

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Big Bend National Park, Texas

October 8, 1957

OPEN ALL YEAR

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK is administered by the National Park Service, a Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Interior. All concession services - cabins, meals, service station, saddle horses, etc. - are operated the YEAR ROUND in the Basin of the Chisos Mts. These are under contract with the Government. Rates are approved by National Park Service and are subject to change without notice upon prior approval of NPS. RESERVATIONS FOR CABINS should be made as far in advance as possible during heavy travel season (April thru September) and for all holiday weekends. Write direct to National Park Concessions, Big Bend National Park, Tex. or Telephone 2291. For other information write Supt., Big Bend National Park, Texas

CABINS: 33 cabin rooms, 6 cottages with bath; all with electricity. Linens, etc. furnished. Cabin rooms have central washroom and showers. Rates: With bath, one person, \$6.50, plus \$2 for each additional person. Without bath, One person \$3 two persons \$4 and \$5; 4 persons \$7. Rollaway beds, \$1.50 per person. NO HOUSE-KEEPING FACILITIES IN ANY CABINS.

DINING ROOM OPEN: Breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m. Lunch, 12 to 3 p.m. Dinner, 5 to 8 pm. Meals \$1.25 up.

SERVICE STATION: Gasoline, oil, tires, white gas, accessories, minor repairs. Towing service. Hours open: Basin Station, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Panther Junction Station 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. year round.

STORE & CURIO SHOP: Limited staple foods; ice, milk, eggs available. Soft drinks, candy, ice cream. Photo supplies, postcards, curios. Books on park: "Big Bend National Park," by Scott, 50¢; "Guide for the Big Bend," Maxwell, \$1. Handling charge, 10¢.

HORSEBACK TRIPS: Regular all-day trips to South Rim, \$15 for one, less for more. Trips to Window, $\frac{1}{2}$ day, \$6 for one, less for more. Hourly trips, \$2 per person. Pack trips by arrangement. Box lunch for all-day trips \$1. For information write Burt Beckett, Big Bend National Park, Texas.

POST OFFICE: Usual hours and services. Mail deliveries on Mon. Wed. and Fri. Address: Big Bend National Park, Texas. Mail will be held upon request to postmaster.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ENTRANCE FEES: None

TOURS: None provided other than guided horseback trips.

TRANSPORTATION: There is no transportation to nor within the park. There are landing fields at Marathon (70 miles from park) also between Alpine (100 miles) and Marfa (125 miles).

ROADS: A paved loop road to park leaves US 90 at Alpine, over Route 118, and at Marathon over Route 51. Other roads within park are paved, except for few sections of graded gravel road. These are normally in good condition, but impassable immediately after heavy rainstorms.

ELEVATIONS: Basin development - 5400 ft. River sections bet. 1800-1900 ft.

FISHING: The Rio Grande is the only place where one may fish within the park.

Catfish are the common take. No fishing license is required within park boundary. Ask for fishing regulations.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: Campfire programs are conducted by Park Naturalist or Park Rangers every night except Sundays. Notice of these programs will be posted on bulletin boards.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: Community Sunday School 10 a.m. Community Bldg. in lower Basin, year round. Student Minister holds services during summer months.

FREE CAMPGROUNDS: Space may not be reserved in advance. Firewood, comfort stations, fireplaces, tables and running water provided. No electricity available. Summer camping ideal in Basin. Nights are cool; often windy. Warm jackets and sleeping bags ideal. Provide for occasional rain during summer months, especially at night. Small campground also at Santa Elena Canyon.

TRAILERS: House trailers permitted in all campgrounds. No sewer, water or electrical connections. Steep grades and sharp curves makes access with large trailers difficult to Basin. Owners of large trailers should check with ranger before leaving headquarters area. Trailer park (4 sites) at Panther Junction service station, with electrical and sewer connections, \$1.25 per night.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES: Chisos Mts. (add about 10 deg. for lower sections).

Jan-Feb: Max. 63, Min. 40; Mar-Apr: Max. 80, Min. 49; May-June: Max. 87, Min. 62.

