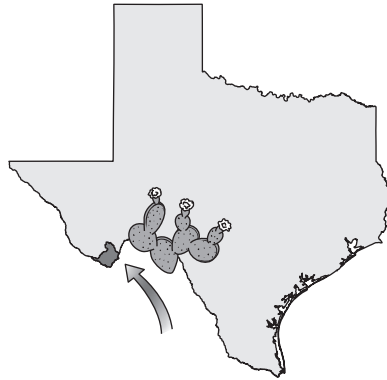


THE LAST FRONTIER OF TEXAS



Big Bend National Park, named for the great turn the Rio Grande makes in Southwest Texas, encompasses over 800,000 acres.

Established in 1944, this extraordinary park contains three natural divisions: the Rio Grande with its meandering 118 miles of lush, green floodplain; the sprawling Chihuahuan Desert; and the majestic Chisos Mountain Range.

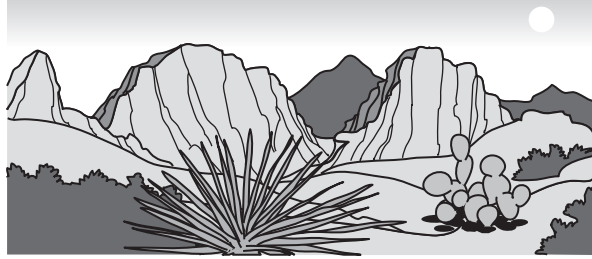
Called the “Last Frontier of Texas,” Big Bend nevertheless boasts excellent paved roads to and through the park. Stark and dramatic contrasts in topography, climate, scenery, and its unique world of plant and animal life make Big Bend more of an awe-inspiring experience than just a place to visit.

Touring this expansive and diverse park is, indeed, motivating and memorable. Accessible to all types of travelers, the park is visitor-friendly to families, motorcyclists, hikers, RVers, and campers.

Guests can stay overnight in modern comfort and convenience at Chisos Mountains Lodge. Campers stay at various campsites in the Chisos Basin, Rio Grande Village, and near the Castolon Historic Area. Entrance fees are charged to enter the park (open year round) and can be paid at the Maverick and Persimmon Gap entrance stations. If the entrance stations are closed, you may pay your entrance fee at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Wherever you start your expedition into the Big Bend experience, you’ll be on the road to adventure. The border-to-border Chihuahuan Desert; the Chisos Mountains; and the steep canyons of Boquillas, Mariscal, and Santa Elena beckon you to Big Bend National Park.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES



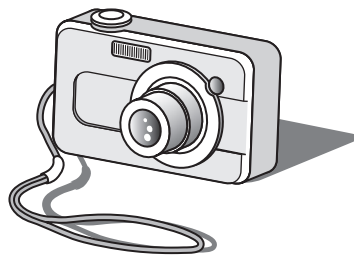
CHISOS MOUNTAINS LODGE—Located in a setting 5,400 feet above sea level, the Lodge and each of its 72 rooms have a breathtaking view of the spectacular mountain range. Motel-type units and unique stone cottages reminiscent of regional adobe dwellings are also available.

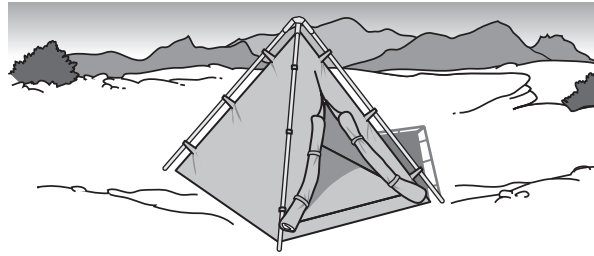
DINING—The Chisos Mountains Lodge Dining Room serves up a panoramic view of the mountains, accompanied by a menu of American, Mexican, and “Tex-Mex” selections.

CONVENIENCE STORES—Four stores are located within the park: one each at Chisos Mountains Lodge, Castolon Historic Area, Panther Junction, and Rio Grande Village. Each offers a variety of groceries and beverages as well as camping and picnic supplies. Souvenirs, gifts, and basic necessities are reasonably priced. Panther Junction offers gas, diesel fuel, motor oils, and accessories. The Rio Grande Village store has the basics: gas and motor oils.

UNUSUAL GIFTS, INDIAN AND MEXICAN CRAFTS—Creative gift-giving and keepsake collection start at Chisos Mountains Lodge. Park souvenirs, books, videotapes, guides, local crafts, and mineral specimens are featured items.

PHOTO SUPPLIES—Since Big Bend is one enormous “photo-op,” a camera is a necessity. Film and cameras are available at most of our stores.





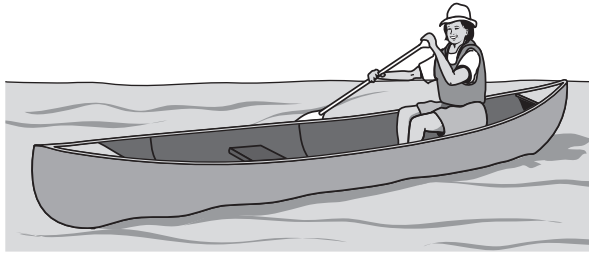
CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILER SITES—Campsites are located in the Chisos Basin, at Rio Grande Village, and near the Castolon Historic Area. Operated on a “first come, first served” basis, sites cannot be reserved. If you do stay overnight in the backcountry, you must obtain a permit from a ranger station. Registration for self-contained units (25 sites) is available at the Rio Grande Village store. Electric, water, and sewer connections are provided.

NATIONAL PARK RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAMS—Programs are scheduled year round and include narrated slide programs, seminars, and guided walks. Write the National Park Service or inquire locally for a schedule of activities.



HIKING—Hiking trails to Lost Mine Peak, the South Rim, and the Window offer panoramic mountain and desert views from high atop the peaks of the Chisos Mountains. Tuff Canyon, Blue Creek, and the Chimneys Trails give hikers excellent vantage points from which to marvel at the rugged beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert. Shorter interpretive trails into Boquillas and Santa Elena Canyons focus on the unrelenting power of the Rio Grande.



FLOATING THE RIVER—One-day rafting trips are the most popular way to enjoy Big Bend’s remote canyon beauty. Since changing water conditions may affect the choice of watercraft, independent outfitters offer three boating options: paddle rafts, oar rafts, and canoes. Rafting trips down the Rio Grande may be arranged through several outfitters outside the park. Reservations must be made in advance directly through the outfitter of your choice. Inquire at the front desk or park visitor centers for further information.

FACILITIES

POST OFFICE—Located at Chisos Basin, the address is Basin Rural Station, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834. Mail is delivered Monday through Saturday.

ATM—Machines are located in Study Butte on the park’s western boundary.

TIPS



WHAT TO WEAR—Comfortable, casual attire is recommended. Protect your skin from the desert sun with caps or hats, sunscreen, and long-sleeved shirts. Because distances between convenience stores are vast within the park, it is imperative that you carry a supply of drinking water.

MEDICAL SERVICES—There are no facilities within the park. If you are taking prescription medications, bring along sufficient quantities.

TRANSPORTATION—The closest airports are in Midland/Odessa and El Paso. Train service is available to Alpine. Contact your travel agent for current information.