

THINGS TO SEE AND DO WHILE EXPLORING THE PARK

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PLUS 03



32.7872° N · 106.3257° W

WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK

Pristine and magical white sands.

This is the largest expanse of gypsum dunes in the world, measuring 275 square miles in the Tularosa Basin, part of the Chihuahuan Desert in southern New Mexico.



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EXPLORING THE WHITE SANDS

The gypsum dunes of White Sand were created millions of years ago, when the ancient Permian Sea retreated, leaving gypsum layers behind. Steady southwesterly winds means that the dunes of White Sands National Park are continuously shifting, with ever changing shapes and sizes.

The park is super easy to navigate - there are only a few designated hikes with actual trails - the rest you just need to keep your eye on the red markers! I thought I knew which red marker was the way to our car but when the sand storm hit I lost my bearing - we ended up no where near the car! It was a bit stressful given the white out conditions but within an hour we were safely back to our vehicle.

Purchase a sled ahead of time or rent/buy one at the visitors center, along with wax. We didn't have any luck finding one in Alamogordo. Head to the sand dunes and pick a spot to start having fun!

It wasn't hot when we visited but it is the desert so be well prepared with plenty of water, food and sunshade! And check the weather for windstorms/sandstorms with little to no visibility.



OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Take the scenic route on the 16-mile roundtrip Dunes Drive

Spend the night stargazing
(permit required for campsite)

Explore on horseback

Buy the waxed snow saucer from the gift shop and start sledding!

Walk the Interdune Boardwalk

Hike the Dune Life Nature Trail

Don't miss Sunset!

Not seeing the sunset is my #1 regret, and it should definitely belong on your list of things to do in White Sands National Park!

White Sands Missile Ranch Museum

White Sands National Park is adjacent to the White Sands Missile Range, and roads are sometimes closed to allow for missile testing, preventing access into the national park. Make sure the museum is open ahead of time.

HOW MANY DAYS WILL YOU NEED

I recommend a minimum of 2 days in order to explore the White Sands National Park.