

# Texas Big Bend National Park Hiking

## Summit a Sky Island & Explore Canyons of the Rio Grande

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

**We love talking travel!**

Contact us at [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)

or call **800-974-0300**



# Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

## **Unrivaled Expertise**

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Tour Company in 2022 by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards.

## **Unique Trip Design**

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

## **Small Groups**

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





## Leading the Way

### World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





# Why take this trip with us?

## REASON 1

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

## REASON 2

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 and the Chihuahuah Desert.

## REASON 3

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—each with a pool.

## At A Glance

### ACTIVITIES

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



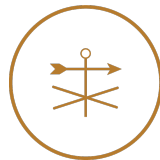
### LODGING

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.



### KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

*“What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence.” - Alex M.*



# Texas Big Bend National Park Hiking

## Summit a Sky Island & Explore Canyons of the Rio Grande

Texas's Big Bend National Park is a vast and rugged wilderness with rich cultural history, diverse flora and fauna, and unique geologic formations. Expert interpretive guides will lead you on incredible adventures, summiting the park's highest peak and hiking across the Rio Grande. Spend starlit nights around the fire pit or pool before retiring to your own private cabin. Cap off the trip at West Texas's only boutique hotel, located in art-filled Marfa, TX. Big Bend National Park is an unforgettable destination that should be on every traveler's bucket list.

### 6 Days

**Start:** Midland-Odessa, TX

**End:** Midland-Odessa, TX

**Departing:** January, February, March, April, September, October, November, December

**Activities:** Hiking & Trekking

**Lodging:** Comfortable Hotels

**Group Size:** 4-12 Guests

**ACTIVITY:**



Check [mtsobek.com](https://mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

“

*“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.

# The Itinerary

DAY  
01

## Fossil Bone Discovery & Window Trail Trail, Big Bend National Park

Welcome to Texas, are you ready for the ultimate Big Bend adventure? Your guides will pick you and your fellow adventurers up this morning from your pre-trip hotel. After an orientation meeting, depart Odessa-Midland in the morning we will journey due south across the plains of West Texas. Once in Big Bend National Park we pause for a delicious picnic at the Dinosaur Discovery Center, where you can explore the park's rich archaeological and natural history. After a relaxing picnic, get set to hike the classic Window Trail. This hike begins gently, meandering across the Chisos Basin allowing you to warm up your legs. Soon you'll descend into a narrow chasm leading you to the breathtaking highlight: the Window Pour-off. The hike offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and canyons, as well as a chance to spot some of the park's interesting wildlife. Along the way, you'll encounter unique rock formations and a variety of plant species, including the fascinating and hardy agave. Wrap up your first day with a welcome dinner at the Starlight Theatre with a great mix of Texas and Mexican cuisine.

**MEALS:** Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 3.5- to 4.5-hour private van transfer

**ACTIVITY:** 2-3 hours/5 miles hiking with 750' elevation gain/loss

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DAY  
02

## Narrow Desert Gorges, the Rio Grande & Santa Elena Canyon

Today you will explore some of North America's most incredible desert canyons via a collection of short hikes. After exploring Tuff Canyon and Lower Burro Mesa slot canyons, picnic by the Rio Grande. In the afternoon magnificent Santa Elena Canyon awaits. As you hike and possibly wade in the Rio Grande you'll be surrounded by towering canyon walls that rise up to 1,500 feet, creating a dramatic and awe-inspiring landscape. You'll encounter a diverse array of flora and fauna attracted to the perennial water, including cacti, yucca, and a variety of neo-tropical bird species. This experience is sure to be a highlight of your visit to Big Bend, an unforgettable journey through one of the most breathtaking natural wonders in all of the Southwest.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2- to 2.5-hour private van transfer round trip

**ACTIVITY:** 6-8 hours/ 5-6 miles hiking with 600' elevation gain

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DAY  
03

### Summit Emory Peak in the Chisos Mountains

Summitting Emory Peak in the Chisos Mountains is an experience like no other. The hike to the peak is challenging but rewarding, taking you from 5,400-foot elevation through dense forests, rocky ridges, and steep switchbacks. At 7,825 feet elevation, the summit itself offers unbeatable 360-degree panoramic views of the Chisos Mountains and surrounding desert landscape. Reaching the peak is an accomplishment that leaves you with a sense of pride and fulfillment. Along the way, you may even have the chance to spot some of the diverse wildlife that call the mountains home. The hike to the summit of Emory Peak will take you through a variety of terrains, including dense forests, rocky ridges, and steep switchbacks. The trail is well-maintained and easy to follow, but the challenge of the terrain keeps things interesting and exciting. This is our most physically challenging day and everyone will be encouraged to attempt to summit, but it is not mandatory and there are scenic options for those looking for less of a challenge.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 1- to 1.5-hour private van transfer

