



# Texas Hiking Big Bend National Park & Beyond Lodge Based

6 Days



*The Adventure Company* | EST. 1969

**MT+SOBEK**<sup>TM</sup>  
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# ➤ Texas Hiking Big Bend National Park & Beyond Lodge Based

Located in the southwestern corner of Texas, the Big Bend has long enchanted those seeking adventure in the unspoiled West, where breathtaking mountains, dramatic river canyons and vast expanses of Chihuahuan Desert all combine into one uniquely diverse ecological wonderland. Brimming with geologic and ancient cultural history, and an astounding number of plant, bird, and animal species, Big Bend National Park is one of the largest and most remote parks in the lower 48. Our journey begins and ends in the magnificent border city of El Paso. Enroute, we travel the Texas Mountain Trail, viewing landscapes much as the Apache, Comanche and early ranchers saw them, all while exploring some of the region's most iconic towns - Fort Davis, Alpine, Terlingua, and Marfa. Every day we arise to a new and different hike, carefully curated from the amazing variety of trails throughout the Big Bend. Each night we comfortably relax in distinctively Texan accommodations, from a cattle rancher's historic hotel, to a mining magnate's private mansion.

## Details

Arrive: El Paso, Texas

Depart: El Paso, Texas

Duration: 6 Days

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

Minimum Age: 18 Years Old

Activity Level:



## Testimonials

*"MT Sobek took care of everything for our extended family vacation. Not a hiccup in the planning, the itinerary, the lodging or the guide. Everything in life should be so easy."*

Kathy J.

*I would highly recommend Mt Sobek for an amazing travel adventure. It was truly worth the money. Every detail was taken care of! It made for a stress free trip and one where you can truly enjoy the beauty and culture around you.*

Kristin W.

**GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.**

☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)

## Why Take This Trip With Us?

### REASON #01

MT Sobek has been exploring US National Parks for more than 50 years, placing a strong emphasis on responsible travel practices that protect the natural environment.

### REASON #02

In six spectacular and well-paced days, you'll explore rugged wilderness trails and learn about the natural, geologic, and human history of Big Bend.

### REASON #03

Hike with our expert guides, who bring the wonder of Big Bend and the Lone Star State to life, and rest in comfort at superior-quality accommodations.

## What to Expect



### ACTIVITIES

Moderate hikes in stunning high desert and deep canyon landscapes, cultural exploration, and sightseeing.



### LODGING

Modern and relaxed three-star properties in five-star settings.



### CLIMATE

Come prepared for a variety of conditions with lows below freezing and highs into the 80s.

## Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Kleo first found her passion for guiding in Texas' Big Bend where she put down roots and began life as a guide in 2003. She then spent six years as an expedition river guide in the Grand Canyon before returning to West Texas. She wears many hats as a yoga instructor, archeological typology illustrator, journalist, outdoor guide, and mom. She looks forward to sharing all she loves about Far-West Texas with you!

**Kleo Belay**

A native Texan who spent his childhood in El Paso and Austin, Mark traveled the world and sampled various professions before earning his Conservation Biology degree. In addition to guiding, he enjoys being involved with conservation research projects in Texas and further afield. Mark loves all aspects of the Big Bend region he calls home, and he can't wait to share this amazing West Texas wonderland with you.

**Mark Black**

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### HIKE FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND EXPLORE ALPINE, TEXAS

Our adventure begins in the multi-cultural border city of El Paso. Following introductions, we begin the three-hour journey to our first hike at the Fort Davis National Historic Site. The park is one of the finest examples of a frontier military post in the American Southwest with trails that offer sweeping panoramic views of the Fort and nearby Davis Mountains. During our visit we'll learn how the fort served as a key military encampment during western expansion and hear stories about legendary residents such as the Buffalo Soldiers. We then continue to Alpine, the Gateway to the Big Bend. There is time for a stroll along Alpine's Mural Mile, a brisk hike up Hancock Hill, or to relax at our lodgings, before we gather for dinner. Lunch and dinner included.

