that mimic this border town and what makes it so unique.

## Aloft El Paso Downtown

The 90-year-old O.T Bassett Tower unifies and highlights the historic and contemporary. During its renovation preservationists took on the challenge of restoring the iconic brass fixtures by hand. Besides the gold leaf detailing that occupies the inside, the historic building features marble flooring, brass elevators, and the original mail chutes. Additionally, the WXYZ bar hosts music and entertainment in relation to the signature Aloft Live Presents series.



## Gardner Hotel

Gardner Hotel is the oldest continually operating hotel in the city of El Paso, Texas. Founded in 1922, the downtown hotel has a long history of serving the public, including famous guests, over the years. This hotel has had the privilege of several figures in American history stay with them, and their hostel memorabilia in the lobby will take you there.

First opened in 1922 by Preston E. Gardner, a lawyer who in 1923 ran for Mayor of El Paso. He lost his bid to Richard M. Dudley, after whom Dudley Field is named. Gardner Hotel was originally intended to be a five-story 100-room hotel, but when construction costs went \$50,000 over budget and only three floors had been completed, Gardner stopped building. Because of fears of fire in the 1920s, Gardner Hotel was constructed entirely of steel making the hotel almost completely fireproof.

Gardner Hotel has a lot of history but most notably, on Jan. 9, 1934, bank robber John Dillinger and two members of his gang checked into the downtown hotel. Dillinger signed the name John D. Ball on the registry and stayed in room 221. But because Dillinger didn't break any laws during his stay, the El Paso Sheriff's Department did not arrest him.

Dillinger checked out a few days later but was captured Jan. 25, 1934, in Tucson, Arizona, after being recognized by firefighters. They had saved his heavy luggage from a burning hotel there.

The hotel has been in the family for generations. Hotel staff are a wealth of knowledge on the history and local area and will be happy to show you the items in the hotel lobby even if you are just visiting. Gardner Hotel has been family run since the 1960's.



# Sports IN THE SUN CITY



## **El Paso Chihuahuas**

915-533-BASE

<https://www.milb.com/el-paso>

The El Paso Chihuahuas are El Paso's minor league baseball team in the Pacific Coast League. They are the Triple-A affiliate for the San Diego Padres. The team plays its home games at Southwest University Park.

## **UTEP Athletics**

[utepminers.com](http://utepminers.com)

915-747-6822

The UTEP Miners is the name given to the sports teams of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). They are informally referred to as the Miners, UTEP, or Texas-El Paso. UTEP was a member of the Western Athletic Conference from 1967 to 2005, when they joined Rice, Tulsa, and SMU in leaving the WAC for Conference USA. The UTEP Miners are best known as the first team in Texas to win an NCAA Men's Basketball Championship (and only team in Texas to be national champions until Baylor's victory in the 2021 tournament). UTEP's colors are orange and blue and the mascot is a miner named Paydirt Pete.



## **El Paso Locomotive FC**

915-235-4625

[eplocomotivefc.com](http://eplocomotivefc.com)

In 2019, El Paso joined 34 other U.S. Cities as well as two in Canada in hosting a USL Championship team. The USL Championship team in El Paso brings people to Downtown and adds to the vibrancy and Downtown revitalization that started with a plan - nearly twenty years ago.

## **El Paso Rhinos**

[elpasorhinos.com](http://elpasorhinos.com)

915-479-PUCK

The El Paso Rhinos are a junior ice hockey organization based in El Paso, Texas. Their home games are played at the County Events Center located within the El Paso County Coliseum complex. The Rhinos are members of the South Division of the Tier III junior North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL). They plan on adding a Tier II team to the South Division of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) in the 2021-22 season.

# Breweries

## **DeadBeach Brewery**

855-915-2337  
deadbeach.com

Established in 2013, DeadBeach Brewery is home to big, bold beers that don't hold back on flavor. With names like Vaquero Lager and Abuelita Stout this El Paso born and raised brewery pulls together a unique and diverse blend of brews suitable for all palates.



