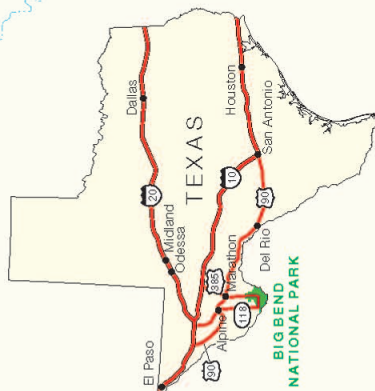
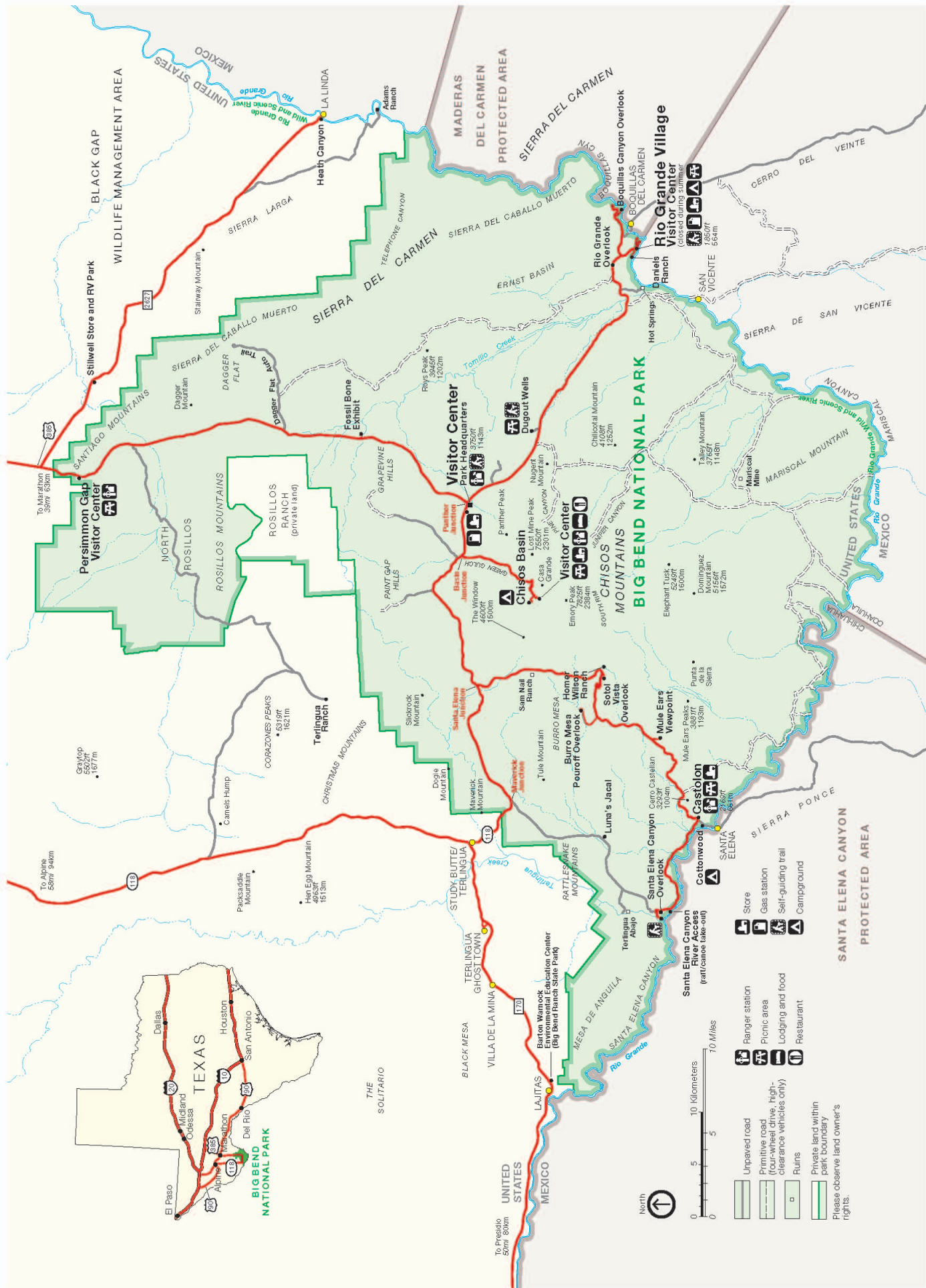


