



RISING FROM THE GRASSLANDS OF THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT, THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS ARE A SKY ISLAND – A MOUNTAIN OASIS SURROUNDED BY A VAST OCEAN OF DESERT BECKONING YOU TO EXPLORE ITS SECRETS. COOLER TEMPERATURES AND INCREASED RAINFALL OFFER PROTECTION AND ESCAPE FROM THE HOT DESERT LOWLANDS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE ALIKE. THE WORK OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THIS TEXAS TREASURE.



Javelina are a common sight in the Davis Mountains.

Davis Mountains State Park is a globally important birdwatching area and premier stargazing location. You can also enjoy hiking, mountain biking and day-use horseback-riding trails, camping and park ranger-led programs. McDonald Observatory and Fort Davis National Historic Site are nearby. We encourage you to tread lightly and help protect this unique and sensitive environment.

- ♦ **Keep Wildlife Wild** – Please don't feed or harass wildlife.
- ♦ **Trash Your Trash or Pack it Out** – It's ugly and can make wildlife sick.
- ♦ **Take Only Memories and Pictures** – Leave all plants, wildlife, rocks and artifacts for future visitors to enjoy.
- ♦ **Be Safe** – Bring water and proper footwear for hikes. Know where you are in case you need to call for help in an emergency. Many trail areas do not have cell phone coverage.
- ♦ **Stick to the Trails** – Reduce impact and steer clear of things that can poke, prick, bite or sting you.
- ♦ **Protect Your Pets** – Keep them on a leash no more than six feet in length and please pick up after them.
- ♦ **Be Kind to Other Visitors** – Yield to visitors on horseback and watch for mountain bikers.
- ♦ **Protect Our Dark Skies** – Home to some of the darkest skies in Texas, we recommend using minimal campsite lighting.

Davis Mountains State Park
TX-118 N, Park Road 3, Fort Davis, TX 79734
(432) 426-3337 ♦ www.tpwd.texas.gov/davismountains

Indian Lodge
16453 Park Road 3, Fort Davis, TX 79734
(432) 426-3254 ♦ www.tpwd.texas.gov/indianlodge

