Three Days: With three days to spend in the park, you can explore the major roads and still have time for hiking. Check the latest schedule and join a park ranger talk, or evening program to learn more about your park.

1) Visit the Chisos Basin and hike the Window Trail (6 miles round trip) or the Lost Mine Trail (5 miles round trip).
2) See the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive including a short hike into Santa Elena Canyon (see suggestions for “one day”).
3) Drive to Rio Grande Village, stopping at Dogout Wells along the way to walk the short Chihuahuan Desert Nature Trail. The Rio Grande Village Visitor Center offers park information and interpretive exhibits. Walk the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail. The bluff overlooking the Rio Grande at the end of the nature trail is a particularly beautiful spot at sunset.

At the end of the road is the Boquillas Canyon Trail, which takes you to the entrance of this spectacular canyon.

One Day: Big Bend is too big to see in a single day, but a great one-day trip might include the mountains, desert, and river with the following itinerary:

1) The Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive will give you fantastic views of the Chihuahuan Desert landscape and will lead you to the Rio Grande at Santa Elena Canyon.
2) Visit the forested Chisos Mountains and walk the 0.3-mile Window View Trail to get a feel for the mountain scenery. If time allows you might consider hiking the Window Trail or Lost Mine Trail for a look at Big Bend’s mountain landscapes, or lunch at the Chisos Mountains Lodge—the only restaurant within the park.
3) The Fossil Discovery Exhibit, located 8 miles north of Panther Junction, is another highlight that could easily fit into a one-day visit.

What Can I See if I Only Have...

A Week: With a week or more to spend in Big Bend, endless possibilities are open to you. You’ll have plenty of time to explore the roads and will also have time to hike or to drive some of the “unimproved” dirt roads. For these, you’ll need a high clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicle; don’t forget to check at the visitor centers for current road conditions. The River Road, Glenn Springs Road, Old Ore Road, and Old Maverick Road are some of the more popular backcountry routes. A visit to the pool of water at Ernst Tinaja near the south end of the Old Ore Road is a Big Bend highlight.

If you don’t have high clearance or four-wheel-drive, improved dirt roads such as Dagger Flat and Grapevine Hills will get you “off the beaten path.” Hike the Chimneys, Mule Ears, or Grapevine Hills trails for a closer look at the desert environment.

If you’d like to explore the Chisos Mountains, trails to Boot Canyon, Emory Peak and the South Rim offer good views of the park and take you into a world that seems far removed from the desert. There are plenty of opportunities for overnight backpacking along these trails. A backcountry-use permit is required to backpack.
The Paisano

No Collecting

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve all natural and cultural resources unimpaired for future generations. Taking rocks, arrowpoints, plants, or animals robs everyone of this heritage—once something is stolen, it cannot be replaced.

It is unlawful (and rude) to destroy, deface, injure, collect, or otherwise disturb park resources, including plants or animals (dead or alive), fossils, rocks, and artifacts. It is a violation to possess park resources. Please, take only pictures and leave only footprints.

Driving

Drive within the speed limit (45 mph in most areas) and watch for wildlife along the roadsides, especially at night. Park roads have narrow shoulders and some roads are steep and winding. Share the road with bicyclists and pedestrians. Pull off the road to take pictures—do not stop or pause in roadways. Please, slow down...and enjoy!

Drones/Unmanned Aircraft

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft is prohibited in Big Bend National Park.

Heat

The dry desert heat quickly uses up the body’s water reserves. Carry and drink water—at least a gallon per person per day. As you exercise, you lose salt and water (over a quart and a half per hour during arduous exercise). You need both to survive in this extreme environment. Reduce alcohol and caffeine intake—the diuretic effects accelerate loss of body water.

Protect your body—sensitive skin burns easily. Find shade, wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a brimmed hat. Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes.

Water Conservation

• Visitors are limited to 5 gallons of water per day when refilling containers; please conserve water while in the park.
• Don’t let faucets run unnecessarily.
• Wash only what clothing items you need.
• Fill water jugs and bottles at Rio Grande Village whenever possible.
• Consider topping off RV water tanks outside the park.
• Take brief showers.
• Please report water leaks in park facilities to a ranger.
• Use backcountry water sources sparingly; leave backcountry springs for wildlife.

Quick, We Need a Diversion!

Did you know that Big Bend National Park is one of only two national parks that has an active landfill?

Located along the Grapevine Hills Road, the park’s 15-acre landfill is fenced in to prevent bears and other wildlife from accessing the site. Every two weeks, park staff collect, dump, and bury waste generated by park staff, visitors, and lodge operations. The landfill may reach capacity in 5 to 7 years. The park’s management team is exploring sustainable options to the landfill, but we need to do everything possible to extend its life.

The best way to do this is to divert as much trash as possible from the landfill. Follow these three steps to protect YOUR park:

Don’t generate trash.

Avoid single-use items. Bring your own refillable water bottle instead of buying bottled water. Use your personal coffee thermos instead of a paper cup and lid from the gas station or store. Pack your food in reusable containers instead of single-use plastic bags. Avoid plastic bags altogether by bringing your own cloth bags to stores.

Recycle whenever possible.

At visitor centers, campgrounds, and most stores, you can find bins to recycle aluminum, number 1 and 2 plastics, and glass. Please remember to recycle responsibly. Recycling improperly can be even worse than not recycling at all, as trash in a recycling bin contaminates the process. Remove lids from plastic and glass containers. Rinse out containers so that bees, wasps, and other critters aren’t attracted to the recycling bins.

Clean containers and properly sort recycling helps both at the collection site and in Big Bend’s recycling facility.

Once recyclables are collected and sorted, they are stored in the park until they can be driven to recycling facilities in Midland. The proceeds from these deliveries help offset the cost of the park’s recycling program.

Take “Pack it in, Pack it out” to the next level!

Pack it in, pack it all the way out. One of the most important ways you can help is to take your trash home with you.

