

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

## DAY 1

Arrive by 3PM in El Paso, Welcome dinner

Today is arrival day! You are to arrive in El Paso by 3 PM. Tonight will be an introduction and orientation dinner. More details about meeting place will be in the pre-trip letter. Overnight: Hotel in El Paso (D)

## DAY 2

Drive to Marfa

We start our day at our El Paso hotel at 8am! Your guides will meet you at the hotel and will begin the journey east with a three-hour drive to Marfa- a former sleepy ranching town that has exploded onto the art scene. Before arriving in Marfa, we will stretch our legs with a short hike around the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center. After our hike, we will drive the remaining 30 minutes to Marfa. We'll check into our lodging at the historic Hotel Paisano, and spend some free time exploring this unique town, share dinner downtown. (B, L, D) Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Chihuahuan Desert nature Center: 0.33 mile loop behind the nature center Overnight: Hotel Paisano

## DAY 3

Leave Marfa and arrive in Big Bend National Park

Leaving Marfa, we'll depart for Big Bend National park to hike the Mesa de Anguila Trail, one of the most spectacular hikes in the National Park. The mesa sits high atop Santa Elena Canyon and serves as the western border of the park. We'll hike from Lajitas about 2 miles to the saddle, which offers a view to the Rio Grande far below us as well as into Mexico. From here, you can choose to continue along the mesa (it goes on much farther than we have time to walk) for an out-and-back hike with 360-degree vistas. After our hike we will continue to Terlingua Ghost Town and settle into our casitas, our home for the next three nights. (B, L, D) Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Mesa de Anguila Trail: 3.5 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 596ft Overnight: Far Flung Casitas

## DAY 4

Santa Elena Canyon, Chimneys Hikes

After breakfast, we'll take the scenic drive on the Ross Maxwell scenic drive to the Santa Elena Canyon. Once we arrive, we'll stretch our legs with a short hike to view the Canyon. On our way back, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and stop at our second hike of the day, the Chimneys Trail. Starting off with vast desert views we'll eventually arrive at the chimneys, where we can find ancient petroglyphs and see the rock formations up close. After our final hike, we'll admire the views of the scenic drive and return to our cozy casitas for dinner and another night's rest. (B, L, D) Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Santa Elena Canyon Trail: 1.7 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 213ft Chimneys Trail: 4.6 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 364ft Overnight: Far Flung Casitas

## DAY 5

Paddle the Rio Grande River

From yesterday's eagle-eye viewpoint we spied the Rio Grande and today we'll be paddling in it! We will have a full day paddle through one of the many amazing canyons in Big Bend National Park- depending on water levels and guide recommendations. We will explore the 2,000-foot cathedral-like walls that create a natural

canyons in Big Bend National Park, depending on water levels and guide recommendations. We will explore the 2,000-foot cathedral-like walls that create a natural border in the park. This paddle lets us explore the riparian zones of the Rio. Our local outfitter will provide instruction as well as natural history interpretation. We'll return to Terlingua for dinner. (B, L, D) Overnight: Far Flung Casitas

**DAY 6**

**Chisos Basin and the Window Trail**

Today we move from our casitas in Terlingua to Chisos Mountain Lodge, within the National Park. Our first stop is the National Park Visitor Center at Panther Junction. We'll continue to Chisos Basin and hike the Window Trail, an out-and-back 5.6-mile route through Oak Creek Canyon. After our hike, we'll move into our rooms and enjoy the scenery of the basin before meeting for dinner at the lodge. (B, L, D) Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Window Trail: 5.2 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 948ft Overnight: Chisos Mountain Lodge

**DAY 7**

**Hike the South Rim trail into the Chisos Mountains with dramatic views**

We're saving our most spectacular hikes for last. Today we will have the option to explore the South Rim Trail or the Lost Mine trail. The South Rim Trail is a 12-mile loop hike that rewards us with dramatic vistas of the Sierra del Carmen Mountains of Mexico, the rolling foothills of the Chisos, and the Chihuahuan Desert thousands of feet below. The Lost Mine Trail is 4.8 mile out and back hike that provides an outstanding introduction the flora and fauna of the Chisos Mountains, as well as showing us spectacular vistas of the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert and out towards Mexico. Either trail is an excellent choice! (B, L, D) Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: South Rim Trail: 12.5 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 2,657ft Lost Mine Trail: 4.8 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 1,131ft Overnight: Chisos Mountain Lodge

**DAY 8**

**Time to head home. Drive to El Paso fly out after 3:00pm**

The trip may be ending but the journey isn't over! After a breakfast at the lodge we'll load up and drive two hours to Alpine, where we'll stop to stretch our legs before three more hours in the car brings us to El Paso. We'll have our last picnic lunch together along the way. We will arrive at the airport by 2:00PM and you can plan to fly out after 3:00PM. (B, L)