

**Order of the Arrow
Camping Guide
Part 6**

**State Parks
and
Other Areas
in
New Mexico**

City of Rocks State Park

City of Rocks State Park can be reached by heading north out of Deming on US Highway 180 for 24 miles to NM 61 and traveling east for three miles to the park turn off. This is a fee area with several dozen picnic/camping sites. Restrooms and shower facilities are available as is drinking water. A cactus gardens and hiking trails have been established, but the greatest attraction is the chance to wander among and climb on the numerous huge rocks that are found on this 680 acre park. This is one of the best sites for A Capture the Flag within 5 hours of El Paso. Actually the "rocks" are the weathered remains of volcanic eruptions about 36 million years ago. This park is only one and one half hours from Las Cruces, and is a great place for a "Stop and plop" camp. The rangers are very friendly to scouts and can generally arrange a service project. They will need at least two weeks advanced notice for the paperwork. For additional information contact the ranger station at: 505-536-2800.

Elephant Butte State Park

Elephant Butte Lake State Park is seven miles north of Truth or Consequence via I-25. Situated beside the huge, 36,000 acre, Elephant Butte Reservoir, this is one of the largest and most popular parks in New Mexico. It combines boating, fishing and other water-based sports with land activities, such as, camping, picnicking, nature trails and hiking. There is water, fire pits, latrines and showers available. This is a fee park, however, you may be able to do a service project in lieu of the fee if you call in advance to: 505-744-5421.

Leasburg Dam State Park

Leasburg Dam State Park is 15 miles north of Las Cruces via either I-25 or US Highway 85. The Leasburg diversion dam channels water from the Rio Grande to irrigate the farming lands of the upper Mesilla Valley. The dam also provides a pleasant spot for fishing, canoes and kayaks that may be used on the river. Drinking water, camping sites, fire pits, latrines and showers are available. Nearby are the ruins of Fort Seldon, a US Military outpost established in 1865 to protect settlers during the Indian wars. Fort Seldon was abandoned in 1891, and is a state monument with a museum and interpretive trail. This is a fee park. For further information contact the park at 505-524-4068.

Caballo Lake State Park

Caballo Lake State Park is 18 miles north of Hatch, NM via I-25. With tawny folds of the Caballo Mountains as backdrop, this park features camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, water-skiing and fishing. The concessions offer rental boats and marine and fishing supplies. This is a fee area.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park

Dog Canyon

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park is located at the base of the Sacramento Mountains where Dog Canyon meets the desert plains, ten miles south of Alamogordo, NM off US 54. There are many campsites in the 200-acre park and drinking water is available along with restrooms and shower facilities. A visitor center has good exhibits of local vegetation, wildlife, and history, and there is a nature trail looping around the mouth of the canyon. In the 1880's a man named Frenchy Rochas settled on this land because the creek in the canyon is the only year round source of water in the area. Frenchy's cabin has been reconstructed, and the old stone fences for the livestock are still standing. Dog Canyon has been used as a campsite and as an access between the desert floor and the top of the western side of the Sacramento's for at least six thousand years. The trail up the canyon starts behind the visitor's center. Be sure to look at the artifacts that are found in the area and read the history of skirmishes between the Indians and the Army on this trail before starting out. The first quarter mile is a strenuous climb. Then the trail follows the south canyon wall for about two and three-fourths miles to a plateau where there are several good spots for camping. Continuing past the plateau a short distance, there are also campsites where the trail crosses the creek. At the head of the canyon the creek forms a series of waterfalls. There is no trail to the base of the falls, but can be reached by an easy walk up the creek. Past the creek the trail becomes more strenuous and scales the north canyon wall to the top of Joplin Ridge. It is recommended that this upper part (the eyebrow trail) be reserved for experienced hikers. The canyon can be quite hot in the summer, and winter backpackers need to be mindful of sudden snowstorms obscuring the trail. Notify the ranger at the visitor's center if you plan to stay in the canyon overnight. Dog Canyon trail is a registered National Historic Trail and a backpacking trip here will earn the Historic Trail Award. Oliver Lee Memorial State Park is a fee area.

