

# ***BIG BEND / MARFA LIGHTS / TERLINGUA GHOST TOWN / MACDONALD OBSERVATORY***



Ride Leader: **Ken Culver (214) 668-6308**

Date & Departure Time: **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m.**

Return Date: **Sunday, March 31, 2019**

\*Please arrive at least 15 minutes early for the Pre-Ride Meeting\*

Departure Location: **Shell, (N/E corner Midway and Rosemeade)  
19004 Midway Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75287**

Ride Details: 1,594 total miles

♦ **Day 1: 434 miles** Dallas – Fort Stockton, arrive 5:30ish

- ✓ Lunch - The Grill, San Angelo, 1 hr. break
- ✓ Hotel – Best Western Plus, Ft. Stockton (details below)
- ✓ Dinner - K-Bobs Steak House and Salad Bar, Fort Stockton, 1 mile from hotel

Dallas to Fort Stockton, TX mostly via Hwy 377 and Hwy 67 thru Granbury, Stephenville, Comanche, lunch in San Angelo, arrive Fort Stockton approx. 5:30ish.

♦ **Day 2: 306 miles** Fort Stockton – Alpine (via Big Bend), arrive 6:30ish

- ✓ Breakfast at hotel – depart 8 am
- ✓ 100 miles south on 385 to Big Bend entrance station – \$25/motorcycle entrance fee good for 7 days
- ✓ Lunch – arrive Chisos Basin Visitor Center 11:00 am, 1.5 hr. visit
- ✓ Multiple 15 minute stops at various overlooks in the park
- ✓ Arrive Santa Elena Canyon trail head 2:45 pm – Rio Grande river walk – 30 minute stop
- ✓ 125 miles back thru the park and north on scenic 118 to Alpine
- ✓ Hotel – The Maverick Inn, Alpine (details below)
- ✓ Dinner – Reata Restaurant, 1.5 miles from hotel

Will head South on scenic Hwy 385 and enter Big Bend National Park around 10:00 a.m. We will spend most of the day in the park visiting Chisos Basin Visitor Center for 1½ hours for lunch and 0.3 scenic walk, as well as stops at many scenic overlooks heading deeper into the park to the Santa Elena Canyon trail head for a 30 min stop where we'll take a short walk to put our feet in the Rio Grande River. Due to the limited and “rustic” nature of lodging in, and adjacent to the park, after our

last fuel stop in the park, we'll ride 80 miles north on scenic 118, one of the best roads in Texas, and spend the night back in civilization in Alpine, TX.

◆ **Day 3: 208 miles** Alpine – Marfa (via Terlingua Ghost Town), arrive 4:00ish

- ✓ Breakfast at hotel – depart 9 am
- ✓ 85 miles south on 118 to Terlingua Ghost Town & Trading Co., 1 hr. visit
- ✓ 63 miles on scenic River Road 170 to Presidio
- ✓ Lunch – arrive El Patio Restaurant 1:45 pm, Presidio, 1 hr. break
- ✓ 60 miles to Marfa
- ✓ Hotel – Riata Inn, Marfa (details below)
- ✓ Dinner – Jett's Grill, 1 mile from hotel
- ✓ Marfa Light Viewing Area, optional – depart 9 pm, 8 miles from hotel

We will head South on scenic 118 again and arrive at the Terlingua Ghost Town and Trading Co. (<http://www.ghosttowntexas.com/>) around 10:45 am. where we can explore on foot for an hour. Terlingua is described as the town 3 stops past the end of the world. Next it's 60 miles up scenic river road 170 adjacent to the Rio Grande River and US/Mexico border for lunch in Presidio, TX., then 60 miles North arriving in Marfa, TX just before 4 pm, where we'll spend the night. Marfa has many interesting shops and galleries you may want to explore before dinner. Around 9 pm that night, those who so wish, can follow the leader 8 miles out of Marfa to the Marfa Lights Viewing Area, a safe/designated viewing area to hopefully view the famous and mysterious Marfa Lights (<https://visitmarfa.com/lights/>) and a beautiful starry night sky.

