



Big Bend Backpacking

Tuesday – Saturday, March 13th – 17th
Pre- Trip Meeting: March 1st

Spend spring break in the premiere backcountry of Texas. As seen in National geographic, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Monthly and others, Big Bend is a remote and wild recreational haven. We will spend four days backpacking on the rugged Rancherías Trail and on our last day we'll explore one of the major highlights of the trip, Closed Canyon.

Skills you will learn on this trip:

- Packing efficiently
- Reading the weather in the backcountry
- Traveling with a group on challenging terrain
- Backpacking using [Leave No Trace](#) ethics

Trip Setting:

Located just West of Big Bend National Park in the Chihuahua desert, Big Bend Ranch effectively makes up half of the Texas State Parks' acreage. Named for the Rio Grande's sweeping turn North, Big Bend is home of the best Southwestern scenery and houses scarce wildlife including wild havalina, wild burro, black bear, mountain lions, big horn sheep, ocotillos, agave, and blooming desert cactus.

Registration Deadline:

March 1st

Tentative Trip Itinerary

Thursday, March 1st

6:00pm Meet at the OPC for a mandatory Pre-Trip meeting.

Tuesday, March 13th

8:00am Meet at OPC, load gear, and jump in the van!

8:30am Hasta Luego Lubbock! We'll drive about 8 hours South to Big Bend Ranch State Park.

4:30pm We will set up group camp at the infamous Contrabando Movie-set site, cook dinner, and enjoy our first evening along the banks of the mighty Rio Grande.

Wednesday, March 14th

6:30 We will rise and get ready to leave at sunup, have a quick breakfast and begin our enduring 6.5 mile hike on the Rancherías Loop. The trail will be rocky and scenic, but we'll take it slow, eat plenty of snacks and take breaks as we go.

4:30pm Camp tonight will be at Casa Reza Springs and everyone should be appropriately ready to relax. We will eat, tell embarrassing stories, and sleep.

Thursday, March 15th

10:00am Plan to take it easy, with a relaxed start. We'll make a hot breakfast and take our time. We only have three miles to go today. We'll make a dry camp tonight, so it's important to bring your 6 liters of water carrying capacity. Optional side hiking once we hit camp is defiantly encouraged.

~4:30 We will camp midway between Casa Reza and Rancherías Springs, which provide us with water sources. Dinner tonight will be highly participant involved. Chef hats are optional. ☺

Friday, March 16th

10:00am Another short day. 2-3 miles before we hit camp at Rancherías Spring. More side hikes probable.

4:30pm We'll have a quick dinner and should get to sleep early for a long day tomorrow.



What You Will Bring on the Trip

(Everything else is provided by the Outdoor Pursuits Center)

Participants' attitudes can make or break any trip. Environmental factors are completely beyond our control. While there is nothing you can do to stop the rain or soften the rocks, you **can** control your attitude. We expect all trip participants to bring a positive, flexible attitude in order for us all to have the best time. We also want you to be prepared for the unexpected, so use the gear information below:

Tentative Trip Itinerary

Saturday, March 17th

5:30am We will have a quick breakfast and hit the trail. Today we'll cover another 6 miles back to civilization and make a quick side hike up the famous and gorgeous Closed Canyon. There will be a dinner stop on the way back.

12:00am We'll arrive at the OPC, and spend about 30 minutes unloading and putting away the group gear before tearful goodbyes and parting ways.

Gear Tips:

- Synthetic fibers such as Polypropylene and Lycra dry more quickly than cotton.
- Be sure to break in your hiking shoes before the trip to avoid blisters on the trail.

Where to get gear:

Mountain Hideaway
4816 50th Street

Academy Sports and Outdoors
5802 19th Street

Savers Thrift Store
2015 50th Street

What NOT to Bring:
Music-playing devices, cell phones, valuables, recreational drugs, alcohol, pets, homework, and stress.

Gear List

- *Clothing*
Bandanna
Pants or Shorts for Hiking
T-Shirt (&/or funky desert shirt)
Fleece or Wool Sweater
Warm hat and gloves
Synthetic or Wool Long Underwear
2-3 Pairs Synthetic or Wool Socks
2-3 Pairs Liner Socks (optional)
Sturdy Hiking Boots
Comfy Camp Shoes
Rain Jacket/Pants (R)
- *Toiletries/First Aid*
Personal Toiletries
Feminine Products if necessary
Prescription or OTC Medications you may need
Hand Sanitizer
Bug Spray
Sunscreen!
Lip Balm
Spare Eyeglasses or Contacts
- *Equipment*
Ziplocs for Packing
Small Flashlight or **Headlamp** (R)
Sunglasses w/ Keeper Strap and/or Sun Hat
6 Liters Water Carrying Capacity
Insulated Mug
- *Food/Money for the van ride*
- *Extras* (optional)
Journal and Pen(s)
Reading Material
Camera
Pocket Knife

(R) Item can be rented from OPC for additional fee.
Call the OPC at 742-2949 if you have any questions.