



Welcome to one of the world's most diverse national parks! Experience the austere, majestic beauty of the tallest dunes in North America, and explore some of the park and preserve's grasslands, wetlands, streams, forest, and tundra.



View from Star Dune, the tallest dune in North America at 750' (229m). *Inset photos:* During spring and early summer snowmelt, Medano Creek and Sand Creek provide a natural oasis for all ages. Two sand wheelchairs are available; see page 2 for details.



2-3 Getting Started *¡Bienvenidos!*

Information you'll need to prepare for your visit. Facilities, camping, programs, and local services. *Información en español, pagina 2.*



4-6 Exploring Your Park

Trails and routes throughout the park and preserve. Color map, trail and route descriptions, and a chart with distances for each trail is included.



7 Places Nearby

Zapata Falls, national wildlife refuges, wilderness hikes in Rio Grande National Forest, historic sites, a state park, and wetlands.

For Your Safety

Weather The weather changes rapidly at Great Sand Dunes; be prepared! Storms and cold temperatures can occur any time of year. If you see a thunderstorm approaching, get off the dunes immediately. **Lightning** strikes can be fatal. For general weather information, see page 2.

Hot Sand On summer afternoons, the sand surface can reach 140°F (60° C). **Bring closed shoes**, and be careful with your pets' feet. Hike the dunes in early morning or evening during summer. Though the sand can become hot, summer daytime highs are typically in the low 80s F (20s C).

Wildlife Never feed wild animals. It is unhealthy for them, and dangerous to you. **Drive slowly** on park area roads to prevent accidents with crossing animals. **Bears and mountain lions** may be encountered; pick up the "Wild Ways" handout at the Visitor Center to learn more about these animals. In the campground, always store all items that have any smell in the bear-proof containers at each site. While there are no poisonous snakes or scorpions in this high elevation park, there are rattlesnakes at lower elevations elsewhere in the San Luis Valley. Wear insect repellent to deter mosquitoes and no-see-ums, especially near water.

Altitude Park elevations range from 7515' to 13,604' (2291m to 4146m) above sea level. The Visitor Center and campground are at approximately 8200' (2499m). Altitude sickness may affect a few. Symptoms include shortness of breath, headaches, and nausea. **Drink plenty of water**, take it slow, and avoid alcoholic drinks. Seek medical attention if your symptoms are severe.

Emergency Contact a ranger or call 911. Telephones are located at the Visitor Center, Dunes parking lot, and at the campground kiosk.



Keep wildlife wild - use bearproof containers



Facilities

The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hours vary the rest of the year; please call for times. Rangers are available to answer questions and provide assistance. The Visitor Center offers an inspiring film presentation, interactive exhibits, bookstore, first aid room, and back porch with viewing scope.

Interpretive Programs



Your visit can be more rewarding when you better understand the environment around you. Nature walks, short talks, and evening programs are offered most days during the summer months, and many days in spring and fall. See the weekly schedule of events posted at the Visitor Center, campground bulletin boards, and the Dunes parking area.

Free programs for groups visiting the park and preserve may also be reserved in advance by calling 719-378-6344. Topics include geology, plants, wildlife, and history.

Accessibility

Two sand wheelchairs are available; inquire at the Visitor Center. Accessible restrooms are located at the Visitor Center, Dunes parking lot, and campground. The Visitor Center, amphitheater, and ranger programs held at these locations are accessible. Two accessible campsites are located in the campground. For a backcountry experience, Sawmill Canyon Backcountry Site offers a graded trail to a tent pad and accessible privy. Contact the Visitor Center to reserve it.



Weather

Weather is typically sunny, but temperatures are relatively cool all year at this altitude of 8,200 feet (2,499 m). Summer highs average in the 80s F (27°C), with lows in the 40s F (4°C). High winds can develop anytime, creating cold wind chill factors. Summer evenings are cool. Spring can be windy with unpredictable temperatures. Fall is often pleasant and dry. In winter, sub-zero temperatures are possible. Bring warm, layered clothing any time of the year.



Camping

Great Sand Dunes offers developed car camping, 4WD backcountry camping, and backpacking. The frontcountry car campground, Pinyon Flats, contains 88 sites with picnic tables and fire grates. There are no hook-ups; restrooms include flush toilets and running water. Sites cost \$14.00 per night for a maximum of six people and are first-come, first-served.



Campsites vary in size; some sites may not accommodate larger RVs. Three sites for groups of 12 or more may be reserved by calling the Visitor Center at 719-378-6399. Group sites cost \$3.00 per person per night.

Aluminum recycling, trash dumpster, and an air compressor are located at the amphitheater parking lot near the campground.

Firewood gathering is not permitted; firewood is sold at the Visitor Center, campground, or the Oasis store. Please pitch tents within the rock walls. Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; generators may run from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Backpacking requires a free permit; ask at the Visitor Center. You may camp on the dunes, one of six designated sites along the Sand Ramp Trail, or off-trail in the national preserve.

Backcountry vehicular camping is permitted along the Medano Pass Primitive Road in the national preserve only. This requires a high-clearance 4WD vehicle, and a minimum 5 mile drive on a soft sand road into the preserve. Camping along the road is limited to designated first-come, first-served campsites. For additional guidelines and seasonal closures for this area, check with a ranger.