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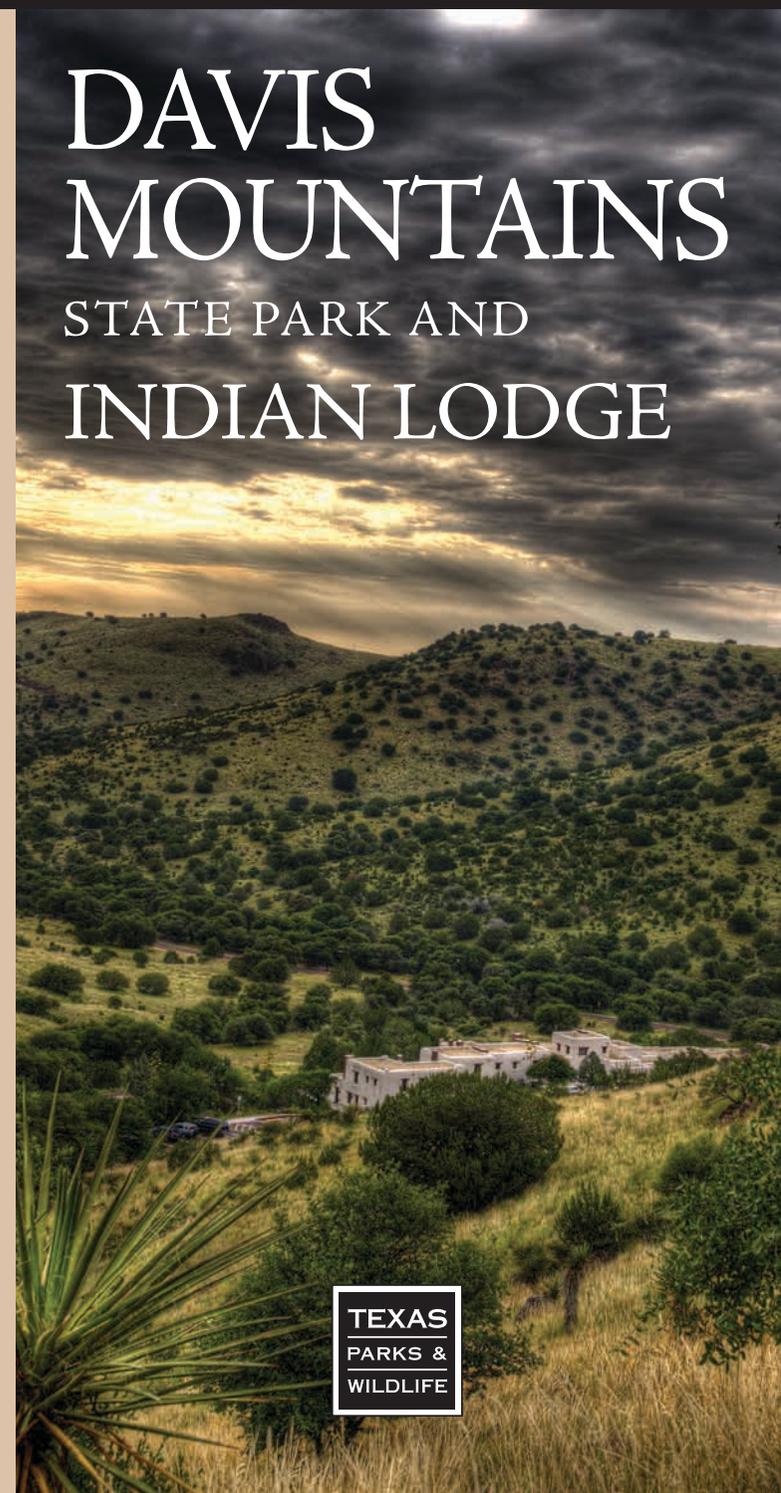
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INTERPRETIVE GUIDE

DAVIS MOUNTAINS

STATE PARK AND INDIAN LODGE



SKY ISLAND CONSERVATION

The Davis Mountains are a place of undeniable beauty. At a mile above sea level, the terrain, flora and fauna of this park differ from the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert below.

Increased rainfall and cooler mountain temperatures encourage the growth of oaks, junipers and grasses that cover the rugged terrain. Exposed igneous rock offers a peek into the volcanic activity that formed these mountains over 25 million years ago.



Montezuma quail

Canyon treefrogs, black-tailed rattlesnakes, Montezuma quail, mule deer and an occasional mountain lion are

Cottonwoods and willows border Limpia Creek in the northern portion of the park. Large Emory oaks and gray oaks line its tributary, Keesey Creek, which runs through the campground. When flowing, both are precious water resources for wildlife.



