

Trip Plan: Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks

Itinerary

Friday, Sept 30

Depart Denver early morning

Drive to Guadalupe Mountains National Park (Tex.)

Route: Walsenberg (Colo.), Fort Garland (Colo.), Taos (N.M.), Romeroville (N.M.), Vaughan (N.M.), Roswell (N.M.), Carlsbad (N.M.), Pine Springs (Tex.)

Overnight: Pine Springs Campground, Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Saturday, Oct. 1

Hike Guadalupe Peak from the main trailhead at Pine Springs Campground

Overnight: Pine Springs Campground, Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Sunday, Oct. 2

Spend the day at Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Start driving back to Denver in the evening

Overnight at a hotel en route

Monday, Oct. 3

Drive the rest of the way back to Denver

Emergency Preparedness

SPOT Tracking

I will track my movements using a SPOT personal GPS beacon. (Note: it only signals when I'm moving. It'll pause or be off when I'm sitting still.) You can see tracks and messages transmitted at this page:

[share page link]

Emergency Contact Plan

If I run into an issue that's not life-threatening, I'll send a "Help/SPOT Assist" message. If you receive this:

- Check my location.
- If I'm on a road, call [my roadside assistance provider] at [number].
- If I appear to be hiking, call Guadalupe Mountains National Park at 915-828-3251 or Culberson County Sheriff at 432-283-2060.
- If you can't reach assistance through the numbers above, try dialing 911 and ask to talk to a dispatcher at my location. (This may take some time.)

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:08 AM

Comment [1]: Emphasize this in order to avoid panic back home when transmissions pause.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:01 AM

Comment [2]: From your dashboard at findmespot.com, click "Share" and then "Create a Share Page."

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:15 AM

Comment [3]: Let your contacts know that in a true emergency, you will contact help directly. This helps them feel less anxious about checking messages.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:50 AM

Comment [4]: If you don't belong to a roadside assistance plan like AAA or similar, ask your contact to call the local county sheriff.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:16 AM

Comment [5]: In most U.S. counties, the sheriff's office dispatches the search and rescue team. But some popular hiking destinations (e.g., Rocky Mountain National Park) have their own emergency line.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:37 AM

Comment [6]: Here's an article on calling 911 for someone in another state: <https://www.verywell.com/calling-911-for-someone-in-another-state-1298353>

Loss of Contact

If you don't hear from me for [X] hours by either phone or SPOT, check the tracking map and alert the county sheriff or 911 of my last known location.

Changes to Itinerary

I'll send a SPOT message or text if there are any changes to the itinerary above. If contact is by SPOT, I'll follow up ASAP by phone or email with more details.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:54 AM

Comment [7]: Build in plenty of cushion time for dead SPOT batteries, transmission errors, user errors, or losing your SPOT. For this trip, I used 48 hours. But it could be longer for an extended backcountry outing.

Sarah Maurer 10/5/2016 10:49 AM

Comment [8]: In this case, I preset the SPOT custom message to indicate an itinerary change.