Into the Future

In 2020, the park received grants from the National Park Foundation and Coca-Cola Foundation to develop manageable steps toward reducing our landfill reliance. These steps include reducing waste by composting and promoting recycling; baling and compacting trash so that it takes up less physical space in the landfill, and exploring sustainable options for that day in the near future when the landfill will close.

Thank you for being a part of our “zero-landfill contribution” efforts.

Protecting Yourself and the Park

Big Bend may be wild and unfamiliar country, but it need not be dangerous. Please review these guidelines for safety and resource protection.

On matters relating to the Paisano: National Park Service
Editor, The Big Bend Paisano
PO Box 129
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834
Phone 432-477-2251

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™
The village of Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico.

Visiting Mexico
A unique part of the Big Bend experience is crossing into rural Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico.

Operating Hours
Winter Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 9am–4pm
Summer Hours: Friday to Monday, 9am–4pm
Days and hours of operation are subject to change.

A visit to Mexico is permitted through the Port of Entry during business hours only. There is no other legal access to Mexico within Big Bend National Park.

General Information
The Boquillas Port of Entry is operated cooperatively by the National Park Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The facility is staffed by park rangers who can assist travelers with information about visiting the area.

Required Documents
Proper documentation is required to cross. U.S. and Canadian citizens can cross with a valid passport;
For complete information on other travel documents, contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Presidio, TX at 432-229-3349.

How do I get there?
Park at the Boquillas Crossing parking lot.
Pass through the Port of Entry and take a small rowboat across the Rio Grande for a modest fee ($5 round-trip as of 5/21). Wading across the Rio Grande is permitted only at Boquillas Crossing, but is not recommended if the river level is high.
Once across the river, walk to the village (1/2 mile) or pay an additional fee to ride on a burro, horse, or in a vehicle. Local guides are available. Visitors are required to check in with Mexican immigration officials upon arrival in Boquillas.

What is in town?
Boquillas features two restaurants with food that is simple, fresh, and good. A bar features wire sculptures, embroidered textiles, walking sticks, and other handicrafts for sale.
U.S. currency is accepted in Boquillas. Visitors are advised to bring smaller bills.

Border Merchants
Near the border, you may encounter small “souvenir stands,” and Mexican nationals wanting to sell you their crafts. It is illegal to purchase these items in the park. Items purchased illegally are considered contraband and may be seized by law enforcement officers.
Port of Entry staff can answer questions about items that can be legally purchased in Mexico and imported through the Port. By purchasing souvenirs in Boquillas, you support the citizens of Boquillas, make the river corridor safer for all visitors, and help protect the resources of this ecosystem.

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Birding in Big Bend
The park is recognized as a Globally Significant Bird Area.
Big Bend National Park is famous for its birding, with more documented species of birds visiting the park throughout the year than any other unit in the National Park System (approximately 490). The park’s diverse array of habitats ranging from the riparian corridor of the Rio Grande to the forested canyons of the Chisos Mountains present an attractive stopping point for birds traveling along major migratory paths that intersect the park.
A good guideline for birding in Big Bend is to seek out areas where water and vegetation are most abundant, such as the Rio Grande, the Chisos Mountains, or desert springs, some of which are accessible by car.
Generally the most active time for birding is in the spring when many species are migrating through the park. However, with patience, birding in Big Bend can be rewarding throughout the year.
The riparian corridor at Rio Grande Village offers some of the best year-round birding in the park. Consider walking the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail or visiting the Daniels Ranch picnic area west of the campground. A similar habitat is accessible between Cottonwood Campground and Santa Elena Canyon on the park’s west side.
The riparian juniper woodlands of the Chisos Mountains and their foothills also offer accessible, year-round birding, and attract many species of birds that would not otherwise be found here. It is well worth the effort to hike into the higher elevations. During early summer you may spot the sought-after Colima Warbler, which is only found outside of Mexico in the Chisos Mountains.
Patience, a good field guide, and knowledge of where to look are the keys to locating birds in Big Bend. A checklist of birds is available for purchase at any visitor center and is a great aid in determining which species are likely to be present and the habitats where they are found.

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The Colima Warbler
One of the most sought-after bird species in Big Bend is the Colima Warbler, a type of Neo World warbler found primarily in the Sierra Madre of Mexico. A small population nests in the higher elevations of the Chisos Mountains beginning in early summer. Finding one is the tricky part!
Visitors hoping to spot a Colima Warbler usually have to make the strenuous, 9-mile round-trip hike to the bird’s main habitat in Boot Canyon. Occasionally they are spotted closer to the trailhead on the upper portions of the Pinnacles Trail. Good luck!

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Searching for the Perfect Sunset

Where is the best place to watch the sunset? Anywhere in the park!

As you watch the sun sink below the horizon don’t forget to look behind you—the light on the deserts, rocks, and canyons in all directions may be even more beautiful than the sun and clouds.

Easy-to-Reach Locations
Here are some of our favorite places to watch the sun set. These places are all easily accessible from paved roads and don’t require much hiking.

- **Sotol Vista.** Along Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, stop at Sotol Vista for a western view of Santa Elena Canyon with chiaroscuro—both light and shadow!
- **Window View Trail.** In the Chisos Basin, walk the Window View Trail and sit on a bench to watch as the Window frames your sunset.
- **Fossil Discovery Exhibit.** Climb the path up a short hill by the Fossil Discovery Exhibit for a distant look at the hoodoos to the west. (Bonus tip: The hill is a great place for stargazing too!)

**Mule Ears Overlook.** Stop by the Mule Ears for a distant look at the hoodoos to the west. (Bonus tip: The hill is a great place for stargazing too!)

**More Challenging Spots**
If you’re up for the challenge, here are two other great sunset-viewing locations.

- **South Rim.** Get a permit for a South Rim backcountry campsite. Rewards for this 14-mile backpacking trip are seeing the sunset from the top of the 2,000 ft. cliff. Wake up early to see sunrise too!
- **Old Ore Road.** If you have a 4×4 vehicle and nerves of steel, the Old Ore Road offers great views of the Chisos Mountains and the badlands to the west. Take your camp chair and set up on the hill above McKinney Springs for an awesome sunset experience.