**Activity:** 3-4.5 miles hiking with 320' elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** L, D

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## DAY 2

### HIKE IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK AND EXPERIENCE THE TERLINGUA GHOST TOWN

We set out for Big Bend National Park and our first hike at Persimmon Gap Draw. This often-overlooked treasure features outstanding views of the oldest exposed geology in the park. We visit the park's Fossil Bone Exhibit, which celebrates 120 million years of paleontological history, and the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Then traveling the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, our afternoon hike on Burro Mesa is a Chihuahuan Desert classic through a series of narrow gorges leading to a dramatic pour-off. Afterwards we head for Terlingua Ghost Town where the day ends at our accommodation in a restored mansion, once the stately home of the local mining magnate - our home for the next four nights. Dinner tonight is at the famed Starlight Theatre. All meals included.

**Activity:** 5.8 miles hiking with 645' elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 3

### DISCOVER THE DIVERSITY AND HISTORY OF THE SOUTH RIM TRAIL

Today we discover the most famous hike in all of Texas: the South Rim Trail. The biological diversity and geologic history add to the grandeur of the Chisos—a true "sky island" surrounded by an 'ocean' of Chihuahuan Desert. This is the only mountain range in the U.S. which is fully contained within the boundaries of a national park. Throughout the day we are rewarded with countless dramatic viewpoints, including those from the South Rim which spans miles into the distant Sierra del Carmen Mountains of Mexico and thousands of feet below to the Chihuahuan Desert floor. Returning to Terlingua, we dine and then relax at the Perry Mansion. As part of the Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve, the world's largest IDA-certified Dark Sky Place, Terlingua is also an ideal spot for stargazing afterwards. All meals included.

**Activity:** 12 miles hiking with 2,000 elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** B, L, D



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## DAY 4

### MOUNTAINS, DESERT AND RIVER ECOSYSTEMS OF BIG BEND

Today we experience a "triple treat" and explore Big Bend's mountains, desert and river ecosystems - all in one day. We begin hiking on the Window Trail, which descends through a canyon sandwiched between majestic mountain peaks. Photo opportunities abound as we make our way out of the Chisos Basin and onto the desert floor via the picturesque Oak Springs Trail. Utilizing a trail not found on maps, we picnic under the shady trees of a desert oasis. Next, we continue down the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive to Santa Elena Canyon. A short hike showcases sheer limestone walls that tower 1500' above both sides of the Rio Grande. Back in Terlingua, we dine at another favorite locale. All meals included.

**Activity:** 9 miles hiking with 740' elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 5

### HIKE THE MESA DE ANGUILA AND BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK

The Mesa de Anguila Trail is a hidden gem seldom explored by visitors to Big Bend National Park. The mesa sits high atop Santa Elena Canyon and marks the western border of the park. Our hike provides fantastic views of the bends of the Rio Grande, a brilliant example of how the park got its name. We visit the Barton Warnock Center to learn more about the region's incredible natural history, and then drive along the Camino del Rio. The road twists and winds with the Rio Grande, crossing arroyos, climbing mountains, and hugging canyon walls. Reaching Big Bend Ranch State Park, we discover the beauty and diversity of this massive 311,000 acre park. Returning to Terlingua, there is free time to explore the Ghost Town before we gather for a farewell dinner at the iconic Starlight Theatre. All meals included.

**Activity:** 6 miles hiking with 900' elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 6

### EXPLORE ANCIENT ROCK ART AT INDIAN HEAD AND MODERN ART IN MARFA BEFORE RETURNING TO EL PASO

This morning we begin our return journey to El Paso, but not before we explore another secret treasure of Big Bend National Park on our hike at Indian Head Mountain. Marvel at ancient petroglyphs, pictographs, and other remnants of the Big Bend's early inhabitants, hidden amongst the mountain's striking volcanic formations. Then we travel the Texas Mountain Trail back through Alpine to Marfa for a scrumptious lunch at a favorite eatery. Afterwards, discover the iconic cultural phenomena that is Marfa itself - where West Texas ranching life and modern art collide - on a walking tour at the world famous Chinati Foundation. There you can witness the minimalist art of Donald Judd and other well-known international artists. Following, we transfer to El Paso with a planned arrival time of 5:30pm. Breakfast and lunch included.

**Activity:** 3 miles hiking; 1.5 miles walking

**Meals:** B, L

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## Dates

Apr 13 - 18, 2025

Oct 5 - 10, 2025

Oct 12 - 17, 2025

Nov 9 - 14, 2025

Dec 7 - 12, 2025

Dec 28, 2025 - Jan 2, 2026

For full terms and conditions please visit [www.mtsobek.com/terms](http://www.mtsobek.com/terms). Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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## Inclusions & Exclusions

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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## ► The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

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### Awards



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