Welcome to the beautiful Big Bend Country!

People come from all over the world to see this part of Texas. Take a tour of the state parks with us and learn about the animals that live here!

The Chihuahuan Desert runs through here down to Mexico. The only mountains in the state are found here. Hueco Tanks has precious rock art from long ago. El Paso is the biggest city in the Big Bend region and is surrounded by the Franklin Mountains. Turn the page for more fun facts and adventure!
This mountain lion is watching over her cubs. The scaled quail are looking for bugs and seeds to eat.
The Peregrine Falcon is one of the fastest birds in the world! It can fly up to 175 miles per hour! It will live on tall buildings and swoop down to catch and eat small birds.
Tarantulas are big, hairy spiders. They have 8 eyes! They live in burrows and eat bugs. Although they may look scary, they aren’t especially dangerous. Female tarantulas can live to be 25 years old!
This Texas tortoise is eating a cactus for lunch. The tortoise may live to be 60 years old! There are not many Texas tortoise left and it is illegal to take one out of the wild. Can you find the Texas Horned Lizard? It’s the state reptile!
Roadrunners are birds that run very fast. They are fast enough to catch and eat lizards and even rattlesnakes!
Black-tailed jackrabbits are big, about the size of a cat. Because they have many young, it’s important to have predators such as hawks, coyotes, foxes and bobcats.
Long ago, the Indians who lived here painted pictures on the walls of caves. They painted shapes, people and animals.
Dinosaur bones were found in ancient rocks in this part of Texas. Tyrannosaurus rex once roamed here!
Big Bend Baffler

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Search for descriptive words, places, and wildlife of the Big Bend Region!

APACHES
ARID
BIG BEND
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT
CHISOS
COUGARS
COYOTES
DAVIS
DELICATE
EXTREMES
FOLSOM
FRANKLIN
GUADALUPE
HUECO TANKS
JAVELINAS
LECHUGUILLA
MOUNTAIN LIONS

MOUNTAINS
NOCTURNAL
PANTHERS
PICTOGRAPHS
ROADRUNNERS
ROCK ART
PUMAS
RATTLESNAKES
RUGGED
SEMINOLE CANYON
SNOWY
SUCCULENT
SURVIVAL
TARATULAS
TRANSPECOS
WOODED SLOPE
Hike mile high trails and bask in the warmth of a rustic lodge as you watch for Montezuma Quail.

Davis Mountain State Park, nestled over a mile high in the Davis Mountains has over ten miles of hiking trails including a scenic trail to Fort Davis National Historic Site. The Park has primitive camping along with developed camping areas with water, electricity, and rest rooms. If your idea of roughing it includes a motel room, Davis Mountain State Park surrounds Indian Lodge State Park, a full service, historic southwestern adobe style lodge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and features the original interiors and furnishings. The Lodge offers a swimming pool, gift shop and the Black Bear Restaurant on the grounds. The two parks are located in Jeff Davis County about 4 miles North of Fort Davis, Texas on Texas Highway 118.
See the endangered Comanche Springs Pupfish at San Solomon Cienega, a recreated desert wetland, and swim in a huge spring fed pool.

Dive into the cool waters of the world’s largest spring-fed swimming pool—that covers 1.75 acres and stays at 76-78 degrees year-round. Scuba divers love the clarity even at a 25-ft. depth. In addition to swimming and camping, the San Solomon Courts offer motel-type retro lodging built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s with a Southwestern adobe look; most units have kitchens. Canals along the courts lead to a restored cienaga (wetland), where a window built below ground provides a fish-eye view of the underwater world.
Experience an oasis of nature and culture as you view ancient rock art.

This Site, just east of El Paso on Highway 62, is named for the natural rock basins in its granite outcroppings that capture rainwater, a precious resource in the Chihuahuan Desert environment. For millennia, people seeking life-giving water and the diverse plants and animals that could be found here left curious and beautiful paintings in the rocks. Today this ancient site preserves more than 2000 pictographs that are a wonder to behold. Because of the sensitive nature of the site, visitation is limited and reservations are recommended for day use, camping, and tours. Pictograph tours, hiking tours, and bouldering tours in the guided area are available by advance request Wednesday—Sunday.
Magoffin Home State Historic Site
1120 Magoffin Ave., El Paso, Texas 79901  915-533-5147

Open the door to West Texas history and glimpse genteel life on the 19th Century El Paso “frontier”.

Located in downtown El Paso, this restored and furnished historic home is a study in Territorial style architecture dating from the mid-1800s. It combined local materials (adobe) and mid-Victorian wood trim. Built in 1875 by Joseph Magoffin, it was occupied by family members for 111 years.
See three states and two nations while exploring a far west Texas mountain range, where desert life abounds.

The largest urban wilderness park in the nation, Franklin Mountains State Park comprises almost 24,000 acres and extends north some fifteen miles from the heart of the city of El Paso to the Texas-New Mexico state line. The park provides habitat for plants, birds, reptiles, and small mammals along with larger wildlife such as mule deer and an occasional mountain lion. The park is rich in geology, along with archeological and historic sites. Another way to see the park is the Wyler Aerial Tramway. Seven thousand miles of southwestern natural beauty and cultural presents an eagle’s eye view atop Ranger Mountain in the Franklin Mountains. A 946 foot vertical lift to 5,632 feet gives a view of three states and two countries. From the Wyler observatory, sky-travelers can spot Hueco Mountains, New Mexico’s White Sands and Mexico.
Devils Rivers State Natural Area
HCR 1, Box 513  Del Rio, Texas 78840  830-395-2133

Experience a pristine, free-flowing Texas stream.

