

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



## December 13-19, 2015

### Sunday, December 13

**3:00 PM 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.

### Monday, December 14

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk”** Many of us enjoy 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.

### Tuesday, December 15

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Birth of the CCC”** There was a cry that came from our country in the 1930s, 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.

### Wednesday, December 16

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Our Most Precious Resource”** Water brings life to the desert. Join Ranger C. Rinas to learn more about this precious but limited resource. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, across from Campsite 18. Water and sun protection recommended. 3/4 mile walk. 1 hour.

### Thursday, December 17

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Islands in the Sky”** It is hard to stand in the Chisos Basin and not have a heightened sense of one’s surroundings. The forested environment supports a variety of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of the “sky island” ecology of the Chisos Mountains. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

### Friday, December 18

**3:00 PM Program – “Scorpions”** How is a scorpion like an alligator? What do they have in common with seals? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about scorpions, common misconceptions, and the unusual similarities they have to other species. Meet on the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

**7:30 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. 1 hour.

### Saturday, December 19

**3:00 PM 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.

### Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

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!

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.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.