

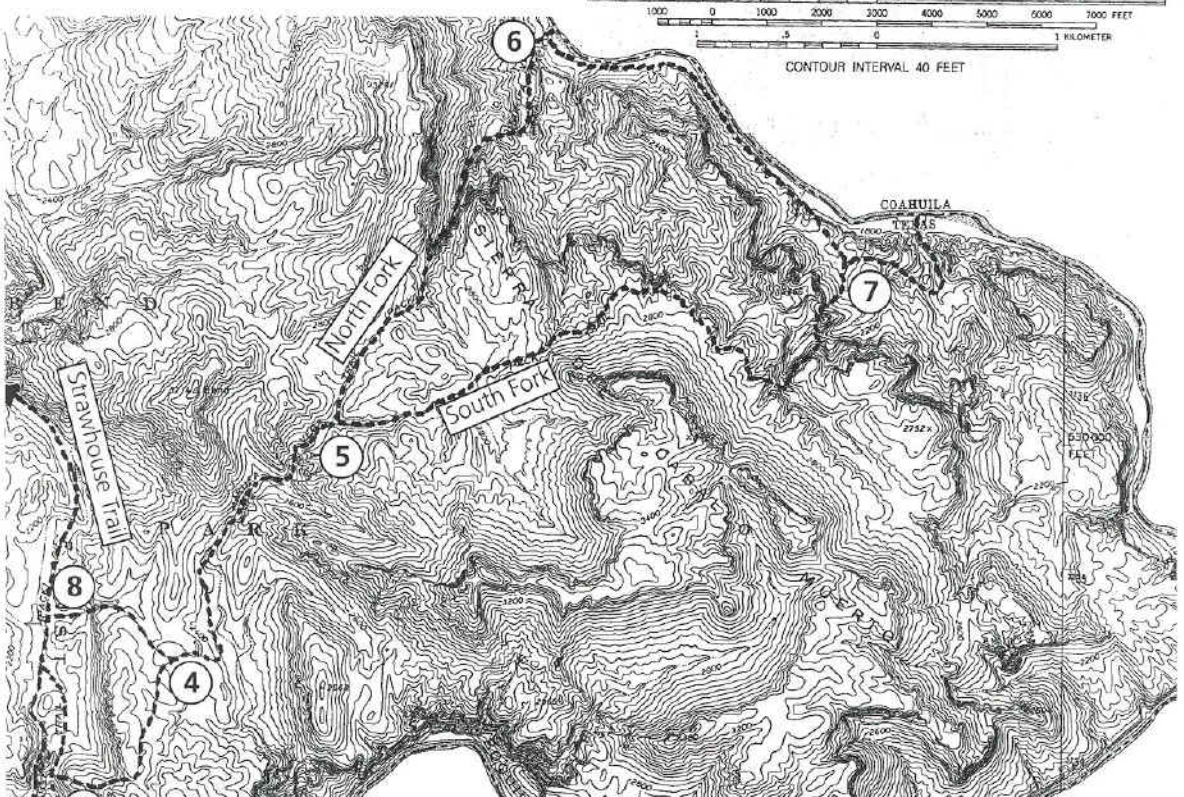
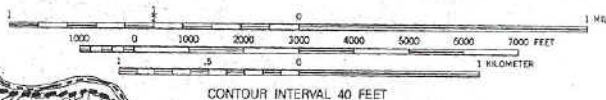


Marufo Vega Trail

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK



This is a strenuous, but spectacular day hike or backpacking trip. The entire loop is 14 miles round-trip. Temperatures may exceed 100°. There is NO WATER available along this trail. River water is not potable.



1. The parking area is on the south side of the road to Boquillas Canyon, just past the Boquillas Canyon Overlook. The trail drops down into a wash a short distance from the trailhead.
2. Approx. 1 mile from the trailhead, a rock cairn on the right side of the wash indicates where you head to higher ground. The trail soon reaches the remains of the ore tramway line. The Marufo Vega (MV) Trail bears to the right and gradually ascends through an outcropping of sparkling calcite crystals toward the small saddle to the right of the large canyon. The Ore Terminal Trail follows the old cable line. The Strawhouse Trail continues up the wash through the large canyon.
3. Within the small saddle the MV trail begins a strenuous but short climb for 1/4 mile. Along the climb are outstanding views of Boquillas, the river floodplain, and the Dead Horse Mountains. The trail then gradually descends across a high plateau and into a canyon wash.
4. An easier trail, more accessible for horses, connects the Strawhouse and MV Trail here. This intersection is well marked with a metal sign.
5. MV trail weaves through the wash. Carefully watch for cairns marking the trail. About 1/2 mile into the wash, the trail splits. The north fork intersection is marked with cairns and a sign next to a boulder on the left side of the wash. The north fork hops out of the wash and begins descending to the river through a canyon. The south fork stays in the wash as it veers right, then leaves the wash after 1/2 mile. It crosses a ridge offering good views of the river and the Sierra del Carmen before descending 800 feet to the river through a steep canyon.
6. As the north fork nears the river, more trails are evident. A signed trail outside the canyon to the east parallels the river from above, and connects with the south fork. From the south fork, finding the north fork branch is difficult, but the junction is marked. Cairns are evident up the canyon of the north fork.
7. The route along the river intersects with the south fork. The intersection is signed. The main trail continues the south fork's descent to the river.
8. A more gradual, horse accessible trail that connects the Strawhouse and MV Trails. A metal sign marks the junction with the Strawhouse Trail.