

Big Bend Outing

November, 8th -13th, 2010

Big Bend

Our 7th annual Big Bend trip is moving to the fall this year. We always have a great time and good sized crowd in Big Bend (over 20 last year) and I expect 20-25 or so people to make this years trek. Hope you can join us too.

Big Bend is a huge park at 800,000+ acres. It has mountains, desert, grasslands, huge canyons and the mighty Rio Grande runs for some 180 miles through the park. It is a very remote park that is along way from anywhere. It is wild country. It is truly BIG country.

The park has some facilities, including a lodge, campgrounds and a gas station at park HQ. The small town of Study Butte is nearby with cafes, motels, gas and a few small stores.

November brings cooler temps where we should see both fall colors and some signs of the 5th season bloom. This park is a landscape photographer's dream where the views seem to go on forever.

No matter what camera equipment you use or what subject matter you like- you can get great images here. We bring everything from point and shoots, to DSLR's, to view cameras. Bring them all and your tripod too!

Expect the weather to be warm days (85) with cool to cold nights (40). It could hit 95 but it could sleet too. It tends be windy here. Pack accordingly

We can drive to most anyplace in the park and there are great photo opportunities right next to the road. There are many neat hikes of all lengths-we will do some. There is even a fantastic backcountry road system (rough gravel roads for high clearance vehicles) that takes one to many out of the way locations-we can do some of these too.

Some of the sights we can expect to see are fall wildflowers, old adobe ruins, Indian rock art, magnificent canyons, desert springs, dry waterfalls, an old movie set, the entire Chisos mountain range, huge cliff walls, and endless vistas. In short this is a great place to be a photographer and we always come away with great images.

We will be staying in the Cottonwood Campground on the western side of the park. Cottonwood is the best campground in Big Bend. It is quiet, shady (from all the cottonwood trees) and right on the banks of the Rio Grande. It is also close to the best photo locations in the park. It is open to both tents and RVs but there are no generators allowed so most people stay away. There is drinking water, porta-potties and a nearby store for basic snacks but there are NO showers, NO gas, NO hookups, NO generators allowed here.

For those who would like a bit more creature comfort you can stay in the town of Study Butte at a motel. Just be aware that Study Butte is a 45 minutes drive from Cottonwood.

The park is about 575 miles west of Fort Worth.

Do plan on bringing all your supplies with you as there are very limited options locally.

Contact Darren for more info: WildernessPhotographer@gmail.com