

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Tommy Mutz, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

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Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: jim.winchester@state.nm.us

New Mexico State Parks Celebrate the New Year with First Day Hikes on January 1, 2015

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Parks will sponsor free, guided hikes in 19 state parks on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative in all 50 states. First Day Hikes offer individuals and families the opportunity to begin the New Year rejuvenating and connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike on January 1, 2015 at a state park close to home.

"We are excited to host First Day Hikes as part of this national effort to get people outdoors and into our parks," said Tommy Mutz, State Parks Director. "First Day Hikes are a great way to cure cabin fever and burn off those extra holiday calories by starting the New Year with an invigorating hike in one of our beautiful state parks. Getting out into nature can recharge your mind, body and spirit after the hectic holiday season."

New Mexico's State Parks boast a wide variety of beautiful settings for year-round outdoor recreation, and each First Day Hike will offer an opportunity to explore unique natural and cultural treasures close to home. From Sugarite Canyon in the north to Rockhound in the south, hikers can climb hills and mountain tops, walk along ponds, beaches and dams, and traverse trails through forests, fields and deserts.

The historic First Day Hike at Elephant Butte Lake State Park will be the one and only opportunity during the year for visitors to walk across the dam. Hikers can expect to be surrounded by the quiet beauty of nature in winter, experience spectacular views and vistas and benefit from the company of a knowledgeable state park guide.

The following are the First Day Hikes scheduled in State Parks for 2015:

STATE PARK	HIKE TIME	HIKE LEVEL
Bluewater Lake	10 am & 12 pm	Moderate
Bottomless Lakes	9 am	Moderate
Caballo Lake	9 am	Moderate
Cerrillos Hills	1 pm	Moderate
City of Rocks	9 am	Moderate to strenuous
Eagle Nest Lake	11 am	Easy to strenuous

Elephant Butte Lake	10 am & 2 pm	Moderate
Hyde Memorial	10 am	Moderate
Leasburg Dam	10 am & 1 pm	Moderate
Living Desert Zoo & Gardens	9 am	Easy
Navajo Lake	9:30 am	Easy to moderate
Oasis	1 pm	Moderate to strenuous
Oliver Lee Memorial	11 am	Easy
Rockhound	8:30 am	Moderate
Santa Rosa Lake	1 pm	Easy to moderate
Sugarite Canyon	10 am	Easy
Sumner Lake	1 pm	Moderate
Ute Lake	10 am & 2 pm	Easy to moderate
Villanueva	10 am	Moderate to strenuous

Park staff and volunteers will lead the hikes, which average one to two miles or longer depending on the state park. Details about hike locations, difficulty and length, terrain and tips regarding proper clothing are listed on the Event Calendar on the New Mexico State Parks website.

Visit www.nmparks.org to find a First Day Hike nearest you.

Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!



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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • www.nmparks.com