



Big Bend National Park & Carlsbad Caverns



7 Days - September 7-13, 2012
Muskogee, Tulsa & Oklahoma City
Tour # 1209BBNP

Are you ready for some breathtaking scenery, history, natural phenomena, and a touch of Hollywood? Then this is the tour for you...take a look....

6 Continental Breakfasts – 1 Box Lunch – 2 Dinners
Historic Fort Stockton
Paisano Pete
Annie Riggs Museum
2 Nights Lajitas Golf Resort
Narrated Big Bend National Park Tour
Fort Leaton State Historical Park
Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Day 1: Pack your bags, board your **Travel Tours** motor-coach and it's off to explore the **Big Bend National Park**. Receive a warm welcome from your Tour Director and Driver; sit back & relax as you make your way to **Abilene, TX** for your accommodations at the **Hampton Inn**.

Day 2: YES! There is a fort in Fort Stockton, Texas! Historic **Fort Stockton**, listed on the **National Register of**

Historic Sites, consists of original & reconstructed military buildings and includes Officers' Row, Guardhouse, Enlisted Men's Barracks & the Parade Grounds. After lunch on your own in Fort Stockton, a **local guide** boards your coach for a tour of the fort with time to view the orientation video, view the exhibits in the museum and tour the buildings. There will also be time to visit the **Annie Riggs Museum**. Housed in a turn-of-the-century adobe hotel, it provides insight into the region's history & development with exhibits in thirteen areas. Before departing, stop for a photo op at a roadrunner of mythical proportions- **Paisano Pete**. Your accommodations for the next two nights are at the **Chisos Mountains Lodge, onsite restaurant & patio** offers some of the most spectacular views in the state of Texas. (CB, D)

Day 3: Today your **Big Bend National Park** tour begins with a **local guide** in tow. This will be one of the most memorable days of your trip as you travel through Big Bend National Park, a timeless land of three habitats: river, desert & mountains. Stops include **Castolon** historic site, **Santa Elena Canyon**, the **Chisos Mountains** & outside the park, **Terlingua Ghost town**. Along the Rio Grande River, you'll stop at the mouth of the Santa Elena Canyon whose 1800 foot walls tower above you. Near Santa Elena Canyon is Castolon historic site, scene of a U.S. Cavalry



post during the Mexican Revolution. As you change habitats, the Chihuahuan desert landscape opens up, and you'll see yawning arroyos, rocks, strata & desert blooms in hundreds of colors. In the Chisos Mountains at altitude 4500' you'll be surrounded by pine, oak & pinion woodlands. The adobe ruins of Terlingua reflect a pioneering era of quicksilver mining. The Ghost Town, as it's sometimes called, was the home of a mining company that dominated mercury production in the United States in the early part of this century. In 1967 an event occurred in Terlingua that put it on the map and insured its place in Texas History—the "first ever" World Championship Chili Cookoff. Your conquistador & step-on guide will tell you about the geology, plants, animals and history of the Big Bend, which has been home to bandits, bootleggers and "businessmen" in its colorful past. Along the way, you'll stop and have your **box lunch** before returning to the Chisos Mountains Lodge in the evening after a beautiful day of sightseeing. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4: This morning you'll travel the spectacular **El Camino Del Rio**, Spanish for "**The River Road**" & one of the top ten scenic drives in the country. Stop in **Presidio** where you will have a chance to visit another of the many state parks in the region, **Fort Leaton State Historic Site**, once the home and private fort of Ben Leaton, an early farmer in the area. You'll drive through **Marfa**, home of the mystery lights first reported in 1883 by early settlers. Your tour director will point out the **Old Courthouse & the Hotel Paisano**, which were used in the filming of the movie "Giant" and last year's blockbuster, "There Will Be Blood". Time permitting your last stop today will be at the **McDonald Observatory** for a self-guided visit. Spend the

night at the **Holiday Inn Express, Alpine, Texas. (B)**

Day 5: This afternoon visit **Carlsbad Caverns National Park** for a self-guided tour of the **Big Room**, a one-mile underground walk around the perimeter of the largest room in the cave with an **audio guide** that notably enhances this 1.5 hour tour. Take the elevator down for your convenience. This circular route passes many large & famous features. It is very accessible for all persons, relatively level & trails are well-lit with an average temperature of 56 degrees year round. Wear sturdy, comfortable, closed-toed shoes and a light jacket. Overnight in **Carlsbad** at the **Fairfield Inn & Suites. (CB)**

Day 6. Sit back and relax on this designed day of travel with a stop in Canyon for a visit to the **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**, described as "the Smithsonian with a Texas accent." Where else could one cover 26,000 square miles in a day on foot? From dinosaurs to conquistadors, you'll find it all in Texas' largest history museum. Relive the stories of courage & hardship, victory and defeat over the past 4,000 years. Walk along the boardwalks of a life-size 1880s frontier town, view one of the southwest's finest art collections, and experience the exciting history of the petroleum industry & more. Arrive in **Amarillo** with accommodations at the **Drury Inn & Suites. (CB, snacks)**

Day 7: Carrying the memories of Big Bend, historical sites and wonderful scenery, arrive back in Oklahoma with a renewed spirit of mind and body. Plan on creating more memories on another **Travel Tours** trip in the near future! **(CB)**

\$1,019.00.00 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$908.00 Per Person Triple Occupancy
\$1,401.00 Single Occupancy

****\$30.00 EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT****

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Cancellation and Refund Policy - All cancellations MUST be made during normal business hours. Unless specified otherwise, cancellations made more than 31 days prior to departure will be entitled to a full refund, less any special event tickets that had to be pre-purchased. For cancellation made less than 31 days but more than 48 hours prior to departure, there will be a 10% cancellation fee plus any non-refundable expenses incurred by Travel Tours for hotels, attractions, transportation or other supplies related to the tour. No refunds will be issued for cancellation made within 48 hours of departure. If you are forced to leave a tour after departure, no refunds will be given for unused portions. To safeguard against unforeseen circum-

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