



FACILITIES & SERVICES OUTSIDE THE PARK

Mileages are from Panther Junction.

WHERE TO STAY
 Big Bend Motor Inn — Study Butte, 26 miles west on TX 118. 371-2218.
 Chisos Mining Company — Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 170. 371-2254.
 Easter Egg Valley Motel — Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 170. 371-2254.
 Badlands Hotel/Cavalry Post — Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. 424-3471 or 424-3451.
 Terlingua Lodge — Terlingua Ranch, 26 miles west on TX 118, then 18 miles north on TX 118, then 18 miles east on marked gravel road. 371-2416.

WHERE TO EAT
 Poncho's Pizza and Mexican Food — Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 118.
 Uncle Joe's — Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 118.
 La Kiva — Study Butte, 28 miles west on TX 170.
 Badlands Hotel — Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170.
 Terlingua Lodge — Terlingua Ranch, 43 miles west on TX 118, then 16 miles north on TX 118, then 18 miles east on marked gravel road.

CAMPING
 Big Bend Motor Inn — Study Butte, 26 miles west on TX 118. 371-2218. RVs only.
 Big Bend Travel Park — Study Butte, 28 miles west on TX 170. 371-2250. Tents and RVs.
 Lajitas on the Rio Grande — Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. 424-3471. Tents and RVs.
 Stillwell's Trailer Camp — 30 miles north on NPS entrance road to U.S. 385, then 6 miles east on TX 2627. 376-2244. RVs only.
 Terlingua Ranch — 26 miles west on TX 118, then 18 miles north on TX 118, then 18 miles east on marked gravel road. 371-2416. Tents and RVs.

SERVICE STATIONS & GROCERY STORES
 Study Butte Store and Station, Phillips 66.
 Diesel fuel and propane available. 26 miles west on TX 118. 371-2231.
 Stillwell Store and Gas Station, Fina.
 30 miles north on NPS entrance road to U.S. 385, then 6 miles east on TX 2627. 376-2244.
 Poncho's, Exxon
 27 miles west on TX 118.

RIO GRANDE FLOAT TRIPS
 Far Flung Adventures — Terlingua Ghost Town.
 30 miles west on TX 170. 371-2489.
 Outback Expeditions — Study Butte.
 26 miles west on TX 118. 371-2490.
 Big Bend River Tours — Lajitas.
 40 miles west on TX 170. 424-3219.
 Rough Run Outfitters — Boquillas, Mexico. 837-5438

Listing of facilities implies no endorsement. Since Big Bend is isolated from urban centers, we have adopted a practice of listing public services located nearby as a courtesy to you.

EQUIPMENT (Sales or rentals)
 Study Butte Store — 26 miles west on TX 118. 371-2231.
 Lajitas Trading Post — Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. 424-3234.

TERLINGUA MEDICS
 First Aid Station, Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 170. 371-2222.

Telephone numbers: (all area codes are 915)
 Big Bend National Park Headquarters 477-2251
 Chisos Mountains Lodge Overnight accommodations 477-2291
 Chisos Remuda Horseback rides 477-2374
 Rio Grande Village Store RV sites 477-2293
 (First come/first serve only)

Emergencies:
 Day 477-2251
 Night Numbers posted at all bulletin boards, Visitor Centers and pay telephones

Note: When calling within one exchange, dial only the last four digits of the telephone number. Calls to/from Castolon from/to other areas of the park are long distance calls.



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BIG BEND

General Information



GENERAL INFORMATION

Fees: The park entrance fee* is \$5.00 per vehicle (this includes motorcycles). The commercial user fee (for those on bus tours or raft trips offered by a commercial company) is \$2.00 per person. Children under 16 are admitted free. Bicyclists or pedestrians are charged \$2.00 each. All fees are good for one week (7 days).

Golden Age Passports are available free of charge to U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents who are **62 or older**. They allow free entry into any Federal fee area, and half-price off many user fees (camping, boat launching, etc.)

Golden Access Passports are available free of charge to all handicapped or disabled U.S. citizens or residents. They offer the same benefits as Golden Age Passports.

Big Bend Park Pass costs \$15.00 and allows free entry into Big Bend National Park from January 1 to December 31 of the purchase year.

Golden Eagle Pass costs \$25.00 and allows free entry into any National Park Service area from January 1 to December 31 of the purchase year.

*Separate camping fees are charged: see *camping* section.

Services: Lodging, meals, and service stations are provided by National Park Concessions, Inc. Gas and groceries are available near all campgrounds. (No gas in the Chisos Basin.) Showers and laundry facilities are available only at the grocery store/service station at Rio Grande Village between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, with extended hours during Spring Break. Prepared food and lodging are available only in the Chisos Basin. Call (915) 477-2291 for room reservations. **Advance reservations recommended!**

Tours: Guided horseback trips are provided by the Chisos Remuda. Advance reservations required. (915) 477-2374.

