

# Campsites of the Big Bend Ranch State Park

Descriptions and Photographs of Campsites  
You Can Reach By Vehicle



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by Gary Nored, (Park Volunteer)



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Thanks go to Barrett Durst, park superintendent, who had the idea for the publication and whose unflagging support helped make it possible. I'd also like to thank David Riskin and all the other park staff who contributed information and helped ensure that the document is accurate.

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PWD BK P4501-2059 (2/21)

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# Introduction

The Big Bend Ranch State Park is the largest state park in Texas and one of the largest state parks in the country. Within its boundaries you will find limitless opportunities for exploration and discovery. Silence and solitude, expansive vistas, quiet canyons and dark skies make the Big Bend Ranch State Park one of the best wilderness experiences in Texas, and we do everything we can to keep it that way.

We have campsites in the Bofecillos Highlands, the Solitario, the Cienega Mountains and along the Rio Grande. Sites were selected for their views and/or their proximity to park attractions. Some are “sleepers” — you may have to walk a bit or climb a nearby hill to see why we chose them. Others will instantly wow you. But all pay rich dividends to those who explore the area.

A handful of campsites are accessible in a passenger vehicle but most are located in remote areas; the rugged terrain and unimproved dirt roads make access challenging.

High clearance vehicles will take you to many sites; others require high clearance and four-wheel drive to reach. With few exceptions the site you select is yours and yours alone — no other camps are visible. The silence is palpable and the night skies truly extraordinary.

## About This Book

The campsites are arranged alphabetically. For each, a brief description of the area, the amenities it offers, and the type of vehicle you will need to reach it is accompanied by photographs. In writing the book I’ve personally visited and camped at every campsite in the park. The descriptions here reflect my personal experience of the area. The photographs were all taken within easy walking distance of the campsites and are representative of the surrounding scenery.

## A Few Words About Safety

All deserts are unforgiving environments. Extreme temperatures, low humidity, and lack of water can be hazardous to the unprepared. While exploring be sure to carry water — lots of water. Always carry first aid supplies and other self-rescue gear. Carry the park’s Exploration Map any time you intend to be out of sight of your vehicle, along with a compass and the knowledge of how to use it. Carry a GPS if you have one and set it to record your “track” as you go. If at all possible, travel with a partner.

While on the road, be prepared for emergencies. Make sure your tires are in excellent condition. If at all possible, carry two spares, and make sure you have all your tire changing gear in the vehicle before you leave. Carry extra water and food along with clothes you can wear in a variety of conditions — desert weather may change dramatically and quickly! Don’t rely on cell phones — there’s no service out here.

Above all, please tell the ranger station where you are going and when you expect to return. This information is vital to park personnel in an emergency.

Gary Nored





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## Agua Adentro Pens



Livestock Pens

Agua Adentro Pens is an equestrian staging area located along the main road to the Saucedo Ranch complex. Up to 24 persons and 12 vehicles can camp here.

This site consists of three large shade shelters, several livestock pens, three fire rings and a traditional ocotillo fence surrounding a small livestock pen. Primitive toilets are located at the site, however water is no longer available. The parking area is large – it is easy to move any horse or travel trailer around to make camp more comfortable. Centrally located in the beautiful Bofecillos mountains, Agua Adentro Pens offers easy access to the Old Entrance Road, Las Burras Road, and the Oso Loop.

### GPS Coordinates

29° 28' 50.756" N

104° 2' 30.425" W

Antique Chuckwagon



View West-Northwest of Agua Adentro Mountain



Stock Pens





# Arenosa Campground



Arenosa Campground

The Arenosa Group Camping Area is located approximately 25 miles east of Presidio and 40 miles west of Study Butte on FM 170. You don't need a special vehicle to reach this campground.

This sandy campsite accommodates up to 12 people at a time; it provides picnic tables, fire rings, lantern hangers, trash receptacles and toilets. Near the entrance, two shaded picnic tables rest on a concrete pad that is protected on three sides by a short wall. Two fire rings lie nearby and the primitive toilets are within easy walking distance.

You can get to the river in a few places though most of the banks are covered with tall stands of carrizo, or river cane. The area is prone to flooding so check at one of the park visitor centers before coming.

Nearby trails include Closed Canyon, three branches of the Rancherías trail system, and "The Hoodoos."

## **GPS Coordinates:**

W 104° 04' 46.961"

N 29° 20' 47.613"

View East of the River



View West Arenosa Campground





## Chorro Vista Campsite



The Chorro Vista campsite is situated just below the edge of a high promontory overlooking Fresno Canyon, Arroyo Mexicano, and Chorro Canyon. The hill is the highest point for some distance – it affords one of the finest views of Fresno Canyon and the Contrabando Lowlands in the park. The Chorro Canyon, Mexicano Overlook, and Smith-Crawford House trails take hikers to the canyons, springs, and mesas that surround the campsite. There are many wildlife trails in this area as well as unmarked routes. If you plan to hike in this area you should obtain a copy of the Fresno West Rim map before leaving. The map is available for free at the visitors center.

Four-wheel drive and high clearance vehicles are required to reach this campsite; the parking area accommodates up to three vehicles.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 4.926"

W 103° 53' 0.392"





View South of Chorro Canyon



View East of Fresno Canyon





# Contrabando Campground



View North from the Campsites

The Contrabando Campsites are some of the newest car-camping facilities in the park. The campsite is located 8.3 miles west of the Barton Warnock Visitor Center on a narrow spit of land that separates the Fresno and Contrabando Canyons. The facility has three shade shelters, along with picnic tables and fire rings. You will need to bring food, water, and toilet facilities for your stay. You do not need a special vehicle to reach these campsites.

Possessing a view to the west of some of the most colorful geology in the park, these campsites are hugely popular among bicyclists – they are the entry point to the entrance to the Contrabando Trail System which provides access to many miles of scenic hiking and riding.

For an easy day hike, follow the road down to Fresno Creek, and pass through the gate. You can explore Fresno Canyon upstream for many miles, and downstream for about 1¼ miles where the creek enters the Rio Grande. From the Scenic Overlook trail you can see the famous “flatirons” which flank the southwestern portion of the Solitario. The Fresno Divide trail provides a longer day hike (about 6 miles round-trip). Cyclists will enjoy the fact that it is a single-track trail; views along the way are excellent.

## **Coordinates**

29° 17' 58.44" N

103° 50' 43.39" W

View West from the Campsites



Summer Rains Bring Life to the Desert





## Fresno Canyon Campsite



View Northeast

The Fresno Canyon campsite rests on a rocky bank above the floodplain of Fresno Creek. A short climb up any nearby rise gives you an outstanding view of the Solitario's most famous feature, the flatirons. The flatirons rise at angles up to 50° for 1,000 feet or more and the campsite is less than a mile away.

Though impressive at any time of day, the flatirons present an unforgettable sight near sunset as they catch the warm light and reflect it in brilliant colors ranging from pink to orange.