Poncho Villa State Park

Pancho Villa State Park is located 35 miles south of Deming via NM Hwy. 11. In the early morning hours of March 9, 1916, guerrillas of the Mexican Revolution under General Pancho Villa attacked the small New Mexico border town and military camp at Columbus, NM. Pancho Villa State Park commemorates that historic raid. It was here that General John "Black Jack" Pershing launched his punitive expedition into Mexico in retaliation against Villa. Ruins of Camp Furlong, headquarters for Pershing's expeditionary force, still stands, and are incorporated into the park. Camping and picnic sites are scattered throughout the beautiful desert botanical garden that is the park's most remarkable feature. Restrooms, showers and water are available. There is an entrance fee. Pancho Villa State Park can be contacted at: 505-531-2711.

Percha Dam State Park

Percha Dam State Park can be reached by heading north on I-25 to exit 59, turning south (left) on old highway US 85 to the side road located next to the baseball field. If you are coming up US 85 from Las Cruces, don't turn at the first road marked for Percha Dam, wait until the baseball field, to turn off. Percha Dam State Park occupies 80 acres along an irrigation diversion dam just south of Caballo Dam and Park. There are numerous campsites with tables and fireplaces. Drinking water, toilets, and showers are provided. Fishing spots abound below the low dam, and there are plenty of opportunities for hiking along the river and canal, as well as, up into the nearby desert. The variety of vegetation and landscape in this area provides excellent bird watching, including a good chance to see a bald eagle. There is a large grassy lawn in the middle of the park just right for frisbees, football, and general frolic. Percha Dam State Park is a fee area.

Rockhound State Park

Rockhound State Park, located 14 miles southeast of Deming, is unique among the state parks in New Mexico. Visitors at this 1100-acre site are permitted and even encouraged to collect and take home rocks, up to fifteen pounds per person for personal use. Many fine specimens may be found lying on the ground, and even finer pieces can be obtained with a little digging. Most hunted are the round, nodular rocks which may prove to be geodes or "thunder-eggs" when cracked or cut open. Other collectibles include samples of agate, onyx, opal, quartz and literally tons of just interesting looking rocks. Drinking water is available, as are restrooms and shower facilities. Most of the campsites were designed for RV camping, so finding a good spot for tents may take a bit of effort. Be sure to bring digging tools and maybe something for the Scouts to carry their treasure. Spring Canyon, a day-use area with hiking trails and picnic tables, is located about three miles from the entrance to Rockhound State Park. From Las Cruces, take interstate 10 west to exit 102, Akela Flats, cross over the highway and turn west (right) on access road 549, following the signs to the state park. From Deming, take NM11 south 5 miles to the turn-off to the park, and then nine miles east. Rockhound State Park is a fee area.

Bottomless Lakes State Park

The Bottomless Lakes State Park is located 16 miles southeast of Roswell via US Hwy. 380 and NM Hwy 409. Bordered by high red bluffs, these seven small lakes were formed when circulating water dissolved gypsum and salt deposits in underlying rock formations, creating a network of underground cavities. The park's headquarters at Cottonwood Lake offers extensive interpretive displays and a network of trails. Swimming is permitted in Lea Lake and, because of the depth and crystal clarity of its water. This park is a favorite with skin divers. Camping and picnic sites, drinking water, restrooms with showers, fishing and boating are available. This is a fee park.

Hiking and Camping in the Doña Ana Mountains

There are many good places for hiking in the Doña Ana Mountains. Most of the small peaks provide challenging climbs. There are also several good places to camp in these desert mountains. This is an excellent place for both hiking and camping in the winter months. Water is scarce. However, drinkable water can be obtained from the windmill at Cleopes Well. If the wind is not blowing you may have to hand crank it. Be advised that you should not camp closer than 300 yards to the windmill. This is a New Mexico state law. Wood is scarce, but some dead mesquite can be found. There are two entrances into the Doña Anas. One is from Hill, NM about 10 miles north of Las Cruces on NM Hwy. 28. Take the dirt road towards the Doña Anas, it goes through a culvert under I-25. To enter the Doña Anas from the east side, take the turn off from US Highway 70 that goes to the Jornada Experimental Station. Just before the two rock pillars that mark the entry to the Station, there is a road that cuts off to the left, take this road.

FOSTER CANYON: A mountain canyon ending in a small marble quarry, all within the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, northwest of Las Cruces. Drive to the Radium Springs Rock Shop on US Highway 85 about 16 miles north of Las Cruces. Exactly 2 miles north of the rock shop on the left hand side of the highway is a dirt road closed off by a locked gate. The dirt road goes up Foster Canyon to the marble quarry. Permission to use the quarry and the key to the gate can be obtained at the Radium Springs Rock Shop. Foster Canyon is a good starting point for hiking in the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains.

