



Texas Big Bend National Park Canoeing Private Adventure

6 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969


MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Texas Big Bend National Park Canoeing Private Adventure

Experience the rugged beauty of Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas by embarking on this fun and flexible canoe trip through Boquillas Canyon. Paddle your way down the winding Rio Grande corridor that bisects the Dead Horse Mountains on the US side of the river and the Boquillas del Carmen range on the Mexican side. Over five days of canoeing on calm waters and small rapids, cover 33 miles of the river while taking in towering cliffs, stunning geological formations and an abundance of wildlife, from colorful birds to elusive desert mammals. Break up the paddling with scenic hikes to explore the magical side canyons along the route. Spend evenings gathered around a campfire, enjoying delicious starlit meals prepared by your guides. Throughout the journey, remain fully immersed in pristine nature.

Details

Arrive:	Midland, Texas
Depart:	Midland, Texas
Duration:	6 Days
Group Size:	4-12 Guests
Minimum Age:	15 Years Old
Activity Level:	

Testimonials

"Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see."

Bob J.

"A prominent reason we have chosen MT Sobek as our favorite adventure travel company has been the excellent travel guides."

Carol & Burt D.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1-800-974-0300

 info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

Our expert guiding team has extensive river experience in Boquillas Canyon and Big Bend National Park, giving you the best experience.

REASON #02

This adventure perfectly blends canoeing with remote canyon hikes and fully supported comfortable camping.

REASON #03

MT Sobek has run river adventures in the US and across the globe for more than 50 years - so you can be sure of an epic trip!

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Canoeing/rafting on calm waters and gentle rapids; hiking on dirt trails in side canyons.



LODGING

Riverside camps coupled with a night's stay at a comfortable historic hotel in Marathon.



CLIMATE

Temperatures in Big Bend National Park will range from 50°F to 70°F.

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.

Kevin —a.k.a. "Thirsty"—has been guiding since he was 17 years old and has been an integral part of MT Sobek's Arctic rivers program for decades. His laid-back manner puts everyone at ease, and he has a wealth of knowledge about Arctic rivers. Although he normally spends his winter months in Colorado's Telluride ski area, he has climbed Denali three times, reaching the summit in 2000. Thirsty is a legend in the MT Sobek circle and endears himself to travelers with his expertise, calm demeanor, and sense of humor.

Kevin McDermott

Levi grew up in rural Kansas. From flowing fields of wheat to the flowing rivers of the Southwest, Levi has always had a passion for the natural world. He's been guiding since 2016, running rivers in Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Mexico, and hiking adventures in Texas and Utah. He enjoys opening the door to new experiences for guests. As the son of a writer, he has inherited a passion for bringing a unique perspective to sharing his insights and stories in nature.

Levi Weilert

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Itinerary

DAY 1

WELCOME TO TEXAS & MARATHON

Arrive at Midland Airport and meet your MT Sobek representative for a transfer journey to Marathon. We will make a short stop to pick up any last minute items you may want, before heading south into the Chihuahuan Desert. With around 400 inhabitants, Marathon has a small-town charm and friendly vibes to make you feel right at home. Settle into the hotel, then join your MT Sobek guide and group at 6pm for drinks and introductions in the lovely gardens. Savor your first West Texas dinner at the famous 12 Gage restaurant. Back at the hotel, pack your river bags for an early start the next morning.

Meals: D

DAY 2

GO DEEP INTO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a shuttle ride to Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park. Meet up with your river guides and master everything you need to know for safe canoeing. Set out on a paddling journey, passing the small Mexican village of Boquillas and heading into the towering walls of Boquillas Canyon-the longest and deepest canyon in the park. In the afternoon, arrive at one of the beautiful camps along the Rio Grande. Explore the area and savor an unforgettable dinner by the campfire, underneath majestically starry skies.

Activity: 4-6 hours Total. 4-8 miles canoeing (canoeing duration and distance is depended on current conditions and water levels)

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

TAKE A SCENIC CANYON HIKE INTO MEXICO

Feast on a riverside breakfast and take in the resplendent beauty that surrounds you. Your options today include an 8-mile hike up Arroyo Puerto Rico, a spectacular side canyon on the Mexican side. Enjoy a day of meditative walking and a picnic lunch along the way. This there-and-back hike pairs well with another night at the same campsite and a star-sprinkled feast served by the campfire. Alternatively, it is possible to canoe further down the river and spend the evening at a different campsite, depending on the group and the weather.

Activity: 8-12 hours total. 0-4 miles canoeing (canoeing duration and distance is depended on current conditions and water levels). Optional out and back Hiking up to 8+ miles.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

CANOE & HIKE RIO GRANDE'S RUGGED CANYONS

Get into true 'river mode' by paddling for a few hours. Take in striking rock formations and listen for canyon wrens' song as you make your way down gentle rapids. Stretch your legs on scenic hikes, such as the rim hike on the Marufo Vega that showcases dramatic views of Sierra del Carmen and the Rio Grande, or the hike in Arroyo Venado, 'Deer Creek' canyon with rugged scenery dotted with succulents. In the evening, relax back at the camp and feast on another tasty alfresco dinner.