Pets

Pets are welcome anywhere outdoors in the park and preserve as long as they remain leashed and under control at all times, and you clean up after them. Do not leave your pet in the car. On a sunny summer day, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach 120°F (49°C) in 10 minutes, even if the windows are cracked. In summer months, take your pet on the dunes in early morning or evening when the surface of the sand is cooler. Pets are not permitted in the Visitor Center.



¡Bienvenidos!

¡Bienvenidos al Parque Nacional de las Grandes Dunas! Mientras que usted esté visitando, esperamos que aproveche la oportunidad de explorar algunas de las características únicas del parque. Desde las dunas más altas de Norteamérica hasta algunos de los picos más altos de los Rocky Mountains, este rico ecosistema sorprende continuamente a los visitantes con la estupenda diversidad de vida y paisaje.

Cosas populares para hacer:

¡Suba a las dunas! El paseo desde el Centro de Visitantes a la cima de la duna más alta toma como 2 horas para dar la vuelta. La elevación y la arena lo hace algo difícil, pero ¡vale la pena! Esté preparado para la temperatura alta de la arena, y lleve protección para el sol y agua para tomar.

¡Disfrutar el Arroyo del Medano! En primavera y verano, el arroyo corre por la base de las dunas. Los niños de todas las edades gozan en chapalear, jugar, o aunque sea nada más que remojar en el arroyo.

¡Compartir una comida en el campo! El área de comer que esta cerca del Centro de Visitantes tiene mesas, parrillas y baños sanitarios cerca. Se permiten fuegos de carbón en las parrillas; por favor extíngalos totalmente antes de irse. Y por favor: no haga fuego con leña ni alimente a los animales.

Para Seguridad a Las Grandes Dunas de Arena

En el verano, las temperaturas en la superficie de la arena pueden alcanzar hasta los ¡140 grados F (60 grados de C)! Use calcetines y zapatos en vez de sandalias para proteger sus pies contra quemaduras severas. También, recuerde traer protección para el sol, bastante agua, un sombrero, y alimentación adicional.

El Centro de Visitantes está a 8200' (2.470m) de altura sobre el nivel del mar. Usted puede sentir la respiración entrecortada, o sentirse mareado. Vaya despacio, descanse a menudo, y tome bastante agua.

Se permiten las mascotas en las dunas pero deben siempre mantenerse con correas. Camine temprano en la mañana o bien de tarde para proteger los pies de la arena caliente.

Los basureros de basura están situados en el estacionamiento, en las áreas de la comida y de acampar. Nunca deje el alimento donde un oso u otro animal podría encontrarlo. Manténgase alejado de los animales salvajes: alimentar a los animales salvajes es malsano para ellos y peligroso para usted. ¡Usted está en el territorio del oso! No deje alimentos o los refrigeradores desatendidos en ningún momento. Cuando usted no está comiendo, almacene todo el alimento y bebidas en su vehículo con todas las ventanas cerradas.

Esté preparado para el clima fresco, también en el verano. Esperamos que usted disfrute de su visita a las Grandes Dunas de Arena. Pida más información en español en el Centro de Visitantes.

Local Services

The facilities and services listed, unless otherwise noted, are located within 10 miles of the main entrance to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The towns of Mosca, Hooper, Blanca, Fort Garland, and Alamosa offer additional facilities and services, including gas stations, restaurants, lodging, and campgrounds, but not all services are available in each town. For a full list of area lodging, visit: www.nps.gov/grsa/planyourvisit/lodging.htm For area businesses and attractions, visit: www.alamosa.org and www.saguache.org

National Park Service

General information (recorded, 24 hours) 719-378-6300
 Visitor Center and bookstore 719-378-6399
 11999 Hwy. 150 Mosca, CO 81146
www.nps.gov/grsa
 email: grsa_interpretation@nps.gov

Lodging

Great Sand Dunes Lodge (April-October) 719-378-2900
www.gsdlodge.com
 Oasis Motel (two rooms) 719-378-2222
www.greatdunes.com/lodging.html

Campgrounds

Pinyon Flats (within park) 719-378-6399
 Great Sand Dunes Oasis (seasonal) 719-378-2222
 San Luis Lakes State Park (seasonal) 719-378-2020

Convenience Store/Gasoline/Restaurant

Oasis Store/Gas Station (April-October) 719-378-2222
 Oasis Restaurant (May - Sept.) 719-378-2222

Medical Facilities (in Alamosa)

24-hour Emergency Care
 San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center 719-589-2511
 By Appointment (Monday-Friday)
 San Luis Valley Physicians' Services Clinic 719-589-2511
 Alamosa Family Medical Clinic 719-589-3658

What Can Kids Do Here?



Become a Junior Ranger (ask at the Visitor Center)



Make a sand sculpture



Jump, roll, and slide

Have fun!