MONICA SWAMPS: Monica Swamps is 40 acres of flat grassy river levee with approximately 15 acres of salt cedar nearby. Go to the intersection of NM Hwy. 28 and 352 in Mesilla, NM. Drive west until you cross the Rio Grande then turn south on the levee road. Monica Swamps is about 1 mile down the levee road. The key to the lock on the levee road gate can be obtained at the Mesilla Sheriff's Department. Wood is easy to find, but water is not available.

DOÑA ANA PEAK HIKE: There are a number of routes for approaching Doña Ana Peak. The one described here entails a hike of slightly over ten miles. Drive east on US 70 to Jornada Road (County road D64) turn left for 4.4 miles to an intersecting road just before a fence line and cattle guard. This is a starting point for the hike. Walk down this road towards the mountains for about 2.5 miles until the road starts veering to the left and crosses two arroyos. Here there is a junction with another road, and at this point you will see a small canyon between two peaks at a compass bearing of about 300 degrees. The mouth of this canyon can be reached by either traveling directly cross-country or by following the winding road to your right. At the mouth of the canyon you will find a rudimentary trail in the sandy arroyo leading up the canyon. After passing around several large boulders, the arroyo opens up into a large bowl with Doña Ana Peak directly to the west. Climb up the ridge to the saddle between Doña Ana Peak and the rocky peak to its left. This is the only part of this hike that is a bit strenuous. Follow the ridgeline to the summit, and enjoy one of the best views possible of the Mesilla Valley. Don't forget your camera!

Hikes in the Organ Mountains

BISHOP CAP: Bishop Cap is a climbable peak located at the end of the Organ Mountains. Many old mine shafts can be found scattered around the area. Most of the shafts are safe for exploring provided there is adequate adult supervision. However, in accordance with the guide to Safe Scouting, the scouts should not be allowed to enter the mines. The Cap itself can be climbed in about an hour. To get there, get on the access road as you would to Long Canyon and go south for approximately 12 miles. You will see a gate on the left, go through the gate and be sure to close it. Drive east until you come to a fork in the road, take the left fork; it will take you right to the Cap. Drive with care. Washouts in the road are very common.

BAYLOR PASS - AGUIRRE SPRINGS: This trip is designed to meet the requirements of the Backpacking Merit Badge for a two-night, 15-mile trek. The trailhead for the Baylor Pass Trail is reached by driving east of Las Cruces on US Hwy. 70 to Baylor Canyon Road, then south about 1-1/4 miles to the parking lot. Hike up the west side of the Organs on the well-marked trail, over the pass, and descending into the Aguirre Springs Campground. Make camp either in the developed campground or at the primitive campsite on the Pine Tree Trail loop. On the second day, be sure to hike the Pine Tree Trail, if not done the previous day. Then, go back over Baylor Pass to the primitive campsite on the west side of the summit, spending the night there, and returning to the trailhead and vehicles on the third day. Open fires are prohibited at the campsite on the trail. Careful planning is required for this trek as drinking water is not available at either campsite. Water may be found in seeps or small springs in one or two of the ravines crossed by the trail on the east side of the pass. This water must be purified. With the steep ascent to the top of the pass, the use of primitive campsites (try no-trace camping), and there's need to hunt for water, this trip offers a high adventure opportunity right at the edge of the city.

DRIPPING SPRINGS - FILLMORE CANYON: The Dripping Springs Nature area is located at the base of the Organ Mountains, 11 miles east of Las Cruces, NM on University Avenue / Dripping Springs Road. From the visitor's center, there is an easy 1 3/4 mile hike up Ice Canyon to Dripping Springs and the ruins of an old TB sanitarium and guest ranch /hotel. Picnic tables and latrines are provided here. Coming back toward the visitor's center, turn north on the trail to Fillmore Canyon. After passing east of La Cueva rock the trail drops into the drainage for Fillmore Canyon, and meets another trail at a fence line. Pass through the fence heading up the arroyo. The trail passes a mineshaft (fenced off) and a large pile of mine tailings, and winds up a narrow canyon with steep sides to a small waterfall. Back tracking to the fence and trail junction, take the remaining trail westerly along the north side of La Cueva rock, looping around to the south side of the rock, and hike to the cave for which this large rock formation is named. From here the trailheads back to the visitor's center. Drinking water is not available, camping and fires are prohibited in Ice Canyon. Picnic tables with fireplaces are located along the main road near the entrance. Some campsites are found in the Fillmore Canyon area above the waterfalls. Check with the staff at the visitor's center before leaving vehicles overnight. This is a great day hike, suitable even for the youngest Scouts. The area is a fine place for nature study, historical exploration and map and compass work. Scouts as part of their Eagle projects have carried out much of the work on the trails at Dripping Springs. Consider making his hike a troop family outing. Dripping Springs Nature Area is a BLM fee area.