There is great cross-country hiking all around – gentle slopes and clear views make exploring the area a pleasant experience. Hitching posts across the road mark the starting point for excellent equestrian exploration of the west bank of the canyon. All hikers should purchase and carry with them the latest Exploration Map of the park.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 24' 57.977"

W 103° 51' 44.478"

View East of the Flatirons



View North





## Fresno Vista Campsite



Campsite

The Fresno Vista Campsite is an easily accessible camp located approximately 10 miles east of Saucedo Headquarters. The site rests in a protected area which enjoys welcome shade for part of the mornings and evenings and some protection from wind. Though 4WD is not required, high clearance is recommended.

Though there are no officially designated hiking trails nearby, there is still plenty of excellent hiking to be had. By hiking just north of the parking area you can easily skirt the steep slopes near the picnic table and make your way to a broad mesa east of the site. From this mesa you can catch excellent views of the Fresno Canyon headwaters.

GPS Coordinates:

N 29° 29' 57.583"

W 103° 51' 5.433"

View South



View East





## Grassy Banks Campsite



View South

The Grassy Banks campground lies on the Rio Grande off FM 170. It has three sheltered and three open campsites, all with picnic tables, fire rings and lantern hangers. Up to eight people may register for any of these sites. The campground also has trash receptacles and a primitive toilet.

The water is deeper here than in many stretches of the river and is sometimes one of the last spots available for river tours — it is popular with paddlers of all sorts. There is indeed an excellent “grassy bank” here which makes it easy to set up lawn furniture for use when fishing. The area is prone to flooding so you should check at park headquarters about accessibility before your arrival. You do not need high clearance or 4WD to reach these campsites.

Grassy Banks is less than 3.5 miles from the Fresno Creek Overlook on FM 170. The trail from the overlook connects to the Contrabando trail system which includes the Camino Viejo, Contrabando Creek Loop, Contrabando Dome and Limestone Vista trails.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 16' 55.572"

W 103° 53' 10.092"

View East



Paddlers Starting a River Tour





## Guale Mesa 1 Campsite



The Guale 1 campsite is located 6.7 miles south on the East Oso Loop, a rugged road which requires use of a 4WD high-clearance vehicle. The roomy campsite is sheltered on all four sides by high ridges. The drainage near the site is at the upper end of Rancherias Canyon. Hike upstream, bearing to the right from the campsite to see the Alamito Dam, a beautiful stone header dam built during the Fowlkes brothers' ownership of the property, or climb the hill on the west of the campsite to enjoy spectacular views all round. The dominant peak to the east-northeast is Aguja de la Colmena, a landmark shown on the earliest maps of the area.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 17.732"

W 104° 0' 44.685"

View East from Nearby Hilltop



View South from Nearby Hilltop





## Guale Mesa 2 Campsite



View South of “La Guitarra” Mountain

Located on a high bluff above Lower Guale Mesa and near the edge of a Rancherias Canyon, Guale 2 campsite has dramatic vistas in every direction. This is the most remote, and by far the most spectacular campsite in the entire park. Guale 2 has it all — millions of years of volcanic geology to study, views into Mexico, solitude that is deafening and sunrises and sunsets that will change the way you think about color forever. The sheltered fire ring overlooks the canyon and is perfect for small group meetings. The tent pads are perched on the overlook and on a ledge overlooking the canyon.

You can reach the Rancherias West Trail from here via an old wagon road. An old shepherd’s camp lies just at the end of the descent. This is very rugged country; you should take maps, compass, and plenty of water if you go hiking. Do not travel alone and tell someone where you are going before you leave.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 30.191"

W 104° 2' 15.736"



Sunrise Looking West



Old Wagon Road



## Jackson Pens Campsite



Nearby Hillside

Jackson Pens is located on a stock working site of long standing and is still a good staging point for equestrian activities. Pearl Andrew (PA) Jackson leased land in the area as early as 1918 as part of the Bandera Mesa Ranch. There was a sheep shearing operation here before cattle were brought in. This was one of the last parcels the Fowlkes brothers added to the Saucedo Ranch.

Today many ranching relics remain at the site. Along with the pens themselves, the pila, or water tank, that provided water for the livestock is at the top of a hill just north of the pens. A bebedero (watering trough) just north of the site still has water for animals. An old road makes it an easy hike to reach the top and the view from the pila is excellent. Jackson Tank is a good spot for wildlife viewing.

You need a high-clearance vehicle to negotiate the incoming road and 4WD to travel over the rim of the solitario. There is plenty of room for several vehicles and the site is equipped with a shade shelter, picnic table and fire ring.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 31' 3.599"

W 103° 50' 18.238"



View West of the Livestock Pens



View East Showing Pens and Pila





## Javelin Campsite



Situated on level ground near an old stock tank, Javelin Campsite seems unimpressive as you approach it. But when you start exploring the area you will see why this site was chosen for camping. To the east you can see the rolling hills of the Llano; climb any nearby hill and you will find excellent views of Fresno Peak which is located in the Solitario 7.4 miles away. To the west lies Panther mountain. The road that takes you to the campsite continues as a hiking route northeast through a scenic drainage ending at another old stock tank. There are several excellent views of Panther Mountain along the way.

You need a high clearance vehicle to reach this campsite but you do not need 4WD. The Javelin trailhead is nearby as well as access points to trails that take you through the upper reaches of Panther Canyon and Monilla Canyon.

The campsite has a picnic table and fire ring. There is no water at the site, but water is available at the old Javelin camp under the windmill just over a quarter mile away.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

29° 24' 27.893" N

103° 57' 34.292" W

View West of Panther Mountains



View Northeast of Fresno Creek





## Javelin Pens Campsite



Javelin Pens is an equestrian staging site set in an open flatland. The site is remarkable for the many ranching artifacts scattered about. A windmill marks the location of a well that is still productive – a solar-powered submersible pump provides non-potable water now. Look around the area – you’ll find waterwell equipment spanning a time period from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Antique machinery buffs will love this campsite.

Many large sheep corrals remain here, standing alongside holding pens, a concrete sheep shearing floor, and a few small barns and lean-to’s. The residence is a ruin; the small chicken-wire fence on one side probably kept lambs, lad goats, and small children from wandering off into the desert.

Walking up any of the surrounding hills will reward you with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Look to the west at sunset to see Fresno Peak catch the light of the setting sun.

Nearby hike and bike trails lead to Panther and Monilla canyons and the road west of here is part of the Rancheria Loop trail. Hikers have long used Javelin Pens as a water caching area and a stopping place on that three-day hike.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 24' 21.599"

W 103° 57' 15.893"



75 RPM, 2 Horsepower Diesel Engine



Above: Panther Mountains

Left: Well and Old Pump Jack

## La Cuesta Campsite



View West

The La Questa campground is located just off Highway 170 on a the grassy banks of the Rio Grande. It is an ideal stopping place for paddlers as it is one of the best put-ins when the river is low. The boat ramp is broad enough for more than one trailer and there is plenty of room for organizing large groups of paddlers.

Santana Mesa lies directly to the north; the escarpment is brilliantly illuminated at sunset. As the river flows almost due east and west here, there are great opportunities for photographing the sun or moon rising and setting over the water.

