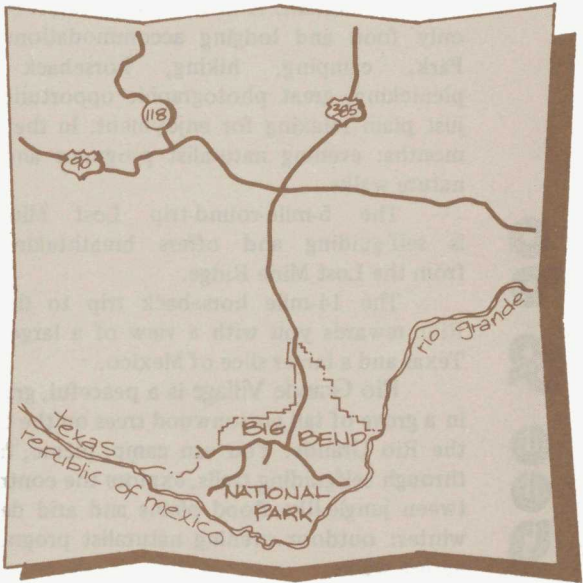


your SUPER 77 visit planner for

BIG BEND National Park



have a SUPER visit

**Safely
Use
Preserve
Enjoy
this Resource**

At Big Bend National Park, your National Park Service is preserving, for your use and enjoyment, more than 1,100 square miles of the Chihuahuan Desert within the great curve of the Rio Grande. It's a vast natural area, almost as big as our smallest State. This is not a park for a short visit; you can begin to feel its mood only after you've stayed here awhile.

Big Bend has four major developed areas for your enjoyment: Panther Junction, Chisos Basin, Rio Grande Village and Castolon.

Panther Junction is the Park Headquarters. This is your primary orientation center and a main source of help with special problems, information about the Park, road conditions, scheduled programs and the place to get backcountry and float permits.

Chisos Basin is a bowl-shaped depression, 3,600 feet above the surrounding desert in the Chisos Mountain. A woodland retreat, it offers the only food and lodging accommodations in the Park, camping, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, great photographic opportunities and just plain relaxing for enjoyment. In the summer months: evening naturalist programs and guided nature walks.

The 5-mile-round-trip Lost Mine Trail is self-guiding and offers breathtaking views from the Lost Mine Ridge.

The 14-mile horseback trip to the South Rim rewards you with a view of a large part of Texas and a larger slice of Mexico.

Rio Grande Village is a peaceful, grassy area in a grove of tall cottonwood trees on the banks of the Rio Grande. You can camp, picnic, fish, and through selfguiding trails, explore the contrasts between jungle-like flood plains and arid desert. In winter: outdoor evening naturalist programs and nature walks.

Downstream and across the river in Mexico is Boquillas, a small, rustic community of a few adobe homes, a school, church and several cantinas. At Boquillas crossing is a U.S. Customs Station, the only legal port of entry for Mexico in the Park. For a small fee you can be rowed across the river and then walk the 3/4 mile to the village — or rent a burro and travel in style!

About four miles downstream from Rio Grande Village is Boquillas Canyon, the longest of the river's three major gorges. A paved road runs

to a parking area where a trail will lead you into the Canyon.

A side trip from the Village takes you to the old Hot Springs historic site, developed in the early 1900's as a health resort. The narrow, rough road leads to the old deserted trading post, motel and other buildings.

Castolon, in the early 1900's was a farming-ranching community, but most of the remaining buildings were built by the U.S. Cavalry when it moved in to restore and keep the peace. It is reached over Camino Buena Vista, the "road of beautiful views." You can camp, picnic and fish.

Eight miles upstream is Santa Elena Canyon, one of the river's deepest gorges. Drive to the parking area and take the short hike into the Canyon.

You are invited to backpack into Big Bend's backcountry and float the Rio Grande. Permits are required, available at Headquarters or at any Ranger Station.

You are permitted to drive the primitive dirt roads — but be warned that some are *very* rough and not recommended for ordinary cars. These roads frequently wash out during the rainy season (July thru September). Check conditions before you start and get a permit if you plan to camp.

Big Bend National Park can be reached only by automobile. The closest commercial airport is at Midland-Odessa; bus and rail service is available as far as Alpine, 73 miles from the North Entrance.

The Park has only two entrances. The North Entrance at Persimmon Gap is 40 miles south of Marathon on U.S. 385. This is a north-south highway passing through Fort Stockton and Odessa. At Marathon it intersects with U.S. 90, an east-west highway with connections to Interstate 10.

The west entrance at Study Butte is 80 miles south of Alpine via State Route 118. Alpine is 33 miles west of Marathon on U.S. 90.

If your trip is overnight, and it should be, the only conventional lodging is the Chisos Mountain Lodge (34 units) at Chisos Basin. Reservations should be made well in advance by writing: National Park Concessions, Inc., Big Bend National Park, TX, 79834.

Developed campgrounds are at Chisos Basin and Rio Grande Village; no hookups, no reservations. Trailers over 20 feet should not attempt the road into Chisos Basin.

There is limited camping at Castolon and Santa Elena Canyon.

The concessionaire operates recreational vehicle sites with hookups at Panther Junction. Reservations are not accepted.