Naturalist Programs: Nature walks, workshops, and evening slide programs are provided by park naturalists. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for current schedule.

Roads: Three paved roads lead to the park: 1) U.S. 385 from Marathon, TX, to north entrance; 2) State 118 from Alpine, TX, to west entrance; 3) Marfa to Presidio on U.S. 67, Presidio to Study Butte on Ranch Road 170, then State 118 to west entrance. Note: Highways 67, 118, and 385 all turn south off U.S. 90.

All principal roads in the park are paved. Use caution if water is present at low-water crossings following thunderstorms. The water usually recedes rapidly. Improved dirt roads are usually in good condition and

accessible to normal passenger cars except following rainstorms. Unimproved backcountry roads generally require high-clearance vehicles and/or four wheel drive. Check current road conditions, posted daily, at a ranger station before traveling any of the park's dirt roads.

CAUTION: Never stop on roadway. Always pull completely off the road!

Transportation: No public transportation is available to or within the park. Bus and rail connections are available to Alpine, TX. Nearest commercial airport is Midland/Odessa, TX, 250 miles northeast. Transportation is available from Alpine to Study Butte and Lajitas, but not into the park. Call (915) 424-3471 for schedule, fees, and information.

Recreational vehicles: Steep grades and sharp curves to the Basin and north out of Castolon. Not advised for automobiles towing trailers over 20 feet in length or RVs over 24 feet in length.

Swimming: Swimming in the Rio Grande is neither prohibited nor encouraged. However, it can be dangerous due to strong undercurrents or drop-offs.

Fishing: Fishing is allowed in the Rio Grande. No license is required. Catfish are commonly taken.

Hunting: NO HUNTING ALLOWED. All firearms must be unloaded, broken down, and concealed. They may not be used or displayed in the Park.

Wildlife: Seventy-five species of mammals, over 400 species of birds and 65 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded in the park.

HIKING

Hiking is the best way to experience, enjoy, and appreciate Big Bend National Park. A permit is required for all overnight trips, and can be obtained up to 24 hours in advance of the trip **in person only**. Because of the unreliability of desert springs, it is virtually impossible to plan an extended backpacking trip prior to your arrival in the park. Bear in mind how much distance you want to cover and how much time you have. Based on that information and current spring conditions, personnel at park visitor centers can assist you with trip planning. You can begin to familiarize yourself with Big Bend's trails by obtaining a *Hiker's Guide*, *Chisos Mountains Trails* guide, and topo maps of the park. These can be purchased at visitor centers upon arrival in the park, or they can be ordered in advance of your visit from the Big Bend Natural History Association by writing P.O. Box 68, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834 or calling (915) 477-2236 using a Mastercard or VISA.

DOs and DONTs

DO

- Carry water with you on hikes — at least 1 gallon/person/day.
- Treat spring water before use.
- Wear appropriate clothing, good hiking boots, and a hat.
- Acquire a permit for backcountry overnight hiking.
- Camp at least 100 yards from any trail, cliff edge, historical structure or water supply and 500 yards from any tinaja on the Mesa de Anguila.
- Stay on the hiking trails.
- PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.

DON'T

- Rely on backcountry springs.
- Camp in dry washes, arroyos, and below the high-water mark of the river.
- Build wood or ground fires. They are strictly prohibited.
- Climb unstable rock. Most rock faces in the park are very fragile.
- Molest, harm, or kill snakes or other wildlife. All are protected.
- Cut across switchbacks.
- Take your pet into the backcountry with you, regardless of method of travel.

CAMPING

All campgrounds accommodate people on a *first come/first serve* basis only. Campsite occupancy is limited to eight people, or two vehicles, or one RV plus one vehicle. Advance reservations for groups (scouts, schools, etc.) may be made by writing the Superintendent, Big Bend NP, TX 79834. Group campground reservations may not be made more than 90 days in advance.

Campgrounds:

Rio Grande Village RV Park — This is the **ONLY** campground with hookups in the park. It is a concession operated trailer park, and sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Register at the Rio Grande Village Store/Service Station. Full hookup capability is required.

Rio Grande Village Class A Campground — (\$5.00/night) This 100-site campground has flush toilets, running water, picnic tables, grills, and some overhead shelters. A dump station and water hose are available. The elevation of the campground is 1850 feet.

Rio Grande Village Class B Campground — (\$3.00/night) This area is used **only** when the Class A campground, above, is full (usually during Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter/Spring Break). Drinking water and pit toilets are available, but there are no picnic tables or grills.