Photo credit: Marshal DeMunbrun

## **El Paso Brewing Company**

915-262-0687  
elpasobrewing.com

El Paso Brewing Company is another that, fitting to its name, represents and fosters this city's culture as a key part of the brewery's mission as they strive for quality brews. Their mission statement includes this line: "...we also strive to craft a unique space where visitors will share their vibrant borderland experiences in the best of friendships," fitting for the space itself and its place in this city.

## **Old Sheepdog Brewery**

915-702-0055  
facebook.com/oldsheepdogbrewery

Old Sheepdog Brewery is a newer name in town, located in a beautiful historic El Paso building from the 1930s and features another variety of brews and unique food events. A notable part of their goal is to be a part in revitalizing these historic parts of El Paso—especially relevant as they are located right next to the past home of El Paso's first brewery.



Photo credit: Old Sheepdog Brewery



Photo credit: El Paso Brewing Company



## **Blazing Tree Brewery**

915-307-3627

[blazingtreebrewery.com](http://blazingtreebrewery.com)

Blazing Tree Brewery, nestled on the east side of El Paso since 2017, is another spot with unique flavors that go through strict quality assurance tests to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction. It gets rave reviews, to the point of having a title for their fanbase BTB Flame Heads. Be sure to try their Peanut Butter Brown Ale.



Photo credit: Blazing Tree Brewery

## **Sun Brewing Co.**

915-433-3048

[sunbrewingco.com](http://sunbrewingco.com)

Only the freshest, seasonal and organic produce and spices go into every brew at Sun Brewing Co. Here visitors experience indigenous and spontaneous beers paired with borderland avant-garde style cuisine. For a taste of the region try the Meadors de Alien Ale, a crystal malt with Nugget and Ahtanum hops, California Ale yeast, apricots and New Mexico chili peppers.





# WINE IN THE

# Desert Valley

## WINERIES & VINEYARDS

- Zin Valle Vineyards
- Mesa Vista Winery
- La Viña Winery
- Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery
- Rio Grande Winery
- New Mexico Vintage Wines



Explore more at  
[visitpaso.com](http://visitpaso.com)





## Follow our Highway 28 Wine Trail

Believe it or not, El Paso's history includes a fascinating story about how we have been one of the premier wine regions in the country since the early 1800s. With a hefty list of wineries and vineyards along the gorgeous Highway 28 in west El Paso and southern New Mexico, any connoisseur would be satisfied with this wine trail of the highest quality. There's no need to head to Napa when you can indulge right here in El Paso!

When heading down the trail, the first stop you'll come across is Zin Valle Vineyards, who have settled in the Canutillo region of the Mesilla Valley. As a household name in town, their presence exudes quality and familiarity to El Pasoans who love wine. Drop in, then get ready to head to Mesa Vista Winery, who are next on the trail.

Micro winery Mesa Vista Winery has more than 1,200 plants in the ground, and features a rustic, appropriately decorated tasting room reflecting the "old west" history of the region. They host live music and are a prime spot to check out on your wine trail adventure.

La Viña Winery, next on the trail, is a winery that has claimed many accolades in State and

National wine competitions, and they emphasize a belief in how fertile the Mesilla Valley is, allowing for significant diversity in their grapes and subsequently, their wine. They take great care in the tending of their grapes and boast some of the best wine in the region.

Take a short drive down the highway to stumble upon Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery, another household name in the area. Focusing on a theme of "wine, music and fun," Sombra Antigua's goal is to honor historic traditions in providing top quality wines.

Keep going, and you'll run into both Rio Grande Winery and New Mexico Vintage Wines, both offering a classic taste of the New Mexico/Texas culture that pervades our entire region. Finally, as you reach Las Cruces, D.H. Lescombes Winery and Bistro greets you—it was voted best winery for eight years by the locals and is clearly worth stopping by for a taste.

With an abundance of options here in the El Paso/Las Cruces region, who needs those Californian wine valleys people idolize? We have quality right here at home, so head down the Highway 28 Wine Trail and find the winery that best fits your taste!

# GIVE THE *Gift of Local*

El Paso is home to several hidden gems. These locally owned boutiques and souvenir shops are where locals head for something unique and fashionable to gift.

