

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, Hike Along the Way at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center

We will get an early start to the day beginning at our El Paso hotel! You and your guides will gather 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 arrive at the historic Hotel Paisano in time to freshen up before dinner at our hotel. There's an outdoor patio and an indoor fireplace lounge to enjoy! (B, L, D)

Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: 2.2 mile loop, 335 feet elevation gain/loss

Overnight: Hotel Paisano

DAY 3

Explore Big Bend Ranch State Park

Leaving Marfa, we'll depart for Big Bend Ranch State Park. Along the way, we will visit Fort Leaton State Historic Site. Inside the park, we will hike in a canyon and be able to see unique geological features including hoodoos. This remote park has rugged mountains, steep canyons, and amazing views of the vast high desert. After our hikes we will continue to Terlingua Ghost Town, visit the Barton Warnock Visitor Center, and settle into our casitas. (B, L, D)

Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: You can expect each hike to be about 1.5 miles with 100 ft gain/loss.

Overnight: Far Flung Casitas or similar

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, Mule Ear Trail. After our 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)

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Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Santa Elena Canyon Trail: 1.6 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 80ft Mule Ear Trail: 3.8 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 880ft

Overnight: Far Flung Casitas or similar

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 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 or similar

DAY 6

Chisos Basin and the Window Trail

Today, 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. On trail you will have beautiful panoramic desert vista views to enjoy. (B, L, D)

Hiking distance and elevation gain/losses: Window Trail: 5.2 miles, Elevation gain/loss: 948ft

Overnight: Far Flung Casitas or similar

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! Tonight, we will have a final celebratory dinner where we can reminisce on our Big Bend adventure. (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: Far Flung Casitas or similar

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 breakfast 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. Weâ€™ll have our last 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)