

SPRING BACKPACK TRIP LEADER TRAINING

Big Bend National Park

Typical Conditions Expected to be Encountered March Time Frame

Environmental & Route Conditions: Much of the trail & camp conditions will involve rough terrain. Maximum elevation we could encounter is below 8,000'. While Big Bend generally has blue skies and warm days, the weather can change quickly and dramatically.

Temperatures: Average highs 75F and lows 35F in Chisos Mountains in March
Average highs 85F and lows 40F in the low desert in March

Precipitation: Average annual precipitation is .31 in March

Daylight: Including twilight, we can expect approximately 9-10 hours of daylight. The sun tops the mountains late and drops below them early.

Ground Cover & Vegetation: Chisos Mountains compare to New Mexico desert mountains range with juniper trees and grasslands. While the desert areas is sparse with vegetation.

Sun Exposure: Any direct sun or glare creates a need for strong sun block application.

Water Availability: Some spring water is available at times. You will carry all of your water in with you. You will need to have 1 gallon of water per day at remote camp sites. Some trails have water drop boxes available. Any water from the trail will require to be purified. Drought advisory is posted for Big Bend National Park.

Wildlife & Insects: Chances to see Black Bears, and Mountain Lions. Greater chances to see Javelinas, Coyotes and Rattlesnakes. Insects active during the warmer months are scorpions, spiders, and centipedes. Over 450 plus species of birds, the largest concentration of bird species of any national park.

Remoteness: Big Bend is a place where nature is unrestrained, where monsoon waters, rattlesnakes, and javelinas move freely down desolate arroyos. As you soak in its majestic vistas you will see an expanse colored by sunsets and native plants, not made by human hands. It is a place where true solitude still exists, and primitive recreation can still be enjoyed.

Natural Hazards: All water must be purified before use. No wood or ground fires. In developed campgrounds store food in bear proof storage lockers. In the backcountry never leave packs or food unattended. Carry everything with you or store in a bear-proof locker.