Splash and surf in Medano Creek during spring

Your Fees at Work

At Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, your fees directly benefit you. This year's work includes:

- Partial funding for a study on bison and elk
- Relocate RV dump station and improve traffic flow
- New roadside interpretive exhibits
- Remodel the sinks and counters in the campground restrooms
- Develop safe parking area for horse trailers
- Trail-work park-wide, including erosion control



Thanks to Our Partners, Neighbors, and Volunteers



WNPA is a non-profit organization designed to further educational work in the national parks. Net proceeds from bookstore sales are returned to the National Park Service for education and publications, including annual funding of this newspaper. www.wnpsa.org



Friends of the Dunes, Inc. is a non-profit citizens' support group for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The Friends provide a forum for citizen involvement in planning, focus public interest on issues, and provide volunteer and financial assistance to the dunes. For more information, call 719-378-6381, or complete the form available at the Visitor Center. www.greatsanddunes.org



The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit organization that preserves plants, animals, and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy manages lands within the national park, including a herd of about 1000 bison. www.tnc.org



The Colorado Division of Wildlife assists the National Park Service in managing the region's diverse and abundant wildlife resources. www.wildlife.state.co.us



The US Forest Service works with the National Park Service in managing the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area. www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande



Colorado State Parks manages San Luis Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area adjacent to the national park. www.parks.state.co.us/parks/sanluis



The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages three wildlife refuges in the San Luis Valley. www.fws.gov/alamosa



The Colorado Field Institute provides in-depth outdoor learning and research opportunities for educators, students, residents and visitors in the San Luis Valley. www.coloradofieldinstitute.org

VIPs

At Great Sand Dunes, volunteers-in-parks (VIPs) work with nearly every division, and become an integral part of the park staff.



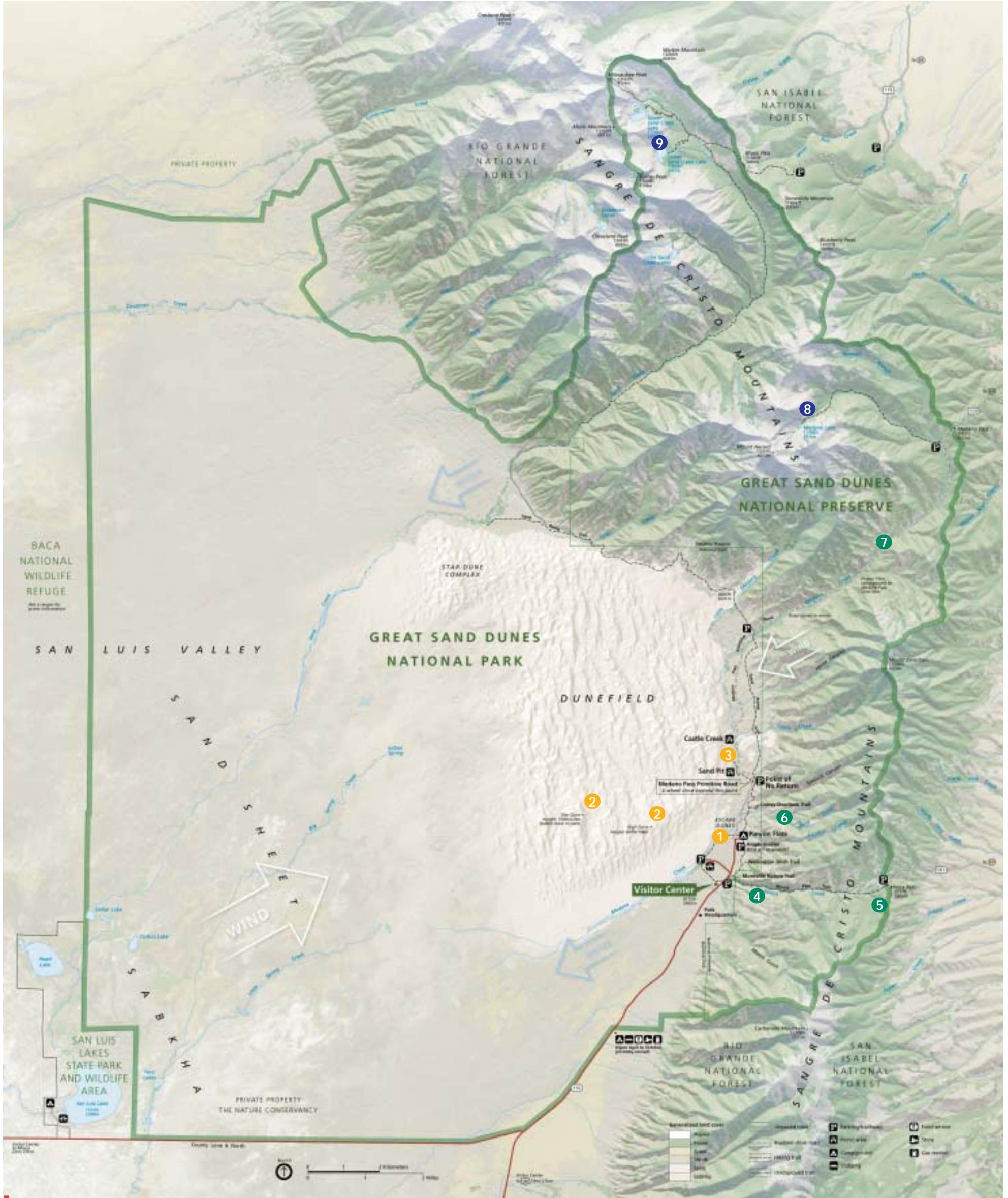
To learn more about the VIP program at Great Sand Dunes, contact Volunteer Coordinator Libbie Landreth at 719-378-6342, or email libbie_landreth@nps.gov. Web: www.nps.gov/volunteer. Students may also visit the Student Conservation Association website, www.thesca.org.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make national parks better places!

