



## WELCOME

**T**he Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was established on May 21st, 2014, by Presidential Proclamation and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The Monument includes 496,330 acres, and was established to protect significant prehistoric, historic, geologic, and biologic resources. The National Monument includes four distinct areas: The Organ Mountains, Desert Peaks, Potrillo Mountains, and Doña Ana Mountains.

The Organ Mountains, east of Las Cruces, feature steep, barren rock outcroppings, rising to nearly 9,000 feet and extending north and south for 20 miles. Making up the Desert Peaks, on the northwest side of Las Cruces, are the Robledo and Doña Ana Mountains and Sierra de las Uvas, full of mesas and buttes with deep canyons and arroyos. The Potrillo Mountains, located southwest of the city, are a series of cinder cones with volcanic craters and basalt lava flows in an open desert landscape.

Several southern New Mexico communities are gateways to the National Monument, including Chaparral, Anthony, Sunland Park, Mesilla, Las Cruces, and Hatch. The success of the designation is a testimony from New Mexicans about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.



**NEW MEXICO  
GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
POWER UP YOUR BUSINESS**

*The New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce creates new opportunities for business by advocating on behalf of renewable energy, strengthening local economies, and seizing the green business advantage. Our members believe in investing in people; protecting our air, land and water; and creating long-term profits.*



**This Visitors Guide is provided by**

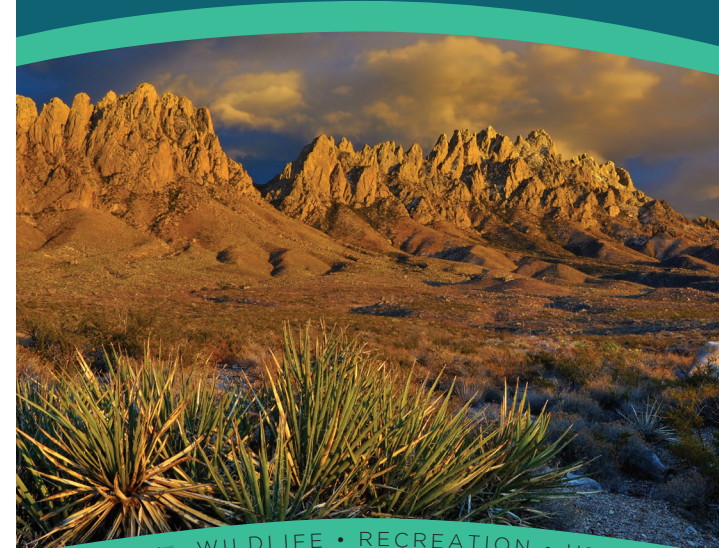


*We would like to thank the Bureau of Land Management for use of their photographs and content, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, the Friends of the Organ Mountains, and the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau for their contributions to this Visitors Guide.*

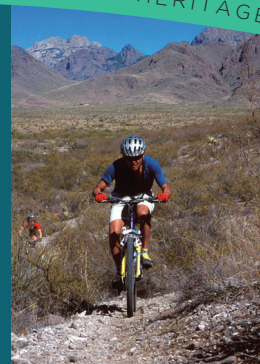
For more info about all areas mentioned in this brochure, visit:  
[www.nmgreenchamber.com/omdp-visitor](http://www.nmgreenchamber.com/omdp-visitor)



# *Visitors Guide to* **ORGAN MOUNTAINS DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT**



SCENERY • WILDLIFE • RECREATION • HERITAGE



[www.nmgreenchamber.com/omdp-visitor](http://www.nmgreenchamber.com/omdp-visitor)



## MONUMENT QUICK FACTS

### ACTIVITIES

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks are a popular recreation area, with multiple hiking trails, landmarks, and opportunities for hunting, mountain biking, and other dispersed recreation. Trails include **Sierra Vista**, **Soledad Canyon** and **La Cueva**, as well as trails within the **Organ Mountains** and **Organ Needles Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)**. The Desert Peaks includes the **Robledo Mountains** and **Las Uvas Mountains WSA**. Areas of access in the Potrillo Mountains are **Kilbourne Hole Volcanic Crater**, the **West Potrillo Mountains**, **Mount Riley**, and **Aden Lava Flow WSAs**.

The sheer breadth of these lands and their open, expansive vistas offer remarkable opportunities for visitors. The monument designation honors valid existing uses, including hunting and livestock grazing.

### RESOURCES

The Monument has been a homeland for diverse Native peoples, a place of exploration for 17th Century Spaniards, a hideout for one of the American West's most notorious outlaws, and a training ground for World War II airmen and Apollo astronauts. Abundant cultural sites, dating as far back as 10,000 – 12,000 years, dot the landscape, including evidence of Mogollon, Mimbres, and Jornada peoples.


The area is home to a high diversity of animal life, including aplomado and peregrine falcons and other raptors, as well as mountain lions, bighorn sheep, and more.


The Monument is also paleontologically rich, and includes fossilized tracks and other fossils.