## **So El Paso**

2717 N. Stanton St.  
915-777-0803

So El Paso creates amazing gifts, souvenirs and baskets using their private line of local centric gourmet foods. So El Paso has a little bit of everything and is ideal anytime of the year! Visit them at their brick and mortar store in the historic Kern Place district.

## **GAL Fashion**

5860 N. Mesa St.  
915-300-0010

Founded by stylist Gesuina Legaspy, GAL Fashion is a high-end contemporary boutique tailored to the woman on the go. The store offers a large selection of modern; designer clothing and accessories and their highly trained stylists are available to assist you in achieving your dream wardrobe.



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## Armoire

2005 Montana Ave.  
915-532-7960

Armoire is a high-end, full-service boutique that features the finest and latest trends for men, women, and home decor. Established in 1989, Armoire showcases expect brands like Moods of Norway, Ted Baker, SLVR by Adidas and Sachin & Babi. Find anything for him, her or the home here.

## Coffee Emporium

5817 N. Mesa St.  
915-584-2255

Coffee Emporium is a locally owned business that has been a part of the El Paso community for over 36 years. Choose from a wide selection of quality coffee beans and great tasting coffee drinks. They also offer a wonderful selection of gourmet chocolates, specialty food and snack items, loose leaf teas, and unique gifts.

## Chuco Relic

3 convenient locations  
(west, central and east)  
915-226-3394

Chuco Relic is one of El Paso's favorite places to go when looking for that perfect gift. Their products are made locally, and the shop is full of local flavor. Shop jewelry, t-shirts, growlers, stickers, festive cards and so much more.

## Collectibles

1530 Lomaland Dr.  
915-594-0162

Collectibles of El Paso has unique gifts for any occasion! From jewelry to gift baskets & holiday decorations, you're sure to find something you love.



# Beyond EL PASO



ELEPHANT BUTTE



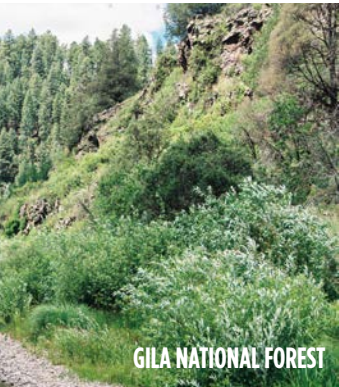
Start your journey in El Paso experiencing all the culture, food and entertainment the Sun City has to offer. If you're interested in exploring the region further and want to take a fun daytrip, the El Paso area has some amazing options as well for those who just want to get away for a day. The area will leave you inspired upon your return to El Paso where you can finish your day with a delicious plate of Mexican food and the comfort of one of our friendly, trusted hotels.

*Aguirre Springs*, 45 minutes from El Paso over the Organ Mountains near Las Cruces, is an undiscovered gem to many that features year-round streams, shady hiking trails, camping and picnic sites. The mountains feature both aggressive and formidable hiking as well as easier trails for novices.

*Elephant Butte Lake State Park*, five miles north of Truth or Consequences, is a great option for those who love water sports. The visitor center offers regional interpretive exhibits. The mild climate of the area makes this park a popular year-round destination.



Explore more at  
[visitelpaso.com](http://visitelpaso.com)



A favorite for many, *Old Mesilla* has great shopping, dining featuring dishes with New Mexican flair, an incredible drive through fields of cotton, chile, pecan tree groves and vineyards. The area is a charming blend of Native American, New Mexican and Spanish influences.

History buff? Then you will love *Pancho Villa State Park*, located 35 miles north of Deming. The park is on the grounds of former Camp Furlong from where Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing launched 10,000 troops on a pursuit of Villa into Mexico. The Exhibit Hall contains historic artifacts, military

weapons and ribbons.

