

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

Meet at El Paso Airport at 2pm and drive to Marfa

We start our trip at the El Paso airport at 2pm! Your guides will meet you in the lobby of the airport and after brief introductions the group will begin the journey east with a three-hour drive to Marfa- a former sleepy ranching town that has exploded onto the art scene. We'll check into our lodging at the historic Hotel Paisano, chat about the trip, share dinner downtown and maybe even spy the mysterious Marfa Lights. (L,D)

## DAY 2

Big Bend Ranch State Park hike to Mexicano Falls overlook and see rock art along the way

Leaving Marfa, we'll depart for Big Bend Ranch State Park. From there, we will hike between seven and nine miles to the overlook of Mexicano Falls, a view of the Solitario and its flat irons, and a peek down onto Madrid Falls. Along the way we will encounter historic Apache rock art from the 18th century and dip between multiple ecosystems. We'll spend our evening at the Sauceda Bunkhouse for dinner prepared by the guides. (B, L, D)

## DAY 3

Hike in BB National Park to the top of a mesa on the western border of the park

After a hearty Texan breakfast we'll take off for one of the most spectacular hikes in the National Park- the Mesa de Anguila. We'll hike the south side of the dramatic 10-mile hike up the Mesa de Anguila Trail. The mesa sits high atop Santa Elena Canyon and serves as the western border of the national park. It's a long day of hiking to the top of the mesa but the views into Mexico and across the river are worth the effort. (B, L, D)

## DAY 4

Paddle the Rio Grande River

From yesterday's eagle-eye viewpoint we spied the Rio Grande and today we'll be paddling in it! Depending on water levels we will canoe or kayak through Santa Elena Canyon or Dark Canyon and explore the 2000 foot cathedral-like walls that create a natural border. This full-day paddle lets us explore the riparian zones of the Rio and you have a free evening to explore Terlingua. (B, L)

## DAY 5

Hot Springs, visit Mexico and local artisans

We've been peeking into Mexico for several days- today we'll actually visit it! The group will depart from Terlingua after a hearty breakfast and drive to the natural hot springs near Rio Grande Village. While there, you can jump right into the river! After some time in the water we'll load up and drive to the Boquillas Border Crossing and take a short boat ride across the Rio into Mexico. We'll spend several hours in Boquillas- enjoying lunch, visiting with artisans, and maybe even riding a burro! If you're looking for a rest day, though, this is the perfect day for it. There are several trails of varying lengths that leave directly from the lodge. You can choose to sleep in, read a book, take a hike on your own, and meet up with the group for dinner at the lodge. (B, L, D)

## DAY 6

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

We're saving our most spectacular hike for last. Today we explore the South Rim Trail which brings you up and into the Chisos Mountains- the only mountain range that is entirely encompassed in the borders of a US National Park! We can choose a to hike between 9 and 14 miles this day and the beginning of the climb is steep but the views are entirely worth it. You'll be rewarded with dramatic vistas of the Sierra del Carmen Mountains of Mexico as well as the rolling foothills of the Chisos as they settle into the flat floor of the Chihuahuan Desert thousands of feet below. It's a long day and a tough hike, but you won't regret it. (B, L, D)

### DAY 7

### Time to head home Drive to El Paso

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 for an early lunch before three more hours in the car brings us to El Paso. You can plan to fly out after 3pm. (B, L)