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| C:\Documents and Settings\pzichterman\My Documents\interior_seal.jpg | **United States Department of the Interior****NATIONAL PARK SERVICE****Big Bend National Park****Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River****P.O. Box 129****Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834-0129** | C:\Documents and Settings\pzichterman\My Documents\AH_large_shaded_4C_pc.jpg |

Updated 4/4/2023

**SUMMARY OF RULES FOR MOTORCOACHES AND BUSES**

**OVERVIEW**

This allows motorcoaches and buses access to paved roads with up to 50 passengers per motorcoach/bus, including driver/guide(s). For **commercial road-based tours**, no more than two buses, totaling 100 people (50 per bus maximum) may enter the park from the same company per day. For **special use groups** who will be hiking/camping, no more than one bus per day. In-park step-on guide service is also authorized – guide must hold a valid CUA permit with Big Bend National Park.

**ACCESS AND PARKING**

**Commercial road-based tour bus operators** are authorized to operate on paved park roads with visits to facilities, services, vehicle pullouts, scenic waysides, and developed areas. Hiking must be limited to ¼ mile from any paved road. **Special use groups** may include hiking (more than ¼ mile from road) and camping. All motorcoaches and buses will comply with the following:

**Two-hour time limits at the following locations:**

* Santa Elena Canyon
* Castolon Developed Area
* Sotol Vista
* Lower Burro Mesa Pouroff
* Panther Junction Visitor Center Parking Lot

If more time is needed, buses may drop off passengers and pick up at a later time.

 **NO PARKING, only drop-offs at the following location:**

* Fossil Discovery Exhibit. There is no turn-around for large buses. One bus may use the gravel pull-out near the entrance from main road.
* Chisos Basin Group Campground. Drop offs & pick-ups only. Parking for one bus is available behind the Chisos Basin Visitor Center upon request.

**Chisos Basin Parking Restrictions:** ONE bus may park behind the visitor center. Do not block emergency access. Overnight parking will require Superintendent’s approval and MUST be submitted in writing and in advance. NO “on demand” requests will be granted.

**NO buses on Boquillas Canyon Road beyond the Boquillas Canyon Overlook – the road past the overlook is restricted to 15-passenger vans only.**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Motorcoaches/Buses must pay the commercial tour fee at the entrance station. Academic fee waivers must be authorized prior to visit.
2. Step-on Guide Service is defined as a guide who rides in a visitor’s vehicle/bus and performs services for sightseeing tours within the park. Step-on guides must hold a current CUA with Big Bend National Park. Please email park CUA Coordinator for more information.
3. No more than a TOTAL of 50 passengers, including driver/guide(s) may occupy a bus upon entering the park.
4. All passengers, including driver/guide(s) MUST always comply with CDC guidelines with regards to mask-wearing dependent on current status.
5. All hiking groups (guided or non-guided) MUST split up into groups of 30 or less. You may NOT have more 30 clients on ANY one trail at ANY time. For example, you may not stagger starts or start at opposite ends of a loop trail with two groups.
6. Vehicles must not be left idling in parking areas while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded.
7. Vehicles must not park across multiple parking areas. Loading zones must not be occupied longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.

Please go to our park website for a complete list of park rules and regulations for your specific conducted activities - [www.nps.gov/bibe](http://www.nps.gov/bibe).