Activity: 6-10 hours total/ 6-8 miles canoeing (canoeing duration and distance is depended on current conditions and water levels). Optional Hiking 3-6 miles

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

LEAVE BOQUILLAS CANYON & ENTER THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

Power up with a nice breakfast, then load up the canoes and head downstream for another day on the Rio Grande. Venture into the side canyons and take in the river's course. As you make your way out of the Boquillas Canyon and paddle through open country, find yourself immersed in the spectacular beauty of North America's largest desert, the Chihuahuan, with views stretching to high country in every direction. Back at the camp, come together for one last dinner around the campfire under open skies.

Activity: 4-8 hours/ 8+ miles canoeing and short optional hiking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

BID FAREWELL TO THE RIO GRANDE & BIG BEND

After breakfast, set out for one last canoeing journey of 4 to 8 miles, heading to La Linda, an abandoned mining town in Mexico. Along the way, test your mastery of canoeing on several fun rapids. Delight in one last riverside lunch and bid farewell to your guides. Take a 4-hour van transfer back to Midland Airport. Depart the same day or spend one more (optional on-own) night at the Marriott to round off the experience.

Activity: 3-hours/4-8 miles canoeing

Meals: B, L

Dates

For full terms and conditions please visit 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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➤ Rafting & Kayaking with MT Sobek

At MT Sobek, we take you to premier wilderness rivers and beautiful island locations to experience some of the most breathtaking rafting and kayaking on the planet. In addition to our world-class guides who offer entertaining experiences, you'll enjoy comfortable camping and delicious meals. Here are the key things that set us apart:

- **Expert Guides** ~ Our professional guides are the best in the business. From the first safety briefing to the final high five, you'll be led by experienced guides who have made trip leading their profession.
- **Small Groups** ~ We are proud of our commitment to small group sizes, which don't exceed 20 guests. Our guide to client ratio on river trips is 1:4.
- **Special Permits** ~ With special permits, we are able to gain access to less-traveled regions, far off the beaten path, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
- **Comfortable Camping** ~ After a day of thrills on the river, take it easy as guides cook up tasty meals at your comfortable camp. Enjoy creature comforts in the wilderness!
- **Range of Trip Levels** ~ Our rafting and kayaking trips range from easy to moderate-strenuous, so there is something to suit every level.
- **Sterling Safety Record** ~ We have a sterling safety record on our rafting and kayaking trips and all guests are required to attend mandatory briefings.



Sobek Expeditions was founded in 1973 by Richard Bangs (*left*) and John Yost. Named after the Egyptian River God, Sobek ran more than 40 first descents on some of the world's most famous rivers, including the Bio Bio and the Omo. In 2022, Richard Bangs was named one of the 100 Greatest Explorers of the Last 100 Years by explorersweb.com! Sobek Expeditions will celebrate 50 years of intrepid rafting in 2023.

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➤ A Day on the River

Many guests ask us “what’s a typical day on the river like?” Other than being super fun, here’s what you can expect. On Day 1, you’ll either meet your group and guide in town or on the riverbank, depending on your itinerary. After introductions and a thorough safety briefing, you’ll receive your personal floatation device and step into your raft or kayak. The first stretch of the river is usually gentle and you’ll arrive at camp in the late afternoon. Once you’ve found your tent and settled in, enjoy games and drinks by the river while your guides prepare a delicious dinner. The evening winds down with stories and laughs around the camp fire.

In the morning, awake to the soothing sounds of the river and savor a warm breakfast before setting out for an exhilarating day of rafting and kayaking—led by your expert guiding team. Along the way you’ll have plenty of rest stops and time to explore historic or natural sites along the river’s edge. Then it’s back in the raft for epic rapids and more fun on the water!

River Rafting Terminology



Oar Boat

Classic inflatable raft, equipped with two long oars rowed forward-facing by the guide. Accommodates gear and 2-3 passengers. Perfect for relaxing.



Inflatable Kayak

“Duckies” are your chance to get intimate with the river. Paddle or sit at river level with a double-bladed paddle and be in charge of your own destiny!



Paddle Boat

Up to 6 passengers sit on the perimeter of the raft with legs inside and paddle under the direction of the guide, who sits in the stern of the raft.



Stand-Up Paddleboard

Balance on these surprisingly stable craft, also known as SUP, and propel yourself downstream with a single-bladed paddle.



Gear Boat

Also called the sweep boat, the gear boat carries all the camp necessities, plus all our waste—ensuring that we leave the river as pristine as we found it.



Portage

When rivers become un-navigable, the gear has to be taken out and carried to the next navigable stretch. This is known as portage.

River Rafting Classification

Class I-II Rapids

Sit back and enjoy the scenery. Experience placid river conditions with interspersed wave trains and enjoyable splashes.

Class III-IV Rapids

Things are getting exciting! Begin to see more frequent irregular waves. This level requires a good response to guide commands and efficient team paddling.

Class V Rapids

The highest level of rafting difficulty, likely involving long, continuous rapids. Successful navigation requires great physical fitness and precise paddling.

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