



Safety Tips

You are responsible for *your* safety

1. YOU NEED ADEQUATE DRINKING WATER AND SALTY SNACKS

People have died here. Carry and drink water—at least 1 gallon per person per day. Eat salty snacks as well as regular meals. As you exercise, you lose salt and water. You need both to survive. Consider the weather forecast, the length and difficulty of your hike, and your physical condition so your recreation visit doesn't turn into a life threatening situation.

2. CAMP 100 YARDS FROM DRY WASHES OR STREAM BEDS.

Flash floods may occur unexpectedly, even if you do not see rain.

3. TECHNICAL CLIMBING IS DANGEROUS.

Most rock in the park is unstable and poor for climbing.

4. DESIGNATE A LEADER. FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE ON THIS PERMIT.

5. ATTEMPT NO CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL WITHOUT AN EXPERIENCED

LEADER. Maps, good boots, first aid kit, survival kit, and plenty of water are necessary.

6. BE ALERT FOR POISONOUS SNAKES AND INSECTS.

Place your hands and feet carefully; be prepared to cope with bites and stings.

7. LEARN HOW TO PREVENT HAZARDOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE.

Mountain lions and bears are a natural part of the environment; be prepared for the possibility of an encounter. Report sightings to a ranger.

8. KEEP FOOD AND SCENTED ITEMS IN A HARD-SIDED VEHICLE.

Use food storage lockers where provided; ice chests are not animal-proof.

9. LOCK VEHICLES; SAFEGUARD VALUABLES.

Theft of property from unoccupied vehicles and campsites may be a problem in remote parts of the park so keep these items out of sight.

10. SWIMMING OR WADING IN THE RIO GRANDE IS NOT

RECOMMENDED. Sudden dropoffs and unpredictable currents make the river potentially hazardous.

11. WILDFIRE IS ALWAYS A DANGER; PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES IN ADVANCE

Help us protect your park.

Report any illegal activity to a park ranger.

Backcountry Regulations

You are responsible for protecting the resources of your park; these regulations are enforced.

1. GROUNDFIRES AND WOODFIRES ARE PROHIBITED.

Use only gas stoves or charcoal within a BBQ grill. Pack out all evidence of use such as cold charcoal briquets and ash.

2. FOOD, TRASH, AND WILDLIFE

- a) Pack out all your trash. Help us keep Big Bend clean.
- b) It is illegal to feed wildlife. Animals are attracted to food, trash and other scents. If you are not using them, store scented items around your camp, including trash, soap, sunblock, dishes with food residue, or *anything* with an odor in a bear box or a hard-sided vehicle. Ice chests are not animal-proof. If animals have been given human food or figure out how to get at it, they can become dangerous and may have to be destroyed.

3. NO PETS ON TRAILS OR IN THE BACKCOUNTRY.

Pets may harm or be harmed by wildlife and attract predators.

4. DO NOT TAKE SHORTCUTS WHEN ON TRAILS.

Although cross-country hiking is allowed, when on an official trail please prevent erosion by staying on marked trails.

5. COLLECTING OR DISTURBING ANY NATURAL OR HISTORICAL FEATURE OR OBJECT IS PROHIBITED. Leave park features intact for others to enjoy.

6. HUNTING, TRAPPING AND THE EQUIPMENT USED FOR THESE ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED IN THE PARK.

7. CONTAMINATING NATURAL WATER SOURCES AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS IS PROHIBITED. CAMP 100+ YARDS FROM WATER SOURCES. Desert water sources and springs are fragile and vital for the plants and animals that depend on them for survival. Soaps, oils, skin lotions, and food residues from bathing or dishwashing can seriously impact water quality. Minimize your impact to areas surrounding springs, seeps, and temporary water sources.

8. CAMP WITHIN DESIGNATED SITES

When camping in a designated site prevent resource damage by camping within the area outlined by rocks, logs, or brush.

9. GENERATOR USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES. Natural quiet is a protected resource.

10. OPEN ZONE BACKPACKERS:

You must camp 1/2 mile and out of sight of any road. Your site must be 100 yards from: Trails, Historic structures, Archeological sites, Dry washes, and Cliff edges.

11. BURY HUMAN WASTE AT LEAST 6 INCHES DEEP.

PACK OUT TOILET PAPER. Human waste is unsightly and unsanitary. Carry a digging trowel. Locate latrines 1/4 mile from any water source and well away from camp.

12. MOTORIZED VEHICLES & BICYCLES ARE PERMITTED ONLY ON DESIGNATED PUBLIC ROADS. Off-road vehicle travel causes visual and environmental damage.