Wildflowers can be spectacular here along the river both in spring and late summer. Birding is excellent, and wildlife watchers will find plenty to observe in the pre-dawn and after dusk light.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

29° 17' 50.67" N

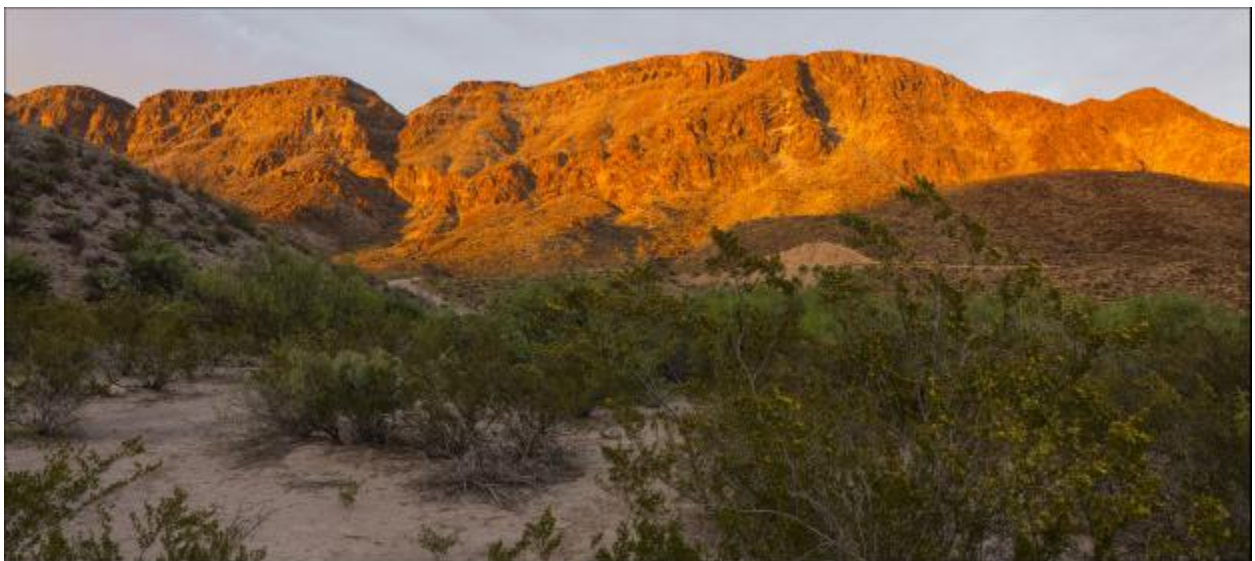
103° 57' 16.75" W



La Cuesta by Moonlight



View North



# La Monilla Campsite

La Monilla rests in a small depression among the rolling hills that surround the west side of the Bofecillos Mountains. To the east, the Llano stretches for miles, and you are high enough to see the Chisos Mountains over 40 miles away, though you will have to climb the small hill next to the campsite or walk up the entrance road to the top of that hill to see it.

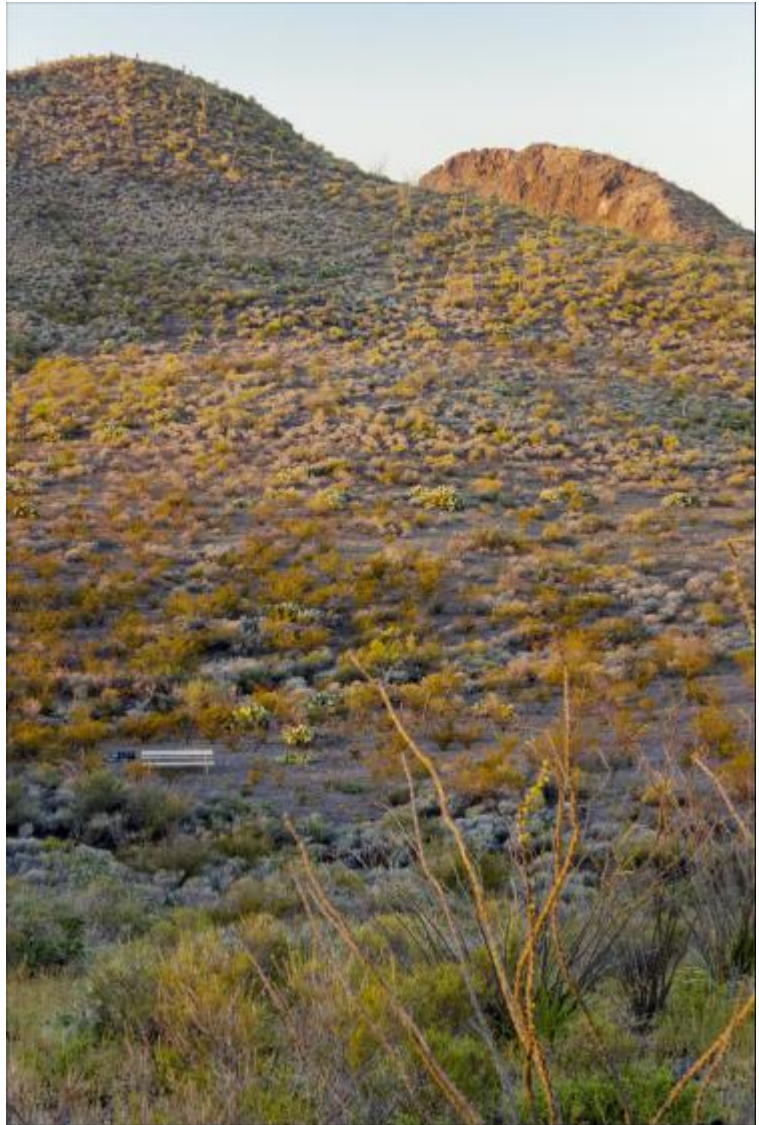
The campsite has room for two vehicles to park; it is equipped with one picnic table and one fire ring. It is less than 1.5 miles to Mexicano trailhead and just a mile from the Primero trailhead so it is a convenient place for hikers to stay. You will need a 4WD high clearance vehicle to reach this site.

The concrete box just west of the picnic table is what was known as a bebedero; it was a small watering trough for sheep and goats. The flotation mechanism which maintained the water level is still in good condition. The boards placed across one end were to keep animals from damaging the mechanism.

## GPS Coordinates:

N 29° 22' 52.584"

W 103° 54' 58.493"



Above: View South from Nearby Hillside

Right: Bebedero at La Monilla Campsite





View East of Chisos Mountains



View Southwest from the Campsite



## La Mota 1 Campsite



La Mota 1 Campsite ~ View to the North

The La Mota 1 campsite is a group meeting area located in the high desert. It is situated in low hills with ample room for family reunions and other large gatherings. The site offers wildlife viewing, day hikes, mountain biking and photography. It has a good view of La Mota Mountain which is particularly beautiful at sunrise. The campsite has two fire rings, two picnic tables, two shade shelters and 4 tent pads.

You can probably reach this site in any high clearance vehicle, though depending on recent rainfall, you may need 4WD and high clearance. The road is relatively flat; however, there are several drainages filled with deep sand that you will have to cross. Check at the visitor's center before attempting this in 2WD.

The Leyva trailhead has a parking area located just 0.6 miles south-southwest of the site. The scenic Leyva trail complex reaches Cinco Tinajas in less than 4 miles; it contains numerous loops so it is easy to enjoy much shorter hikes.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 30' 25.690"

W 103° 57' 27.680"



View East



View West



## La Mota 2 Campsite



View South

Located on the northern border of the central area of the park, La Mota 2 is tucked in among the boulders adjacent to La Mota Mountain. The picnic table and fire ring are surrounded by giant boulders. A ramada provides shade and shelter from rare rains.

