

14 Days
AT THE
Gage




G A G E
H O T E L

The Gage Hotel

14 Days at the Gage

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Day One Big Bend National Park—East Side

www.nps.gov/bibe • 432.477.2251 • ALL DAY TRIP

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. Take 385 South to Big Bend National Park, about 85 miles south of Marathon. Your first stop is at the Dinosaur Center, just past Dog Canyon, about 10 miles past the entrance to the park. Continue on to Panther Junction for a view of the profile of the park. Walk through the Desert Garden and learn the names of the native plants that will be your constant companions throughout your visit.

Next, stop at the Hot Springs which is approximately half-way between Boquillas and Panther Junction. People from all over the world frequent this spot to treat various ailments. The spring was also used by Native Americans. Take your bathing suits if you are inclined to take a dip. After resting for a while in the Hot Springs, return to the Gage Hotel for a delicious dinner at Café Cenizo and drinks at the famous White Buffalo Bar.

Day Two Big Bend National Park—Middle Park

www.nps.gov/bibe • 432.477.2251 • ALL DAY TRIP

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. Take 385 South to Big Bend National Park Basin, which is approximately 85 miles south of Marathon. As you enter the Basin, you will marvel at the dramatic changes in geology. It is literally an ecological island, a remnant of a period 10,000 years ago when the entire region was the beneficiary of much more rainfall. Stop at the Lost Mine Trail Head. Although the trail is a five-mile hike round trip, a walk of approximately one mile will take you to a view of the South Rim. Along the way, there are many trees with their species identified by signs. The view of the South Rim is one of the best views in Texas. The first half of the trail is strenuous uphill; however the second half of the trail is an easy downhill.

After hiking the Lost Mines Trail, continue on to the Basin and the Chisos Mountain Lodge, complete with a wonderful gift shop full of unusual and interesting items.

If you are energetic enough you may also hike the Window Trail, (or save this hike for another day) which is another 5 mile hike, the first half downhill and the second half uphill. If you prefer, you may take the 1-mile walk to view The Window from a distance. Another interesting feature in the basin is the older rock cabins, which were part of a WPA (Works Project Administration) project. An overnight stay at the Chisos Mountain Lodge is recommended, but you must book your reservations well in advance.

Chisos Mountain Lodge 432.477.2291

Day Three Big Bend National Park—West Side

www.nps.gov/bibe • 432.477.2251 • ALL DAY TRIP

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. Take 385 South to Big Bend National Park. Stop at the Visitors Center at the park entrance. This Visitors Center provides a thoughtful presentation of the park. Continue west approximately 80 miles to Castolon, which is located on the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive. This trip will give you the best exposure of the desert's influence on the Park with a variety of dramatic displays. Visit the Old Trading Post at Castolon and then continue on to Santa Elena for an easy hike and a picnic lunch under the cottonwood trees. The Old Maverick Road is definitely worth completing. The Gage is happy to provide a picnic lunch.



You may take any on of these trips to Fort Davis separately or combine them for a full action packed day!

Day Four McDonald Observatory

**www.mcdonaldobservatory.com • 432.426.3263
Ft. Davis, Texas • ALL DAY**

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. McDonald Observatory is located 71 miles northwest of the Gage Hotel. Travel west on Hwy 90 into Alpine. Once in Alpine take Hwy 118 north through Ft. Davis to the Observatory, the home of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (the world's third-largest optical telescope). Arrive at the Visitors Center at approximately 11 a.m. Reserve at least an hour to see the movie on the development of our planets. Then continue to the Observatory for Solar Viewing and a guided tour. Daily tours are at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Star Parties are offered in the evenings, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, April through August 9:30-11 p.m.; September through October 9-11 p.m. and November through March 7:30-9:30 p.m. The cost for the star party is \$10 per person.

Return to Ft. Davis for lunch at the Indian Lodge, a very attractive State Park (also a WPA project) or at the beautifully restored Limpia Hotel.

On your way there or back, make time to stop at the Prude Ranch (located 6 miles west of Fort Davis on Hwy 118) for coffee and a self-guided tour of their facilities. This is one of the best summer camps in Texas. **432.426.3202 www.prude-ranch.com**



Mountain Trail Drive

**www.fortdavis.com • 800.524.3015 • Ft. Davis, Texas
ALL DAY**

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 8 a.m. Get as much of the drive as possible with the sun to your back. To get there take Hwy 90 west to Alpine then Hwy 118 north to Fort Davis. Stop in Fort Davis Drugstore for an early morning Coke® float, fountain drink or ice cream sundae! Then head out to what may be one of the most beautiful drives in Texas. It takes about 2 hours. Take the Mountain Trail Road (166). Hwy 166 is a loop; you will end up back on Hwy 118. To return to the Gage, continue on Hwy 118 East to Alpine, then take 90 East to Marathon!