Chisos Basin Campground — (\$5.00/night) Flush toilets, running water, picnic tables, grills, and overhead shelters are available in this 63-site campground. A dump station and water hose are available. The elevation of the campground is 5400 feet.

Cottonwood Campground — (\$3.00/night) Pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, and water are available at this 35-site campground. There is **no** dump station. Elevation of the campground is 1900 feet.

Campground fees are subject to change.

Primitive Camping

Numerous backcountry roadside campsites are located throughout the park. Most require a high clearance or four-wheel drive vehicle. No services or facilities are available at these primitive campsites. A backcountry permit is required to camp at these sites, and can be obtained free of charge at any ranger station.

Showers/Laundry

Showers are **not** available at the campgrounds, but coin-operated showers and laundry facilities are available at the Rio Grande Village Store/Service Station.

CAMPING LIMITATION

A parkwide limit of 14 days occupancy is in effect February 1 to April 15 for any developed campsite including the concession-operated trailer sites at Rio Grande Village. During the rest of the year, a limit of 14 days occupancy is in effect per campground visit, but occupancy beyond 14 days may be authorized by campground managing personnel on a day-to-day basis if sites are available for new arrivals.

CAMPGROUND STATUS

During holiday periods, particularly Easter/Spring Break, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, the main campgrounds are likely to be full. However, there is generally adequate space for properly equipped campers in primitive areas. If you plan to visit Big Bend during any of the above time periods, come prepared

with a portable table, folding chairs, water containers, and a portable grill. In addition to primitive areas within the park, there are several private camping facilities adjacent to the park. They are listed under "Facilities and Services Outside the Park." For additional information call the park at (915) 477-2251.

DOs and DONTs

DO

- Camp only at designated campsites.
- Keep your pets on a leash and under physical control at all times.
- Observe quiet hours: 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. *Muffled* RV generators may be used from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM.
- Dispose of sink water in camper sinks only — *not* on the ground!
- Have fun — and enjoy yourself!

DON'T

- Build wood or ground fires.
- Leave stoves or charcoal fires unattended.
- Drain sewage or sink waste water on the ground.
- Leave property unattended in the park in excess of 24 hours.
- Use firearms or metal detectors. Both are strictly prohibited.

PETS

Pets are not permitted on any of the trails, in any public buildings, on the Rio Grande or anywhere off established roadways. There are no kennels in or near the park and pets may not be left unattended in the campground or in vehicles. Consider your plans very carefully before planning to bring your pet with you.

RIVER INFORMATION

The Rio Grande forms the southern boundary of Big Bend National Park as well as the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. The river borders the park for 118 miles. In this distance it has carved three major canyons which vary in depth from 1,200 feet to 1,500 feet. Pursuant to a 1978 act designating the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, an additional 127 miles of river downstream from the park is managed for recreation and preservation by the National Park Service. Like the three canyons of Big Bend, the "Lower Canyons" are steep and sheer-walled. In certain locations there is considerable

white water which can be very dangerous to the novice. Between the canyons, the Rio Grande is generally slow and quiet.

For river trips in Big Bend National Park or on the Wild and Scenic River, a free permit, obtainable at any ranger station, is required. Three options are available: 1) You can bring your own equipment; 2) You can rent equipment at Lajitas or Study Butte; or 3) You can hire guide service.

Please request specific river regulations and information prior to making final plans for your trip.

WEATHER

Month	Average Maximum (°F)	Average Minimum (°F)	Precipitation Average (inches)	Ytd Total
January	60.9	35.0	.46	.46
February	66.2	37.8	.34	.80
March	74.4	45.3	.31	1.11
April	80.7	52.3	.70	1.81
May	88.0	59.3	1.50	3.31
June	94.2	65.5	1.93	5.24
July	92.9	68.3	2.09	7.33
August	91.1	66.4	2.35	9.68
September	86.4	61.9	2.12	11.80
October	78.8	52.7	2.27	14.07
November	68.5	42.3	.70	14.77
December	62.2	36.4	.57	15.34

Temperatures in the higher mountain areas vary about 5–10 degrees below those shown, while temperatures along the Rio Grande run from 5–10 degrees higher. Sunshine is abundant the year round. Infrequent and brief periods of cloudy weather are confined mostly to the winter months. Snow falls very rarely and is generally light, lasting only a short time. Relative humidity is usually quite low. The "rainy season" extends from mid-June through October, during which there can be locally heavy thunderstorms and some flash-flooding. The water recedes rapidly, however, and the rainy season is a delightful time to visit the desert.

Because national parks were established to protect the land and to leave all within their boundaries unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, the collecting or disturbing of rocks, cacti and other plants, animals, or historic or prehistoric artifacts is prohibited. In addition, no off-road vehicular travel is permitted.