The campsite provides the best view of the east side of La Mota in the park. The small hill on the right side is named el Pulpito de la Mota, meaning La Mota's pulpit.

The road trace running to the north of the campsite intersects other road traces; one takes you to the canyon of Ternereros Creek and another leads you around the north side of the mountain for a view of the west side. Climbing to the top, or even the sides of La Mota gives you commanding views of the dramatic landscapes of the Big Bend country.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 31' 36.626"

W 103° 58' 7.477"



View West of La Mota Mountain at Daybreak



View North





## La Posta Campsite



Camping at La Posta

Located less than half a mile from the main road, the flat terrain and easy access to La Posta make it an excellent first-night stop for late arriving visitors. The site has a ramada (shade shelter), one picnic table, a fire ring and two tent pads. This campsite is only a half mile from the main road — you do not need high clearance or 4WD to get here.

Nearby points of interest include La Posta Mountain (4630 ft) and Bogel Peak (4688 ft). According to local sources Bogel Peak is probably named for Judge William Woodworth Bogel, an original settler and founder of the Saucedo Ranch.

The La Posta campsite has a shade shelter, picnic table, and fire ring. It is located in a unique area that encompasses characteristics of both the Llano (flat lands) and the upper Fresno Canyon.

The Encino Hike and Bike Trail, the Llano Loop, the Old Stage Road Trail and Chilicote Spring Trail are nearby.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 28' 56.007"

W 103° 53' 36.359"





Left: La Posta Mountain

Below: View North from Campsite



La Posta Campsite Looking West



## Las Burras 1 Campsite



View of Campsite

Las Burras 1 is situated on a slightly elevated knoll in an area of mostly level ground. It has one picnic table and one fire ring, but no shade shelter. There is some shelter from winds as the site is nestled among several large boulders. It commands a pleasant view all round and the areas both north and south along the road are quite beautiful.

You will definitely need a high-clearance 4WD vehicle to get there as the Las Burras road is unmaintained. There is a primitive horseback trail leading east that takes you to the rim of Oso Canyon. The canyon is less than a mile East-Southeast away.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 26' 7.333"

W 104° 3' 3.186"



Sunrise at Las Burras 1



Remains of Rock Wall North of Las Burras 1



## Las Burras 2 Campsite



View South from Campsite

Las Burras 2 rests directly beneath a small mountain on the southwest side. The site has two picnic tables and one fire ring, but no shade shelter. You will need both high clearance and 4WD to reach the site as the road is unmaintained. The area was used for livestock during the ranching days. If you walk north along the base of the mountain you will come to the old stock tank that provided water for the area. There are livestock pens south of the camping area, and you can probably see many other signs of ranching activity if you explore the area.

The mountain looks substantial but you can easily walk around it on the south side — it is not very broad at all. Behind it is a valley shaped like small amphitheater. The rich soil supports a wide variety of desert plants including numerous grass species.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 58.344"

W -104° 3' 32.016"



“Amphitheater” South of Campsite



Livestock Pens



## Las Burras 3 Campsite



View Southwest of Campsite

Las Burras 3 is the southernmost campsite in the Las Burras series. You will definitely need a 4WD high clearance vehicle to get here as the road is not maintained, but the campsite is worth the drive. This section of the park is exceptionally rugged and scenic.

Las Burras Canyon lies less than a mile. A beautiful side canyon lies directly to the south — exploratory hiking all round is excellent.

The campsite is situated at the base of a small hillock; it has one picnic table, tent pad, and fire ring. Sunsets over Las Burras Canyon can be quite spectacular.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

29° 25' 45.452" N

104° 4' 8.753" W



Looking Down Into Nearby Canyon



Sunset at Las Burras





## Los Alamos Campsite



Picnic Table at Los Alamos

The Los Alamos Campsite is located half way between the main road entering the Solitario and the Los Alamos residence. The scenery on this road is excellent but the approach to the campsite requires 4WD high-clearance vehicles.

All hiking here is cross-country, however Los Alamos is a good stopover for those driving the loop that goes north to the Los Alamos residence, then east and south through Panther Canyon and on to the Paso al Solitario campsite which is located on the Solitario road.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 31' 21.333"

W 103° 48' 49.283"



View East from Los Alamos Campsite



Typical Scene Near Los Alamos Campsite



## Los Cuates Campsite



Pilas at Los Cuates

*Los Cuates*, which means *twins* or *friends* in Spanish are the two stone and concrete water tanks (pilas) that were an important part of the distribution of scarce water to livestock pastures in the far reaches of the ranch. If you look south from the picnic area you can see a third pila on the Guale road just past the Y. It dates to the early ranch era and had a wooden windmill and a goatherder or *chivero* living there.

The campsite sits near the ruins of a windmill that at one time pumped water from a shallow well. Exposed to the south, the site is protected on the north by large igneous rock formations. To the east an impressive dike and canyon area known as *La Iglesia* (the church) offers excellent opportunities for exploration and day hikes. *La Iglesia* is named after the large church-like room in the dike you see to the East.

Los Cuates was an important waystation. Just east there is a huge complex of stone shelters for protecting baby goats. The pila and mill complex is located at an important trail intersection. There is a horse trail from *El Mulato* in Mexico that passes Los Cuates on the way to the to the corrals at *Rincon de Tascate* – Vaqueros used a corral complex there to keep their personal mounts.

From Los Cuatas one can hike the old horse trail to Saucedá or follow an old trail that leads west over the ridge and descends into Canyon del Oso.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 26' 8.737"

W 104° 0' 14.708"



View South of Guale Road



Looking North from Los Cuates Campsite



# Los Hermanos



Sunrise at Los Hermanos Campsite

The Los Hermanos campsite is located on level ground in a valley about 200 yards wide. It is open and surrounded by gentle but rocky hills which allow good views to the north. You must cross the canyon where it is much narrower and steeper when you drive in, but this area is filled with groves of Apache Plume and deep grass. Birds that favor the grasslands frequent the shrubs and trees around the campsite.

You will definitely need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to get there, as the last part of the trip contains several very steep hills and loose rock. This is a good place to stay if you would like to hike or ride in the Chorro Vista area but cannot obtain a reservation there. It is about 3 miles to Chorro Vista and Mexicano Falls trailheads.

## **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 32.662"

W 103° 54' 34.292"



View North



View South



## Los Ojitos Campsite



View North at Sunset

Los Ojitos is conveniently located about a mile from Saucedá headquarters. It is situated atop a hill with fine views to the north, west, and south. It is equipped with a picnic table, fire ring, and shade shelter. When flowing, the springs form a pond surrounded by overhanging willows. The header dam is a fine example of the excellent stone masonry in the park, and the small canyons nearby allow for easy hiking on firm surfaces.

Los Ojitos lies on an old road that leads to the spring. You do not need a 4WD or high-clearance vehicle to drive it. The road becomes a hiking trail near the spring. If you hike that trail 1.3 miles to the southwest you will intersect the Horsetrap trail. The branch leading northeasterly takes you up an escarpment and along the top of a broad, flat mesa with fine views all around. The branch heading east southeast takes you to Horsetrap Springs and then to Saucedá headquarters.