Explore Your Park and Preserve

Map of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Numbered locations in colored circles are described on the following page.



This map is also available separately as the official park map and guide, distributed at the Entrance Station or Visitor Center. Download it at www.nps.gov/grsa/planyourvisit/maps.htm Detailed area topographic maps are available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail



As you visit Great Sand Dunes National Park, and drive along State Highway 150 and/or County Lane 6 on the southern border of the park, you are probably following or crossing routes of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, managed by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Ask at the Visitor Center for a free information sheet on the historic trail, or visit www.nps.gov/olsp

From desert sands to alpine tundra, explore an unusual combination of landscapes all found at this special place. Below are a few suggested treks.

Check with a ranger for advanced climbing routes and other off-trail hikes in the mountains and grasslands. See also the detailed hiking chart on the following page.

Dunes Exploration

Explore any part of the 30 square mile dunefield you wish; there are no designated trails in the sand. A dunes-accessible wheelchair is available for free loan at the Visitor Center. In summer months, plan to hike the dunes in morning or evening to avoid hot sand.

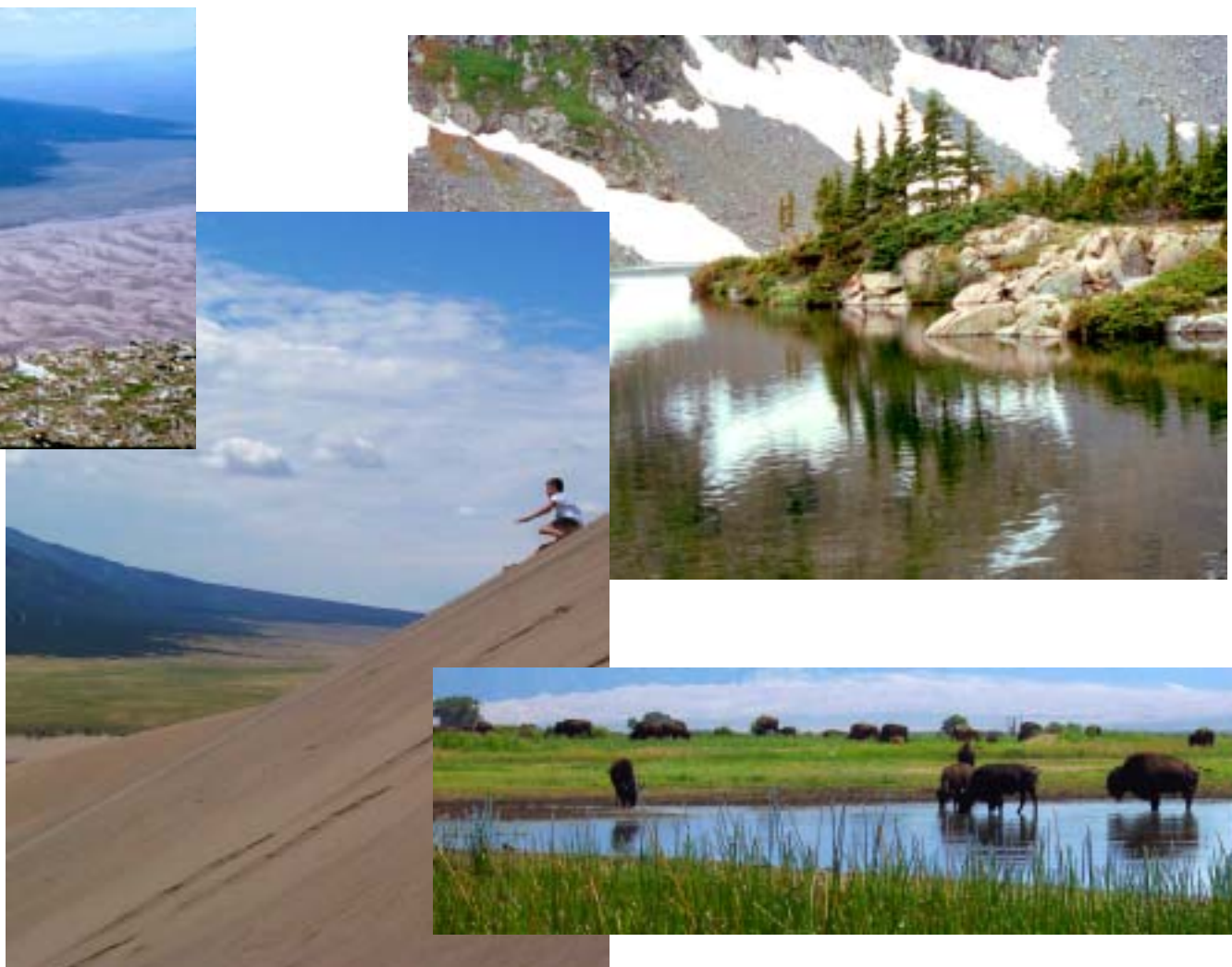
1 Medano Creek When there's water in Medano Creek at the base of the dunes, adults and kids alike love to splash in the stream. Watch for waves in the water, a phenomenon called "surge flow."