Of Darkness & Solitude

One of the foundational concepts of the national parks was the idea that solitude and wildness is a necessary component of a healthy society.

**Artificial light** detracts from the natural environment and contributes to the degradation of ecosystems wherever artificial light exists. Yet, it is still being installed at a great rate nationwide.

As the National Park Service grew in the early 20th century, most parks and monuments that were being added to the system were in the western United States, and for the most part, wild and dark—unfettered by artificial light. At the time, many writers, commentators, and thinkers believed that preserving nature, to be used as a place of refreshment and rejuvenation, a link to days past, was necessary for a balanced civilization. These thoughts and ideas gave rise to the National Park Service.

As humans have continued to "light the night" with ever-increasing vigor, places like Big Bend become even more important as **Oases of Darkness.** These Oases provide a place to escape the bounds of the city or civilization. A place to revert to a time when nature was part of the human existence.

Parks like Big Bend preserve not only darkness for the benefit of people; more importantly, they allow plants and animals to thrive in environments that each and every species evolved to exist in—cycles of light and dark, varying in length only by the seasons, for millions of years.

Resource scientists, through extensive research, have found that both plants and animals are having difficulty adapting to artificial light. In some species, migration and reproductive cycles are disturbed by this light. Predator and prey relationships are altered as nocturnal adaptations are interrupted or made difficult by this same artificial light continues to expand. Every day. Seemingly without end. What will be the ramifications for the future?

**Big Bend National Park** is one of the darkest places in the lower 48 states. As such, it is a place where nature exists on terms nature decided many eons ago. It is also a place of solitude, where people can recapture a part of themselves that in many cases has been suppressed by careers, distance, time, or anything that keeps them from being in nature. Solitude and darkness as a component of wilderness. Wildness as a space for reflection.
Five Tips for Backroads Travel

Ready to test your vehicle and yourself? Safely exploring Big Bend’s miles of backcountry roads is an unforgettable experience.

Big Bend National Park hugs the Mexican border and sprawls over 800,000 acres of Chihuahuan Desert. With its rugged mountains, steep canyons, and miles of dirt roads, it’s a national park for the truly adventurous.

However, the desert doesn’t suffer fools lightly. The heat, scarcity of water, and tortuous terrain can be fatal. The key to an enjoyable experience is adequate preparation and a respectful approach to the desert.

**Check It Out**
Before your vehicle leaves the pavement, make sure you (and your vehicle) are ready.

- Do you enjoy slow, bone-jarring drives? Do you know how to use 4-wheel drive? Do you have a jack? Check the air in your spare. Flats occur frequently.

**Take More Water**
The sun, wind, and high temperatures mean it’s easy to get dehydrated. Always take more water than you think you can use.

**Dress Appropriately & Wear a Bandana**
Because it’s so hot, short-sleeved shirts and shorts are tempting, but long pants, long-sleeved shirts, a hat, and boots are best. Be sure to take a colorful bandana. You can wipe the sweat from your brow or soak the bandana in water, roll it up, and wear it around your neck for instant cooling. Brightly-colored bandanas also help rescuers spot you, should you find yourself in trouble.

**Where to Stay**
As you drive, you’ll pass campsites with awesome views and spectacular solitude. If you want to camp there, you MUST have a backcountry permit.

**Hike to Ernst Tinaja**
Are you ready for a backroads adventure? Ernst Tinaja is off the paved road, but well worth the journey.

Ernst Tinaja (pronounced “tin AH ha s”) are jar or scoop-shaped bedrock depressions that hold rainwater. Ernst Tinaja is one of the best examples in the park. Tinajas can form naturally in several ways but we think Ernst was started when floodwaters swirled sand and gravel around a natural depression, grinding away the bedrock until a deep hole formed.

Ernst Tinaja is located 5 miles from the southern entrance of the primitive Old Ore Road on the park’s east side. Visitors with high clearance SUVs, trucks, and all-wheel-drive vehicles typically have little trouble reaching the trailhead. Just remember that 25 MPH is the speed limit on backcountry roads. On Old Ore Road, that would probably be too fast—slow and steady gets you there in about 30 minutes!

The tinaja is one-half mile from the parking area. You’ll walk backwards in time through geological layers exposed by moving water that cut the small canyon through this ridge in the Dead Horse Mountains. The trail begins in the wash itself, but about halfway to the tinaja, it veers to the left to avoid a series of thin, flat limestone beds that angle upwards from the bottom of the wash. Spend a few minutes examining these limestone beds. You may discover 90 million-year-old clam, oyster, and ammonite fossils.

Beyond the limestone obstacles, the trail returns to the wash bottom. As you approach the tinaja, the canyon chokes down into a narrow slot of thinly-bedded and brightly-colored stone that is noticeably tilted upwards away from you. Ernst Tinaja is just above this choke point in a thick bed of lighter-colored limestone. Notice how the thin layers of brightly-colored rock were compressed and distorted into accordion-like folds as the mountains were uplifted millions of years ago.

Late afternoon is the best time to photograph the area; however, the canyon’s shade can intensify the colorful layers at almost any time of day.

You can continue up the canyon for about a mile, walking through an interesting slickrock canyon. Remember: this is NOT an area where you want to be if rain is imminent—there are very few places where you could escape a flash flood coming down this canyon!

To return to the main road from Ernst Tinaja, retrace your route south on the Old Ore Road. Old Ore Road north of Ernst Tinaja is one of the roughest roads in the park. It may take 5 more hours of difficult driving with a high-clearance AND 4-wheel-drive vehicle to complete the journey to the pavement.

Extra water can fill radiators, assist travelers that underestimated their water needs, or keep you alive if you get stranded.

If your heart’s desire is a campsite on the River Road or Old Maverick Road, get your permit at the Panther Junction Visitor Center up to 24 hours in advance. These sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so have some options in mind just in case your dream site is already taken.

