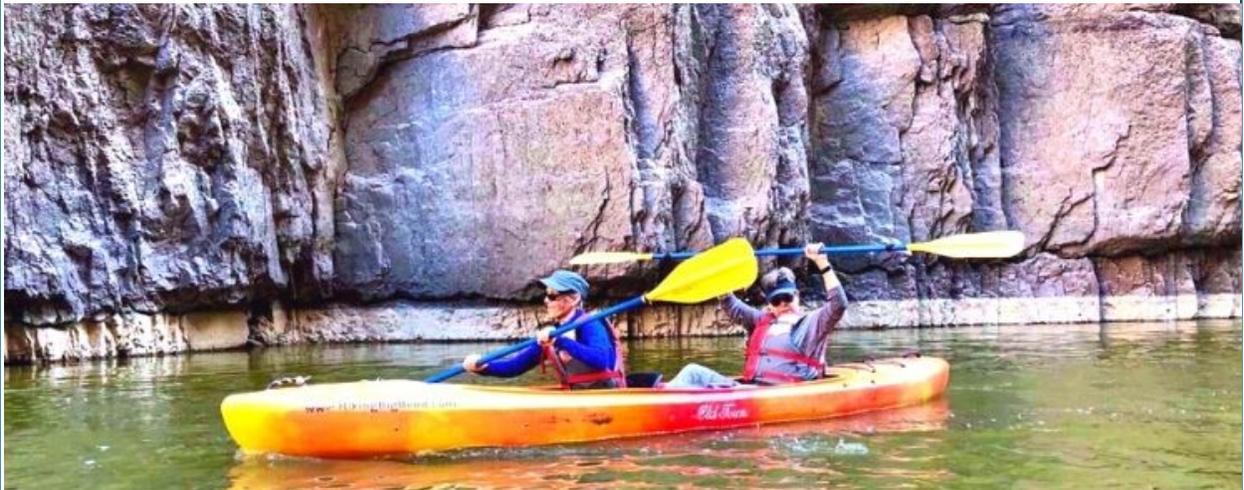




ADVENTURES  
*in good company*



## BIG BEND EXPLORING AND HIKING

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experiencing the breathtaking beauty of Big Bend National Park on foot
- Paddling along the Rio Grande River and admiring the natural border between Mexico and the United States
- Hiking in the Chisos Mountains along the South Rim Trail
- Star gazing in the desert darkness - Big Bend is part of the International Dark Sky Park

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Big Bend National Park
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive in El Paso, TX by 3:00 PM
Depart:	You will return to El Paso Airport (ELP) and can fly out after 3:00 PM on the last day of the trip

### Trip Overview

The Big Bend region of Texas is untouched, under-touristed, and just a little bit funky. This trip brings you into the heart of the region with hiking in Big Bend State Park and Big Bend National Park, paddling the Rio Grande and a trek up into the Chisos Mountains- a trail that Backpacker Magazines includes in their '100 Best Miles of Hiking in the US.' You will experience the eclectic style of West Texas people, nature, and history. This desert that on first glance seems so lifeless is filled with hardy vegetation and a myriad of desert creatures. We think the Big Bend Region is a world set apart and suspect you will too. We agree with the the folks in the Big Bend region- 'West Texas is the Best Texas!'

### Rating

This trip is designed for women who enjoy hiking in the mountains and desert surrounded by breathtaking scenery. We will be hiking 6 - 10 miles a day in hilly terrain with steep ascents and descents, along rocky and uneven terrain. Previous hiking experience is extremely useful, as is having a sense of adventure and a good level of physical fitness. A rating of 4 requires aerobic conditioning for at least 40-50 minutes 4-5 times a week. Additional endurance exercise (e.g. going for a 2-hour hike once a week) and/or strength training is appropriate. **Rating:** 1 2 3 **4** 5.

### What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Seven nights lodging in a historic hotel, cabins and National Park Lodge (motel rooms)
- All meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on the last day. We will go out to restaurants for most meals and the guides will prepare the others.
- Round-trip transportation from El Paso to the Park
- Park entry fees

**Not included:** Travel to and from El Paso, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities and travel insurance

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned 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

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 the meeting place will be in pre-trip letter.

Overnight: Hotel in El Paso (D)

### DAY 2

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, chat about the trip, spend some free time exploring this unique town, share dinner downtown. (B, L, D)

Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses:

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center: 2.2 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 330ft

Overnight: Hotel Paisano

### DAY 3

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: 2 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 596ft

Overnight: Far Flung Casitas

### DAY 4

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

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 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

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 5.2-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

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: 12.0 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 2,2207ft  
Lost Mine Trail: 4.8 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 1,131ft

Overnight: Chisos Mountain Lodge

## DAY 8

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 lunch together along the way. You can plan to fly out after 3:00 p.m. (B, L)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

If you are flying the closest airport is El Paso (ELP). More information about our El Paso hotel will be provided.

If you are driving to El Paso and taking our transportation from there, you can park your car in long-term parking at the airport (\$7/day).

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Exito charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fees of \$50 per passenger.

### Accommodations

The lodging on this trip will vary as much as the landscape. The accommodations will include a historic hotel, casita (little house in Spanish) and a National Park lodge. The lodging will have en suite bathrooms. The casitas will have a small kitchenette. There is an option at an additional cost to get a single room. You can select this option at registration.

### Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #OD10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)