◆ **Day 4: 185 miles** Marfa – Fort Stockton (via Macdonald Observatory), arrive 5:00ish

- ✓ Depart 9 am
- ✓ Breakfast at The Porch, Ft Davis, 20 miles from Marfa, 45 min stop
- ✓ 1 mile north to Ft. Davis National Historic Site, 1 hr. visit
- ✓ Macdonald Observatory Visitor Center, arrive 12:15 pm, 2 1/2 hr. visit
- ✓ Lunch – Macdonald Observatory Visitor Center
- ✓ Hotel – Best Western Plus, Ft. Stockton (details below)
- ✓ Dinner - K-Bobs Steak House and Salad Bar, Fort Stockton, 1 mile from hotel

North 20 miles for a light breakfast at The Porch, in Ft Davis, TX. Then 2 miles to visit the Fort Davis National Historic Site (<https://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm>) for an hour. Then a scenic 60 mile ride around on around Mt. Livermore to a 2 1/2 hour stop at the Macdonald Observatory Visitor Center ([www.mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://www.mcdonaldobservatory.org)) for lunch and exploration. After that, it's homeward bound with a 100 mile ride to Fort Stockton for the night.

◆ **Day 5: 461 miles** Ft Stockton – Dallas, arrive 6:00ish

- ✓ Breakfast at hotel – depart 8 am
- ✓ Lunch – Subway in Brady, TX
- ✓ Final fuel stop in Weatherford

**NOTES:** • **Weather** – Big Bend temperatures for the period we will be there are usually lows around 30° and highs around 50° although weather in the park is very unpredictable. Think layers.

- **Extended Stops** - There are three extended stops scheduled over three different days: Chisos Center Visitor Center for 1.5 hours, Terlingua Ghost Town for 1 hour, and Macdonald Observatory for 2.5 hours. You may want to bring along an easy change of clothes to be more comfortable – jeans, shorts, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, etc.
- **Bottled Water** – Strongly suggest a refillable water bottle or water bottles to refresh yourself during remote overlook stops in the park. The park is very remote with limited access to creature comforts. Bring water!
- **Extra Stuff to Bring** – Bring an extra towel, shorts and plastic grocery bag (for your dirty walking shoes and wet towel) if you want to stroll in the Rio Grande at the Santa Elena Canyon trail head during our 30 minute stop. Bring a flashlight for the dark Marfa lights viewing area.
- **Packing** – Pack light as we will be moving to a different hotel each night. Pack your walking clothes, water, hat, towel, and plastic grocery bags where they are easily accessible during days 2, 3 and 4.
- **Driving There** - If any passengers or trailers would like to drive to Fort Stockton, if that makes the ride west more palatable, cars/trailers may be left at the Best Western Plus, Fort Stockton, as our route home will take us back to Fort Stockton, where we will stop for the night again.
- **Bike Status** – Big Bend is very remote with very limited services of any kind. It is important that your bike is in good working condition. Please take time to check you oil level, tire tread, etc., etc., to avoid a costly break down.
- The longest distance between a rest/fuel stop is roughly 116 miles.
- The longest time between a rest/fuel stop is roughly 2 hours.

**Lodging: PLEASE RESERVE IN ADVANCE – ROOMS HAVE NOT BEEN BLOCKED**

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| Wednesday, March 27, 2019 | <b>Best Western Plus – Fort Stockton, TX (1 night)</b><br>2115 I-10 West, Fort Stockton, TX<br>(432) 336-7000                   |
| Thursday, March 28, 2019  | <b>The Maverick Inn – Alpine, TX (1 night) (only 21 rooms – book ASAP)</b><br>1200 E. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX<br>(432) 837-0628 |
| Friday, March 29, 2019    | <b>Riata Inn - Marfa, TX (1 night) (only 20 rooms – book ASAP)</b><br>1500 US-90, Marfa, TX<br>(432) 729-3800                   |
| Saturday, March 30, 2019  | <b>Best Western Plus – Fort Stockton, TX (1 night)</b><br>2115 I-10 West, Fort Stockton, TX<br>(432) 336-7000                   |