

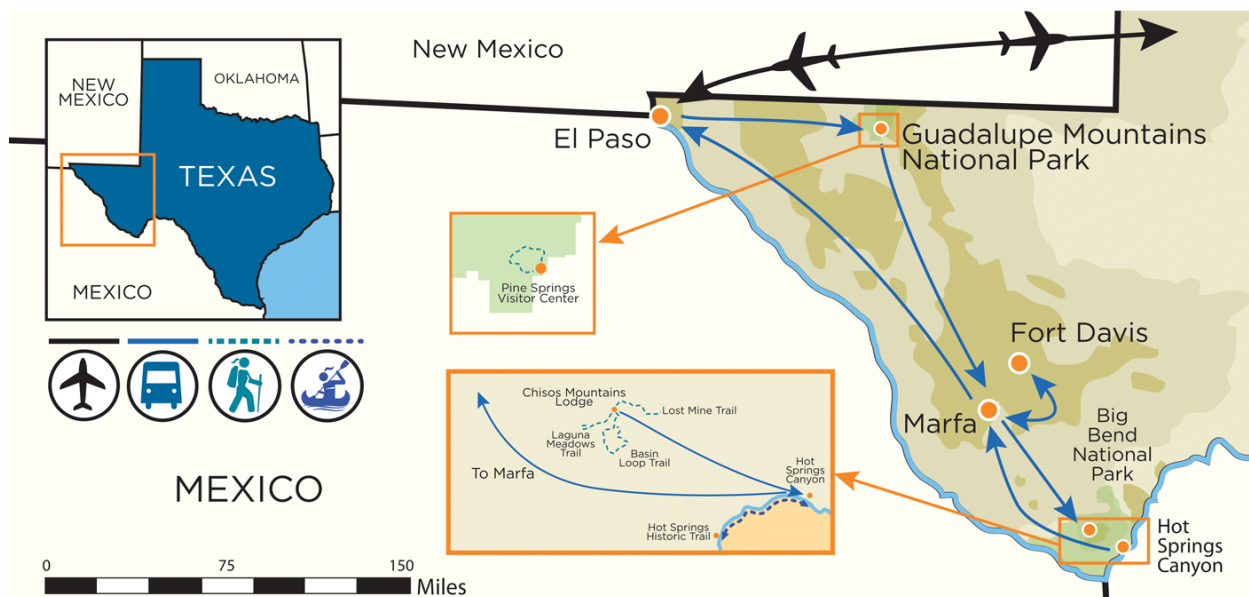
BIG BEND

Hiking, Paddling, and Stargazing

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Attend a Star Party at the McDonald Observatory
- ▶ Hike at Santa Elena Canyon, one of the most iconic and breathtaking features within Big Bend National Park
- ▶ Explore the Rio Grande by canoe and immerse yourself in the stunning scenery
- ▶ See the fossils of the world's largest known flying dinosaur and visit a ghost town

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in El Paso, orientation meeting, welcome dinner
- Day 2 hike in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, visit the famed "Prada Marfa" art installation, arrive in Marfa
- Day 3 visit Fort Davis, learn about the arts in Marfa, enjoy a start party at the McDonald Observatory
- Day 4 stop at the Fossil Discovery Exhibit, visit Terlingua, scenic hike
- Day 5 hiking Chisos Mountains and at Santa Elena Canyon, dinner at the Starlight Theater Restaurant
- Day 6 paddle the Rio Grande, farewell dinner in Van Horn
- Day 7 depart El Paso

ACTIVITY LEVEL

High Energy

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$5,295

Optional Single Accommodations: \$800

TRIP DATES

November 14 - 20, 2024



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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Thursday
11/14/24

Arrive in El Paso, Texas

As its name suggests, Big Bend National Park is a stretch of land that is located on the big S-shaped bend in the Rio Grande River along the border between the United States and Mexico. The park is a study in geographical contrasts with its desert, canyons, and diverse vegetation.

Arrival Information

Arrive in El Paso, Texas (ELP) by 5:00 PM today and make your way to the Hampton Inn & Suites El Paso Airport Hotel. A group transfer from the airport to the hotel will be provided when most guests arrive (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

Welcome Dinner

Get comfortable at your hotel before enjoying a lively Tex-Mex welcome dinner this evening. Share stories and learn about why each woman in your trip is excited to explore more of Big Bend!