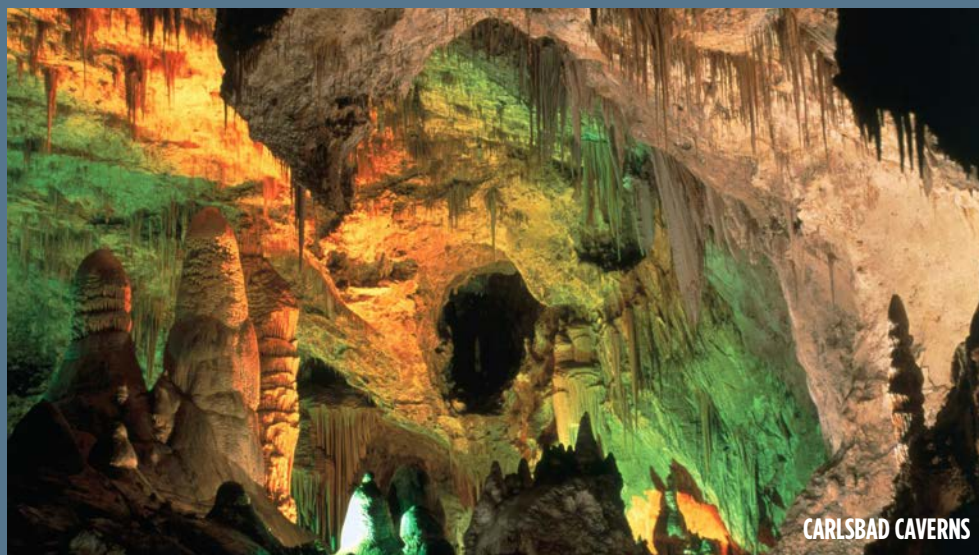
*Carlsbad Caverns National Park* has been a favorite for El Paso families for generations, and with good reason. The park was established in 1923 to preserve the more than 100 known caves including Lechuguilla Cave, which is the nation’s deepest limestone cave at 1,567 feet. The evening flight of Mexican free-tailed bats from the entrance of Carlsbad Cavern is one of the park’s principal visitor attractions. Tours are offered year-round.

*The Chihenne Ranch*, located near the Gila National Forest, is yet another well-kept secret. A working



HUECO TANKS





cattle and horse ranch of over 12 1/2 square miles, the ranch offers an opportunity for every-day visitors to experience life on a working cattle ranch. Visitors can enjoy horseback riding, Indian site visits, hiking, gold and silver mine visits, cattle roundups, cattle branding, 4-wheel off road trips, visits to ghost towns and more.

Lose yourself among the rolling white sand dunes of a true American treasure and descend into the depths of an ancient cavern with more than 300 stunning limestone caves. Welcome to *White Sands National Park and Caverns National Park*, two of the Southwest's more remarkable natural wonders. Covering 275 square miles, the gypsum dune field at White Sands is the largest of its kind in the world. Hike, bike, or ride horseback through this unique landscape, or follow the 16-mile Driving Dunes Drive to take in the scenery from your car. You can even camp among the dunes in one of the primitive backcountry campsites. Stay the night and you'll wake up to a view that few get to enjoy.

*The Gila National Forest* also shouldn't be missed with its 3.3 million acres of streams, campgrounds and hiking trails. It is the largest national forest in New Mexico.

Surrounded by the *Lincoln National Forest*, *Cloudcroft* is a quiet village that boasts hiking, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, snow tubing and skiing. The gorgeous haven even has an Old West feel with shops and boutiques, restaurants and saloons.

To round things out, *Ruidoso* and *Ski Apache* are a great option for those who love sports and games. Visitors can enjoy live horse racing from May through Labor Day, zip lining, the Hubbard Museum of the American West, *Casino Apache*, *The Inn of the Mountain Gods*, and golfing along with dining and shopping. Just outside town lies *Ski Apache*. The surrounding *Lincoln National Forest* is perfect for hiking, mountain biking, camping, hunting and fishing.

