

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



**May 1 - 14, 2016**

**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday May 1-4**

**Sorry, there are no programs scheduled for these days.** The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

**Thursday, May 5**

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Chasing Birds”** Birds, birds, everywhere! Join Volunteers P. and P. Spruell on a bird walk exploring the Chisos Basin area. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater parking lot. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1mile. 1-1½ hours.

**Friday, May 6**

**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.

**9:00 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend”** Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend’s ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

**Saturday, May 7**

**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. ½ mile. 45 minutes.

**9:00 PM Evening Program – “Big Bend Through The Seasons”** Big Bend is a place of dynamic changes, from winter snow and ice to the searing summer heat. Join Ranger J. Jurado to experience Big Bend through the seasons: see when the wildflowers bloom, what to expect in the fall, when our busiest times are, and decide which season you might choose for your next Big Bend visit. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

**Sunday, May 8**

**9:30 AM 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.

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 9-12**

**Sorry, there are no programs scheduled for these days.** Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

**Friday, May 13**

**9:00 PM Evening Program – “Find Your Park in Big Bend”** As one of 59 National Parks and 410 National Park units, Big Bend National Park offers spectacular opportunities for recreation, education, and discovery. Join Ranger M. Lavender to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service by exploring the uniqueness of Big Bend and “Find Your Park!” Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 45 minutes.

**Saturday, May 14**

**9:00 PM Evening Program – “Big Bend’s Top 10”** What makes Big Bend special or unique among national parks? What fascinating plants, animals, and fossils can be found nowhere else? Why are we one of the most revisited National Parks? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at the top ten things Big Bend can boast. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.