Each of the four areas within Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument offers unique recreational opportunities. There are campgrounds and trails, hiking areas, opportunities for top notch rock climbing, and places for incredible wildlife viewing.


### HIKING TRAILS

#### ORGAN MOUNTAINS TRAILS:


 Baylor Pass Trail is six miles long and connects between the developed Aguirre Springs Campground on the east side of the Organ Mountains and the Baylor Canyon Road on the west side of the mountains. This Trail is open to hiking and equestrian use. Dogs allowed. No Fee.

 Pine Tree Trail is a four-mile loop from the Aguirre Spring Campground and climbs to the base of the Organ Needles. This Trail is open to hiking only. Dogs allowed. Fee required.

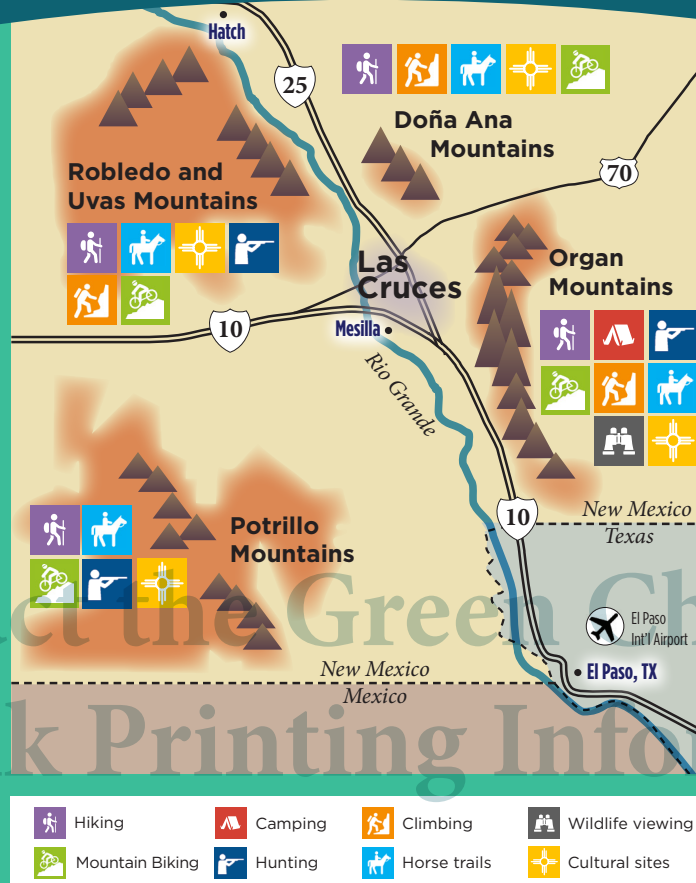
 Dripping Springs Trail begins at the Dripping Springs Visitor Center and provides access to the historic buildings at Dripping Springs. Fee required.

 Bar Canyon Trail is a three-mile loop, which offers an easy and scenic hike very close to Las Cruces. The Bar Canyon Trail includes scenic vistas of the central Organ Mountains and the southern Mesilla Valley, and is located at the Soledad Canyon Day Use Area. Dogs allowed. No fee.

#### DESERT PEAKS TRAILS:

 Numerous trails are accessible from the parking lot of the Picacho Peak Recreation Area, and encompass over 15 miles of moderate to challenging trails for hiking, horseback riding, or mountain biking.

## ORGAN MOUNTAINS DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### VEHICLES

Vehicles must remain on existing routes at all times.

### HIGH TEMPERATURES

Please make sure to drink plenty of water while hiking in the Monument. Apply sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing.

### CAMPING AND CAMPFIRES

Aguirre Springs Campground is the only developed campground in the Monument and requires a fee. Fire rings are provided. Do not leave fires unattended. Camping in the vast areas of Desert Peaks and Potrillo Mountains is primitive, and does not require a permit or fee.

### PETS

Pets must be kept on a leash at all times within developed recreation areas.

### FIREWORKS


Possession/discharge of fireworks is prohibited.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES


Sites and artifacts dating back many centuries are located within the Monument. Removal or disturbance of these artifacts destroys valuable information about our past and is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

***Please do not litter. Leave no Trace.***


### HORSEBACK RIDING

 Trails available to horseback riding include the Sierra Vista Trail, Baylor Pass Trail, Bar Canyon Trail, and the Picacho Peak Trails. The vast and open areas of the Desert Peaks and Potrillo Mountains are good places for cross-country horseback riding.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

 Trails suitable for mountain biking include the Sierra Vista Trail, the Canyon Loop Trail, and the SST Trail. Unless otherwise signed, all dirt roads in the National Monument are available for mountain biking. Bicycles are limited to roads and trails.

### CLIMBING

 Numerous climbing routes are present on the many rock pinnacles of the Organ Mountains. These routes are privately described in guide books and other publications. Because the Organ Mountains are a Wilderness Study Area, the placement of fixed anchors is prohibited.