If you want to plan to hike, someone must stay behind with the pet, or you will need to kennel your pet. The Alpine Veterinary Clinic (432.837.3888) and the Alpine Small Animal Clinic (432.837.5416) offer these services.

**Hire a Guide**
Not sure you’re up for the challenge? Hire a guide and a vehicle! Check the back page of The Paisano for contact numbers of authorized local outfitters.

**Five Tips for Backroads Travel**

- Extra water can fill radiators, assist travelers that underestimated their water needs, or keep you alive if you get stranded.
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- Park regulations require that you always clean up after your pet and dispose of waste in trash receptacles.
**Chisos Basin**
A drive to the Chisos Basin is an excellent way to experience the transition between arid desert and cooler mountain habitats. As this scenic, winding road rises over two thousand feet above the desert floor, it offers vistas of the mountain peaks and the erosion-formed basin area.

Within the Chisos Basin area is a visitor center, campground, lodge, restaurant, gift shop, camp store, and miles of hiking trails.

With limited time, walk the Window View Trail for easy access to mountain vistas and a classic sunset view. If time permits, consider hiking (or backpacking) into the High Chisos to witness the towering forests of Boot Canyon or the unparalleled vistas of the South Rim.

Note: the road into the Basin is not suitable for RVs longer than 24 feet or trailers longer than 20 feet.

**Rio Grande Village**
The drive to Rio Grande Village traverses ancient limestone and has marvelous vistas of the magnificent Sierra del Carmens. Along the way is the oasis at Dugout Wells, and a spur road leads to the popular Hot Springs.

Continue the drive to Boquillas Canyon, where a short hike offers excellent views of the Rio Grande as it enters the canyon.

Rio Grande Village has a visitor center, campground, RV hook-ups, camp store, gas station, and picnic area.

Take a stroll (or a short drive) from the store to Daniels Ranch; this is a great area for birding. Picnic tables are near the historic ruins.

The Rio Grande Village Nature Trail crosses a wildlife viewing boardwalk, then gradually climbs the hillside, offering panoramic views of the river, Sierra del Carmens, and Crowns Mountain. This is an excellent sunset vista.

**Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive**
A trip along the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive highlights the geologic splendor Big Bend is famous for and offers many scenic overlooks and exhibits along the way. Sotol Vista, Mule Ears Overlook, and Tuff Canyon are all worthwhile stops.

History is highlighted at Sam Nail Ranch, Homer Wilson (Blue Creek) Ranch, and the Castolon Historic District. Castolon has a visitor center, camp store, and nearby is the Cottonwood Campground.

Continue the drive to the magnificent Santa Elena Canyon, where limestone cliffs rise 1,500’ above the Rio Grande. A short trail leads into the canyon. If the river is high, you may have to wade across Terlingua Creek to access the trail.

Return by the same route, or drive Old Maverick Road to the western entrance of the park. This road is most suitable for high clearance vehicles and may be impassable after heavy rains. Check at a visitor center or entrance station for current conditions.

**Places to Visit**
### Popular Trails

#### The Chisos Mountains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Trailhead Location</th>
<th>Round Trip (mi/km)</th>
<th>Avg Time</th>
<th>Elevation (ft/m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basin Loop</strong></td>
<td>Chisos Basin Trailhead (near the Basin Store)</td>
<td>2.2/3.5</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>350/107</td>
<td>Moderate Connects the Laguna Meadow and Pinnacles Trails. Nice views of the Basin area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emory Peak</strong></td>
<td>Chisos Basin Trailhead (near the Basin Store)</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>7 hours</td>
<td>2400/789</td>
<td>Strenuous Trail leads to the highest peak in the park, with excellent views. The end of the trail involves some challenging rock scrambling. Use caution on the climb down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lost Mine</strong></td>
<td>Basin Road, mile 5 (at the pass)</td>
<td>4.8/7.7</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>1100/335</td>
<td>Moderate Excellent mountain and desert views. For a shorter hike, 1 mile up is a great view to the southeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Rim</strong></td>
<td>Chisos Basin Trailhead (near the Basin Store)</td>
<td>12/19.4 (15/24 with the East Rim Trail included)</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
<td>2000/656</td>
<td>Strenuous Trail leads to a 2000' cliff with incredible views of the desert below. Hike either the southwest rim, or add the northeast and southeast rim trails when open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window</strong></td>
<td>Chisos Basin Trailhead or Basin Campground</td>
<td>5.6/9.0</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>980/299</td>
<td>Moderate Descends to the top of the Window pour-off. Great scenery and wildlife viewing. For a shorter hike, start from the Basin Campground (near campsite 51).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window View</strong></td>
<td>Chisos Basin Trailhead (near the Basin Store)</td>
<td>0.3/0.5</td>
<td>1/4 hour</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>Easy Level, paved, accessible. Great mountain views. Must place in the Basin to catch a sunset through the Window.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Eastside — Panther Junction and Rio Grande Village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Avg Time</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grapevine Hills</strong></td>
<td>Balanced Rock 6.4 miles down the Grapevine Hills Road</td>
<td>2.2/3.5</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>240/73</td>
<td>Moderate Follows a sandy wash through a boulder field. A steep, rocky climb near the end takes you to a large balanced rock. No shade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chihuahua Desert</strong></td>
<td>Nature Trail Dugout Wells 0.5/0.8</td>
<td>1/2 hour</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Loop trail with interpretive signs on desert ecology. Look for javelina tracks and resident birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hot Springs</strong></td>
<td>End of Hot Springs Road (unpaved narrow road)</td>
<td>0.75/1.2</td>
<td>1/2 hour</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>Easy Walk past historic buildings to the riverside hot spring. Enjoy a soak in 105°F water. Hot Spring is subject to flooding during rising river levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boquillas Canyon</strong></td>
<td>End of Boquillas Canyon Road 1.4/2.3</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>40/12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Begins with a short climb, then descends via a sandy path to the river.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daniels Ranch</strong></td>
<td>to Hot Springs Trail Daniels Ranch parking area, west of Rio Grande Village 6/10</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>100/31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Trail from Daniels Ranch to the Hot Springs. Cliff drop-offs prevent access to the river along most of the route. No shade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rio Grande Village</strong></td>
<td>Nature Trail Rio Grande Village, across from campsite 18. Park at the RGV Amphitheater parking lot. 0.75/1.2</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>130/40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy First 300’ leads to a wildlife viewing platform on a pond. Trail then climbs the hillside with views of the river and mountains. Great for birding and sunsets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Westside — Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Trailhead Location</th>
<th>Round Trip (mi/km)</th>
<th>Avg Time</th>
<th>Elevation (ft/m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sam Nail Ranch</strong></td>
<td>Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, mile 3 0.5/0.8</td>
<td>1/2 hour</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Well-maintained trail leads through the old ranch site. The combination of water and shade makes this an excellent birding location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Burro Mesa</strong></td>
<td>Pour-off Burro Mesa Spur Road 1.0/1.6</td>
<td>1/2 hour</td>
<td>60/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Trail enters a dry wash and ends at the bottom of the dramatic Burro Mesa pour-off. A great walk for viewing geological features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chimneys</strong></td>
<td>Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, mile 13 4.8/7.7</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>400/122</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Flat and scenic desert trail to rock formations of an eroded dike. Look for Native American rock art and shelters. No shade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mule Ears Spring</strong></td>
<td>Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, mile 15 3.8/6.1</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>20/6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Beautiful desert hike to a small spring. Spectacular geology with mountain and desert views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dorgin-Sublett</strong></td>
<td>Trail Castolon to Santa Elena Canyon Road, near mile 5 1.0/1.6</td>
<td>1/2 hour</td>
<td>56/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy This short easy trail leads to the ruins of historic farm houses owned by settlers in the early to mid-1900s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Santa Elena Canyon</strong></td>
<td>Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, 8 miles west of Castolon 1.6/2.6</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>80/26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy This trail crosses Terlingua Creek (usually dry) and gradually climbs up to an overlook before dropping to the river bank. Trail has some steep steps and can be very hot.mild,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes in a Sky Island
The 2021 South Rim 4 Fire