A short walk due west from the sharp turn in the Horsetrap trail takes you to the Pila del Gato, perhaps the most creatively built of all the water tanks in the park. The pila is surrounded with interesting ranching artifacts.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 27' 57.403"

W 103° 58' 24.621"



Header Dam Near Los Ojitos



View North From Los Ojitos Campsite



## Madera Canyon Campgrounds



View West from Upper Madera Campground

The Madera Canyon campgrounds are located approximately 35 miles east of Presidio and 30 miles west of Lajitas on FM 170 at the base of the eastern slope of “The Big Hill.”

There are two camping areas — Upper Madera and Lower Madera. There are sheltered sites at both campgrounds. These campsites are equipped with picnic tables, fire rings and lantern hangers. There is a composting toilet in the Lower Madera Campground. Lower Madera is subject to flooding at high river levels. Check with a ranger prior to your arrival.

The Upper Madera Campground is located on a terrace above the Rio Grand. It has spectacular views of the river, and of the famous “TeePees.” There are several large open areas designed for self-contained RVs. There are no hook-ups. The Madera Canyon campsites are centrally located between the Rancherias trailhead and the Fresno Canyon trailhead.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 17' 33.610"

W 103° 55' 6.786"



View North from Madera Campground



View South of Lower Madera Campground



## McGuirk's Tanks Campsite



Full Moon Over McGuirk's Tanks Campsite

McGuirk's Tanks campsite is located in the rolling hills of the central Solitario; it is an ideal campsite for visitors planning to hike the Righthand Shutup and Los Portales routes, or to explore the inner and outer loop trails. While there, be sure to walk to the top of the small hill to the west. The view from the top is excellent in all directions, but sunrise is outstanding as Solitario Peak catches the morning sun long before the surrounding hills.

You will probably need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to access the area because the drive over the rim of the Solitario is very steep in places. The site has one picnic table, a fire ring, and room for several tents.

GPS Coordinates:

N 29° 28' 14.173"

W 103° 49' 3.459"





View From the Hill Next to the Campsite



Hazy Skies Painted this Sunset in Surrealistic Colors



## Mexicano 1 Campsite



Evening at Mexicano 1 Campsite

This campsite is surrounded by peaks on three sides; the drainage on which it is situated flows to the southeast. The fire ring and picnic table are nestled against a rock facing and much of the area lies on exposed rock. Pila Mexicano, a steel water storage tank, lies in a small saddle to the north and you may see traces of road leading up to it. A hike up to the pila is definitely worth the effort as the views from the saddle are excellent. You will need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to reach this campsite.

Mexicano 1 and 2 campsites are good midway stopping points between Saucedo and Chorro Vista. They are close to the beautiful Javelin road and East Rancherías trailheads. This campsite is good for large family groups and offers great opportunities for birdwatching and exploratory day hikes. There is a picnic table, a fire ring, and room for several tents.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 50.758"

W 103° 56' 23.613"



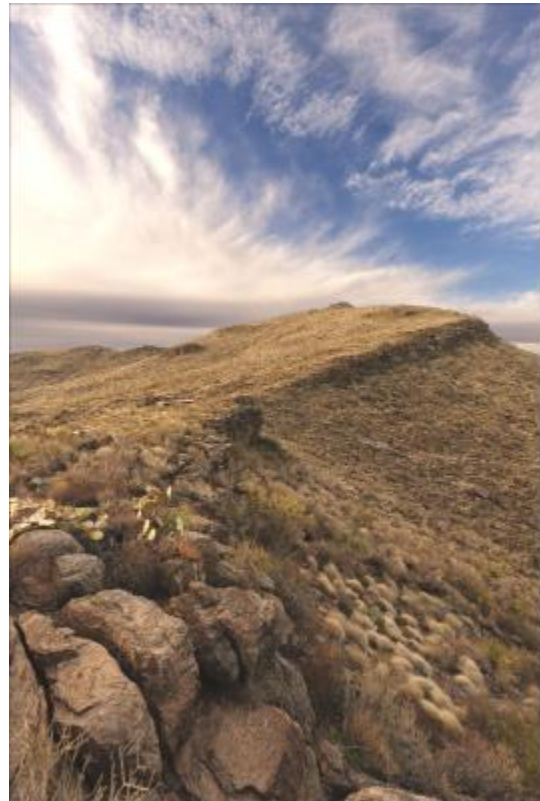
Pila Mexicano



View of Campsite from Overlooking Hill



## Mexicano 2 Campsite



Scenes Near Mexicano 2

This campsite sits in a bowl, open to east but otherwise protected from most winds. Dramatic rock formations lie to the north and east; these formations glow warmly at sunset. The site gives one the feeling of being in a small amphitheater. The rich soil supports a wide variety of desert plants including numerous grass species. The wild food growing there attracts many birds during the fall migration.

The picnic table and fire ring occupy a large, flat area so there's plenty of room for families. If you're adventurous, hike southeast across the open plain, then follow the drainage southeast. It intersects the main road just past the earthen dam; follow the main road north and then hike up the access road to the campsite. The drainage is very attractive and presents no serious obstacles to hikers. The best birding and botanizing are probably to be found here and the colorful rocks will surely please young children.

You will need a high-clearance 4WD vehicle to get here.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 35.025"

W 103° 56' 6.580"



View North from Mexicano 2 Campsite



View South from Mexicano 2 Campsite



## Ojo Escondido Campsite



View North

The Ojo Escondido campsite is located a scant 0.3 miles from the Escondido Pens campsite. You can enjoy the amenities there without having to camp directly adjacent to the livestock pens. You do not need 4WD to get there.

The site is named for the small, but reliable spring located in the canyon to the north. The spring was boxed in during the ranching era, but you can still see exposed water in the creek bed here and there. Reliable water is available at the pens. Because the Llano is so flat, even short climbs will reward you with great views, but climbing the rocks that lie to the west of the pens is especially rewarding. From there you can see great distances to the south, west, and north. The view of La Mota Mountain alone is worth the climb.

A picnic table rests among some large boulders which afford a bit of protection from the winds, and the composting toilets on the main road are a nice luxury.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 49.771"

W 103° 55' 45.743"



View Southwest from Ojo Escondido Campsite



Distant Mountains at Sunrise



## Ojo Escondido Pens Campsite



Escondido Pens

Ojo Escondido Pens is an equestrian staging area located on the broad plain of the Llano. Ojo Escondido Pens has a ramada (shade shelter), picnic table, fire ring, livestock pens, running water and a primitive toilet. The water is piped from nearby Ojo Escondido Springs; artifacts of the ranching era include a pila (stone water tank), and a working bebedero (short water trough).

Horseback riding is easy here, and the scenery is excellent. Two hike and bike trails exiting from the east side of the road start between three quarters of a mile and a mile south of the campground. The northernmost trail takes you to the Papalote Encino campsite about 3 miles away. Cross country hiking is also good. Climb the short rise to the west of the campground for a good view of La Mota mountain which is particularly beautiful at sunrise.

You do not need 4WD to to this campsite.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 49.771"

W 103° 55' 45.743"



View South



View North of La Mota at Sunrise



## Papalote Colorado



Papalote Colorado at Sunset

The Papalote Colorado campsite has excellent views of La Mota Mountain, the ever expansive countryside, and the Bofecillos Mountains. The windmill near this campsite is the only remaining wooden windmill in the park.

