



CAC AREA FAQ's

Here are a few answers to commonly asked questions for those coming to CAC for a first visit. It is a rural area (and thus the excellent observing) that is sparsely populated with few services. The accommodations at CAC help to compensate for this, but it pays to plan ahead for your visit.

Are mosquitos a problem out there? (I'll have repellent, but would like to know ahead of time if I should be putting it on right away!)

Yes, potentially after a large rainfall during the monsoon, but otherwise insects are not generally a problem as the humidity is low and there is no standing water nearby.

How common are rattlesnakes or other wildlife typically present?

Yes, rattlesnakes are out there in the warm months. The snakes try to avoid people and I use my red flashlight (sometimes white flashlight to be sure to see them) when I am walking around the site. It also helps to stay on the sidewalks where they are more visible as well. Keep the doors to the restrooms closed to keep them out.

The snakes are rare when the nights are cold. I always assume they are out there.

There is other wildlife, but CAC is fenced the cows stay outside the fence. (As long as we keep the main gate closed!) Big jackrabbits, deer, birds, bobcats, kangaroo rats, groundhogs and skunks have been seen but have kept their distance. Remember, this is a wild desert area so stay alert when you are moving about.

How far away is it to the nearest food beyond what we bring? (I might like to grab lunch and/or dinner during daylight hours, but will plan to eat breakfast on-site)

About 10 - 11 miles away on 191, just north of the 191/181 intersection, there is a gas station that has a convenience store – The Mustang Mall.

There is also Sandy's restaurant that is on that corner too. Breakfast and lunch only. The "Kountry Cafe" on 191 in Elfrida (south of 191/181). 25 miles from CAC. Open till 8pm.

Chuckwagon Grill 12 miles from CAC in Elfrida, south on 191.

Dollar General in the town of Sunsites on 191, on the way to CAC. Is about 22 miles from CAC. It is open until 9pm. It has grocery items.

Supermarket in Willcox.

We have 2 full size refrigerators/freezers. Most members bring their own food in a cooler to transport and store the food in the fridge/freezer on site. Refrigerator space can be limited, so try to consolidate as much as possible. You can refreeze you ice packs in the freezer.

Double check all opening hours. This is a rural area and many of the establishments are run by owner operators who open and close when it suits them.

Also, just wondering about the rule about having to come out to observe and not just use the facilities -- do members actually do that?

We want to avoid members using the site as a B&B while sightseeing around the local area. Therefore, one of the rules is that your primary objective to using the facilities at CAC is that you intend to observe at CAC during your stay. We have very limited facilities that fill up quickly and must be dedicated for members observing at the site.