2 The tallest dunes The High Dune is neither the highest in elevation nor the tallest, but it looks that way from the main parking lot. It is about 650 feet (198m) high. Cross the flats and zigzag up the ridgelines to reach it. The 360 degree view is inspirational. From High Dune, the skyrising dune you see to the west is the spectacular Star Dune, rising 750 feet (229m). It is the tallest dune in North America. To reach it from High Dune, journey another mile and a half up and down across the dunes to its summit.

3 Eastern dune ridge By high clearance 4WD vehicle, drive to Sand Pit or Castle Creek Picnic Areas. Or, with 2WD vehicle, drive to Point of No Return, then hike 1/2 mile (1km) to Sand Pit. Castle Creek offers an impressively tall, steep dune face. Both areas have close access to Medano Creek.

Grasslands/Wetlands

Ask at the Visitor Center for a free information sheet on accessing the grasslands and wetlands of the park area.



Experience the surprising diversity of natural landscapes at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, from spacious grasslands to chilly alpine tundra.

Forest Trails

4 Montville Nature Trail Keep this hike as an option for afternoon as an escape from the heat of the dunes. Walk along a shady mountain trail named for a late 1800s settlement, comprising 20 houses in its heyday. Rest near the trail's highpoint, where you'll find outstanding views of Mt. Herard, the dunes and the valley.

5 Mosca Pass Trail This trail follows a small creek to the summit of a low pass in the Sangre de Cristo mountains, winding through aspen and evergreen forests. Allow 2-3 hours to reach the pass; the trail is 3 1/2 miles (5.7 km) one-way. Indians and early settlers used this route for travel into the Valley.

6 Dunes Overlook/Sand Ramp Trail For a view of the dunes from the foothills, begin hiking the Sand Ramp Trail in Loop 2 of the campground. Scenery abounds in all directions. Although only 2 miles (3.2km) round trip to the overlook, this trek can be extended, as the Sand Ramp trail continues for 11 miles total around the eastern and northern perimeter of the dunes.

7 Medano Pass 4WD Road Driving this road requires high clearance 4-wheel drive (not recommended for small sport utility vehicles). A scenic drive any time of the year, it is especially spectacular in fall. Creek crossings can be hazardous in spring and the road is closed when winter conditions create hazards. For those without a 4WD vehicle, consider taking the Oasis 4-wheel drive tour, offered May through October at the Oasis store near the park boundary.

