

# Other Trips

## GUIDED HIKES

Rating: Easy to Advanced  
Length: One-Half to One Day

Available hikes are too numerous to list! Hikes are in both the Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Big Bend National Park or on private land.



## GUIDED BACK ROADS TOURS

Length: One Day

Available guided back roads tours are too numerous to list! Back roads tours are in both the Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Big Bend National Park or on private land.

## GUIDED PARK TOURS

Length: One Day

Available guided park tours are in both the Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Big Bend National Park.

## ALSO AVAILABLE:

Guide for Bus Tour Groups with a Catered Lunch  
Special Trips for Youth Groups & Scout Group River Trips  
Guided Canoe Trips • Specialty Trips • Combo Trips

## ASK ABOUT OUR PACKAGE VACATIONS

1-800-545-4240

*One Call Does It All!* We can reserve your lodging, set up meals, and set up all activities. The ultimate carefree vacation!

## AIRPORT AND TRAIN STATION SHUTTLES

## RENTAL EQUIPMENT & PRIVATE SHUTTLES FOR RIVER RUNNERS AND HIKERS

## OUTDOOR GEAR RETAIL SHOP

## WHO WE ARE

Offering trips since the mid 70s, known as the friendliest folks on the river, Big Bend River Tours is proud of our excellent reputation and safety record. We're permitted by both the National and State parks. Our guides are knowledgeable and informative. We offer trips from ½ day up to 21-30 day adventures, including running the river, hiking, horseback riding, and camping out under the stars. We are open year-round, 365 days per year. Advance reservations are highly recommended.

## OUR GUIDES

Big Bend River Tours prides itself on having only the most personable and professional guides. They are what make our company truly special. Our guides love the wilderness and are happy to share their knowledge of the geology, natural history, and native folklore of the region. Many of our guides are talented artists, musicians, or photographers — and all of them will amaze you with their excellent cooking abilities. All B.B.R.T. guides are trained in Advanced First Aid and CPR. We know that at the end of your trip, you'll think as highly of them as we do.

## WHO CAN TAKE OUR TRIPS

Our trips are nondemanding. Our guides row the rafts, so you can relax and enjoy the scenery. If you would like to be more active, you may elect to paddle a raft or a canoe with the guides' instruction and supervision. Many of our guests have never been rafting before, and it is very common to have guests on overnight trips who have never camped before. We've taken people from two- to ninety-years young on our trips. Give us a call, and we'll assist you in choosing which trip is best suited for you.

## WHEN TO RUN THE RIVER

The Rio Grande is unique because it can be run comfortably all year long. Each season, however, has its own special qualities.

During winter, much of the rest of the country is in the deep freeze. Big Bend has mild winters with warmer temperatures.

In spring, the desert is covered with the color of blooming flowers and the sound of a wide array of birds.

Summer brings hot days, warm, starry nights, and provides the perfect conditions for swimming. Many folks are surprised that summer in the desert can be so comfortable.

In the fall, the temperatures are more moderate, and the cottonwood and buckeye trees change color. The water is usually higher at this time, and the rapids are more exciting. Water levels fluctuate so you must be flexible and willing to change from raft to canoe or to a different river section.

**WE GO RAIN OR SHINE, SLEET OR SNOW—HOT OR COLD**



## WHAT TO WEAR & BRING FOR A RIVER TRIP

- Shorts and T-shirt and/or bathing suit
- Old tennis shoes or sandals with ankle strap or pull-on water shoes
- If long pants, light-weight, fast-drying material
- Hat and water bottle
- Sunglasses (if prescription, bring an eyeglass strap to keep glasses secure)
- High SPF sunscreen
- Cameras with plenty of film and extra batteries
- Binoculars for bird-watching
- If allergic to bees or wasps, please bring your EPI kit.

## NEW PASSPORT REGULATIONS

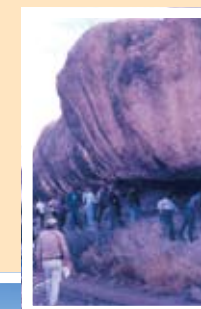
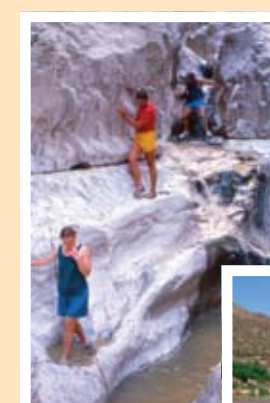
If you are planning a river trip, remember that new Homeland Security regulations may require you to bring your current passport with you to our office. Call us at 1-800-545-4240 for the latest information.



"My entire family was very impressed with your company's operation. Our guide was wonderful. He knew numerous points of interest along the river as well as being extremely pleasant and humorous. He was especially good with our children. Thank you again for a wonderful experience."