**ACTIVITY:** 6-8 hours/ 10 miles hiking with 2,440' elevation gain



## Hike to Hot Springs by the Rio Grande & Visit Boquillas del Carmen Mexico

On the banks of the Rio Grande, thermal springs carry mineral-rich groundwater from deep within the earth to the surface. Set out on a 3-mile hike along the river, passing fascinating fossil beds and natural hot springs. If water levels permit you may choose to stop for a soak. Cross the river in a small rowboat to Mexico and take a short hike to Boquillas del Carmen, a charming Mexican village located just across the Rio Grande River from Big Bend National Park and surrounded by mountains. The village is known for its delicious food, including traditional Mexican dishes like enchiladas, tacos, and tamales. Enjoy lunch at one of the village's small restaurants and sample some of the local street food. Explore the village's inviting main street, visit its small shops, and interact with the friendly residents who are happy to share their customs and traditions. Cross back into the United States with time to relax at the pool and enjoy happy hour around the fire pit at the Casitas before a delicious dinner prepared by your guides.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2 hour private van transfer round trip

**ACTIVITY:** 6-8 hours/ up to 4-5 miles total hiking throughout the day with 750' elevation gain

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## Discover Big Bend State Park & the Marfa Art Scene

After an entertaining stop to visit with the Clay Henry, the first duly elected Mayor in Lajitas TX, enter Big Bend State Park. Hike the Closed Canyon trail traversing smooth ledges, inching past tinajas, and walking beneath towering spires of rock, deep into its shady depths. Discover its unique geology carved by wind and water over millions of years, creating a surreal landscape. Next immerse yourself in the rich history of the Fort Leaton State Historic site, a one-acre adobe fortified compound overlooking the Rio Grande valley. In the late afternoon arrive at Marfa, TX a small desert town that has become an international cultural hub. Known for its unique art installations, modern minimalist architecture, and stunning sunsets, Marfa offers a one-of-a-kind experience that you won't find anywhere else. It's the perfect place to celebrate with the group at a farewell dinner.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2.5 hour private van transfer

**ACTIVITY:** 2-3 hours/up to 3 miles hiking with up to 500' elevation gain

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## Transfer to Midland-Odessa & Depart

After a relaxing and leisurely morning head back to Midland-Odessa. The most common departing flights occur around 2:30pm so we will plan to arrive at around noon.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**TRANSPORTATION:** 3.5-hour private van transfer





# Where You'll Stay

**These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.**

## **Big Bend Casitas**

Located in Terlingua, each casita (Spanish for "little house") offers 400 square feet of indoor space complete with full bath, two queen beds, kitchenette (with refrigerator, microwave, toaster and coffee maker) 32" flat screen satellite TV, maid service and free wifi. A porch to kick back and relax on after a full day of adventure and a courtyard with picnic tables and a barbecue pit. All casitas are non-smoking.

## **Hotel Saint George**

Hotel Saint George is located in the heart of downtown Marfa and features repurposed materials from the original Hotel Saint George built in 1886, melded with world-class contemporary art by local artists. The hotel's thoughtfully appointed rooms and suites have high ceilings, spacious modern bathrooms, and hand-crafted furnishings. The hotel also offers an outdoor pool, access to a nearby fitness center, a full-service bar, and the onsite restaurant Laventure which features wood-fired pizzas.

# Departure Dates

**Book early for a greater choice of available dates.**

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

September 29-October 4, 2024

October 6-11, 2024

October 21-26, 2024

December 27, 2024-January 1, 2025

January 5-10, 2025

February 2-7, 2025

February 9-14, 2025

February 16-21, 2025

February 23-28, 2025

October 19-24, 2025

October 26-31, 2025

November 2-7, 2025

December 28, 2025-January 2, 2026

# What's Included

## 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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