



**ADVENTURE TRAVEL**  
VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE

# Spring Hiking:

Guadalupe National Park & Carlsbad Caverns

April 29th—May 7th, 2017

Trip # 1721





# Trip Overview

## WELCOME

We are glad that you are interested in this exciting trip! Please read the information carefully, and then contact us if you have specific questions about this trip: Dave Allen 603-727-2566; [david.eric.allen@gmail.com](mailto:david.eric.allen@gmail.com) or Steve Cohen 617-997-6861; [scohen1234@gmail.com](mailto:scohen1234@gmail.com).

## TRIP SUMMARY

We will fly to El Paso, Texas, rent cars and continue on to the rugged beauty of the Southeast New Mexico mountains, Guadalupe National Park and Carlsbad Caverns. We will see desert flowers, rocky peaks, sheer cliffs and rugged canyons. The Guadalupe Mountains are an oasis in the desert. We will be climbing the highest peak in Texas, 8,749' Guadalupe Peak. We will also pay a visit to nearby Carlsbad Caverns, considered to be the most beautiful of all U.S. caverns.

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE

This is a strenuous trip geared towards the outdoors adventurer. You should have at least intermediate to advanced hiking skills and be able to carry a day pack with enough gear to keep you safe in the mountains. We will be averaging nine miles per day and 1,600'-3,300' elevation gain, topping out at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. While no technical climbing is required, there are areas with narrow trails bordered by steep drop-offs.

You should enjoy traveling and be comfortable in areas which are unfamiliar to you. We will be in closer quarters than you are used to at home. You should make it a priority to help others on the trip and contribute to them having a great time. If you do that, we guarantee that you will have a great time. For more specific information about the kind of experience we are looking for, please read about Experience and Risks on page 5.

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# Trip Itinerary

## Day 1, SAT 4/29:

Upon arrival at the El Paso Airport, we will meet at the car rental counter, obtain our vehicles, purchase lunch food at a supermarket, have dinner and spend the night in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

## Day 2, SUN 4/30:

We want to get an early start for the spectacular 9-mile hike of Dog Canyon with 3,300 ft. of climbing. The scenery is grand every step of the way, displaying the harsh beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert. Limestone cliffs soar more than 3,000 feet above the canyon. Our goals are the spectacular views from the “eyebrow” and Joplin Ridge. After the hike we drive to the beautiful resort town of Ruidoso, NM.

## Day 3, MON 5/1:

Today we hike the 9-mile Big Bonito Loop with 2,300 ft. of climbing. This hike gives us the opportunity to walk an open ridgeline with extensive views of the White Mountain Wilderness. We’ll see the open grassland peaks that give this range its characteristic beauty.

## Day 4, TUE 5/2:

The 6-mile hike to Argentina Peak is one of the easiest destinations along the crest of the White Mountains as it climbs only 1,600 ft., but the views are no less spectacular than those of other higher peaks. We are fortunate to be able to do this won-

derful hike as a loop which will increase the number of panoramic views, including many of 12,033 foot Sierra Blanca. After the hike we will drive to Carlsbad, NM.

## Day 5, WED 5/3:

We will arrive at Guadalupe Mountains National Park and do a spectacular 8.5-mile loop hike over Hunter Peak and see the Bowl. The view from Hunter Peak has frequently been called “the best view in Texas.” After driving through the desert to get to the Guadalupe Mountains, we will be surprised at how green the Bowl and Pine Spring Canyon are. There is 2,550 ft. of climbing on this hike.

## Day 6, THU 5/4:

We will do a hike into McKittrick Canyon. You will marvel that such a lush, green place can be found here in the desert. The canyon has been called “the most beautiful spot in Texas”. The first 3.5 miles of the hike are a very leisurely climb up to the Grotto and participants who would like a rest day can consider the Grotto their destination for the day, while others might continue a steep 1.5 miles to the Notch before we turn around and walk out. We will spend the night in White’s City, so as to watch the bats leaving Carlsbad Cavern at dusk.

## Day 7, FRI 5/5:

A highlight of our trip will be climb-

ing Guadalupe Peak, the highest in Texas. This peak towers 5,000 feet over the salt flats to the west. From the summit we will have magnificent views that stretch for tens of miles and look down on El Capitan, probably the most notable natural landmark in Texas. Our route is 8.4 miles with 3,000 ft. of climbing.