Keesey Canyon Overlook in Davis Mountains State Park

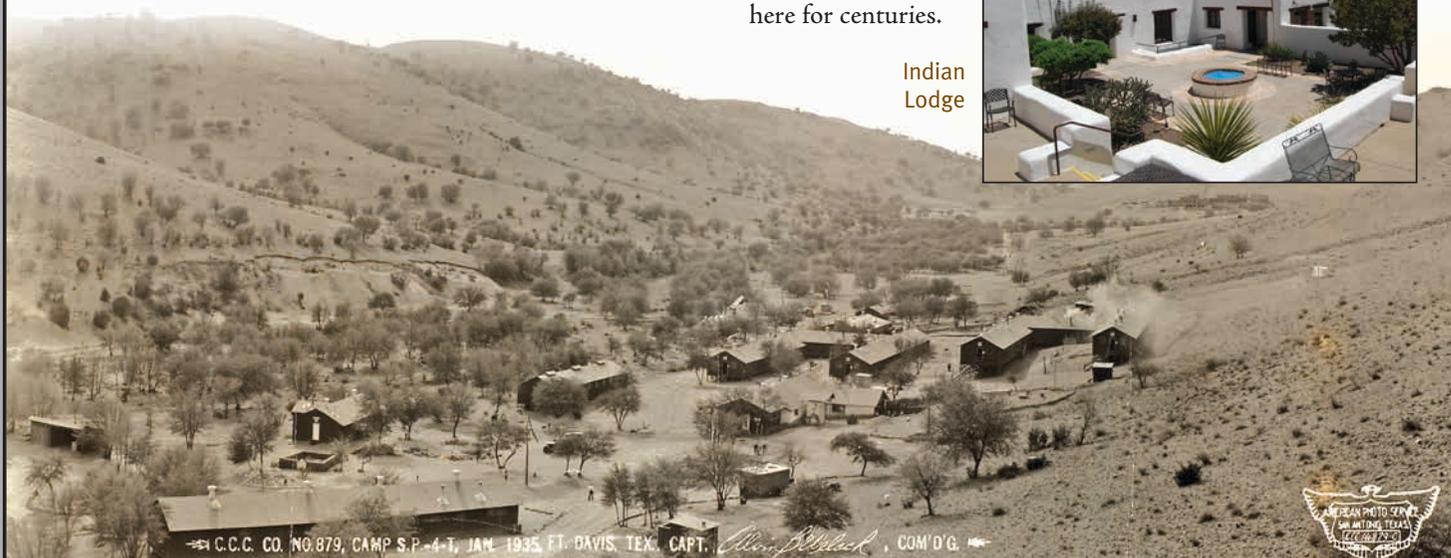
only a few of the animals that live here. Archeological evidence shows that at least as early as 10,000 years ago, Native Americans relied on the variety of plant and animal life found in these mountains.

With land donated from local ranching families, Davis Mountains State Park was one of the earliest Civilian Conservation Corps projects in Texas. In the 1930s, enrollees built the stone picnic tables, Skyline Drive, and the Lookout Shelter which frames stunning panoramic views of the landscape below. Today, campers and picnickers enjoy the shaded groves, flowing creeks, and spectacular vistas that have attracted humans here for centuries.



Indian Lodge

1935 CCC Camp set up while building the state park and lodge



C.C.C. CO. NO. 879, CAMP S.P.-4-T, JAN. 1935, FT. DAVIS, TEX. CAPT. *Alvin B. Black*, COM'D'G.



ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE

Indian Lodge represents the pinnacle of CCC construction in the state of Texas. The original 16-room structure was considered an architectural masterpiece when completed in 1935, and it has nobly withstood the test of time.

After carefully studying southwestern building design, architect Bill Caldwell settled on a style reminiscent of the sprawling pueblos of New Mexico, including a plaza-like exterior courtyard. Nestled snugly on a Davis Mountains hillside, Indian Lodge looks part of the landscape itself, and for good reason. Utilizing centuries-old adobe construction techniques, the men of CCC companies 879 and 881 molded earthen bricks from a mixture of water, straw and soil excavated on-site. They muscled tens of thousands of these 40-pound blocks into place to form 18-inch-thick walls rising as high as three stories. The lodge was finished with locally harvested, hand-hewn pine *vigas* and river cane *latilla* ceilings adding rustic charm to the historic lobby. Some of the cedar furniture, hand carved by CCC Company 1811 of Bastrop State Park in Central Texas, is still used today.

Living conditions for the workers were basic. Initially the men lived in tents, but they were employed, escaping the economic collapse of the Great Depression. They received three meals a day, earned \$30 per month, and learned useful skills.

The lodge has now expanded to a 39-room full-service hotel and restaurant, retaining its original flavor; ongoing preservation and restoration efforts ensure that its rich legacy continues.

CCC enrollees just removed the forms and are preparing to stack the bricks for drying.