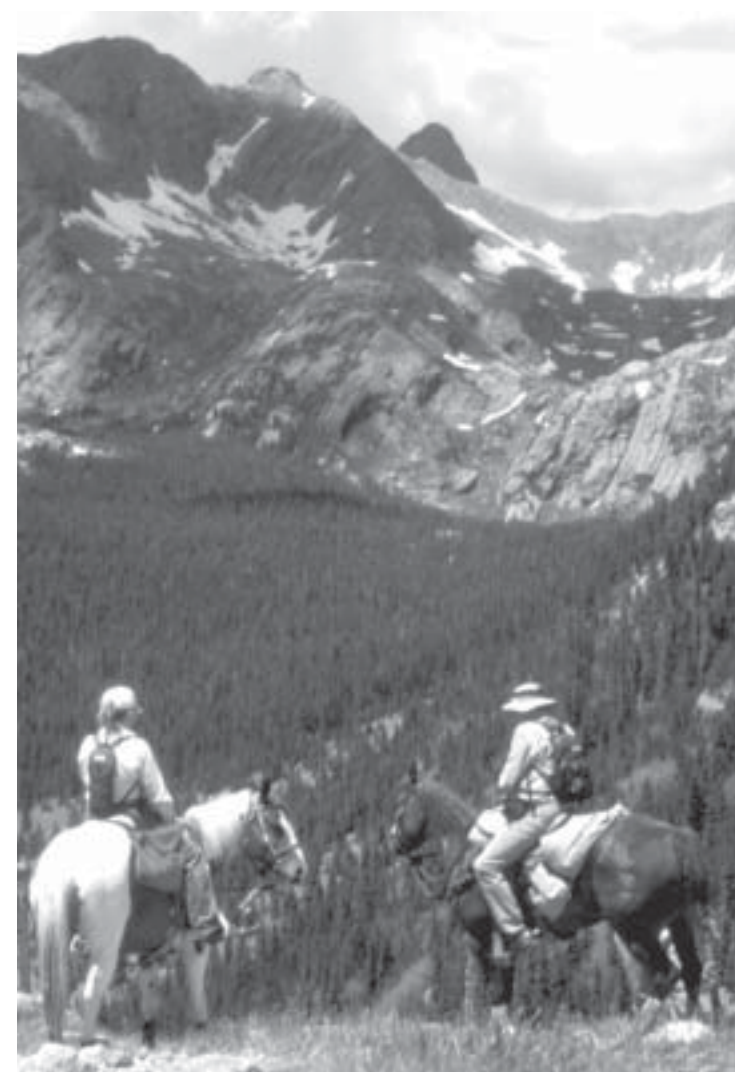
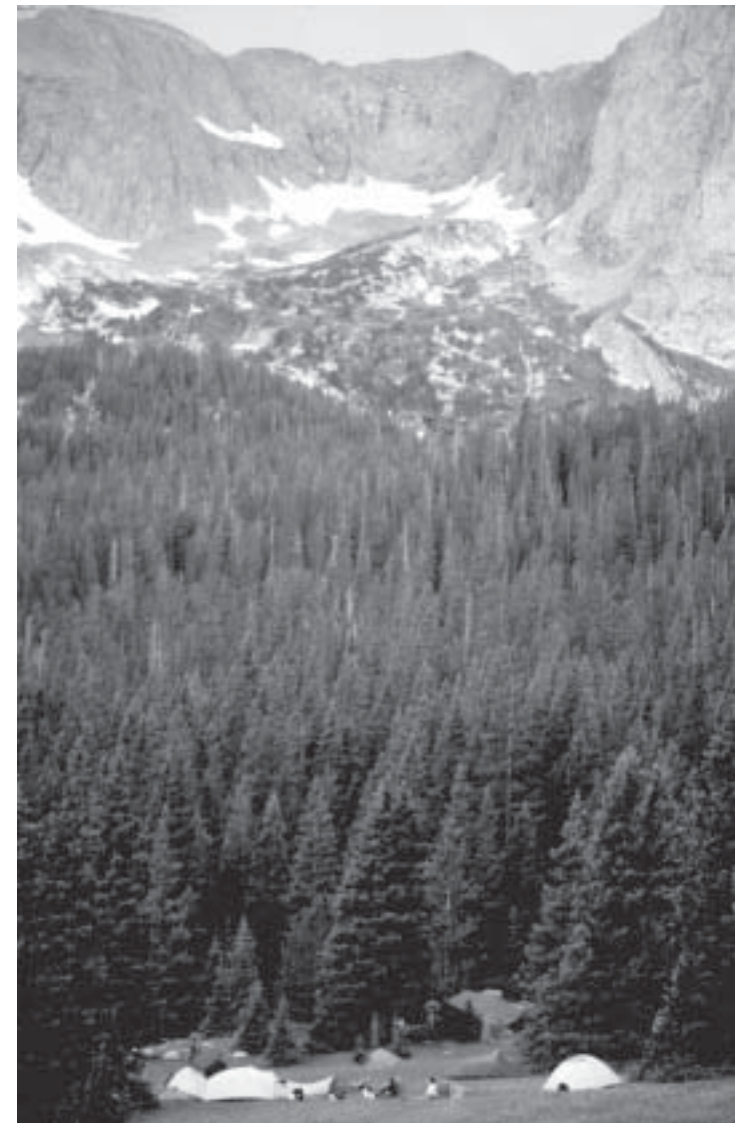
Alpine Trails

8 Medano Lake/Mount Herard Access this trailhead from the Medano Pass 4WD road. Beginning at 10,000' elevation, the trail climbs 2000' through lush meadows and forests, ending at an alpine lake just above timberline. For advanced hikers, continue on to the summit of 13,297' Mount Herard for a spectacular aerial view of the dunes.

9 Music Pass/Sand Creek Lakes/other alpine peaks The alpine scenery here is stunning, but requires a long drive and/or a long hike. Check with a ranger for conditions before travel. The eastern trailhead for Music Pass is accessed from Highway 69, 4.5 miles south of Westcliffe. Turn off Highway 69 to the west at the sign for Music Pass and South Colony Lakes Trailhead. At the "T" junction, turn left onto South Colony Road. At the end of the ranch fence on the right, you'll see another sign for Music Pass. 2WD drivers should park where the Rainbow Trail crosses Music Pass Road. From here, walk 3.5 miles to the pass. 4WD drivers may drive another 2.5 rough miles to the end of the road. From here, it is just a steep one mile hike to the pass. Music Pass is at treeline, with a great view of the Upper Sand Creek basin. From the pass, hike farther to two alpine lakes, or to any one of the 13,000' peaks above the basin. "The Essential Guide to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve" has climbing information for the peaks. Check at the bookstore for a copy. You may also access these lakes and peaks via the Sand Ramp Trail, connecting with the Sand Creek Trail from the west. Check with a ranger for details on this multi-day hike.