July-Aug: Max. 85, Min. 60; Sept-Oct: Max. 75, Min. 54; Nov-Dec: Max. 65, Min. 42.

DON'T TAKE RISKS

ROCK CLIMBING: Keep to trails; don't climb precipitous rocks.

SWIMMING: Deep holes in Rio Grande are dangerous due to undercurrents and step-offs, especially during summer months. Flash floods are common during summer rainy season (June-September).

RATTLESNAKES and WILD ANIMALS: Care should be taken during summer months when walking out after dark. Use flashlights. Campers need have no fear of wild animals.

DRIVE SLOWLY at night to reduce danger of running into animals blinded car as they cross road.

WILDLIFE - (60 mammals have been identified to date; 200 birds).

You are likely to see:

Whitetail deer at Juniper Flats and higher on mountain.
Mule deer and javelina in late afternoon along Grapevine Hills road.
Water-loving birds and beaver along Rio Grande.
Antelope between Government Springs and park headquarters.
Coyote, fox - almost anywhere at dusk or early morning.
Soaring hawks in Chisos....watch, too, for golden eagles.

FLOWERS, TREES, SHRUBS (1100 plants identified to date)

Cacti and other desert flowers usually at their best from mid-March to late April.
Semi-desert shrubs bloom for most part in July, August, early September, depending upon rain.
Century plants usually bloom in June; yucca in March; giant daggers in April.
Autumn coloring - late November and early December.

WHAT TO DO

PHOTOGRAPH: Santa Elena Canyon===== mornings
Sierra del Carmen ===== evenings.
Lost Mine Trail ===== early morning or late evening
(Mid-day is poorest time for photographing distant scenes)

MORNINGS:

Drive to Santa Elena Canyon. Watch for abandoned dugouts en route.
Take trail into Canyon. (Allow minimum of 3 hours for trip).
Side trips to old trading post at Castolon; old quicksilver mines at Terlingua and Study Butte; candelilla wax industry and old trading post at Lajitas. (Allow min. of 4 hours).
Ride horseback or hike to "The Window" (Min. 3 hours).
Hike up self-guiding Lost Mine Trail (Min. 3 hours).
See fossil exhibit on Tornillo Flat (get information from ranger or park naturalist). (Min. 1 hour).

EVENINGS:

Boquillas Canyon - kids will enjoy huge sand slide at end of trail.
(Allow min. of 4 hours).
See fluorspar operations at Rio Grande crossing near Boquillas, or for unusual visit, go to village of Boquillas in Mexico if river is low enough to permit crossing. (Allow min. 4-6 hours.)
Photograph the painted desert formations near Study Butte (2 hr. min.).
Short horseback trip to Juniper Flat or Emory Saddle in Basin, with good view through "the Window." (Allow min. 2 hours).
Photographic stops for unusual sunset effects: Green Gulch, Dugout Wells, Lower Tornillo Creek, Ernst Gap, Government Springs, Maverick Ranger Station, Santa Elena Canyon Overlook, top of Lost Mine Trail.

ALL-DAY TRIPS:

Hike or ride horseback to South Rim. This is a must for everyone who can, as it is the spectacular part of the park. (Min. 6 hours).
Fish the holes of the Rio Grande at Boquillas, Santa Elena. Contact ranger for fishing regulations. (Allow 2 hrs. for trip)
Lighting effects upon the Chisos are striking during any unusual weather. Watch for these from the desert.....especially at Dugout Wells, Government Springs, Quail Spring, Cottonwood Draw, Maverick Ranger Station, Castolon and from lower Green Gulch. Ask the ranger for detailed information.

SEASONAL:

A rare winter experience - to see the hoar frost in the Chisos Mts. (this occurs only one or two days out of the year...usually in January).
Coyotes howling at night on the desert...near Dugout Wells or Government Springs.
Giant daggers in bloom at Dagger Flat.... mid-April.
Spectacular effects of early morning fog in the desert as seen from Green Gulch during fall of year.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!

HELP US KEEP YOUR PARK CLEAN

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK A RANGER