## Day 8, SAT 5/6:

It’s time to visit Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Our visit will include the Main Entrance and the 14-acre Big Room, one of the largest underground rooms anywhere in the world with limestone formations of endless variety and beauty. After the hike, we will drive to El Paso to spend the night, have our Farewell Dinner and pack up.

## Day 9, SUN 5/7:

We fly home.







# Trip Logistics

## GROUP SIZE

A minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16, including leaders. A waiting list will be established if more than 14 people apply for the excursion.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations will be two to a room in motels chosen to minimize driving.

- One night at a motel in Alamogordo, NM
- Two nights at a motel in Ruidoso, NM
- Two nights at a motel in Carlsbad, NM
- Two nights at a motel in White's City, NM
- One night at a motel in El Paso, TX

## MEALS

All dinners and breakfasts are included. Either before or at the dinners we will talk over plans for the next day and go over the events of the previous day. Lunch's are the participant's responsibility. We will stop at various supermarkets so participants can buy trail lunches.

## TRIP PRICE

The price for the trip is \$1,500 for AMC members. Non-members can join for \$50 and receive the same price. This will cover the following items:

- All lodging as specified above
- All breakfasts and dinners excluding alcoholic beverages

- Car rentals and gas

### Not included:

- Airfare from Boston to El Paso approx. \$500
- All lunches

The final trip price will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases, will be passed back to you. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is considerably more likely than a price increase.

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis. Leaders are volunteers who are not compensated except for their travel costs associated with the trip. The advertised trip price includes a surcharge, which goes toward the administrative expenses of the AMC Adventure Travel program.

The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If the possibility of such problems concerns you, individual travel insurance is suggested. The AMC has a recommended vendor whose material will be sent to you if your application is accepted.



## **REGISTRATION, CANCELLATION, & ITINERARY ADJUSTMENTS**

To apply, you must complete and submit the Application, Confidential Medical form, and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release form. You may also decide to complete the optional Supplemental Medical Questionnaire. You can download them from this website: [Application Documents](#). Mail these forms and a deposit of \$500 payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club to Steve Cohen, 2802 Arbor Drive #2, Madison WI 53711. You will not be accepted and your check will not be deposited until the leaders have determined by telephone conversation with you that you and the trip are a good match. The final balance of \$1,000 is due January 15th, 2016. Deposit checks from wait-listed applicants will not be cashed until a spot is available, the applicant is accepted onto the trip, AND they confirm their continued interest.

Our cancellation policy is based on several considerations. Cancellation will not be allowed to raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders. The minimum cancellation fee is \$200 once the trip has been declared a go. If actual costs (expenses already incurred on your behalf, and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of your registration and cancellation) are higher, they will be assessed instead, unless they can be applied toward another acceptable participant. We expect a group size of 16 people, including the 2 leaders. This trip is likely to fill quickly. If you are interested, you should apply as soon as possible. In the unlikely event that the trip is cancelled because not enough acceptable participants apply, everything you have paid will be refunded in full.

Please note that trip leaders in their sole discretion may change trails/itinerary due to poor weather, group capability, etc. Trip leaders also have the right to exclude an individual from a day's activities based on their opinion of the individual's demonstrated capabilities.

## **EXPERIENCE & RISKS**

This trip is designed for experienced hikers. On the day hikes, you must be able to hike 9 miles a day at a moderate pace easily, with 1600' - 3,330' elevation gains while carrying enough equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. People wishing to participate in this trip must have previous hiking experience at the intermediate level or higher. Although the hiking will be at a moderate pace, this is not a trip for beginners or people who have not hiked during the past year. This trip is not the right time for getting into shape. You should already be in good physical condition by the time you arrive in El Paso. Average temperatures in the El Paso area during April and May range from lows in the 50s to highs in the 80s. However, high temperatures can occasionally top 100 degrees. You need to be comfortable hiking in hot / dry conditions.

Hiking with a pack up mountains above 8,000 feet is physically demanding, especially for people who generally reside at or near sea level. Although the elevations for the most part are not high enough for contracting altitude sickness, the combination of physical exertion and lower oxygen levels will require that we pace ourselves and pay close attention to proper nutrition and hydration. When you participate in this activity you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly.