LONG CANYON: This is a beautiful canyon with a seasonal waterfall. Lava beds are nearby for exploring. This is a good starting point for hiking in the southern portion of the Organs. Take the Mesquite exit from I-10, go south on the access road on the east side of the freeway for approximately 50 feet and turn left on the dirt road. Follow this road east and under the power lines. Thereafter, the road will fork. Take the left fork. This road will take you directly to Long Canyon.

Bluff Springs-Willie White Trail Spur

From 1898 to 1947 railroad tracks wound through the Sacramento Mountains south of Cloudcroft. These tracks were laid originally to haul timber out of the forest and were used later to carry tourist excursion trains. Some of these abandoned railroad grades have been preserved as trails, and one of them, the Willie White Trail Spur, is easily accessible for day hikes or for backpacking trips. To reach the trailhead, take NM 130 south from Cloudcroft to NM 6563 (the road to Sunspot). Just over a mile south on NM 6563, turn left (east) on Forest Road 164 that parallels the Rio Penasco. Go 3.8 mile (the first 2.1 miles are paved, the remainder is a moderately maintained gravel road) to the parking lot at Bluff Springs. On the other side of the river is a prominent bluff over which a waterfall flows, giving the area its name. A footbridge crosses the river and leads to two trails, the one to the west climbing up the bluff to a large meadow and the spring that feeds the waterfall. The other trail, the Willie White Trail Spur heads east up the old railroad grade. This grade begins as Forest Service Trail No 112, becomes Trail No 113, and then becomes Trail No 9277 as it winds around Willie White Canyon. The trail is wide and flat, but in some places the grade is a bit steep. There is a large wooden sign posted at the beginning showing a map of the trail and its segments, but the trail number designations shown on the sign do not always correspond with the numbers on the markers along the trail. There are several short spurs off the main grade that are not numbered. Good campsites are available on the ridges between canyons. There are several springs in the area including one along side the main trail about 1 3/4 miles from the start, as well as, intermittent creeks in the canyons. This old railroad grade winds through a beautiful section of the Lincoln National Forest providing a great outdoor opportunity for everyone from the youngest Scouts to the most experienced backpackers. This trail is shown on USGS map, Bluff Springs and on the USFS map, Lincoln National Forest.

Killbourne Hole

At the Killbourne Hole there are three large natural depressions in the area with many good places to camp. The area is a rock hound's paradise with specimens of garnet, peridot and agate scattered around. There are no facilities or water. From La Union, NM, drive east to Lanark, NM located along the Southern Pacific Railroad. From here drive east approximately 7 miles to Killbourne Hole.

Box Canyon

Box Canyon Wildlife Habitat area is located due east of Picacho Peak, and is reached by taking US 70 (Picacho Avenue) west to the turn-off for the frontage road to the airport. Travel on the frontage road 1.7 miles and turn right on a dirt road, heading northerly alongside a fence line marking the eastern edge of the city airport property. This road is erratically maintained, and past the point where it begins to drop from the mesa top, vehicles need high clearance to negotiate the ruts. Almost exactly 5 miles from the frontage road (.2 miles past the big sign), take the short road to the right to the edge of the canyon where there is a large flat area for parking. From here it is a short hike down to the canyon floor where there are numerous campsites. Firewood and water are not available. In Box Canyon is a large rock masonry dam built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, as was another dam in Apache Canyon a short distance to the northeast. This is a great area for hiking, bird watching and geology study, almost inside the city limits.