Papalote Colorado is certainly a campsite worth visiting. It is easy to reach, has great views in all directions. A short hike north takes you to the windmill, a pila (stone water tank) and a large complex of corrals and pens. Up to eight persons can camp here. The site has a ramada (shade structure), picnic table, fire ring, and room for up to three vehicles' parking.

The Yedra trailhead is less than a half-mile away. Turnoffs to East and West Oso loop are less than 2.5 miles in either direction.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 23.245"

W 104° 0' 57.582"



Last Wooden Windmill in the Park



View Northeast of La Mota Mountain



## Papalote Encino Campsite



View from the North of Campsite

The Papalote Encino campsite is located on the Llano near an old windmill. It is accessible by 2WD vehicles and is a great starting point for equestrian and biking activities in the area. The old tanks and pumps have been replaced with solar equipment. Because of the availability of water, birdwatching is good at this site.

A hike and bike trail leads southwest from Papalote Encino traveling approximately 3 miles and intersects the main road. Since the countryside is flat on the Llano, this makes an excellent trail for young cyclists. For a longer ride, head south when you reach the main road and take the nature trail ride that joins the road there. Follow the nature trail to the Papalote Nuevo turnoff, then take the main road heading northeast and catch the short road on your left that takes you back to Papalote Encino.

This campsite has a picnic table, fire ring, shade shelter, and water. The old well is solar powered now; water should not be considered potable.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 30' 12.878"

W 103° 53' 34.412"



Papalote Encino Campsite in the Winter



View South from Papalote Encino Campsite



## Papalote Llano Campsite



View North from Picnic Table

Papalote Llano campsite is located in an open area of the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands surrounded by hills and mountains. Flowers in the late summer are everywhere. Originally a site for feeding livestock during the ranching era, the artifacts of feeding and watering stations are nearby. Look around and you will find a windmill (papalote), a water storage tank (pila), watering troughs (bebedero), along with fences, pipe, and other implements of a bygone ranching era.

The campsite now has a shade shelter and a solar-operated water well with a water faucet. The water is not treated for potability. You need a high-clearance vehicle to reach this site.

Distant mountains lie all round you. La Mota is north, Tascate Peak west and Cerro de Aguila southwest. The road continues on to Papalote Llano Nuevo and beyond. Because the ground is relatively level, cycling is excellent for young people.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 57.140"

W 103° 56' 48.721"



Pila at Papalote Llano



Ranching Artifacts at Papalote Llano



## Papalote Llano Nuevo Campsite



View of Hillside Adjacent to the Campsite

Located about 3 miles from the Saucedá Ranger Station, the Papalote Llano Nuevo campsite rests on the side of a low rise that places it far enough above the llano to afford it an excellent view. This campsite has a shelter for shade in the summer, a picnic table, and a fire ring. Many people describe the small hill behind the campsite as looking like a garden, for it is particularly beautiful. You need a high-clearance vehicle to reach this site.

Nearby Papalote Llano has a solar-operated well and water faucet.

The road beyond the campsite is scenic, and if you hike far enough you can clearly see the flatirons of the Solitario to the west. The white limestone of which they are made reflects the color of the setting sun so they may appear to be different colors on different days. Near the top of the little hill, the road is an excellent spot to watch sunrises and sunsets.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 57.17"

W 103° 56' 48.67"



View of Hillside Adjacent to the Campsite



View to the South





## Papalote Nuevo Campsite



View from Campsite

The Papalote Nuevo campsite is located on a low bluff overlooking a large pasture and the tower of Papalote Nuevo. The somewhat plain appearance of the surrounding countryside is deceptive. Hike down to the windmill and then west to see a dramatic, circular cliff with an excellent view of Fresno Canyon, or turn to the northeast and explore the canyon you will find there. Looking down Fresno Canyon you can see the stone pila, Pila de la Posta. The canyon just east of here is definitely worth exploring.

There are remains of several bore holes here – a testament to the importance of this site for distributing water. Papalote Nuevo was reworked during the Diamond A Cattle Company days and was used to distribute water for livestock in Fresno Canyon.

Unfortunately this locale is not sheltered from the winds which blast up and down the canyon. So keeping a windmill tower operative was challenging – look around the site for remains of at least three mills.

You will need a high-clearance vehicle to reach this campsite.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 36.114"

W 103° 52' 42.973"



View West



View South of Fresno Canyon



## Paso al Solitario Campsite



Campsite in Late Afternoon

The Paso al Solitario campsite lies near the northern rim of the Solitario. If you look closely at some of the limestone you can see several varieties of cacti and current-caused ripple marks preserved in the ancient rocks. Paso al Solitario is a great place to introduce children to the plants and animals of far West Texas.

Climb the hill behind the campsite at daybreak for a truly breathtaking view of sunrise on the Solitario. You will need 4WD and high-clearance to reach the campsite. The road heading northeast from the campsite is not maintained and may present serious obstacles to casual 4-wheelers, but is a fine hike. It is 5 miles from here to Los Alamos.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 33.620"

W 103° 48' 11.937"



View to the South at Dawn



View to the West at Dawn



## Pila de los Muchachos Campsite



View West Overlooking Campsite

Seated high in a saddle at the edge of a canyon, the Pila de los Muchachos campsite offers great views of Fresno Peak and the Solitario to the northeast, the Sierra Rica Mountains of Mexico to the south and the winding canyons of Arroyo Primero to the west.

This campsite is small and compact; remains of an old rock pasture fence, the old pila (water tank) and other ranching artifacts make the immediate area interesting to explore. You will need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to reach this campsite. It is located on an old jeep road that beckons the explorer, hiker and backpacker to seek the hidden beauties of the Arroyo Primero. The surrounding rock formations, towering above the campsite, are magnificent.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 22' 38.819"

W 103° 54' 32.176"



Sunrise at Pila de los Muchachos



Pila de los Muchachos



## Pila Montoya 1 Campsite



View South

Pila Montoya 1 is the first of three campsites located on this old jeep road to Fresno Canyon. Located just one tenth of a mile from the main road, you can get there easily in any vehicle. The campsite has a ramada and fire ring, as well as ample parking for groups with more than one vehicle.

Pila Montoya 1 is close to the Pila Montoya hike and bike trail as well as Fresno Vista and the turnoff to the Solitario. If you plan on taking a day hike into Fresno Canyon, you might consider driving down to Pila Montoya 3, (a mile and a half) before you start.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 30' 28.470"

W 103° 51' 41.941"



View North



Mule Deer Seen Near Pila Montoya 1



## Pila Montoya 2 Campsite



View of Campsite in the Morning

If you cannot get a reservation for Pila Montoya 3, Pila Montoya 2 gets you close to the same activities. Hikers and bicyclists will find traveling the trail (old road) at Pila Montoya 3 worth exploring. It is less than a mile from the trailhead to Fresno Canyon from here, 1.9 miles to the main Fresno Canyon road. The canyon is beautiful both upstream and down and vegetation is excellent.

