Big Bend National Park
Backpacking & Camping


Schedule:

**Thursday December 12th**
5pm Informational Meeting

**Thurs January 2nd, 2020:** Overnight accommodations available at the Rec if needed.

**Friday January 3rd, 2020**
9:30AM       Meet at OAC for Gear Checkout
10:30AM      Depart from Rice
12:30PM      Lunch on the Road*
6:00PM       Camp @ Amistad National Recreation Area
7:00PM       Dinner
8:00PM       Campfire

**Saturday January 4th**
8:30AM       Breakfast
9:30AM       Depart for Big Bend
1:00PM       Permits and Late Lunch
3:00PM       Set Camp

**Sunday, January 5th-9th**
Backpacking and Camping according to permits

**Friday January 10th**
AM            Depart Big Bend
PM            Lunch & Dinner on the Road*
PM            Camp in West Texas

**Saturday January 11th**
AM            Depart for Rice
PM            Lunch on the Road*
PM            Gear Check-In and Clean Up

*Participant covers meal while traveling.*
This region is unique and remarkable stretching from the river valley, across desert flats, and into craggy mountains. Join us as we spend a whole week exploring the region on and off trail including multiple nights backpacking into park’s rugged interior. Be sure to check out the National Park website to learn more about Big Bend.

We will be mixing camping, day hikes, and backpacking as we explore different parts of this very large region. Potential backpacking trails include the Chisos Basin and Marufo Vega Trail. Both areas involve significant elevation change, uneven footing, and may be strenuous at times. This trip will frequently be traveling off trail through rough terrain which can be challenging for even athletic individuals. Participants can expect many days where the group will travel over 10 miles to maximize our opportunity to explore the area.

When camping the trip will return to a pre-established campsite each evening. Facilities will vary and participants should anticipate a primitive site without access to running water or toilets. Backpacking campsites are always primitive.

The desert weather is typically cool and mild with highs in the 60’s and lows above 30. Layered clothing to adjust temperature during the day couple with a comfortable warm jacket and pants will help create a positive experience. Please review the packing list and/or stop by the Outdoor Adventure Center to help prepare for the trip.

**Participants are expected to:**

- Be in **good** physical and mental health and possess the physical strength to manage challenges including: carrying a 15-30lb backpack, hike for 9-11 miles over rugged terrain, and maintain composure during challenging days.

  - Learn and practice exemplary Leave No Trace philosophy and methods.

  *Hikers must carry out all trash – ROPE will help educate!* 😊

- Follow directions where the group takes precautionary action to minimize risk.

- Provide essential footwear and clothing that meets the demands of this trip. *Hiking boots/shoes are required. Trail or running shoes are approved only for experienced backpackers. Wear your footwear 2 weeks prior to the trip to prepare.*
# Gear List for Backpacking Trips

Please dress & pack appropriately for this trip. Make sure to bring everything listed below to ensure a comfortable and successful backpacking trip!

**All gear that is listed as provided must still be rented out by each participant** at the pre-trip meeting or some other time arranged with the trip leaders. There is no fee for this rental.

## Essential items ROPE provides:
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Bowl & Personal Utensils
- Headlamp
- Tents
- Cooking Equipment
- Trail Meals
- Backpacking Backpack

## Necessary Personal Items
- 1 Day Backpack for Hiking
- 1 Pair of Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes
- 3-4 of hiking socks (synthetic or wool)
- 1-2 synthetic T-shirts
- 1-2 Long sleeve synthetic shirts
- 1-2 synthetic pants (zip-off preferable; NO jeans)
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 Hooded Rain Jacket (No Ponchos)
- 1 pair of waterproof pants
- 1 heavy fleece or down jacket
- 1 insulating long-sleeve shirt
- 1 insulating legs layer
- 3-4 of underwear
- 1 warm hat
- Warm gloves
- Personal toiletries (Toothbrush, etc.)
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Medications (for allergies, etc.)

**You Must inform us if you take any medications.**

## Optional yet recommended
- Sunglasses (strongly recommended)
- Sunscreen & Lip Balm
- Sun hat
- Bandana(s)
- Camera
- Journal & Pen
- Cards/Game
- Favorite Snack Food
- Campshoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals)
- Camelback water bladder
- Stuff sacks

## Small Bag for Travel
- 1 pair pants/shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 underwear
- 1-2 socks
- Toiletries for shower
- Money for meals on the road*
It is not necessary for you to purchase a lot of expensive equipment; many items listed above you may already own. Items that you choose to purchase may be available at low cost from mail order suppliers or your local outdoor specialty shop. Our major concern is that all participants have appropriate equipment for a safe and comfortable experience.

If you are unsure whether an item or clothing you own is appropriate for this trip, please contact us prior to the trip or bring the item/clothing to the pre-trip meeting.

Please leave jewelry and other non-essentials at home.

These requirements are for the safety and comfort of participants. ROPE reserves the right to refuse involvement in the program to anyone not properly equipped.

Alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs will not be tolerated on any trips led by ROPE. If you have such items, do not bring them!