On the hot, windy afternoon of April 8, 2021, park rangers received reports of a column of smoke rising far above the remote South Rim of the Chisos Mountains.

A small crew of firefighters began the 4-hour hike into the rugged area, while aircraft were dispatched from Alpine to locate and assess the blaze from above. Initial reports indicated that the South Rim Fire was only 15 acres in size, but steadily advancing through the dried grass and mixed woodlands of oak, pine, and juniper.

With continued strong winds, low humidity, and high temperatures in the forecast, additional firefighters, including Los Diablos from Mexico and two hotshot crews from New Mexico arrived on scene. For two weeks, the fire continued to advance, slowed by firefighters’ efforts. The park’s mule team carried heavy loads of much-needed water and equipment into the backcountry for the hard-working fire crews. Steady westerly winds pushed the fire to the eastern edge of the Rim, at which point the flames crept northward across the Chisos, extending into the upper reaches of Boot Canyon, up the southern slopes of Emory Peak, and across the high summit plateau of Toll Mountain. By the time it was contained, the South Rim Fire had burned a total of 1341 acres.

As any hiker will attest, Big Bend’s Chisos Mountains rise high above the desert below. Like a forested island in a desert sea, these “sky island” woodlands are populated by plants and animals that could not survive in a desert. Many of them are Mexican species found nowhere else in the United States. These isolated forests have been shaped for thousands of years by many ecological factors, not the least of which is fire. Although some of the more intensely burned areas may be forever changed, much of the burn was low/moderate intensity and is expected to be beneficial in those areas. By clearing out dead vegetation and accumulated fuels, regular wildfires help maintain an open mosaic of mixed age trees and keep the woodlands healthy and resilient.

Hikers in the Chisos will notice the effects of the South Rim fire for many years to come. A hike to Emory Peak, Boot Canyon, or the South Rim now passes through a mosaic of burned and unaffected areas. Campsites fared very well, but some trail repair will be needed in places.

Nature’s resilience is on display. Even before the fire was declared out, new grass was sprouting, Colima Warblers were singing, and burned clumps of sotol were sending out green spiky leaves. Newly exposed soils now offer a nutrient rich seedbed for the next generation of trees, shrubs, and grass. It will be fascinating to see how things change over the coming months and years as the Chisos Sky Island responds to this significant ecological event.

Changes in a Sky Island
How did it start?

The exact cause of the South Rim Fire is unknown, although it began adjacent to a popular trail and back-country campsite. Please join us in protecting Big Bend. Remember: campfires are prohibited and smoking is not allowed in the Chisos Mountains.
Big Bend Conservancy

Committed to supporting and preserving Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River.

Currently celebrating its 25th year of service, the Big Bend Conservancy has raised over $4.5 million for projects in both park units. The goal of the Conservancy is to ensure the parks’ conservation while providing support for exceptional visitor experiences. To do this, the Big Bend Conservancy funds student fellowships, restoration projects, educational films, Fossil Discovery, and many other park projects.

You've kept your eyes out for the toothsome new fossil license plate launched in mid-2020! You can purchase either Big Bend license plate at bigbendconservancy.org.

Display your Big Bend pride with a license plate from the Big Bend Conservancy!

On a blazing hot June afternoon in 1996, five Texas businessmen met in the lobby of the Holland Hotel in Alpine and devised an ambitious plan to raise money to build a staff research library for what was then the second-newest national park, Big Bend. They formed the non-profit Big Bend Natural History Association to sell books and maps, named themselves its first Board of Directors, and resolved to return to the Holland annually to oversee their great philanthropic venture.

At the end of their first full year in business, they decided that an annual meeting was not immediately necessary, because their revenues had amounted to a grand total of $4 in sales and a $25 donation.

However, being Texans, they didn't give up. Big Bend Natural History Association (BBNHA) slowly expanded into publishing of park maps and guides, and as new visitor centers were constructed, bookstores were included in the blueprints.