To reach Pila Montoya 2 you will need a 4WD and high-clearance vehicle.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 45.454"

W 103° 51' 39.184"



View North



View West



View South





## Pila Montoya 3 Campsite



View South from Campsite

If you listen closely, some say you can still hear the horses and mules of the stage and freight lines struggling up the steep incline of this road that climbs Cuesta Negra. Even if you can't hear them, you can easily imagine just how difficult this ascent used to be.

Surrounded by ancient basaltic lava beds, Pila Montoya 3 campsite is located on an old road that leads directly to the upper reaches of Fresno Canyon. You will need a 4WD and high-clearance vehicle to get here. Hiking either upstream or downstream in Fresno Canyon is a memorable experience.

The campsite has a picnic table, fire ring, and a ramada (shade shelter). A primitive toilet is directly nearby. The view from this campsite is the best of the three Pila Montoya campsites. If a secluded atmosphere is on your agenda, this site is perfect for you.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 32.999"

W 103° 51' 33.955"



View East From Pila Montoya 3 Campsite



View South From Hilltop Near Pila Montoya 3



## Rancherias Campsite



View East

This beautiful campsite is located deep in the interior of the park on the Rancherias Trail near the entrance to a canyon. You will need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to get here. The campsite is somewhat protected on all sides. The nearby floodplain leads to two canyons to the north and east that provide excellent opportunities for day hikes. To the west are rock formations with more canyons suitable for day hikes.

A trail leading into the Rancherias spring area begins at the road, about three-quarters of a mile south. Here you can hike under cottonwoods and enjoy the cool moistness of this beautiful area.

The picnic table and fire ring are set up against a high bluff, among boulders. Sunrises and sunsets can be quite spectacular.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 24' 44.112"

W 104° 0' 0.980"



View North Near Campsite



View West at Sunset



## Rancho Viejo Campsite



Rancho Viejo Campsite

Rancho Viejo is located just east of the main road about 3.5 miles from the entrance. You can reach it in any passenger vehicle. Looking to the east as you enter the campsite turnoff, you can see a stone corral. It was built long ago by Mexican vaqueros, and according to a long-time Big Bend Ranch cowboy, it held mules. Around the campsite itself you can find the old windmill and stone water storage tank, called a pila. There are several watering troughs nearby and one metal one that still contains water.

The campsite is close to the Rancho Viejo trailhead, which is a great location for hikes near Terneros Creek; it follows the original entrance road to La Sauceda Ranch and Manzanillo Canyon. Near the start of the trail you can still see the wheel ruts made by old wagons. The trail takes you past Cañon de Rancho Viejo, an excellent area for exploratory hiking.

The stone corral is worth visiting up close. The easiest way to reach it is to hike due south from the campsite. Hike northwest from the corral following, but staying above the drainage and you will find ruins of what is believed to be the remains of Rancho Viejo.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 31' 10.906"

W 104° 6' 40.608"



Historic Rock Corral South of Campsite



View from Rancho Viejo Trail



## Rincon 1 Campsite



Rincon 1 at Sunrise

Rincon 1 campsite is located just a few hundred feet from Fresno Creek and close to the junctions of Arroyo Segundo and the Lower Shutup of the Solitario. This portion of the creek is particularly moist — large cottonwoods and other trees create shade that is an inviting respite from the desert heat. Finding the Rincon campsites can be somewhat difficult as the cutoff is located in a creek bed that is one of a maze of meandering water courses in the area. Throughout the drive, the trail alternately follows creek beds or “cut-arounds.” High-clearance and 4WD are required. The cut-arounds are there to help get you around difficult obstacles in the creek. The trick to finding Rincon is watching your odometer carefully. At 6.9 miles from the start of Fresno Canyon road you will find one of these cut-arounds where the “Trail” sign directs you to the right. Ignore the sign and follow the creek bed on the left. One mile farther downstream (7.9 miles on your odometer) you can see the Rincon 1 & 2 campsite sign directing you to the left.

The view to the south is dominated by the heights of 4,400 foot Rincon Mountain and the narrow Fresno Canyon walls. If you walk north of the picnic table a short ways, you will have a superb view of both sides of the canyon. Gigantic limestone slabs, pushed up during the formation of the Solitario, form the eastern wall. Dark red volcanic rock alternating with layers of white tuff form the western rim of the canyon.

Fresno Canyon was once used as a road that carried people and freight back and forth between the mining town of Terlingua and Marfa, site of the only railroad connection in the area. Once you’ve driven down here you can truly begin to appreciate just how difficult the trip was.

**GPS Coordinates:** N 29° 24' 31.667" W 103° 51' 30.304"



View West



View West



## Rincon 2 Campsite



View East

Rincon 2 lies nestled against a rocky mound of stone and dirt with superb views of the steeply eroded flatirons of the southwest edge of the Solitario. The surrounding grayish-white soil is broken up by dozens of colorful rainbow cacti, the bayonet-edged yucca and elusive low-lying living rock cacti.

Finding the Rincon campsites can be somewhat difficult as the cutoff is located in a creek bed that is one of a maze of meandering water courses in the area. Throughout the drive, the trail alternately follows creek beds or “cut-arounds.” The cut-arounds are there to help get you around difficult obstacles in the creek. High-clearance and 4WD are required. The trick to finding Rincon is watching your odometer carefully. At 6.9 miles from the start of Fresno Canyon road you will find one of these cut-arounds where the “Trail” sign directs you west. Ignore the sign and follow the eastern creek bed. One mile farther downstream (7.9 miles on your odometer) you can see the Rincon campsite sign directing you to the east.

The search is definitely worth the effort. The view to the south is dominated by the heights of 4,400 foot Rincon Mountain and the narrow Fresno Canyon walls. From the mound near the picnic table you can catch a magnificent view of the Solitario flatirons. It is the best view of the flatirons in the park. Hiking here is excellent too.

Fresno Canyon was once used as a road that carried people and freight back and forth between the mining town of Terlingua and the town of Marfa, site of the only railroad connection in the area. Once you’ve driven down here you can truly begin to appreciate just how difficult the trip was.

**GPS Coordinates:** N 29° 24' 26.398" W 103° 51' 11.000"



View West



View South



## South Leyva Campground



Looking Down on Campsite from the West

South Leyva is the ideal campground for large groups and late arrivers. It is located just a mile from the visitor's center on the main road and about a quarter mile up the access road. Individual campsites are arranged along the base of a ridgeline which offers some shelter from west winds. A primitive toilet is centrally located. You can easily reach this campground in a 2WD street vehicle.

The view from the tent sites seems unremarkable, but a short climb to the top of the ridge reveals excellent views of the surrounding terrain. The easiest and safest way up is along a path that lies between sites #6 and #7. From the top you can see the historic Saucedo Ranch complex west of your position. To the northwest La Mota Mountain rises above its surroundings creating a splendid sight at sunrise. On a clear day you can see south to the Sierra Ricca Mountains in Mexico and west to the Bofecillos Mountains that lie in the center of the park. The campground also affords easy access to the Leyva Canyon drainages — these areas are great for exploratory hiking.

A rock wall skirts most of the length of the ridgeline. It was probably built when the Bogel brothers owned the ranch – you can easily imagine the amount of work that must have been involved in its construction. Nature photographers will find the top of this ridge richly rewarding both in the morning and the evening.