Fort Davis National Historic Site

**www.nps.gov/foda • 432.426.3224 • Ft. Davis, Texas
ALL DAY**

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 10 a.m. It is a 56-mile one-way trip to the restored fort. Take the time to see all the fort's restored structures. Begin by viewing a movie on the region and the establishment of the fort. It was home to the famous Buffalo Soldiers who won three Medals of Honor for service against the Native Americans.

Fort Davis is one of the finest examples of a military restoration in the United States. Special attention should be drawn to the officers' headquarters for its proportional and functional design. Plan a leisurely tour and don't forget to bring a bit of imagination to the experience.

The fort is open daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for self guided tours. The cost is \$3 per person.

Day Five
Balmorhea State Park
Balmorhea Swimming Pool (seasonal)

www.balmorhea.org • 512.375.2370 • ALL DAY

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. Travel on Hwy 90 west to Alpine. Once in Alpine take Hwy 118 North to Fort Davis where you will then take Hwy 17 North to Balmorhea. Be certain to take a small detour on County Road 3078. It is reminiscent of travel on country roads some 60-80 years ago. Drive slowly because the scenery is beautiful and there is no fencing to restrain the cattle. Your arrival at Balmorhea State Park will reveal one of the finest fresh water swimming holes in America. 24 million gallons of fresh spring water is fed daily into the pool with a year-round temperature of 74 degrees. Huck Finn would have given it a 10 plus. It has been the subject of numerous articles and is a favorite spot for scuba divers. The pool is open year round 8 a.m. to sunset and the entrance fee is \$3 per person 13 years and older. This permit is also good for one day at any state park. Be sure to take your swimming suit, towels and a picnic lunch. The Gage Hotel is happy to provide towels and a box lunch.



Day Six
San Carlos, Mexico (30 miles south of Lajitas)

La Gloria Bed and Breakfast • www.texasriver.com
800.839.7238 • OVERNIGHT

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 9 a.m. for Presidio, the entry point to Mexico. Gloria Page, the proprietor of La Gloria Bed and Breakfast will meet you there. She will take you to her bed and breakfast in San Carlos, once the location of an early Spanish Fort. The outstanding feature of San Carlos is a wonderful canyon, which is home to a beautiful stream of clear running water. This clear stream of water supports a unique display of flora and fauna. The bed and breakfast is extremely comfortable, and the food is excellent. San Carlos is a pristine example of a typical remote Mexican village.

Day Seven
Big Bend Ranch State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/bigbend • 432.426.3254
Office Hours daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Open 7 days a week year round
ALL DAY

Located west of Lajitas and east of Fort Leaton. A wonderful recently-acquired resource that covers 200,000 acres of some of the region's most remarkable geological sites and desert landscapes. Big Bend Ranch State Park offers primitive hiking, backpacking, nature study, river rafting and canoeing.

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 8 a.m. Take Hwy 90 west to Alpine. Once in Alpine, take Hwy 118 South to Terlingua/Study Butte. From there take Hwy 170 West through Lajitas to Big Bend Ranch State Park. Plan to arrive at the Barton Warnock Visitors Center at 10 a.m. for an all day tour of the park. The ranch offers bus tours on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Reservations are necessary and the fee is \$60 per person. This all day tour includes lunch. Additional programs are offered through the ranch. For more information please contact the Warnock Center Environmental Education Center (432.424.3327) or the Fort Leaton State Historic Site (432.229.3613).

Day Eight
Golf (two 9-hole courses or one 18-hole course)

Alpine • www.alpinetexas.com • 432.837.2752 • ALL DAY

The Alpine Golf Course is nine holes, and obviously you tee off at different tee boxes in order to play the full eighteen. Cost per 9-hole round is \$15.00 for weekdays and \$20.00 on weekends. Cart fee is \$7.00 per person per 9 holes. The Gage Hotel will be more than happy to make reservations.

Hours: 8 a.m. till dark Tuesday through Sunday.

Marfa • www.marfacc.com • 432.729.4043 • ALL DAY

The other nine-hole golf course is located in Marfa, 60 miles from the Gage Hotel and 30 miles west of Alpine on Hwy 90. The cost is \$10.63 Tuesday through Thursday and \$15.94 Friday through Sunday. Cart fee is \$8.50 per person.

It is recommended that you play the Alpine course first, and then drive to Marfa for lunch at Mike's Place or Maiya's. Marfa is home of the highest elevation golf course in Texas.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. till dark Tuesday through Sunday.

**Ft. Stockton • www.golflink.com
1572 Blaine McCalister Loop • 432.336.2050 • ALL DAY**

Desert Pines golf course is 18 holes on one of the best golf courses in the area. Green fees Tuesday through Friday are \$20 per person, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, \$25 per person. Golf carts are available for \$20 for 18 holes and \$10 for 9 holes. Ft Stockton is an easy drive from the Gage Hotel, just 1 hour north on Hwy 385.

Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Day nine
River Road Drive #1

**Lajitas to Presidio • www.presidiotx.org • www.ojinaga.com
ALL DAY**

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 8 a.m. to Alpine and on through to Terlingua. A worthwhile place to stop and take pictures is in the old mining town of Terlingua, which stands as a shadowy remnant of an incredible period of border commerce. Mercury was mined there for more than 40 years.

On to Big Bend State Park for a visit to the Barton Warnock Visitors Center and an excellent exhibit of desert plants and animal life to behold.

Visit the restored Fort Leaton in Redford. The entire trip on the River Road will take approximately two hours ending in the town of Presidio, Texas (across the Rio Grande from Ojinaga, Mexico).

You may cross the border for shopping. If you wish to stop for lunch, we recommend Los Comalis and La Fogata for excellent Mexican food. After lunch, visit the town shops for souvenirs. Leave Mexico and return to the Gage Hotel along Hwy 67 to Marfa. Then, Hwy 90 East to Marathon.



Day ten River Road Drive # 2

**Presidio to Lajitas • www.presidiotx.org • www.lajitas.com
www.ojinaga.com • ALL DAY**

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel either early or late afternoon depending on the time of year. Take Hwy 90 west to Marfa and then Hwy 67 to Presidio. Expect to arrive at Presidio at an hour sufficient to leave two hours of sunlight to enjoy the river road. This two-hour drive will give you many spectacular views of the Rio Grande and the surrounding landscape. You may wish to leave early enough to arrive in Ojinaga for lunch. If you would like to visit the mining town of Shafter, which you will pass on the road to Presidio, you should leave earlier in the day. Schedule your arrival into Lajitas in time for dinner at the Ocotillo (**432.424.5035**) or The Starlight Theater (**432.371.2326**) in Terlingua for an interesting experience not found in urban surroundings. Continue on to the Gage Hotel by taking Hwy 170 east to Hwy 118 north through Alpine where you will take Hwy 90 east and head on back to the Gage Hotel.



Day eleven Alpine

www.alpinetexas.com • 800.561.3735 • ALL DAY

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 10 a.m. Arrive in Alpine at approximately 10:30 a.m. Leave one hour for viewing the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross University open Tuesdays through Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. (**432.837.8143**). The museum presents both permanent and temporary exhibits that capture and contrast the history of the Big Bend region. The exhibits encompass the contributions of Native Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo Americans. The museum also features the Chihuahuan Desert Cactus Garden.

While in Alpine you may also like to take a walking tour of the historic downtown and visit some of the unique shops, galleries and restaurants. Alpine also hosts the famed Cowboy Poetry Gathering toward the end of February every year.

Enjoy lunch at local establishments such as La Casita, La Trattoria, or Reata. La Casita is recommended for Mexican food, the Reata generally has a more upscale menu, and La Trattoria for a unique coffee shop experience.



Day Twelve Marfa

www.marfacc.com • 432.729.4942 • ALL DAY

Schedule:

Leave the Gage Hotel at 10 a.m. Expect to arrive in Marfa at approximately 11:15 a.m. for a tour of the Presidio County Courthouse, one of the best courthouse restorations in Texas. The courtroom cannot be described as anything but outstanding. The next stop is the Presidio County Museum, which is adjacent to the courthouse. Visit the Historic Paisano Hotel, where the cast of the movie *Giant* stayed during filming in 1955. There is also a groovy little bookstore with wonderful coffee bar. For a unique art experience, a visit to the Chinati Foundation (established by minimalist artist Donald Judd in 1979) is worth the trip. The Chinati Foundation is open Wednesday through Sunday and tours are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If you wish to hold over until dark, you may see the Marfa Lights—a phenomenon that remains a mystery. We suggest a later departure in the afternoon for this trip, as the Lights are seen after sunset. A trip to Marfa to view the Marfa Lights should be a part of your plans while staying in the Big Bend region.

Day Thirteen Marfa Pinto Canyon and Chinati Hot Springs

432.229.4165 • ALL DAY OR OVERNIGHT

Schedule:

This schedule will take you on a driving adventure to Marfa and then to Farm Road 2810. This will take you through Pinto Canyon, which is truly a spectacular venue. It has several streams that feed a variety of vegetation not typical to the desert such as pine and oak trees. The final destination point in this trip will be the Chinati Hot Springs which was discovered by the Native Americans thousands of years ago. Some time in the 1920's it was developed into a health spa for people who came from thousands of miles to enjoy this land and drink the water. It has since reopened to the public. You will want to take bathing suits and some type of water shoes.