Cooke's Peak Hike

Cooke's Peak is located North of Deming off NM 26. Take US hwy. 180 towards Silver City for about two miles then turn northeast towards Hatch, NM on NM 26. Go for 14.5 miles to a gravel road on your left, go eleven miles to gate / parking area. You may need high axles for the last part of the drive to the parking area. The terrain is mountainous desert. During winter months you may find snow. Hike up an old road, past an old townsite, for about three miles to saddle in ridge. Hike south up ridge towards summit, circling to the east. Make the ascent from the South side. There are no facilities available. Camping available at either Rockhound State Park in Deming or City of Rocks, North of Deming off US Hwy. 180 towards Silver City. The elevation is 8,408 feet.

Rio Grande Nature Loop

This is an easy 11 1/2 mile hike just north of Las Cruces. The starting point is on the northeast side of the Rio Grande Bridge on west Picacho Avenue (US Hwy 70/80). From the parking area head north up the levee road or along the river bank to Shalem Colony Trail. Cross the bridge and return on the west side of the river to the Picacho Bridge and starting place. This hike offers excellent opportunities for environmental studies, for bird watching, and for other nature studies. This is also a good place to practice map and compass. Along the river many map landmarks are readily available for sightings. Take compass, map protector, and the Las Cruces map in the USGS 15 minute series. No drinking water or restroom facilities are available along the route of this hike.

Camp Tumbleweed

Camp Tumbleweed is a partially developed desert camp. There is no water, but there is plenty of mesquite for firewood. Drive south from Deming on NM 11 towards Columbus, NM. Turn right at the Sunshine School and go 4 miles to a stop sign. Turn left and drive through the first cattle guard turning left just past the cattle guard. Another mile will bring you to gate. Go through the gate and turn right. The campsite is straight ahead. There is a Low Cope course available. For information and permission to use the campsite contact Carroll Scott at 505-546-7634.

Ghost Towns

RILEY: To reach Riley, turn north off of US 60 near Magdalena, just east of the United New Mexico Bank and follow Forest Service Road 334. This is a dirt road that is not well traveled and should not be attempted by those who do not like getting off the pavement. Follow this road about twenty miles to a ranch house and just north of it take the fork to the right. Cross the river, and then follow the road next to the river for a few hundred yards to Riley. The river can be crossed if the water is running clear, which usually indicates a hard bottom. If it is muddy, do not attempt it. All that is left here is the church, an old stone schoolhouse, and two or three adobe buildings. A small cemetery is located on the north side of the church. The post office was first established here in 1890 and was open intermittently to 1931. Both mining and agriculture were the mainstays of this town that has a population of 150 people. The town acquired the name Riley from a local sheep rancher. It is difficult to tell how the town died other than the water table dropping below the level of the irrigation ditches, and people moving on to other more modern communities where there were more opportunities. Once a year a mass is held in the church to which old residents return for "Santa Rita Days". This town is on private land and visitors should take care not to disturb anything.

CHLORIDE/WINSTON: Chloride is gracefully aging relic of our frontier days, one of New Mexico's more colorful "Ghost Towns." The classic mining town hunkers in a gulch in the eastern foothills of the Black Range, some 30 miles west of Truth or Consequences. The name Chloride is derived from silver chloride, AgCl, which is used in plating solution. Old structures of logs, adobe, stone or weathered boards line both sides of the street. There are sheltered picnic tables and a wooden privy in Chloride Park. Winston, Chloride's sister mining camp is located 2.3 miles to the east. Bluni's Store, an old schoolhouse and several other old buildings can be found here. Take the exit from 1-25 to NM 52 just a few miles north of Truth or Consequences.

MOGOLLON: Mogollon prospered from the rich gold bearing quartz mines discovered in 1875, which produced more than \$1 million a year in gold and silver during their peak years of 1912-15. The town's scandalous reputation due to mining disputes was, as well known as its output of precious metals. Abandoned buildings and old mine shafts characterize Mogollon. Many have started their backpacking treks from Mogollon into the San Francisco Mountains and the Gila Wilderness areas. Mogollon is reached via the winding road that leaves US 180 just south of Alma.