"Often times I have commented that the anticipation of an adventure provides more excitement than the trip itself. Not so this time. This trip through Santa Elena Canyon was exceptional. I had a fantastic two days with excitement, awe, relaxation, and two guides who provided a study of nature, just the right amount of wit and 'great food', not to mention the real treat...the songs around the campfire...a talent we never expected! It was an experience of a life time."

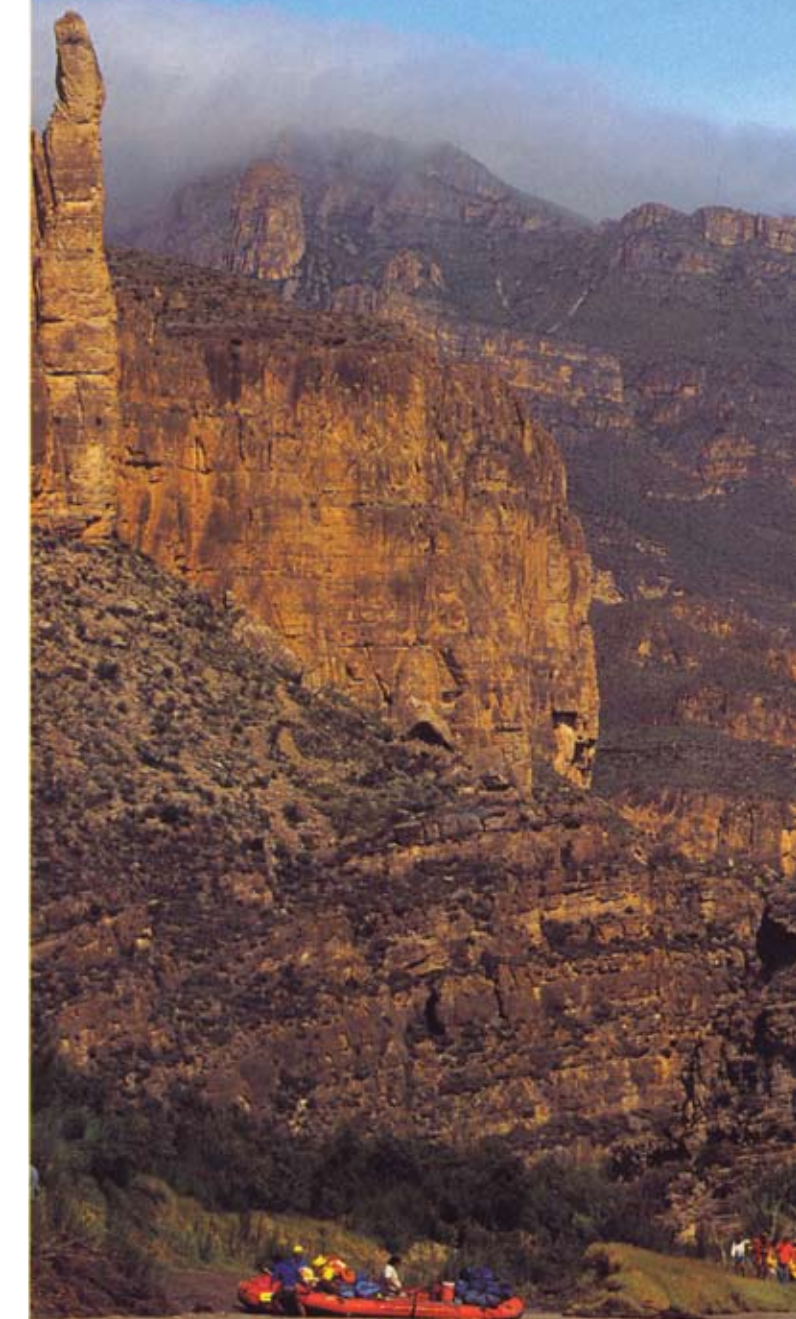
"One week ago on a beautiful Big Bend morning my brother and I left for Mariscal Canyon with your company. Three days later we returned and we were changed; relaxed and totally in awe of the sights, sounds and smells of Big Bend. I can't remember a better three days."



## BIG BEND RIVER TOURS

P.O. Box 317  
Terlingua, Texas 79852

## DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF THE BEAUTIFUL BIG BEND



432-371-3033  
1-800-545-4240

www.bigbendrivers.com

# Exploring the world of Big Bend River Tours

## HALF DAY FLOAT TRIP — MADERA OR FRESNO CREEK AREA

Rating: Very Easy  
Length: Four Hours

Novice river runners, families with small children, and 80-year-old youngsters will enjoy the rugged, peaceful beauty of this section of the Rio Grande. The multi-colored volcanic ash formations contract sharply with the purple lava cliffs along the way. Our guides will show you a variety of interesting desert plants and point out the unusual geological formations. We provide a snack and drinks in beautiful surroundings on this quiet section of the river. Suitable for 2 years and up.