Accommodations
Hampton Inn &
Suites El Paso
Meals Included
dinner

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DAY 2
Friday
11/15/24

El Paso to Guadalupe Mountains and Prada Marfa

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is located in west Texas, near the border with New Mexico. The park has a rich cultural and historical background, with evidence of human habitation dating back thousands of years. Native American tribes, including the Mescalero Apache, once lived in the region. The park is known for its rugged and diverse landscapes, including canyons, mountains, and desert terrain.

Pick Up and Transfer

After enjoying the breakfast buffet at the hotel, gather in the hotel lobby at 8:00 AM Mountain Time to meet your guide. Embark on a 2-hour drive to Guadalupe Mountains National Park, just crossing into the Central Time zone.

Hike in Guadalupe Mountains National Park

After making sure your watch is set one hour ahead for Central Time, set off from the visitor center at Guadalupe Mountains National Park for today's hike.

Drive to Marfa

Following lunch, enjoy expansive views of West Texas as we drive another 2 hours, to the town of Marfa. Known as a center for the arts, we'll stop along the way at the famed "Prada Marfa" art installation - a fake Prada store located exactly halfway between the tiny communities of Marfa and Van Horn, Texas.

After we arrive in Marfa, we'll get settled into our historic hotel which, in the mid-1950s, hosted the likes of James Dean, Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor as they filmed the epic Western "Giant".

Hiking Information

4 miles with 600 feet of elevation gain.

Accommodations
Hotel Paisano

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Saturday
11/16/24

Fort Davis National Historic Site

Fort Davis is home to a historic calvary post where the men known as Buffalo Soldiers were stationed during the second half of the 1800s to protect emigrants during the western expansion of the United States.

Drive to Fort Davis

Following breakfast, you'll head out to the historic town of Fort Davis. Established in 1854, Fort Davis is the highest elevation town in the state of Texas at 5,050 feet above sea level. Fort Davis is not only a historic site but also home to a former Cavalry post where the African American soldiers, famously known as "Buffalo Soldiers," were stationed in the latter half of the 1800s. They played a crucial role in safeguarding emigrants during the western expansion of the United States. Explore the grounds to gain insights into life on the West Texas frontier and discover more about the native plants in the area.

Lunch and Afternoon

Return to Marfa for lunch and spend the afternoon delving deeper into the arts scene of the area.

Stargazing

After dinner, you will take a quick drive to the University of Texas McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis. Participate in one of their famed star parties along with the general public. Take a tour of the constellations and observe an assortment of planets and stars through various telescopes before heading back to the hotel.

Hiking Information

2 miles with 500 feet of elevation gain.

Accommodations
Hotel Paisano

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Sunday
11/17/24

Big Bend National Park, Terlingua

Terlingua is a small ghost town located near Big Bend National Park in southwestern Texas. Terlingua was originally a mining town, known for its quicksilver (mercury) mining operations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Chisos Mining Company operated here, and the town boomed during the height of the mining activity. When visiting Terlingua, travelers can experience a blend of history, art, and the laid-back atmosphere of a desert town.

Fossil Discovery Drive south as you make your way toward Big Bend. About 2 hours into your journey, you will stop at the Fossil Discovery Exhibit where you will see the astonishing *Quetzalcoatlus northropi*, the world's largest known flying creature which had a 36-foot wingspan and weighed over 500 pounds!

Visit Terlingua After a picnic lunch, drive another hour to Terlingua, a former mercury mining town that became a ghost town when the price of mercury collapsed in 1947 and the mines closed. In the 1960s, it experienced a renaissance when artists, musicians, naturalists, and river guides moved there, and tourism reshaped the local economy.

Scenic Hike Enjoy a scenic hike near your hotel just steps from the Rio Grande. Later, enjoy dinner as a group near the hotel.

Hiking Information 4 miles with 500 feet of elevation gain.