Today, the Big Bend Natural History Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that operates five bookstores in Big Bend National Park, one at Amistad National Recreation Area, and an online store at www.bigbendbookstore.org. BBNHA has donated nearly $2.5M to Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and Amistad National Recreation Area.

The Pteranodon, Quetzalcoatlus, soared over the main hall in the Fossil Discovery Exhibit. Quetzalcoatlus is thought to be the world's largest flying creature of all time.

BBNHA’s primary mission is to provide educational material to the visiting public in hopes that an educated public will love and support the parks and help preserve them for future generations. We carry popular and hard-to-find books about a wide variety of historical and scientific topics, detailed guides, and maps. These include some BBNHA original publications, plus some unique collectibles to help you remember your visits or to share your experiences with friends and family.

A percentage of our profits are used to support the educational and research efforts of the parks we serve, as well as to provide for purchases that can’t be made with government funds—for example, meals for search and rescue operations and volunteer appreciation socials. A small sample of the programs recently funded with BBNHA donations includes:

- Junior Ranger books, pencils, and badges for more than 1000 children per year.
- Artists-in-Residence, including two of the NPS’s first Veteran Artist-in-Residence participants.
- Spanish translations for Magdalena House exhibits.
- Support for a series of new interpretive trailhead signs.
- Conceived, initiated, and produced Bravo y Grande, a film extolling the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.

Despite fires, government shutdown, pandemic, and blizzards, BBNHA has continued to find ways to serve our association members and park visitors. For a time in 2020 we were closed for a full six months except for our online store, then an innovative staff set up shop outdoors on a patio with batteries, and we forged ahead. Just like the original founders, being Texans we don’t give up!

Join Us!

We’re aided in this mission by our more than 500 members, and we need your help. With an annual membership you’ll receive our annual park calendar with photos by a select local professional photographer and narratives by park personnel. Members are eligible for discounts at all BBNHA outlets and over 400 other non-profit bookstores on public lands. You are invited to join us in our educational mission by becoming a member in person at the Panther Junction bookstore or online at www.bigbendbookstore.org. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, especially during these challenging times.

BBNHA members receive a 15% discount on bookstore purchases. This discount is honored at cooperating park bookstores nationwide.
Camping in the Park

Developed Campgrounds

Campsites include amenities such as flush or vault toilets, running water, grills, picnic tables, animal-proof storage boxes, and safety in numbers.

Chisos Basin

The Chisos Basin Campground is surrounded by tall, rocky cliffs and is conveniently located near some of the park’s most spectacular and popular trails. Due to the terrain, campsite size, and road access, this campground is not suitable for trailers over 20 feet and RVs over 24 feet. No hook-ups available.

Open: Year-round
Getting a Site: Campsites are available by reservation only. Two-thirds of the sites are reservable 6 months in advance; 1/3 are reservable 14 days in advance.
Group Camping: Seven tent-only group campsites are available for groups of at least 9, and up to 20 people. Group sites are by reservation only and cost $60 nightly.

Make a Reservation: www.recreation.gov or 877.444.6777

Cottonwood

Cottonwood Campground is a quiet, shady desert oasis located between Castolon Historic District and Santa Elena Canyon. A picnic area under the shade of mesquite trees is available for day use.

There are no hookups, no dump station, and generator-use is not permitted.

Open: Year-round
Getting a Site: Reservations required November 1 through April 30.
Getting a Site: Sites are by reservation only. Two-thirds of the sites are reservable 6 months in advance; 1/3 are reservable 14 days in advance.
Group Camping: One group campsite is available for 9 to 25 people. The site is a tent-only, walk-in campsite. The group site is available by reservation only and costs $60 nightly.

Make a Reservation: www.recreation.gov or 877.444.6777

Rio Grande Village

The largest campground in Big Bend; it can accommodate large RV’s or trailers. There are no hookups, but generators can be used in some sites during designated hours.

A dump station and coin-operated showers and laundry are nearby at the RGV store.

Open: Year-round
Getting a Site: Reservations required November 1 through April 30.
Getting a Site: Sites are by reservation only. Two-thirds of the sites are reservable 6 months in advance; 1/3 are reservable 14 days in advance.
Group Camping: Four tent-only group campsites are available for groups of more than 9—and up to 40—people. The group sites are available by reservation only and cost $60 to $100 nightly.

Make a Reservation: www.recreation.gov or 877.444.6777

Rio Grande Village RV

A privately-run campground, operated by Forever Resorts, LLC; it has the only full hook-ups in the park. The campground is an open, paved lot with grassy, tree-lined edges.

Located adjacent to the camp store. Twenty-five sites with full hook-ups including water, electrical, and sewage. Nearby amenities include coin-operated showers and laundry (call for availability). Free, public WIFI at the RGV campground. WIFI does not reach any campsites.

Open: Year-round
Make a Reservation: Call to make reservations before coming to the park: 1.877.386.4383 or 432.477.2293 for reservations.

Backcountry Campsite and River Use

If you’re after solitude, dark skies, or a river trip, consider backcountry camping.

Primitive Roadside Sites

All roadside campsites are along unpaved roads, and as a general rule were not designed for large RV’s or trailers. Some centrally located sites are accessible to most vehicles, however, a high-clearance and/or 4-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary to reach those along the primitive dirt roads.

Sites are $10/night. Reserve most sites online at recreation.gov up to six months in advance. Permits for all other sites are written on a first-come, first-served basis at Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Sites offer a cleared gravel pad to park your vehicle and set up a tent. The only amenity at a backcountry campsite is a large animal-proof box to store food and other items. Please plan to bring everything you need, including water, shade, chairs, and a trowel to bury human waste. Pack toilet paper out with you as you hike to a beautiful campsite? Big Bend National Park has over 200 miles of trails in the Chisos Mountains and the lower desert with numerous options for multi-day backpacking trips.

Chisos Mountains: Forty-one campsites ranging from 1 to 8 miles from the trailhead—dom the high Chisos Mountains. These sites help reduce impact and damage to this delicate environment.