**GPS Coordinates:** N 29° 28' 35.582" W 103° 56' 39.484"



View West



View South from Hillside



## Tascate 1 Campsite



Pila de Tascate

Only 4.6 miles and about 45 minutes' drive from Sauceda headquarters lies the beautiful Tascate 1 campsite. The access road ends near an attractive stone water tank (Pila de Tascate) and windmill. High-clearance and 4WD are required.

Tascate 1 is situated in a broad canyon on the bend of a horseshoe-shaped drainage. It is closely shaded by peaks on both the east and the west, making it an ideal campsite for summer visitors who can enjoy shade in the morning and late in the day.

The sheltered picnic table and fire ring lie approximately 50 yards from the parking area. A large tent pad northwest of the fire ring, and a smaller tent pad northeast of the windmill directly behind the parking area provide comfortable flat spaces for pitching your tent.

The easiest hiking is along the drainage or on the access road. Following the drainage south you can leave the canyon and explore open territory and an impressive boulder field.

For decades, vaqueros and cowboys maintained the water tank and windmills of Tascate. Today exploring the campsite itself will reveal many artifacts of this area's ranching past and the natural beauty of the area is bound to please.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 53.552"

W 103° 58' 23.159"



Drainage East of Campsite



Hiking South from Tascate 1





## Tascate 2 Campsite



View North

Less than 4.6 miles and about 45 minutes' drive from Saucedo headquarters lies the scenic Tascate 2 campsite. The campsite lies to the east of a small hill near its base elevated just above the surrounding Llano. You will need a high-clearance vehicle to reach this campsite.

Though the site may not look impressive as you approach, its appearance is deceiving; the site has a comfortable feel that is difficult to describe, and the views all around are excellent. You can see Fresno Peak to the west and to the north lies La Mota Mountain which is particularly lovely at sunrise. On a clear day you can see the Chisos Mountains over 25 miles to the southwest. Photographers will love the huge skies with their colorful sunrises and sunsets.

Just up the road from Tascate 2 you will find a hike and bike trail striking northwards. It ultimately connects with the Horsetrap Springs trail. This trail is relatively flat along its whole length which makes it easy going for young and old. Just west from the beginning of the trail lies a low range of rocky hills containing many beautiful sights for the careful hiker.

Easy access, easy hiking, and great scenic views, make Tascate 2 well worth visiting.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 25' 54.831"

W 103° 57' 32.736"



View East from Tascate 2



Hill to the South of Tascate 2



## Tres Papalotes Campsite



View from Shade Shelter

Tres Papalotes (meaning “three windmills”) campsite is located in the eastern portion of the Solitario among many artifacts of the ranching industry. The campsite is positioned on the location of an old mining camp; it can accommodate up to 12 people. Amenities include two picnic tables with shade shelters, one fire ring, primitive toilets and permanent water. Road conditions vary depending on recent rains. Check with rangers before driving here.

Surrounding the campsite is evidence of several types of mining/prospecting operations. In the 1930s miners searched for gold, silver, and mercury. You can visit several old mining sites just off the road that takes you to the Lower Shutup trailhead, and to the Inner and Outer Loop trails. Needle Peak, one of four summits rising from the floor of the Solitario, stands 4608 feet high; you can enjoy excellent views of this peak from the Outer Loop Trail.

Nearby trails include Burnt Camp, Lower Shutup, Right Hand Shutup and Solitario Loop. The famous “Road to Nowhere” is close by. The sign at the top is the only one in the park system with red lettering. You need to get your picture taken by this sign.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 27' 24.490"

W 103° 46' 19.695"



View North



View East



## Vista de Bofecillos Campsite



View Northeast

Vista de Bofecillos is situated on an elevated, windy terrace with excellent views in all directions except due west. The crest of the hill to the west is only 400 feet, so it is easy to walk to the top. The campsite has a picnic table and fire ring. The access road is just 0.9 miles long, starting from the turnoff which is 2.7 miles from the Botella junction.

You do not need four wheel drive to get here but a high-clearance vehicle is advisable. A long mountain oriented northwest to southeast lies just east of the campsite – it catches the setting sun beautifully. If you walk back down the cutoff road one or two tenths of a mile you can enjoy an excellent sunset view of this mountain and also be able to see the sun setting over the Chinati Mountains to the west. The Bofecillos Mountains lie about 5 miles to the southeast and the mountains to the south and west, located in Mexico, are clearly visible.

The Palo Amarillo Spring trailhead (6.8 miles round trip) is 0.2 miles back from the campsite. It has adequate parking for two vehicles.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 31' 54.886"

W 104° 8' 19.754"



View East of Bofecillos Mountains



View West



## Vista del Chisos Campsite



View North Overlooking Campsite

The Vista del Chisos campsite is situated in a circular ring of rocks near the junction of two small arroyos. In the past an earth dam held water for cattle; it is now washed out. However, the dam created a microclimate that is favorable to many flowers, butterflies, birds and animals.

Numerous types of trees and large shrubs shade the edges of the old water tank and a patient photographer could capture many images of the animals that live within the park. You will need a 4WD high-clearance vehicle to get here.

The drainage running from the west is worth exploring. Close and brushy, it opens up onto a large meadow about a mile upstream. Along the way you will see some of the old iron pipe ranchers used to bring water down to the area.

The Chisos Mountains, located in the Big Bend National Park, lie over 50 miles to the east, but with good skies you can see them clearly. They become beautifully illuminated at sunset.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 23' 27.161"

W 103° 55' 12.890"



View East of Chisos Mountains



View South



## Yedra 1 Campsite



View Approaching Campsite from Parking Area

Yedra 1 lies on the north facing slope of a ridge of rhyolite lava. For a great desert view, hike north down the road to the bottom of the hill and then turn east. Working your way up the mostly bare rock takes you to a high cliff facing east and northeast. You will not readily forget sunset as seen from this high location.

Hiking up the hill west of the picnic table will give you a marvelous sunrise view of Agua Adentro Mountain and the valley around its base.

Yedra 1 is a popular campsite for people who want to explore the Yedra area but who do not have 4WD vehicles. The hike to the parking lot and spring below is 1.5 miles.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 29' 55.259"

W 104° 1' 32.819"



View West



View North



## Yedra 2 Campsite



View North of Agua Adentro Mountain

The Yedra 2 campsite is located on a level plain near one of the many beautiful streams in the area. It has an excellent view of Agua Adentro Mountain, and a short walk north will take you to a spot where you can see Cueva Larga in the distance.

Yedra Canyon, Leyva Canyon, Cañon de la Cueva Larga and Cañon de las Brujas all meet within a mile of each other in the area where the hiking trail reaches the cottonwoods. Several trails are within easy hiking distance. There are springs and streams, excellent views and one of the largest rock shelters in the park. Several hiking trails and a primitive route invite exploration, but be sure and carry a good map and plenty of water when you go out.

Although the road is not marked as 4WD only, we strongly recommend that you not attempt it in a 2WD vehicle, as it is not currently being maintained and there are several steep hills with loose rock that make it difficult to drive out with 2WD.

### **GPS Coordinates:**

N 29° 30' 23.612"

W 104° 1' 39.966"



Milky Way Rising Over Yedra 2 Campsite



Cueva Larga at Sunrise

