Sarah and Mike's Stupendous Big Bend Adventure

2009
McDonald’s across Interstate 44, Oklahoma

Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Oklahoma, 31 December 2008
Look inside to see a stereo photo of Machu Picchu.
The ultimate living space: bed, TV, and kitchen all within 2 steps of one another!

Two burners, sink and faucet on top, mini-fridge on the bottom
The wing bones of this species were discovered in the park by Douglas A. Lawson in 1971. The reconstructed wing is show in the photo below. Above is a life sized silhouette of an adult. In life the wingspan of this individual was nearly 40 feet. *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* is the largest known flying creature of all time.
View of “Casa Grande”
Views through “The Window”
Wide angle looking back at “Casa Grande”

Mule Ears Peaks, Trailhead to Mule Ears Spring, 3 Jan. 2009
The Mule Ears
Looking back at the spring from the trail. The cottonwood tree is just above the spring.
Shelf fungus (pretty dry!)
Yellow Mud Turtle

Rio Grande and Santa Elena Canyon
(Briefly looking across the road from the Selena Elena overlook)
Emory Peak, South Rim, and Elephant Tusk. Emory Peak is 16 miles away and 1 mile higher.

Back at the Canyon, Sarah’s enjoying the view.
Javelina!

Tuff Canyon

Tuff Canyon is much deeper than other dry washes at Big Bend. To discover why, see the exhibit at the right-hand overlook. Hike between sheer walls to the bottom of the canyon for a close look at the geologic layers. The trail is an easy 3/4-mile round trip to the desert floor.

El Cañón Tuff

El Cañón Tuff es más hondo que otros abrevaderos en Big Bend. Para descubrir por qué, vea la exhibición en el mirador a la derecha. Camine entre las paredes inclinadas hacia abajo del cañón para ver más detalladamente las capas geológicas. La salida es un viaje fácil y de ida y vuelta de 3/4 de una milla hacia el suelo del desierto.
Dinner at the High Serra Bar and Grill in the El Dorado Hotel, Terlingua, Texas

Leaving Terlingua. We’ll now stay at the Basin Lodge, 4 January 2009

Kathy’s Kosmic Kowgirl Kafe: Fantastic food and good company

Chisos Mining Company: Motel, Real Estate Office, Curio Shop, Book Store, etc.
Rio Grande Overlook, Near Rio Grande Village Visitor Center
Candelilla: Wax from this plant is used to make cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food coatings, etc.

A becapped prickly pear cactus
Darkling Beetle (with a heck of a “peck mark”) playing dead
Fishhook Cactus
Boquillas Canyon Overlook

Walking sticks made by locals in Mexico and left here for sale.

Rio Grande

Raven
Boquillas Canyon Trail

To appreciate the canyon’s enormous scale, hike to the entrance where the Rio Grande disappears between towering cliffs. The 1.4 mile round-trip hike is a journey down a vast lime corridor.

After climbing this low hill, the trail descends to the riverbank. Continue to river’s edge — a scene of utter remoteness only a few hundred yards from the parking lot. In rainy season (summer and early fall) the current becomes cloudy with the grit that endlessly carves the gorge.

La Senda del Cañón de Boquillas

Para apreciar la magnitud del cañón comienza hacia la entrada donde el Rio Grande desaparece entre las amplitud de las acuíferas. La ruta de 1.4 millas es un viaje por un corredor amplio el tiempo.

Después de subir la colina baja, la senda desciende a la ribera. Continue hacia la orilla del río y encontrará un lugar totalmente remoto. Dado el estrecho de las tierras del valle y los principios del cañón la senda se divide por la arena fina que permanece a cortando el barranco.
Locals across the river
Tough Neighborhood! These are actually used for fire training in the visitor center parking lot.

Chisos Basin Lodge

Oh Deer! In the parking lot!
None of the deer, even on the trail, showed any fear of us.
Alligator Juniper Bark

Pinion Pine
Amazingly, people were decent enough to not carve their names in the agave leaves.
Agaves live for 30-40 years, flower once, and then die. Lots of bugs, birds, and bats visit the flowers.
Goofy lookin’ guy.
Small Mammal Poo
Dangling agave showing roots
The trees here are short. They even have smaller leaves.

Can you count the rings? Added bonus, beetle bore holes!
Look closely through the dip in the trees and you’ll see our hotel room!

This is where we started our hike.
Picture taken by a nice guy that happened by along the trail.

Shelf fungus on a fallen branch.
Lost Mine Trail, 6 January 2009 (A cold and blustery day)
Ancient Swamp Creatures

Tiny horses and hippopotamus-like animals once roamed a more humid Big Bend. For a glimpse into the park’s tropical past, take this short trail to the fossil bone display and the overlook beyond.

Antiguas criaturas del pantano

Gaballos muy pequeños y animales con características de hipopótamos una vez recorrian un Big Bend más húmedo. Para vislumbrar hacia el pasado tropical del parque tome esta senda corta hacia la exhibición de fósiles y a el mirador más lejano.

Landscapes in Stone

The desert appears permanent, but the rocks exposed in Terrell Flat contain evidence of a dynamic Big Bend. From deciduous to forest to grassland, this vista has changed dramatically during the past 70 million years.

Paisajes en Piedra

El desierto parece permanente, pero las piedras expuestas en Terrell Flat contienen evidencia de un Big Bend dinámico. Desde las formaciones de las praderas, hasta los bosques, esta vista ha cambiado dramaticamente durante los últimos 70 millones de años.
View from the Fossil Bone Exhibit

Dagger Flats Auto Trail
Just right of the green water tower is our hotel.
The tiny fleck of odd green to the right of the branch near the middle of the screen: that’s where we started!
More Bear Poo!