Sites include a cleared area for a tent as well as a bear-proof storage box. It’s important to use this box to store all scented items when camping. There are several composting toilets in the Chisos backcountry.

Most sites are reservable up to six months in advance on www.recreation.gov. A few sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Wilderness Camping: Experienced hikers wanting to camp in the park’s open desert areas can obtain a wilderness camping permit ($10/night) from the Panther Junction Visitor Center the day before, or the day of, your first night in the backcountry.

Backpacking

Do you dream of carrying everything with you as you hike to a beautiful campsite? Big Bend National Park has over 200 miles of trails in the Chisos Mountains and the lower desert with numerous options for multi-day backpacking trips.

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River Use & Stock Permits

River Use Permits: Permits are required for anyone using canoes, kayaks, rafts, or other watercraft on the Rio Grande. Day-use permits are free. Permits for overnight use are $10/night and can be written up to 7 days in advance.

To obtain a permit, you must have a Coast Guard-approved lifejacket for each person, an extra lifejacket, and an extra paddle. If going on an overnight trip, you will also need a fire pan and a system for removing human waste. Check the park’s website or talk to a ranger for additional gear requirements.

Horse/Stock Permits: You must have a stock permit if you wish to ride your horse in the park. All gravel roads are open to riders. Horses are not permitted on paved roads or the shoulders of paved roads. Horse use in the Chisos Mountains is limited to Laguna Meadows, South Rim to the Boot Canyon Trail junction, and Blue Creek trails.

Grazing is not allowed in the park. Hannold Draw is the only campsite with a corral. Stock must not roam free; hobbles or tie them. Check the park website for more information about stock use in the park.
Black Bears

The return of black bears to Big Bend is a success story for both bears and the park. Originally native to the Chisos Mountains, bears disappeared from this area by the 1940s, in part due to predator control agents. Nearly fifty years later, in the 1980s, bears returned from Mexico—crossing the river and the harsh desert to start breeding in the Chisos Mountains. Today, wildlife biologists estimate that there are around 20 to 30 black bears in the park.

A black bear’s normal diet consists largely of nut, fruits, sotol and yucca hearts. They will also eat small mammals, reptiles, and carrion. Bears normally avoid humans, but can become aggressive if they learn to take food from human sources. Each campsite has bear-proof storage lockers for storing edibles. Hard-sided vehicles are also suitable for storing food and things that smell. Help us keep bears healthy and wild!

Mountain Lions

Solitary and secretive, the mountain lion is Big Bend’s top predator and is vital in maintaining the park’s biological diversity. Mountain lions live throughout the park—from mountain to desert. Biologists estimate a stable population of about two dozen lions. Everywhere in Big Bend, you are in the territory of at least one mountain lion. Within their territories, mountain lions help keep both deer and javelina populations within the limits of their food resources.

Each year, visitors report around 130 mountain lion sightings in Big Bend National Park. Over half are seen along roadways, but encounters also occur on trails. To protect yourself (and the mountain lions), be aware of your surroundings and avoid hiking alone or at dusk and dawn. Watch your children closely. Never let them run ahead of you as they may look like prey to a hungry mountain lion.

Javelina

Also known as collared peccaries, javelinas (pronounced hav-uh-LEE-nuh) are only found in the U.S. in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They are covered with black, bristly hairs and weigh between 40 to 60 lbs. They usually travel in bands that consist of 10 to 25 individuals. Javelinas have a highly developed sense of smell, but poor vision. Physically, they resemble pigs, but are not closely related. Javelinas eat prickly pear cactus, grasses, mesquite beans, piñon nuts, fruits, berries, and seeds.

Every year, campers report campsites being raided by javelinas. Although not normally aggressive, they can be when food is involved. Protect yourself and the javelina by storing all food inside a vehicle or in the food storage lockers provided at the campsites. Do not leave coolers or food boxes unattended at any time.

Coyotes

Nothing in Big Bend speaks of wilderness more than the song of a coyote. Their vocalizations range from yips to mournful howls. Their narrow-set yellow eyes and long snout may seem intimidating, but in general, coyotes do not bother humans. Coyotes range over the entire United States. These highly adapted members of the canine family are omnivores, dining on small mammals, reptiles, and insects.

Coyotes will also eat berries and other vegetation when meat is unavailable. Carrion is an important food source in winter. Coyotes are typically solitary, but will hunt in small groups when individuals converge in areas where food is plentiful. They will work cooperatively, either chasing an animal in relays to tire it or waiting in ambush. Unlike wolves, coyotes do not form lasting packs.

Rattlesnakes

Four species of rattlesnakes live in Big Bend National Park—the western diamondback, black-tailed, Mojave, and rock rattlesnakes. This often-feared reptile is beneficial to the environment, eating mice, rats, and other small animals. Perhaps surprising, rattlesnakes are not a top predator. They themselves are often a meal for roadrunners, skunks, coyotes, and even other snakes. The western coachwhip is a notorious rattlesnake predator.

The buzz of a rattlesnake is an unmistakable sound that will stop you in your tracks. Rattlesnakes use this warning when they perceive a threat. Continue toward them and you risk provoking a self-defense bite. A few rattlesnake bites have occurred in Big Bend. If bitten, contact a ranger promptly, as permanent damage can occur within 24 hours of a bite. If possible, note which species bit you. This is important for treatment.

Wild Animal Encounters

For many people, the chance to see a bear or mountain lion in the natural environment is an amazing opportunity. However, one must always remember that we are entering their home, their territory. As such, we need to respect wildlife and know what to do if we encounter a wild predator:

- Do not run, but back away to get out of range of the perceived threat.
- If you feel threatened, try to look large, wave your arms, throw rocks or sticks.
- If attacked, fight back.
- Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind.
- Report bear or mountain lion sightings or encounters to a park ranger as soon as possible.

To help preserve healthy environments for both visitors and predators, please remember:

- Never leave food or trash unattended, as bears and other wildlife easily develop a taste for human food.
- Never feed wildlife since no park animal is tame, and feeding leads to aggressive future behavior.
- Never approach wildlife and always keep a safe distance.

