



## 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. Ph. 371-2218 or 1-800-848-BEND
- Easter Egg Valley Motel—Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2254
- Badlands Hotel/Cavalry Post—Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 424-3471 or 424-3451.
- Longhorn Ranch Motel—26 miles west to Study Butte, then 11 miles north on TX 118. Ph. 371-2541.
- Terlingua Lodge—Terlingua Ranch, 26 miles west to Study Butte, then 18 miles north on TX 118, then 16 miles east on marked gravel road. Ph. 371-2416.
- Gage Hotel—Marathon, 70 miles north on TX 385. Ph. 386-4205.
- Heath Canyon Guest Ranch - 30 miles north on NPS entrance road to U.S. 385, then 27 miles east on TX 2627 to the end of the pavement. Ph. 376-2235.

### WHERE TO EAT

- La Kiva—Study Butte, 28 miles west on TX 170.
- Badlands Hotel—Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170.
- Terlingua Lodge—Terlingua Ranch, 26 miles west on TX 118, then 18 miles north on TX 118, then 16 miles east on marked gravel road.
- Gage Hotel—Marathon, 70 miles north on TX 385.
- Roadrunner Deli - Study Butte, 27 miles west on TX 118. Ph. 371-2364
- El Matterhorn Restaurant (Longhorn Ranch Motel) - 26 miles west to Study Butte, then 11 miles north on TX 118. Ph. 371-2542.
- Big Bend Motor Inn Restaurant - Study Butte, 26 miles west on TX 118. Ph. 371-2483.
- Long Draw Saloon - West of Terlingua on TX 170. Ph. 371-2608.
- Terlingua Cafe - Terlingua Ghost Town. 30 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2465.
- Star Light Theatre - Terlingua Ghost Town. 30 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2326.
- Desert Opry - Study Butte, 28 miles west on TX 170.

### CAMPING

- Big Bend Motor Inn—Study Butte, 26 miles west on TX 118, Ph. 371-2218. RVs only.
- Big Bend Travel Park—Study Butte, 28 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2250. Tents and RVs.
- BJs RV Park—Terlingua, 30 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2259
- Lajitas on the Rio Grande—Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 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. Ph. 376-2244. Tents and RVs.
- Terlingua Oasis RV Park—Terlingua, 30 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 371-2218.

Terlingua Ranch—26 miles west to Study Butte, then 18 miles north on TX 118, then 16 miles east on marked gravel road. Ph. 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. Ph. 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. Ph. 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. Ph. 800-359-4138.
- Outback Expeditions—Study Butte. 26 miles west on TX 118. Ph. 800-343-1640.
- Big Bend River Tours—Lajitas. 40 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 800-545-4240.
- Texas River Expeditions—Study Butte. 26 miles west on TX 118. Ph. 800-839-7238

*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.*

**KENNEL** Kennel services of Terlingua, winter/spring only. Ph. 371-2613

### EQUIPMENT (Sales or rentals)

- H & S Canoe Livery—Terlingua. Ph. 371-2477.
- Study Butte Store—26 miles west on TX 118. Ph. 371-2231.
- Lajitas Trading Post—Lajitas, 40 miles west on TX 170. Ph. 424-3234

### TERLINGUA MEDICS

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

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS: (all area codes are 915)

- Big Bend National Park Headquarters ..... 477-2251
- Chisos Mountains Lodge  
Overnight accommodations ..... 477-2291
- Rio Grande Village Store RV sites..... 477-2293  
(First come/first served only)

### EMERGENCIES:

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

Note: Calls to/from Castolon from/to other areas of the park are long distance calls.



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# Big Bend

General Information

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





## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Fees:** The park entrance fee is \$5.00 per vehicle. The entrance fee for commercial tours is based upon the passenger capacity of each tour vehicle; up to 6 passenger capacity - \$25 fee, between 7 and 25 passenger capacity - \$40, over 25 passenger capacity - \$100.

**Golden Age Passports** are available to U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents who are **62 or older** at a cost of \$10.00. This lifetime passport allows free entry into any federal fee area, and half-price off federal campground fees.

**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 for one year from date of purchase.

**Golden Eagle Pass** costs \$25.00 and waives entrance fees into any National Park Service area for one year from the date of purchase.

**Services:** Lodging, meals, and service stations are provided by National Park Concessions, Inc. Groceries are available near all campgrounds. No gas is available in the Chisos Basin or at Castolon, but may be purchased at Panther Junction and Rio Grande Village. 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!**

**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 route 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, 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 in Alpine, TX. Nearest commercial airport is Midland/Odessa, TX, 230 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-eight species of mammals, over 435 species of birds and 66 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded in the park. Feeding any animal is strictly prohibited.

## 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 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 DON'Ts

### DO

- Carry water with you on hikes-at least 1 gallon/person/day.
- Purify spring water before use.
- Wear appropriate clothing, good hiking boots, and a hat.
- Acquire a free 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 hiking trails.
- **PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.**

### DON'T

- Rely on backcountry springs.
- Camp in dry washes, arroyos, or below the highwater mark of the river.
- Build wood or ground fires. They are strictly prohibited.
- Climb unstable rock. Most rock faces in the park are fragile.
- Collect, 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-served** basis only. Campsite occupancy is limited to eight people and two vehicles, or one RV plus one vehicle. Advance reservations for groups (scouts, school, etc.) may be made by writing the Superintendent, Big Bend NP, TX 79834. Group campground reservations may be made up to 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.

**Chisos Basin Campground:** (\$5.00/night) Flush toilets, running water, picnic tables, grills, and some 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:** (\$5.00/night) Pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, and water are available at this 31-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 primitive campsites. A backcountry permit is required to camp, 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. A limit of 28 nights per year is in effect.

## CAMPGROUND STATUS

During holiday periods, particularly Easter/Spring Break, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, the main campgrounds and most primitive sites are likely to be full. If you plan to camp in primitive sites, come prepared with a portable table, folding chairs, water container, 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

Service Outside the Park." For additional information call the park at (915) 477-2251.

## DOs and DON'Ts

### DO

- Camp only at designated campsites.
- Keep your pets on a leash and under physical control at all times.
- Observe quiet hours: 9:00 PM to 7:00 AM. **Muffled** generators may be used from 7:00 AM to 9:00PM.
- Dispose of sink water in camper sink only - not on the ground!
- Ask a ranger for special precautions to take regarding bears in the Chisos Basin Campground. .

### 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 metal detectors. Both are strictly prohibited.
- Leave your pet unattended at any time.

## PETS

Pets are not permitted on any of the trails, in any public buildings, on the Rio Grande or any where off established roadways. There are no kennels in the park; it is open seasonally outside the park. Pets may not be left unattended in the campground or in the 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 Park as well as the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. The river borders the park for 107 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 are 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 a 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	77.4	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 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 vehicle travel is permitted.