## SADDLE & PADDLE

Rating: Easy to Intermediate  
Length: One Day

Spend ½ day horseback riding and ½ day paddling the Rio Grande! Experience two of the best ways to see the Big Bend Area in just a day. Starting at Lajitas Stables, you will mount up for a scenic ride of Contrabando Mesa, Matadero Mountains, and view The Solitario in Big Bend Ranch State Park. After enjoying a picnic lunch and winding your way through gorges back to Lajitas Stables, you will embark on a scenic trip down the Rio Grande. A day filled with enough adventures and memories to last a lifetime! Recommended for 7 years and up.

## COLORADO CANYON

Rating: Easy to Intermediate  
Length: One to Two Days

This picturesque section of the Rio Grande offers interesting views of volcanic rock canyons with the largest number of fun, splashy rapids in the area. Swimming and body floating will tempt you in the calm stretches between rapids.

We may stop to explore old Spanish and Indian ruins in the intriguing side canyons along the way. Colorado Canyon may be done as a moderately paced 14-mile day trip or extended to 25 miles for a leisurely 2-day trip all the way back to Lajitas, with lots of time for nature study, photography, and side canyon exploration. Recommended for 5 years and up.

## SANTA ELENA CANYON

Rating: Intermediate  
Length: One to Three Days

For sheer beauty, quiet serenity, and spectacular vistas, the Santa Elena Canyon river trip offers scenes of incomparable magnificence. One of the most popular trips in the Big Bend, this 21-mile river trip is known for its 1,500-foot sheer canyon walls and tricky “Rockslide” rapid. Side canyon hikes offer delights for all. Fern covered waterfalls and clear, cool swimming holes are a refreshing treat. Along your trip you may see the rare Peregrine Falcon, eagles, bank beavers, wild burros, and javelina. Whether for a day or for two or three days, journey with us for a peaceful canyon retreat! MUST be at least 7 years old.

## MARISCAL CANYON

Rating: Easy to Intermediate  
Length: Two to Three Days

This 1,800-foot deep, sheer-walled canyon has a unique mysterious quality that sets it apart from the other canyons of this area. Here the Rio Grande changes its direction and swings northward to form what is the actual big bend. Mariscal is accessible by a primitive dirt road that provides a view of the seldom-seen back side of the Chisos Mountains. The trip contains 2 fun rapids known as “Tight Squeeze” and the “Rockpile,” which are exciting to maneuver. Most of the trip is a peaceful float with plenty of time to explore the side canyons. Because of the difficult road conditions getting to and from the canyon, we run this canyon as a two- to four-day trip. On a three- or four-day trip, you’ll see beautiful San Vicente Canyon, relax in hot springs, and take out at Rio Grande Village. **Road conditions permitting.** Recommended for 5 years and up.

## WELCOME TO A MAGICAL LAND!

Tucked away in a remote southwestern Texas corner lies a colorful, majestic, sparsely populated, magical area called Big Bend. Some say everything in Texas is big, but here the land truly lives up to the reputation and the name it’s been given.

You’ll find people with big hearts, big wide-open vistas of desert and mountains, big thinkers and dreamers, big ranches, and two big parks, one State and the other one National.

No one comes to Big Bend by accident and most would say it is a big effort just to get here. Once here, many decide that it is just big enough for them to want to stay for a lifetime.

Big Bend National Park encompasses over 800,000 acres. You could stay forever and not see every nook and cranny. It’s a little piece of paradise that most are unaware of. This is one of the least-visited parks in our National Park system. So even the solitude and the quiet are big.

Big Bend Ranch State Park has over 275,000 acres, with calderas, mountains, desert, and longhorn cattle. This state park was a working cattle ranch since the first pioneers came to the area and on its vast surface you’ll find Indian pictographs, old Indian camps, tinajas and waterfalls.

On hiking trails in both parks, of which there are many, most of the year you’ll not encounter even one other person. If you venture off the main road on one of the backroads, you seldom see another vehicle. And on the river, that magical ribbon of life lined with trees, shrubs and wildflowers, you can experience the true feeling of wilderness.

The river gave this piece of Texas its name, by bending like an elbow, to cradle the desert and the Chisos Mountains in the “crook” of the Big Bend. Indians lived here for thousands of years before the Spanish took possession. But none have ever really “possessed” this country; rather, the country claimed them as its possession. And so the land remains the same—although the inhabitants have changed from Indian to Spanish to Anglo over the

years. Man has not put asunder what God has made in the Big Bend.