# Equipment List

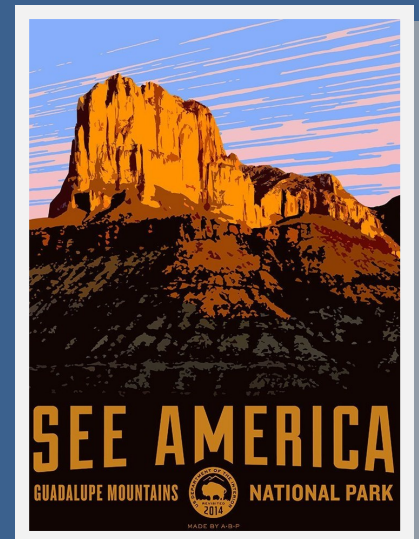
Below is a list of the required and recommended gear for the trip, as well as a list of items, which some people will bring and share.

## Required and Essential Gear:

- broken-in waterproof hiking boots (must still have “life” left in them)
- at least 2-3 set of hiking socks with liners
- non-cotton shorts (or long pants if you prefer) and shirt for hiking
- backpack (with sufficient capacity to carry your day hiking gear—see asterisks\*)
- waterproof wind and rain gear (tops and bottoms)\*
- wool sweater, or synthetic pile/fleece jacket\*
- hat for warmth, and gloves or mittens\*
- polypropylene, Coolmax, Bergelene or other synthetic extra layer clothing
- sunglasses\*
- hat or bandanna for sun protection\*
- sunscreen\*
- Tevas, Crocs or other sandals (to wear after hiking)
- headlamp or flashlight with fresh batteries\*
- unbreakable bottles or hydration bladder (at least 3 liters total capacity)\*
- waterproof pack liner and/or pack cover\*
- high-energy trail snacks\*
- toiletry kit
- ear plugs
- personal first aid kit (leaders will have a group first aid kit)\*
- whistle\*
- knife

## Optional Gear:

- casual clothing for use in town
- gaiters (for rain & dirt)
- hiking poles
- camera
- batteries/recharger/adapter plug



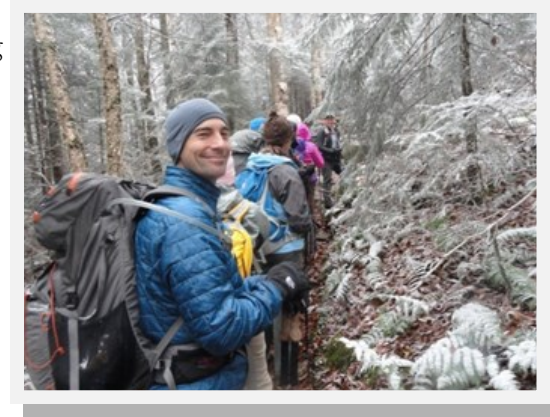


## TRIP LEADERS

**Steve Cohen** leads three season hikes for the Hiking/Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Since 2012 Steve has planned and led eleven hiking/trekking-oriented Adventure Travel trips to such destinations the Haute Route (from Chamonix, France to Zermatt, Switzerland), the Alta Via II through the Italian Dolomites, the tour of the Jungfrau region (Switzerland), Patagonia, the high mountains huts of Austria, etc. He lived in Europe for four years and has a good command of both the French and German languages. Steve is currently chair of Adventure Travel.



**David Allen** leads three season hikes for the Excursions Committee of the AMC New Hampshire Chapter. He specializes in peak bagging day trips, longer hut to hut adventures and telling bad jokes. David has summited all 48 of New Hampshire's 4000 foot peaks and hiked the Long Trail from Massachusetts to Canada. During his professional career he has worked for several outdoor service organizations including the Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Outward Bound. While at Thompson Island Outward Bound David outfitted trips, instructed multi-sport adventure education courses, and managed program logistics for the school's professional development division. David's personal travels have taken him to destinations in the United States, Europe, Asia, Polynesia, Australia, and the Caribbean.



## QUESTIONS & REQUESTING APPLICATION MATERIALS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We prefer to handle your inquiries by email if they are straight forward or by phone if they require discussion. Our contact information is located on page 2 of this trip prospectus.

Join us on this great adventure in one of the most beautiful regions of the United States!