SHAKESPEARE: Shakespeare is a National Historic Site located 22 miles south of Lordsburg. From a small settlement on the stage and emigrant trail to California it grew in the 1870s, with a silver strike and the diamond swindle to a town of considerable size, around 3,000 people under the name of Ralston City or the Burro Mines. In 1879, mine promoters changed the name of the town to Shakespeare and under this name prospered as a mining camp until the 1893 depression. During the 1908-1932 mining boom, the remaining buildings in Shakespeare were again occupied and the events during this period added considerably to the town's reputation for lawlessness. Always a mysterious, secretive sort of town, it had no church, no newspaper and no local law. Walk a portion of the Butterfield Trail. There is a guided tour of the interiors of eight buildings. Admission is \$3 for Adults and \$2 for Children, 6-12 years. Specials Tours can be arranged by writing or calling:

Shakespeare Ghost Town
P O Box 253
Lordsburg, NM 88045
505-542-9034

Salinas Pueblos

This trip provides a great exposure to the life and communities of the early Pueblo and Anasazi Indians of central New Mexico. Informative booklets and maps are available at the visitor's centers at each stop. The expedition begins by heading north on Interstate 25 to junction with US 60 at Bernardo, 25 miles north of Socorro, then turning east. Three ancient pueblos make up Salinas National Monument, and the first encounter is Abo, 29 miles from Bernardo. This Pueblo was built in the early twelfth century, with the adjacent church of San Gregorio built in the 1620's. Continue east on US 60 nine miles to Mountainair. Twenty-six miles south of Mountainair on NM 55 is Gran Quivira Pueblo. (An alternate start for this trip is to travel north of Alamogordo on US 54 past Carrizozo 19 miles to the junction with NM 55--then heading west, then north to Gran Quivira). There is a self-guided tour around the three hundred rooms, six kivas, and two churches. Back tracking on NM 55 through Mountainair (the main office for Salinas National Monument and visitor's center is in Mountain- air) and on North 8 miles to the ruins of Quarai Pueblo. The walls of the church here, built about 1630, are very impressive, climbing three stories. There is a small visitor's center and a few picnic tables at each of the three units of Salinas National Monument. No camping is permitted on the monument grounds. There is an entrance fee of Gran Quivira and at Quara. The fee paid at either location is good the same day at the other. Traveling north on NM 55, Manzano Mountains State Park is 6 miles past Quarai, if you are ready to make camp for the night. There is the standard state park entrance fee, but no drinking water is available.

Bandelier, Jemez and Coronado

These locations can be an extension of a visit to the Salinas Pueblos. Continue north on NM 55, then NM 337, crossing Interstate 40 at Tijeras, and join NM 14 heading further north. As this road heads toward Santa Fe, you will pass through the old mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos, each worth at least a few minutes of looking around. If you plan to stay in Santa Fe, camping is available at Hyde Memorial State Park, 12 miles NE of town toward the Santa Fe ski area on NM 475. Adjoining Hyde Memorial State Park is Black Canyon National Forest Service Campground. Both areas charge entrance fees. Go north out of Santa Fe on US 285 to the junction with NM 502 at Pojoaque, turning west toward Los Alamos. Either turn off on NM 4 through White Rock to Bandelier National Monument, or stay on NM 502 to Los Alamos. There are a couple of good museums at Los Alamos. Continue on to Bandelier via NM 501 and NM 4. Bandelier National Monument is 36,000 acres with ancient pueblos, cliff dwellings, ceremonial caves, and over seventy-five miles of trails. There are two established campgrounds at Bandelier. Juniper Campground is at the monument entrance on NM 4, and further west on NM 4 is Ponderosa, a group campground available by reservation. Both campgrounds are fee areas. For reservations or information, call 505-672-3861. There are also backcountry campsites in the monument, if you are equipped for backpacking. There are plenty of opportunities for adventure here. Enough to fill however many days you choose to stay. Leaving Bandelier, head west on NM 4, climbing into the Jemez Mountains and along the south edge of the Valle Grande. Jemez State Monument, the original Jemez Pueblo, is located at Jemez Springs. Besides the walking tour, an attraction is the Visitor's Center that exhibits many of the artifacts found in the ruin here. Just north of Jemez Springs is Soda Dam. A natural dam formed by the carbonate deposits from a spring which surfaces here. This is a definite stop for a chance to climb around for a while. Follow NM 4 to San Ysidro, and turn SE on NM 44. As you drop off the mesa and approach the Rio Grande and the town of Bernalillo, stop at Coronado State Monument and Park. The ruins of the Kuaua Pueblo, including a reconstructed painted kiva, are available for exploring. The visitor's center has exhibits about the Indians who once lived here, and also about Coronado's expedition which used this pueblo as a winter headquarters. There are campsites at the adjacent state park, which is equipped with full restrooms including hot showers. Continue east on NM 44 to Interstate 25, turning south toward Rio Abajo and home.