The small communities that dot the desert like scattered jewels in the sands of time will never have fast food restaurants, Wal-Marts, shopping malls or chain hotels. Instead the little mom-and-pop businesses flourish by serving the few travelers that find their way to this beautiful forgotten land.

The lucky few who find this hidden treasure take pleasure in the many activities offered by Big Bend River Tours. It’s not enough to “just drive through”—no one can hear the whisper of the land from inside a vehicle. To experience the magic that is here, it’s necessary to walk the land, travel the back roads, ride a horse, or take a river trip through some of the most spectacular scenery to be found in America.

Water, over the years, has scoured its way through layers of rock to create the wonders presently called Santa Elena, Mariscal, Boquillas and Colorado canyons. The Rio Grande is the lifeblood for the land it touches, for the wildlife that lives on the land and for the resident who makes his home in the Big Bend. Although the Rio Grande has diminished over the years from dams and upstream irrigation, Big Bend River Tours in Terlingua offers year-round river adventures with gentle rapids, birds more numerous in variety than any other park, legends of the ancient dwellers, and the spectacular canyon walls that rise from river’s edge over 1500 feet to the sky. Go for a day, camp out under a canopy of stars on an overnight trip, or get away from it all for a multi-day that is sure to mellow your mind and delight the child that lives within. The memories of Big Bend are as everlasting as the land itself.

Time stands still—the land stands majestic, uncluttered—the river lends its magic and the soul is soothed.

*Come experience “the magic” of the Big Bend.*

## BOQUILLAS CANYON

Rating: Easy  
Length: Three to Five Days

Boquillas Canyon is the longest, most remote, and most tranquil of Big Bend National Park’s three major canyons. Here the Rio Grande River has cut through the Sierra del Carmen Mountains to create steep canyon vistas rising 2,600 feet from the river to rim. At times, El Pico looms above us, a 7,000-foot pedestal of limestone. This 3-4 or 5 day float trip takes us leisurely past extraordinary rock formations and breathtaking views of the Sierra del Carmen. Often wild burros and horses may be seen grazing high overhead. Boquillas is known for its many miles of deep, sheer canyon walls and numerous intriguing side canyons. Because it is remote and less often travelled than the park’s other canyons, it is a haven for birds and other wildlife. The shrill cries of the rare Peregrine Falcon can be heard overhead as the river twists and turns through the canyon. The rapids are small and easy. We allow plenty of time for nature study, photography, cloud-watching, day dreaming, campfires, star-gazing, and just plain relax’n’. Recommended for 4 years and up.

## HOT SPRINGS CANYON

Rating: Easy  
Length: One Day

This gentle all day river trip is appropriate for all ages and all levels of experience. Our river journey will pass through small scenic canyons on water that is calm with easy paddling and no rapids. Stops along the way reveal hidden hot springs coming from the riverbank. Bird life is everywhere. Views of the magnificent Sierra del Carmens in Mexico come into view as you float down the river. Your guide leads you on a short hike to the ruins of the old post office that was run by Maggie Smith until 1950 and was a social gathering spot for Americans and Mexicans alike. View the ruins of the Hot Springs Motel and see the Indian pictographs and petroglyphs on the craggy cliffs. Then it’s on to the hot springs for a good long soak. The waters of the hot springs were considered a cure all for many ailments in the early 1900’s. People came from as far away as New York to “take the waters.” Recommended for 3 years and up.

## LOWER CANYONS

Rating: Easy to Intermediate  
Length: Ten to Twelve Days

The Lower Canyons trip is Texas’ premier wilderness and whitewater river trip for those who have become “hooked” on desert canyons. During the high water times, numerous fast, exciting rapids can be experienced throughout the trip. Our trip takes us back to days gone by through one of the most remote wilderness areas in America. Fantastic campsites, many side canyons with immense and beautifully sculpted passages to explore, relaxing hot springs, and invigorating cold springs are just a few of the highlights of this 87-mile river trip. The vastness and power of the Lower Canyons affects us all deeply, and sends us home with special memories of a week-long wilderness experience. This canyon can be completed in 7 to 12 days depending on prevailing water levels. Recommended for 12 years and up.

## THE TEX COMBO TRIP

Rating: Easy to Intermediate  
Length: Two, Three or Four Days

This is a combination trip of horseback riding and river running. This trip starts with a day of riding your horses and a campout overnight by the river with your wrangler. After breakfast the next morning, you’ll paddle a canoe or ride the gentle waters in a raft with your guide from Big Bend River Tours for the day. Fully customizable and can be adapted to your group’s preferences. You may add hiking, bird watching, exploration time, geological tours, and extra days on horseback or on the river. Let us know what you would like to do, and we can arrange it! (Longer trips available at additional cost.) Recommended for 7 years and up.