Please Help

At the Lodge
- Leave nothing outside your room, on the balcony, or on the porch.

In Developed Campgrounds
- Store food, beverages, toiletries, pet food, and dishes in the bear-proof storage locker provided at your site.
- Keep your campsite clean. Take trash and food scraps to a dumpster.
- Dump liquids in restroom utility sinks, not on the ground.
- Ice chests and coolers are not bear-proof; store them in your vehicle.

In the Backcountry
- Never leave packs or food unattended.
- Carry everything with you or store in a bear-proof locker.
- Avoid carrying smelly food and toiletries.
- Carry out all trash, including orange peels, cigarette butts, and left-over food and cooking grease.

Cyclists
- Use food storage lockers when provided.
Services Inside the Park

Emergency Call 911
National Park Service
General Information 432-477-2251
Big Bend Natural History Association
Booksoles & Seminars 432-477-2236

Visitor Centers
Panther Junction (Hqtrs) 432-477-1158
Chisos Basin 432-477-2294
Castolon 432-477-2266
Persimmon Gap 432-477-2393
Rio Grande Village 432-477-2271

U.S. Post Office
Panther Junction 432-477-2238

Lodging/Restaurant
Chisos Mountains Lodge 432-477-2291
Reservations 877-386-4838

Gas Stations
Panther Junction 432-477-2294
Rio Grande Village 432-477-2293

Camper Stores
Rio Grande Village 432-477-2293
Chisos Basin 432-477-2291
Castolon 432-477-2222

Services Outside the Park

These listings are not an endorsement by the National Park Service or Big Bend National Park, nor is this a comprehensive list.

Lodging
Lajitas
Lajitas Resort 432-424-5000

Marathon
Gage Hotel 432-386-4205
Marathon Motel 432-386-4241
Evel’s Garden 432-386-4165

Study Butte/Terlingua area
Big Bend Castles 432-424-5000
Big Bend Resorts 432-477-2292
Chisos Mtn Co. Motel 432-371-2254
El Dorado Motel 432-371-2111
Longhorn Ranch Hotel 432-371-2541
Ten Bits Ranch 432-371-3110
Terlingua House 325-473-4400

Camping
Big Bend Resorts 800-848-2363
Big Bend Ranch State Park 432-424-3327
LBJ’s RV Park 432-371-2259
Heath Canyon Ranch 432-376-2235
Longhorn Ranch 432-371-2541
Roadrunner RV Park 432-424-5180
Stillwell’s Trailer Camp 432-376-2244
Study Butte RV Park 432-371-2468

Convenience Stores/Gasoline
Big Bend Resorts 800-848-2363
Cottonwood General Store 432-371-3315
Stillwell Store & Station 432-376-2244

Medical Services
Terlingua Fire and EMS 911
Big Bend Medical Center 432-837-3467

Banks
QuickSilver Bank/ATM 432-371-2211

Local Outfitters
Angell Expeditions 432-384-2307
Big Bend Boating & Fishing Company 469-607-9889
Big Bend Overland Tours 800-848-2363
Big Bend River Tours 800-545-4240
Desert Sports 432-371-2727
Far Flung Outdoor Center 432-424-5000
Rio Aviation 432-557-9477

Horseback Riding
Big Bend Stables 800-887-4331
Lajitas Livery 800-887-4331

Information and Services

Accessibility
All visitor centers are accessible, as are the Chisos Mountains Lodge restaurant and some motel rooms. The Window View Trail and the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail boardwalk are wheelchair accessible. ADA campsites are available by reservation.

Entrance Fees (valid for 7 days)
- Private, non-commercial vehicle $10
- Motorcycle $5
- Individual entering without vehicle (bicyclist, etc.) $5 per person
- Big Bend Annual Pass $25

Gas Stations
Gasoline and diesel are available at the Chisos Basin store, Rio Grande Village store and Panther Junction service station.

Gas Stations
Gasoline and diesel are available at the Chisos Basin store, Rio Grande Village store and Panther Junction service station.

Post Office
A full-service post office is located at Panther Junction, open M–F, 8am–noon and 12–3pm. A mail drop is also available at the Chisos Basin Store.

Camp Stores & ATMs

Gas Stations

Shower and Laundry
Coin-operated showers and laundry facilities are available at the Rio Grande Village Store and have 24-hour access (closed at 9am for an hour of cleaning). Out-of-park facilities are available at Study Butte.

Phones
Cell phone service is available in the Chisos Basin and Panther Junction but is sporadic. A public pay phone is located outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. There is no cell phone coverage at Rio Grande Village.

Volunteers Make the Difference
Big Bend National Park depends on dedicated volunteers to perform many duties throughout the year. Are you ready to volunteer?

Approximately 350 volunteers contribute 38,000 hours of work every year in Big Bend! Whether staffing visitor centers and campgrounds, patrolling backcountry trails, or helping with resource management projects, volunteers protect the park and help visitors learn how to safely enjoy their visit. Each year, volunteers are sought to serve as camphosts, visitor center hosts, backcountry patrols, and more. While you might not noticevolunteer contributions at first, look around and you’ll be surprised by how many volunteers you see. Volunteers primarily provide information for guests at campgrounds and at four (of the five) visitor centers.

Volunteers keep the campsites, backcountry roads, and trails in pristine condition, assist with maintenance projects, and are the eyes and ears of the park. Please thank them for their services when you have the opportunity.

How Can I Get Involved?
Are you interested in volunteering at Big Bend National Park? Here are some things to keep in mind before submitting an application.

Time Commitment: Volunteers should be able to stay for at least 3 to 6 months.

Housing: Volunteers need to bring a RV or trailer. The park will provide a RV site, electricity, water, and reimbursement for expenses.

Work Schedule: Volunteers work 32 hours per week and may work weekends and holidays.

Interested? Most volunteer positions include training, references, and an extensive background check.

For current volunteer opportunities, check www.volunteer.gov or contact the volunteer coordinator at 432-477-1195.