Hiking Chart

Easy to Moderate Hikes			
Name	One-way Distance Miles (km)	Comments	Location of Trailhead
Medano Creek (or dry creekbed)	variable	Stroll up or down stream, relatively flat	Dunes Parking Lot
Sand Pit	.5 (.8)	Medano Creek usually found year-round here	Point of No Return
Montville Nature Trail	.5 (.8) loop	Trail guide may be purchased at Visitor Center	Top of hill just north of Visitor Center
Campground Trail	.5 (.8)	Trail from campground to dunes	Campground, near Site 32
Escape Dunes and Ghost Forest	.75 (1.2)	Follow Medano Creek upstream to low dunes.	Dunes Parking Lot
Medano Wetlands (seasonal)	1.3 (2)	Downstream to end of trees (ask ranger for locations and status)	Dunes Parking Lot
Castle Creek	2.5 (4)	Follow creek upstream	Dunes Parking Lot
Dunes Overlook	1 (1.6)	Views from foothills	Campground, near site 62
Wellington Ditch Trail	1 (1.6)	Relatively flat with views from foothills	Montville Parking Lot or Loop 3 of the campground
High Dune	1.15 (1.9)	Follow the ridgelines until you reach the top	Dunes Parking Lot
Mosca Pass	3.5 (5.6)	Forests, small stream	Montville Parking Lot
Sand Ramp Trail	variable, up to 11 (17.8)	Eastern and northern perimeter of dunes	Sand Ramp Trail near site 62 in campground
Star Dune	3.8 (6.1)	Hike down Medano Creekbed to its base, then ascend ridge	Dunes Parking Lot
Difficult Hikes - Check with rangers first!			
Medano Lake	3.5 (5.6)	1,900-foot (579 m) elevation gain	Medano Lake TH (high-clearance 4WD needed)
Music Pass	4-6 (6.4-9.7)	Beautiful high alpine environment	2WD parking on Music Pass Road (4WD required to go further)
Carbonate Peak	3 miles (4.8 km) south of Mosca Pass	Bushwhack along crest in heavy timber	Mosca Pass
Sand Creek Lakes	Lower - 3.0 (5.2) Upper - 3.5 (6.0)	Alpine lakes and majestic mountains	Music Pass 4WD TH
Mount Herard	5.2 (8.8)	Hike to 12,500' (3,810 m) saddle to west, then on to summit	Medano Lake TH - (high-clearance 4WD needed)



Top: Backpacking into Upper Sand Creek Basin in the national preserve offers a wilderness experience dramatically different from the park's frontcountry.

Middle: A booklet on the Montville Nature Trail, describing some of its natural and cultural history, is available for 75 cents at the Visitor Center.

Bottom: Horseback riding is permitted in most parts of the park and preserve. Please obtain "Horse Use Guidelines" from the Visitor Center before riding.

Other Nearby Destinations

(Hiking trails and routes for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve are listed on pages 4-6)



Zapata Falls This 30 foot (9 m) high waterfall cascades within a narrow chasm about 10 miles south of the dunes. It is especially refreshing on a summer afternoon. Drive south on Highway 150 to the Zapata Falls Recreation Area sign. Drive 3 miles (4.8km) up the gravel road, then hike 1/2 mile (0.8 km) to the creek. Wade upstream into the narrow cave to see the falls. **Watch for falling rocks. Water is swift and deep in early summer.** *Bureau of Land Management, 719-589-5941.*



Fort Garland Restored to its historic appearance in the nearby town of Fort Garland, this fort historically protected settlers. Many multi-cultural dances and other events take place through the summer months. *Colorado Historical Society, 719-379-3512.*



Colorado Gator Farm Located just north of the town of Mosca, this is a combination fish and alligator farm, popular with kids. *719-378-2612.*



Blanca Wetlands These quiet wetlands see few visitors, but many birds. Inquire at the Visitor Center for directions. Closed Feb. 15 - July 15 for nesting. *Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 719-589-5941.*



South Zapata Lake is nestled at the base of 14,043' (4280 m) Ellingwood Peak. This is the most easily accessible alpine lake trailhead in the Great Sand Dunes area, but it is a strenuous day hike. From Zapata Falls (at left), hike 4 miles (6.5 km) farther along a trail to the lake (2300' or 701m elev. gain). Marmots and pikas are often seen here. Twin Peaks, 13,580' (4139 m) may be climbed by ascending the steep tundra west of the lake. *US Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest, 719-589-5941.*



Willow Lake This is an especially spectacular hike in mid-summer, when wildflowers are abundant in wet years. An 80 foot (24 m) high waterfall graces a cliff above the lake. This area also serves as a base camp to climb Kit Carson Mountain, 14,165' (4318 m). Please use Leave No Trace guidelines, camping at least 300' from water. Access Willow Lake from the trailhead just beyond the town of Crestone. The hike is 4 miles (6.5 km) one way, 2760' (801 m) elev. gain. *Rio Grande National Forest, US Forest Service, 719-589-5941.*



San Luis Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area The large lake, and the lush wetlands in the wildlife area (closed during nesting), are especially good for birdwatching. *719-378-2020*



Blanca Peak As the fourth highest in Colorado, this is the most popular "14er" to climb near the Great Sand Dunes. However, it is a long hike: around 15 miles round trip, or a bit shorter if you have 4WD. The trail passes by four alpine lakes. Please use Leave No Trace guidelines. Ask at the Visitor Center for an information sheet on Blanca Peak access and hiking. *Rio Grande National Forest, US Forest Service, 719-589-5941.*