Devils River State Natural Area, located just north of Amistad International Reservoir on the Devils River in Val Verde County, is twenty thousand remote and wild acres providing access to the pristine Devils River with its unique angling opportunities and it’s put-in for whitewater float trips. But this river can be unpredictable. It changes from a wide, flat, lake-like flow to a rapid stream flashing through high-walled canyons foaming with Class Three white water and 12 foot waterfalls. Advance preparation is a must and reservations are required for the limited primitive camping or rustic bunkhouse accommodations.
See silent ruins that still stand guard.

Located in Crockett County, 33 miles west of Ozona, Texas on US 290, Fort Lancaster was one of four posts established in 1855 to protect the military route between San Antonio and El Paso from Indians. At the height of its development, the fort housed 25 permanent buildings, including kitchens, a hospital, a blacksmith shop, a bakery, and barracks. When Texas joined the Confederacy, the fort was abandoned. Today, visitors may wander through the ruins at Fort Lancaster State Historical Park still standing guard over the Pecos River Valley.
A look at early life along the US-Mexico border.

Located on the western edge of the Big Bend Country in Presidio County, three miles east of Presidio on the River Road (F. M. 170), Fort Leaton was established in 1848 as a border trading post by former Indian hunter Benjamin Leaton. The massive adobe fortress protected his family and employees from Indian raids. Following Leaton's death in 1851, his widow married Edward Hall, who was later murdered for failing to repay a debt. In 1875, Hall's stepson (Leaton's son) murdered his stepfather's killer, who in the meantime had moved into Fort Leaton. Today Fort Leaton State Historic Site preserves the structure's colorful past and the area's cultural history.
**Treat your eyes to wondrous sights on a working ranch.**

A rugged mix of desert, mountains, canyons and grasslands forms the dramatic landscape of Big Bend Ranch State Park, Texas' largest state park. Hugged by the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, the 300,000 acre area features spectacular rock formations, unique plants and animals and records of human occupation dating back 11,000 years. Located in Presidio County, east of Presidio along the River Road (F.M.170), Big Bend Ranch State Park is accessible from Presidio or Lajitas.
Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center
HC 70 Box 375, Terlingua, Texas 79852  432-424-3327

Learn about the cross-cultural borderland region: Una Tierra – One Land.

The Center, in Brewster County one mile east of Lajitas on the River Road (F.M. 170) is located between the largest national park in Texas, Big Bend National Park and the largest state park in Texas, Big Bend Ranch State Park and was built in 1982 by the Lajitas Foundation as the Lajitas Museum and Desert Gardens. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department purchased it in October 1990 and renamed it after Dr. Barton Warnock. The Center serves as the eastern entrance to Big Bend Ranch State Park and is a regional information center. The Center hosts a variety of scheduled programs and presentations, which are guided and interpreted by Warnock Center employees and volunteers. Some of the programs are available upon request. Presentations can include habits of bats, edible and useful plants, desert tracking, geology, mining, wildflowers, mammals, desert gardening, and birds.
Camp where ancient inhabitants camped thousands of years ago.

Jagged canyons have cut through the Chihuahuan desert wilderness out where the Pecos River flows into the Rio Grande. People of antiquity once lived in these natural rock shelters carved into the canyon walls by the river. They painted distinctive ancient symbols on the walls that tell us of their passing. Walk the rugged landscape; climb down into the canyons to see the renowned pictographs in Fate Bell Shelter; camp in a tent or take an RV to the developed campground.

Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site is located in Val Verde County by Langtry, Texas just off US 90.
Kickapoo Cavern State Park  
P O Box 705, Brackettville, TX  78832  830-563-2342

Devil’s Sinkhole State Natural Area  
P O Box 678, Rocksprings, TX  78830  830-683-2287

Discover fascinating caves and the wonderful world of bats.

Devil’s Sinkhole State Natural Area lies hidden away in the western edge of the Texas Hill Country. It contains over 1,800 acres of rugged land and is home to the sinister-looking Devil’s Sinkhole, its main attraction. It is the largest single-chambered cavern in the state of Texas and the third deepest. The area is open for prescheduled tours only. For information call Devil’s Sinkhole Society, 830-683-2287.

Kickapoo Cavern State Park, formerly the Seargeant Ranch, is located approximately 22 miles north of Brackettville straddling the Kinney/Edwards County line. It comprises 6368.4 acres of the southern Edwards Plateau. Acquired in December 1986 and was opened to the public on a limited basis in 1991. The park is currently in an undeveloped state. The park is currently open by guided tour only. Access to the park is available through guided bird walks, wild cave tours, and evening bat flights on specified tour dates throughout the spring and summer.
Watch scorpions scuttle through the sand.

Monahans Sandhills State Park consists of 3840 acres of sand dunes, some up to 70 feet high, in Ward and Winkler Counties, about a half-hour's drive west of Odessa. A majority of the land was leased in 1956 by the state from a private foundation (Sealy-Smith Foundation) until 2056 and was opened in 1957. The Williams family of Monahans, Texas, also leased to the state approximately 900 acres for the park.
We would like to see YOU at a state park in the Big Bend region. You may use your artistic skills to color the picture below. If you would like, draw yourself into the picture too! We left some room for you to stand on top of that big flat rock…

For more information on Texas State Parks and how you can get involved, visit us on the Web at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.
Be sure to ask your parents first!