At the concessionaire-operated Rio Grande Village trailer court you must hook up to electricity, water and sewer. No reservations.

Along the primitive roads, 46 sites have been designated for vehicle camping but there are no facilities. A permit is required. Ask for locations when you get your permit.

If you pack into backcountry, you must register and get a permit.

A concession-operated dining room and coffee shop are located in Chisos Basin.

General stores at Panther Junction, Chisos Basin, Rio Grande Village and Castolon carry limited groceries. For your convenience, these stores also carry camping supplies and gasoline.

Big Bend National Park is in the Chihuahuan Desert with only slightly over 13 inches of rain a year. Sunshine is abundant. June and July are the hottest months, with average highs of 94.6 and lows of 69.4. Along the river, temperatures often exceed 100 degrees.

December thru February are the cold months, with highs averaging 64 and lows about 36. There are infrequent and brief periods of cloudy weather.

July thru September is the rainy season, with flash flooding. Relative humidity is low, averaging about 50 per cent.

Visitation to Big Bend is probably more evenly distributed over the year than at most units of the National Park System. In the heaviest visitation month there are only 1.2 persons per square mile of Park, but they're not distributed that way — most are in the three developed areas. So if you like to rough-it, there is no off-season.

From May 1 thru June 30, Big Bend receives 44 per cent of its visitors; another 36 per cent come between September 1 and December 30.

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directions

off-season weather food overnight

June receives 14.6 per cent of the total visitation. During the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the Park is crowded.

Hikers Guide to Big Bend, 36 pp. \$1.50
Road Guide to Big Bend (paved), 36 pp . . . \$1.50
Guide to the Backcountry Roads & The River, 36 pp. \$1.50
The Big Bend of the Rio Grande, Guidebook 7, 138 pp. \$2.50
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Map, 1:130,000, revised from USGS 1904 map \$1.00
Order from the Big Bend Natural History Association, Inc., Big Bend National Park, TX, 79834. Check or money order should be made payable to the Association. Include 20 cents postage for the first book and 5 cents for each additional book.

Poisonous reptiles are seldom seen during the day; after dark, stay on trails and use a flashlight.

Carry a first aid kit; the nearest hospital is 108 miles from Park Headquarters.

Flash floods are common in the rainy season, June thru September; avoid fast running water and be alert for washouts.

Be alert for wildlife when driving at night. Do not climb rocks. They crumble easily and are hazardous even for experienced climbers. Stay on the trails.

The Park is a nature preserve; plants and animals are protected. Collecting rocks and artifacts and the use of mineral/metal detectors is prohibited.

Hunting or the use or display of firearms is prohibited.

Pets must be kept under physical restraint at all times and are not permitted on trails or in public buildings.

Motorized vehicles can be used only on park roadways open for public use; absolutely no off-road motorized travel.

Ground fires are prohibited. You may burn charcoal in the grills provided in the developed campgrounds.

Permits are required for backcountry camping and float trips.

A "Pack In-Pack Out" policy is in effect for all trash and litter at backcountry and primitive road campsites and on float trips.

PARKS AND FORESTS

When you are enjoying yourself, what difference does it make if you are in a National Park or a National Forest? Both offer outstanding recreational opportunities and special facilities and services to enhance your visit.

Differences are in concept — which determines the way they are managed. National Forests are managed as renewable natural resources — timber, forage, water, wildlife. National Parks are set aside to be preserved, as they are, in perpetuity.

National Forests are managed for your benefit by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included in the National Park System are great natural areas, as Parks, Monuments, Seashores, Lakeshores, Rivers and Riverways. The System also includes prehistoric and historic areas, as Monuments, Memorials, Memorial Parks, Historic Sites, Historical Parks, Battlefields and Battlefield Sites. "National" is generally part of their title.

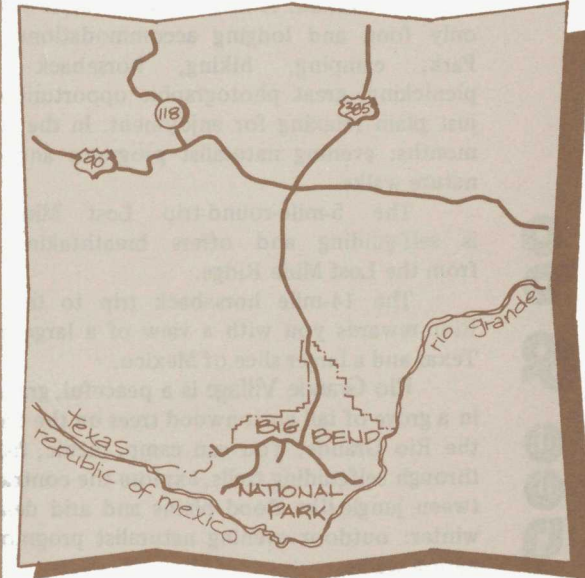
The National Forest System includes National Grasslands. The Forest Service also maintains experimental stations, the Institutes of Tropical Forestry and Northern Forestry, and the Forest Products Laboratory.

Many areas of the National Park System are required to collect entrance fees; you do not pay to enter National Forests. In both National Parks and National Forests you may be charged a special use fee for specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services furnished at Federal expense.

National Park Service ★★★★★
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Use
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read

be safe

rules