

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



November 21-28, 2015

Saturday, November 21

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Getting to Know the Agave Family” Confused by all the spiny or thorny plants found in the desert? Ranger R. Hamilton will shed some light on one of the major plant families found in Big Bend. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 45 minutes.

2:00 to 4:00 PM Special Activity – “Touch Table of Discoveries” Stop by the Panther Junction Visitor Center front patio anytime during this timeframe for a chance to explore a Touch Table full of interesting and curious Big Bend objects. Get your hands in the sand to uncover fossils, hold a puma/mountain lion skull, compare a bear paw to your foot, and more! This activity is weather-dependent.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Jet fighters & Hang Gliders: The World of Big Bend’s Raptors” Big Bend is home to a rich diversity of birds, including raptors. Join Ranger M. Lavender for a visual program to learn more about this unique type of bird, how to identify them in the wild, and what makes them so inspirational. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

Sunday, November 22

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill” The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “There’s a Lion (and a Bear) In My Sandbox!” Most people don’t see them, but lions and bears do live in Big Bend. Their continued survival depends on how well we learn to coexist with them. Join Ranger R. Hamilton for a walk through lion/bear habitat to learn about their behavior and role in nature. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 hour.

Monday, November 23

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Soap from Yucca & More!” If you have the knowledge, just about everything you need can be obtained from plants. Join Ranger C. Rinas on this easy walk to learn about some of the traditional uses of plants. Bring water and sun protection. 1 hr. Meet at the Dugout Wells picnic area. ½ mile walk. 45 minutes.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Leave No Trace!” Our national parks and public lands are enjoyed by millions of visitors each year. Join Subaru Leave No Trace Trainers TJ and Pat Beezley to learn ways we can all reduce our environmental impacts when recreating in these national treasures. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

Thursday, November 26

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “The Birth of the CCC” There was a cry that came from our country in the 1930’s, a cry of hunger, poverty, and lack of work. Franklin D. Roosevelt heard this cry and strove to do something about it, creating the Civilian Conservation Corp. Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the creation of the CCC and see their lasting handiwork here in Big Bend National Park. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. 1/3 mile walk. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Bend Artists-in-Residence Presentation Series” Big Bend is a source of inspiration for many. This year’s Artist-in-Residence, Dawn Waters Baker, will share her experiences in the park and her artwork. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

Friday, November 27

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk” Many of us have enjoyed hiking on trails, but have you ever thought about how or why these trails were built? Join Ranger J. Woerner for a closer look at the work and thought behind trail building. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 45 minutes.

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “The Big Bend Pharmacy” In the impressive diversity of plants protected within the boundaries of Big Bend National Park, many have medicinal and therapeutic properties. Join Ranger R. Hamilton for an introduction to this natural pharmacy. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south from Panther Junction. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.

Saturday, November 28

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Getting to Know the Agave Family” Confused by all the spiny or thorny plants found in the desert? Ranger R. Hamilton will shed some light on one of the major plant families found in Big Bend. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 45 minutes.

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Special Activity – “Touch Table of Discoveries” Stop by the Chisos Basin Visitor Center front patio anytime during this timeframe for a chance to explore a Touch Table full of interesting and curious Big Bend objects. Get your hands in the sand to uncover fossils, hold a puma/mountain lion skull, compare a bear paw to your foot, and more! This activity is weather-dependent.

3:00 PM Afternoon Program – “Bear Country” Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 minutes.