Day Fourteen Day in Marathon

www.marathon.com • 432.386.4249

Spend a day at the Gage Hotel, enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the Hotel, and relax for awhile with a book at the pool. After lunch, go across the street to Gage Fitness in The Ritchie Building for a mid-afternoon workout. Enjoy the Gage Hotel's Desert Moon Spa for a luxurious facial, relaxing massage, or choose from a variety of body wraps. Spend time at the Gage Gardens and enjoy a stroll through the orchard and vineyard, bird watch or play nine holes on the putting green. After that, get ready for a fabulous meal at Café Cenizo and then relax in our world famous White Buffalo Bar.

There are many interesting sites, people, and shops in Marathon. We recommend either a run, walk or bike ride down Post Road to the county's Post Park. Also, located on the northeast side of town is Iron Mountain Road, perfect for an evening walk as the sun is setting.

Main Street is full of various shops and artisans. Make sure to save time to visit each of them. Marathon may have the most unique main street of any small Texas town.

1. **Artesian**—Mexican and Honduras imports, talavera pottery and rustic furniture.
Lesley Mendez, proprietor • 432.386.4033
2. **Chisos Gallery**—Regional landscapes by Texas artists, bridle cow hides, Mexican ranch antiques, and colorful Mexican imports.
**Russ Tidwell proprietor • www.chisosgallery.com
800.550.0503**
3. **Front Street Books**—Full service book dealer with strong regional emphasis. Personally selected best sellers, classics and general interest books for all ages.
**Jean Hardy proprietor • www.frontstreetbooks.com
800.597.3360**

4. **Evans Gallery**—James Evans has been photographing the people, landscape, and skies of the Big Bend Regions since 1988.
James Evans and Marci Roberts proprietors
www.jevansgallery.com • 432.386.4366
5. **French Company Grocer**—Named after the first grocery store in Marathon in 1900. Carries staple foods, natural foods, fresh produce, meat, imported and domestic beer and wine, camping gear, and hardware. Internet access available.
Marci Roberts proprietor • 432.386.4522
www.frenchcogrocer.com
6. **Baxter Gallery**—Featuring some of the best fine art in the Big Bend, the Baxter Gallery is located in the old Shoemaker Hardware Building, two blocks east of the Gage. Mary Baxter's specialty is landscapes of the Big Bend National Park and surrounding areas.
Mary Baxter, proprietor • 432.386.4041
www.baxtergallery.com
7. **Shaman Springs Gallery**—Latin American home décor as well as the sculpture and design of Lloyd Goldwire and Lauren Lampe
Lloyd Goldwire and Lauren Lampe proprietors
www.shamanspronngs.com • 432.345.2943

Marathon Dining Guide

Café Cenizo and the White Buffalo Bar

The Cottonwood Station

Marathon Coffee Shop

Courtyard Café

The Oasis Café

Burnt Biscuit Bakery

When the Sun Goes Down...

White Buffalo Bar—at the Gage Hotel featuring the finest margaritas, and the friendliest bartenders in the world. The White Buffalo Bar occasionally features live music. Sit outside in the courtyard and enjoy the star filled night sky! **432.386.4205**

Theatre of the Big Bend—features productions of musicals, classic theatre and other performances throughout the year. Be sure to take your lawn chairs. For show titles and dates, call the Theatre in Alpine at **432.837-8218**.

Railroad Blues Club—located in Alpine, offers live music every night, dancing and billiards. Wine and the largest selection of beer in the Big Bend area are available. **432.837.3103**
www.railroadblues.com

Marfa Theatre Company—led by artistic director, Michelle DeHart, a Marfa native who worked as an actress in New York is a new addition to Marfa. For a production schedule, call **432.729.3436**.

Marfa Lights—the best viewing is about 10 miles east of Marfa on Hwy 90 to Alpine. It is a well-marked turn-out on the south side of the road. Viewing occurs after sunset.

McDonald Observatory Star Parties—lasting 1.5-2 hours, take place each Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at sunset. Tickets can be purchased any time of day or evening of a scheduled Star Party. Guests can view heavenly bodies through a number of telescopes, including two large ones mounted beneath 20-foot domes. **432.426.3263 • www.mcdonaldobservatory.com**

Starlight Theatre—set in the historic ghost mining town in Terlingua. Starlight is open 7 days a week from 5 p.m., except during the summer months when it is open Thursday through Monday. The menu is varied and features steaks with a southwestern flair. Their specialty is tortilla soup served each Monday. The restaurant regularly features live music Thursdays through Sundays. Reservations are only recommended for large groups. **432.371-2326**

*We hope you enjoy your stay in Marathon, Texas.
A little town with a lot to offer!*

"Come back to the Gage"




G A G E
H O T E L

101 HIGHWAY 90 WEST ★ MARATHON, TEXAS 79842
432.386.4205 ★ FAX 432.386.4510
1.800.884.GAGE
WWW.GAGEHOTEL.COM