Accommodations
Lajitas Golf Resort

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Monday
11/18/24

Big Bend National Park, Chisos Mountains and Santa Elena

Santa Elena Canyon is one of the most iconic and breathtaking features in Big Bend National Park, located in southwestern Texas along the border with Mexico. Santa Elena Canyon is formed by the Rio Grande, which serves as the natural border between the United States and Mexico in this region. Visiting Santa Elena Canyon is a memorable experience, and it showcases the diverse and spectacular landscapes found within Big Bend National Park.

Hike in the Chisos Mountain

Today is all about Big Bend! Begin the day with a one-hour drive to the main visitor center to learn more about Big Bend's natural and human history. After a short 20-min drive, tackle an iconic trail in the Chisos Mountains for a hike to a scenic overlook.

Hike in Santa Elena Canyon

Following a packed lunch, embark on a 70-minute drive to Santa Elena Canyon, a strikingly beautiful destination nestled within Big Bend National Park, boasting canyon walls that soar up to 1,500 feet. Enjoy a short hike in this breathtaking locale before returning to the hotel.

Dinner

Tonight, drive 15 minutes to dine at the Starlight Theater Restaurant, an adobe structure built in the 1930s as the Chisos Movie Theater. When the mines went bust, the roof materials were sold for scrap, leaving only the adobe walls intact. The roofless adobe building became a gathering place for open-air parties, concerts, and plays, thus the Starlight Theater was named. In 1990, the building was restored - including a new roof - but the adobe walls still remain.

Hiking Information

5 miles with 900 feet of elevation gain.
2 miles with 200 feet of elevation gain.

Accommodations
Lajitas Golf Resort

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 6
Tuesday
11/19/24

Paddling to Rio Grande, drive to Van Horn

The Rio Grande River acts as the natural border between the United States and Mexico in Texas. At just under 1,900 miles in length, this river features areas of towering canyons, whitewater rapids, and dramatic wildlife.

Paddling the Rio Grande

After breakfast, meet your local river guide after a short drive. After an orientation about the gear and safe paddling, you will launch your canoe (or raft if the water is higher) and paddle down the Rio Grande. It's a gentle paddle with some faster sections and some stunning scenery. After your paddle, you can change clothes before driving 3 hours to the town of Van Horn, and another historic hotel.

Farewell Dinner

After settling into your room, enjoy a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reflect on the cherished memories you've created and celebrate the conclusion of an amazing journey through this truly remarkable land.

Accommodations
Hotel El Capitan

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Wednesday
11/20/24

Depart El Paso, TX

It's time to bid farewell to your guide, AdventureWomen companions and the enchanting land of Big Bend.

Drive Back to El Paso

After breakfast, drive an hour and 45 minutes to El Paso International Airport (ELP) where you should arrive at 10:00AM MST. We recommend scheduling your departing flight no earlier than 12:00PM today.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Hampton Inn & Suites El Paso Airport

Conveniently located just five minutes from the El Paso International Airport, the Hampton Inn & Suites is a comfortable accommodation in which to spend the night after a day of traveling.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer, air conditioning, Wi-Fi

Hotel Paisano

A charming and historic hotel located in the middle of Marfa, the Hotel Paisano was built in the 1930s and has been the social hub of the quirky town of Marfa.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, air conditioning, Wi-Fi

Lajitas Golf Resort

Nestled in the desert between Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park in Texas, Lajitas Golf Resort displays many enjoyable amenities, including an award-winning golf course, SUP Rio Grande, a thrilling zip line adventure, a relaxing spa, and various outdoor activities. Unwind by the pool or savor the stunning vista views at the resort's casual outdoor restaurant.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, flatscreen TV, safe, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

Hotel El Capitan

A beloved historic gem in West Texas, Hotel El Capitan offers modern amenities and personalized customer service. Built in 1930 by the Gateway Hotel Chain, led by Charles Basset and designed by renowned architect Henry Trost, the hotel operated until the late 1960s. After serving various purposes, it was restored to its former glory in 2007 by Lanna and Joe Duncan. Originally part of Basset's initiative to boost tourism within 200 miles of El Paso, it stands as one of the five Gateway Hotels.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, flatscreen TV, coffee/tea maker, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Ample snacks throughout the trip
- ▶ All park fees
- ▶ All gratuities except for guides

Not Included:

- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for guides

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

- For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.
- For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

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Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define “adventure travel” as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a “tour,” in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!