

Carlsbad New Mexico

Pride of the Pecos

Water Activities



The Chihuahuan Desert holds many surprises for those looking for water adventures. From the Pecos River running through town to water park adventures—both manmade and nature-made—Carlsbad has plenty of wet and wild activities for everyone.



The Pecos River Recreation Area

Top 10 Water Activities in Carlsbad

1. **Pecos River Recreation Area** is located in the heart of downtown Carlsbad. Rent a kayak or paddleboat and have some fun in the sun. Lake Carlsbad offers fishing, as well as boating and waterskiing. Want to stay dry? Enjoy the nearly five miles of walkway along the river or the nearby parks and picnic areas.
2. **Carlsbad Caverns National Park** doesn't offer any water activity, but water is definitely the reason these caves exist today. Formed over millions of years, this natural wonder features some of the most amazing scenery located below ground in a series of caves.
3. Located less than 20 miles from Carlsbad, **Brantley Lake State Park** is the southernmost lake in New Mexico. Featuring popular water activities like boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing, Brantley Lake also offers stunning sunsets and some of the best night sky viewing around.



Brantley Lake State Park

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Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area



Christmas Cruises on the Pecos



Carlsbad Water Park

4. **Pirates of the Pecos** is for the swashbuckler in all of us. Set sail on the Pecos River and join in on the pirate games, sightseeing and treasure hunts. They also offer sunset cruises that will unlock the romantic side in anyone.
5. Make a splash at **Carlsbad Water Park**. Seven waterslides, including two speed slides, are waiting for those looking for some excitement. If lounging or relaxing is more your thing, leisurely float in the lazy river pool or relax in a poolside lounge chair. The little ones will enjoy the zero entry play area.
6. **Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area** is an oasis in the hot desert, complete with cool pools and the namesake Sitting Bull Falls. Take advantage of the numerous trails nearby and then come take a cool dip in these natural waters. Bring lunch and make a day of it with picnic tables, water and restrooms in the area.
7. Don't let the name fool you. There's more to **Lake Carlsbad Beach Park and Splash Pad** than just water activities. Sure, you can boat and fish, and the splash pad and beach area are perfect for younger ones. If water isn't your game, the sports complex at the park offers tennis and racquetball courts, plus a few soccer fields.
8. Who says you can't cruise in a land locked state? **Carlsbad Cruises** offers guided tours of the Pecos River that provide spectacular views of the architecture along the shoreline. You'll also learn about the history of Carlsbad and get some of the most amazing views of the historic flumes and the old bathhouse and springs.
9. Prefer to swim indoors? Check out the **Carlsbad High School Natatorium**, which is open to the public year-round. There's a 50-meter lap pool, shallow pool ideal for children, and even a diving board for the adventurous.
10. **Pecos River Flume** is known as the "World's Only River that Crosses Itself" by Ripley's Believe It or Not. Built in the late 1800s, this concrete aqueduct was built to divert water for agriculture and livestock.