# Bienvenidos AMIGOS

 Visit EL PASO.com

## DOMESTIC:

Albuquerque, NM	226 miles
Alpine, TX	220 miles
Amarillo, TX	420 miles
Austin, TX	577 miles
Dallas, TX	635 miles
Fort Davis, TX	200 miles
Houston, TX	746 miles
Las Cruces, NM	45 miles
Lubbock, TX	350 miles
Marfa, TX	194 miles
Midland, TX	306 miles
Phoenix, AZ	430 miles
Tucson, AZ	317 miles
San Antonio, TX	551 miles

## INTERNATIONAL:

Chihuahua City, MX	240 miles
Ciudad Juárez, MX	2 miles
Copper Canyon, MX	233 miles
Nuevo Casas Grandes, MX	176 miles



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# *Visit* EL PASO APP



## EXPLORE

- AUDIO TOURS
- EVENTS
- RESTAURANTS
- RELOCATION INFORMATION

*and so much MORE!*

The Official Visit El Paso App is your complete guide for a memorable visit to El Paso. You will find up-to-date and accurate information about things to see and do in El Paso while you're here. You can also get more information on El Paso's culture, attractions, hotels, and restaurants.

If you need a little help deciding what to do, you can check out our "Day Trips" section and visit the "Tours" tab for biking, driving and walking tours of the city. Once you've decided on a few things to do and see, you can even create your own digital agenda.

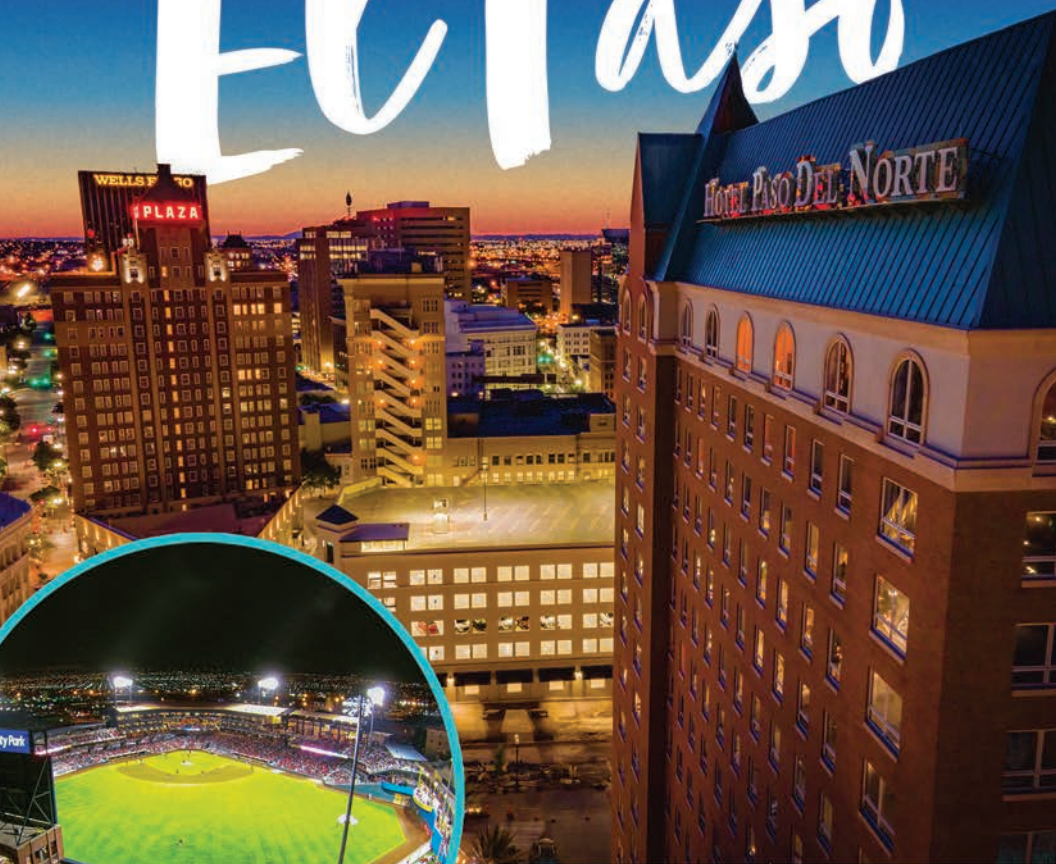
Still need more help? The app offers you the unique opportunity to FaceTime one of our Visit Information Specialists.

Get ready to explore all El Paso has to offer and download this useful app today!



A NEW VIEW OF

# El Paso



- Revitalized walkable downtown
- New hotels
- Award winning Triple-A ballpark and USL soccer stadium

EXPERIENCE A CITY RE-BORN