National Wildlife Refuges Alamosa NWR protects wetlands and cottonwood groves along the Rio Grande, 5 miles southeast of Alamosa. Monte Vista NWR, located 10 miles south of Monte Vista, is a complex of irrigated and agricultural wetlands, a haven for sandhill cranes during spring and fall migrations. Both refuges harbor a wide variety of birds. Look for official brown signs for both refuges along Highway 160. Baca NWR, adjacent to Great Sand Dunes NP, was designated in 2004 and is not open to the public at this time. *US Fish and Wildlife Service, 719-589-4021.*



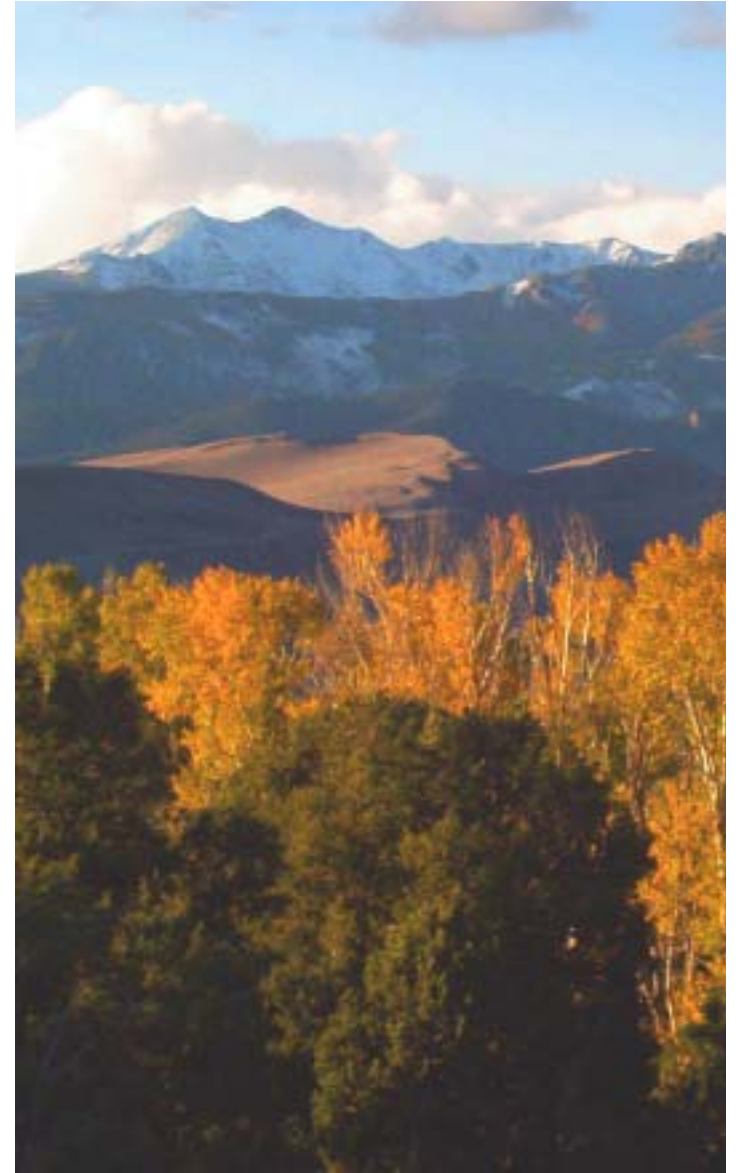
Pike's Stockade A replica stockade near where Zebulon Pike and his men wintered after entering the San Luis Valley. Take US 285 south from Alamosa to La Jara. At La Jara, turn left (east) onto Colorado Road 136. Follow Colorado Road 136 to County Road 20. Turn left (north). Travel 2 miles to County Road Y. Turn right (east) onto County Road Y. Travel 4 miles to the entrance of Pike's Stockade. Turn right into the stockade grounds (over a cattle guard—which is actually County Road 24). Travel on County Road 24 for approximately 1 mile to the stockade.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Sand Dunes
National Park and Preserve
11999 Highway 150
Mosca, Colorado 81146

www.nps.gov/grsa



The Great Sand Dunes and most of the Sangre de Cristo Range are designated as wilderness, where “the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man.” (Wilderness Act, 1964)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

K-12 Learning Opportunities

If you are a teacher or trip leader, consider scheduling an education program with Great Sand Dunes staff. Education programs are age-appropriate, correlated with Colorado Content Standards, and incorporate active learning in the park’s magnificent outdoor classroom. Hands-on field and classroom learning experiences can bring wildlife, plants, history, geology, and other subjects alive for learners of all styles.

- Reserve use of the Discovery Room at the Visitor Center



- Schedule a ranger to visit San Luis Valley classrooms or educational events
- Bring your group to the park for a ranger-led education program (reserve in advance)



“Out of the Blue” is an online curriculum for K-12 teachers and students:
www.nps.gov/grsa/resources/curriculum/intro.htm



- Online resources provide students who live far away with an engaging opportunity to learn about geology, hydrology, ecology, and cultural history.

“The entire website is very user friendly. With the range of activities you have it is easy to find an activity suitable for the learning style and ability of any student.”

- a 5th grade teacher

To learn more about educational opportunities at the Dunes or schedule a program, please contact Education Specialist Melanie Rawlins at 719-378-6344, or email melanie_rawlins@nps.gov