

Big Bend Photography Adventure

February 20-23, 2020

Join us for this exciting trip to one of America's best-kept secrets. Named for the curving path of the Rio Grande river marking the border between Texas and Mexico, Big Bend National Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks in this country. Most major ecological zones exist side by side here, ranging from arid deserts to verdant mountain forests. The Big Bend area of West Texas is known for fascinating geology, diverse biology, and vast open spaces. Rugged peaks, chiseled canyons, unique desert plant life, and the darkest of dark skies make this region a rare gem for photographers of all levels.

Where the rocky Chisos Mountains meet the Chihuahuan Desert, we find extraordinary landscapes, rare plant species, and scenic views that will surprise you at every turn. From Santa Elena Canyon on the western edge to Boquillas Canyon on the east and all the wide-open valleys and mountain splendor in between, landscape photographers are bound to find plenty of captivating subject matter.

Please note that the trip will involve hiking on uneven terrain.

Participants and Staffing

Maximum Participants	16
Minimum Participants	8
Number of Staff	2

4-Day Program, Chisos Mountains Lodge

Double Occupancy (8-16 pax)	\$995
Single Supplement	\$350

Payment Schedule

Deposit \$200/person to reserve spot.
Full payment 90 days prior to departure (November 22, 2019)

Payment Link

To make your deposit, please click [here](#).
You can either pay with a paypal account or with a credit/debit card.

If you would like to make other payment arrangements, you can contact Andy Coleman at andycolemanphotography@gmail.com

Costs Included in Pricing

- All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
- All guided visits and entrance fees throughout the program
- Air-conditioned coach for excursions
- Comprehensive pre-trip notes and materials
- Daily tours and instruction with Photographer and Naturalist throughout the tour

Costs Not Included in Pricing

- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meals
- Items of a personal nature
- Anything not explicitly listed as included

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1

- Meet for departure to Big Bend National Park at 6:30 am
- Depart for drive to Big Bend National Park at 7 am
- The drive to Big Bend National Park takes 8-9 hours, there will be talks about photography and the landscape, flora and fauna in the Park
- Boxed lunch en route
- Check in to the hotel
- There will be some optional shorts hikes from the hotel property before our first photo session of sunset at the Windows Viewpoint at Chisos Mountains Lodge. Sunset is 6:45 pm
- Dinner at the Lodge
- Weather permitting – if the skies are clear, there will be an optional excursion to photograph the night sky after dinner

Included meals: Lunch

Accommodations: Chisos Mountains Lodge

Days 2 and 3

- Sunrise is about 7:30 am. Photographers will be leaving at 5:30 to get to our destination and set up in advance of the rising sun
- Destinations will depend on weather conditions, but will include iconic Big Bend viewpoints like Santa Elena Canyon, Hot Springs trail overlook, Balanced Rock and Boquillos Canyon. We will have a briefing the evening before each morning with details about the next day.

- For those not going on the morning photography excursion, there will be unguided hiking options on the trails leaving from the Lodge
- After sunrise, we will explore the areas around the morning destination, looking for unique hiking, photography and nature opportunities
- Return to Chisos Mountain Lodge for lunch
- There will be an optional excursion after lunch to explore some of the scenic hiking trails in Big Bend
- At 5:00 pm, we will depart for our evening photography destination, arriving in time to set up and enjoy the last light of the day. Sunset is 6:45
- Return to the Lodge for dinner
- Weather permitting – if the skies are clear, there will be an optional excursion to photograph the night sky after dinner each evening

Included meals: *None*

Accommodations: *Chisos Mountains Lodge*

Day 4

- Final early morning photography shoot. The destination will depend on the weather and where we were able to explore the previous two days
- For those not going on the morning photography excursion, there will be unguided hiking options on the trails leaving from the Lodge
- After sunrise, we will explore the areas around the morning destination, looking for unique hiking, photography and nature opportunities
- We will return to the Lodge by 11am to retrieve our luggage and have lunch before leaving Big Bend

Included meals: *Boxed meal on the drive back to Dallas for dinner*

Tour notes:

We will be staying at the Chisos Mountains Lodge in the heart of Big Bend National Park. Our **Casa Grande Lodge Rooms** will have a semi-private balcony, two double beds, controlled air conditioning and heating, small refrigerator, microwave oven, 4 cup coffee pot, tiled bath and shower. All rooms are non-smoking.

To capture the best light for photography, we will be leaving the Lodge each morning before the restaurant is open for breakfast. You should take advantage of the refrigerator and microwave and coffee maker in the room for breakfast. There is a small store on site to purchase food, but it is advisable to pack your own breakfast foods for the three mornings at the Lodge.

Suggested Equipment:

- Digital SLR camera or interchangeable-lens mirrorless camera
- Sturdy and reliable tripod

- You'll need at least one lens. The "kit lens" that came with your camera (most likely an 18-55mm) will be fine
- Bring any other lenses that you own (a variety of focal lengths is always helpful)
- Laptop
- Memory Card Reader
- Flash drive
- Spare batteries for equipment (especially for your camera)
- Extra memory cards
- Camera manual
- Camera bag or backpack
- Note taking materials
- Cable release or wireless remote
- Camera and lens cleaning supplies
- Polarizer

Optional Equipment:

- Filters (split neutral density, neutral density)
- Lens shades for all lenses
- Professional air blower for sensor cleaning (eg. rocket blower)
- Camera & lens cleaning supplies
- Ground cloth, cushion or knee pads
- Camera rain cover if your camera and lens are not water resistant

Personal Items:

- Weatherproof clothing that can be layered underneath for warmth
- Medium to heavy jacket
- Sturdy footwear for walking on uneven ground or trails
- Sun protection – hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Snacks for between meals in the field
- Travel alarm clock and wristwatch – or smartphone with an alarm
- Pocket sized flashlight

Guides



Photographer Andrew Coleman has traveled around the globe in search of amazing wildlife and landscapes. He has contributed to National Geographic Traveler and the National Geographic website, as well as other publications, and is represented in the National Geographic Image Collection. Andrew has an insatiable appetite to be in the wild and, through his images, attempts to capture the extraordinary beauty of the natural world. Over the course of his career, he has traveled, camera in hand, to some of

the world's most remarkable places, including Alaska, Jordan, Easter Island, Kenya, Peru, South Africa, Bhutan, and Uganda. He has been a photography expert on National Geographic Expeditions from Yellowstone National Park to the Galápagos, and from Borneo to the Arctic and beyond.



Ben Sandifer is an author, photographer, and environmental advocate for parks and open spaces where he can often be found with camera in hand. His award-winning nature photographs have been featured in local, state, and national publications. He is a Certified Master Birder through the Audubon Dallas sponsored North Central Texas Master Birder Program. In addition, Ben serves as the naturalist at the historic Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club.

In Dallas Great Trinity Forest, Ben is an EPA and TCEQ certified Texas Stream Team volunteer who monitors the water at Big Spring - one of the last free flowing springs in North Texas. For his volunteer efforts, he was named the 2015 DFW Sustainable Leadership Volunteer of the Year and was nominated for the 2016 Texan of the Year by the Dallas Morning News. In 2016, he was named an Honorary Lifetime North Texas Master Naturalist for his substantial contributions to the furtherance of the activities of the chapter.

Images for marketing

Example Photos Taken in the Park by Andy Coleman







