Make the most of your visit

Some people have limited time to explore and sample the wonders of Big Bend Ranch State Park. The following is offered as a brief guide. Remember that orientation requirements and park entrance fees apply.

**ONE DAY**

1. From Presidio headed eastward, stop at Fort Leaton Historic Site for orientation and to visit the exhibits. Enter the park at the Botella Junction entry station. Continue on, stopping frequently to take in the scenery and read the interpretive waysides along the 20+ mile route. Stop at Cuevas Amarellas to check out the prehistoric rock art and bedrock mortare (grinding holes). Once at Sauceda Ranger Station, peruse the interpretive exhibits on the park’s ranching heritage. Enjoy a picnic lunch under a shade tree outside the bunkhouse, then drive to the Solitario Overlook a few miles further. There you can actually see the exterior of the park’s signature geologic formation.

2. If a short hike appeals to you, take either the Cinco Tinajas or Ojito Adentro trail as you are exiting the park. Both trailheads are immediately adjacent to the Sauceda road. The Ojito Adentro Trail traverses desert scrub into moist riparian woodland. This oasis-like patch of green is a particularly good spot to bird-watch. The Cinco Tinajas Trail near Sauceda is only 200 feet and the vistas are breathtaking. Tinajas are naturally formed “bowls” that hold water when many other sources are dry.

3. If you are coming from Study Butte/Terlingua, stop at Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center in Lajitas for orientation and to peruse the interpretive exhibit on the region’s natural and cultural history as well as the desert gardens. Stop in the park store for a wide range of informative books, maps and pamphlets. Then, continue westward on the River Road, stopping at the many pull-outs to enjoy a picnic lunch, revel in the view and check out the wayside exhibits. Near the east end of the drive, turn northward to Sauceda Ranger Station as described above, or continue on to Fort Leaton.

**THREE DAYS**

1. The Rancherias Loop Trail is a two-night, three-day camping and hiking experience. Be sure to receive orientation at Barton Warnock Center or Fort Leaton and secure a permit. The elevation changes are dramatic, but for hearty souls the hike is well worth it.

2. Receive orientation, secure your permit and choose a campsite that suits your interests and your vehicle type. Many campsites such as Los Ojitos and Fresno Vista are accessible by two-wheel drive vehicles. Others, such as Las Burras and Yedra 1 & 2, require a 4x4 vehicle with high clearance. Always check with a ranger on road conditions.

With an entire week, we suggest you develop your own customized itinerary from the numerous options available. Many people spend several days camping, hiking, biking and/or horseback riding, then go to the River Road for a relaxed day excursion that might include a raft, canoe or kayak trip on the Rio Grande. You have many choices. The world is yours at Big Bend Ranch State Park!

**ONE WEEK**

**CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS**

| Big Bend River Tours | 432-371-3033 or 800-545-4240 |
| Desert Sports | 432-371-2727 or 888-989-6900 |
| Angell Expeditions | 432-229-3713 |
| Far Flung Outdoor Center | 432-371-2489 or 800-839-7238 |
| Lajitas Stables | 432-371-2212 or 800-887-4331 |

**Know before you go**

**Multi-Use Trails**

Some of the park’s trails are suitable for hiking only. Other trails are available for mountain bikers and equestrians as well. Speak with a park ranger for details and use options. Remember to take plenty of water, regardless of your activity!

**Biking**

When biking, always wear a helmet and protective clothing. Know your ability and limits.

**Horseback Riding**

All pack-and-saddle stock users must obtain a backcountry use permit, whether for day use or overnight. Equestrians must bring their own weed-free horse feed. All horses must have documentation of a current Coggins test.

**River Access**

The Rio Grande provides opportunities for rafting, kayaking, canoeing and free bank fishing. Several river access points are found along Big Bend Ranch State Park. Class I and II rapids — not considered dangerous under normal flow conditions.

**Outfitters**

Local outfitters can provide guides and assist you with equipment needs. Potential services may include nature/birding hikes, mountain biking tours, horseback rides, river trips and campouts.