Sarah and Mike's Stupendous Big Bend Adventure

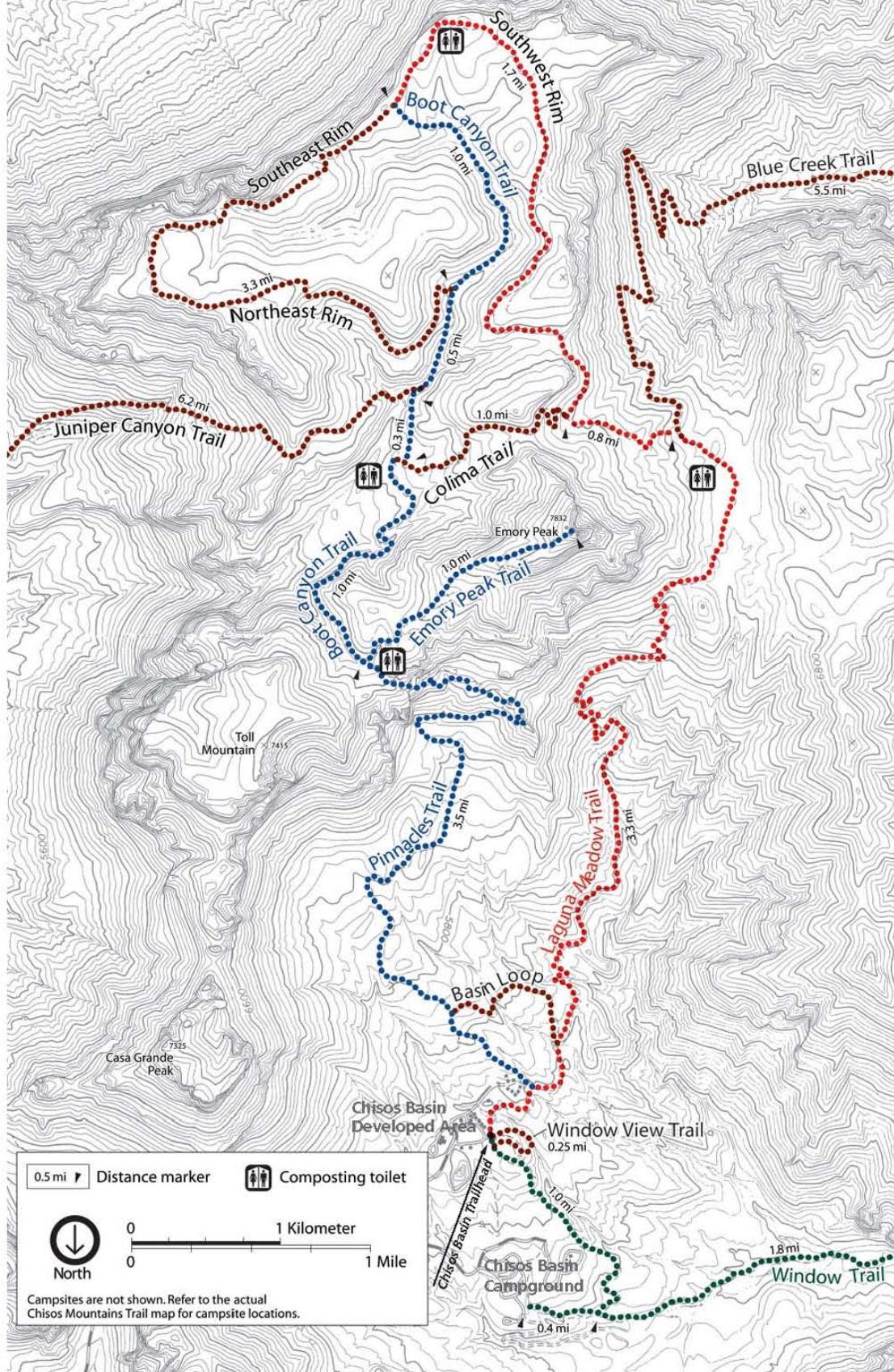


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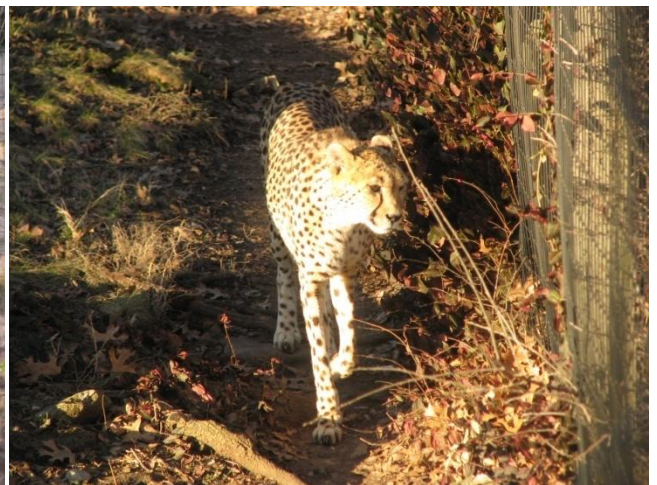


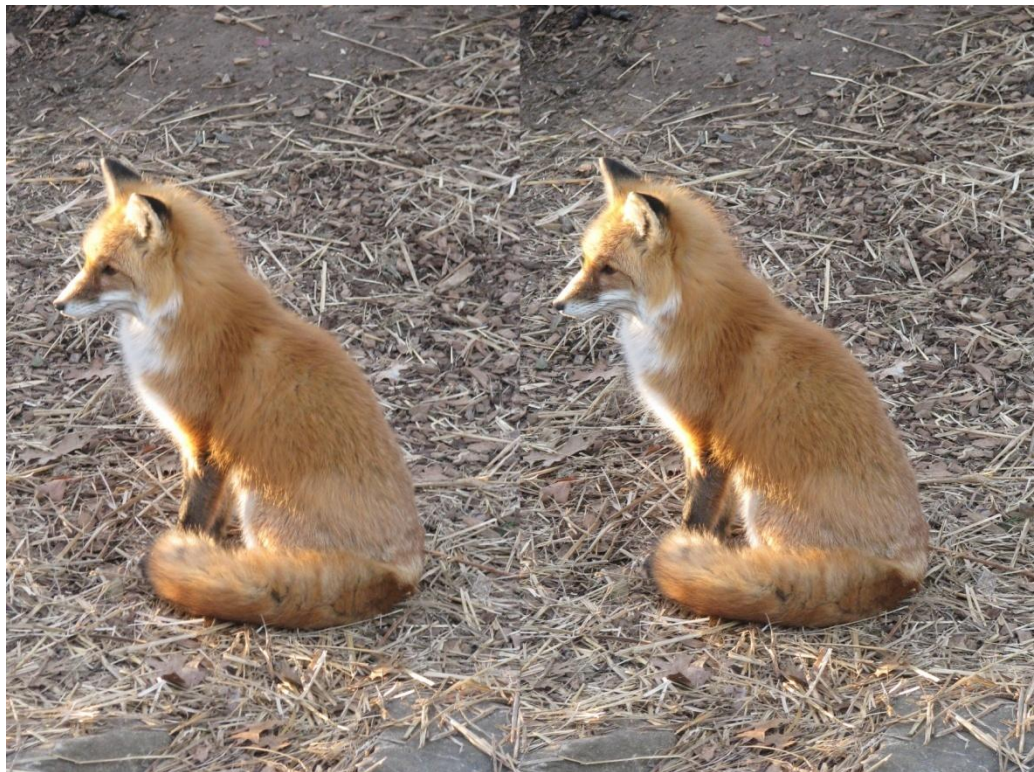


High Chisos Trails System



Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, Missouri, 30 December 2008







McDonald's across Interstate 44, Oklahoma

Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Oklahoma, 31 December 2008





Look inside to see a stereo photo of Machu Picchu.





The Antelope Lodge , Alpine, Texas, 1 January 2009



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

Panther Junction, Big Bend National Park, 2 January 2009

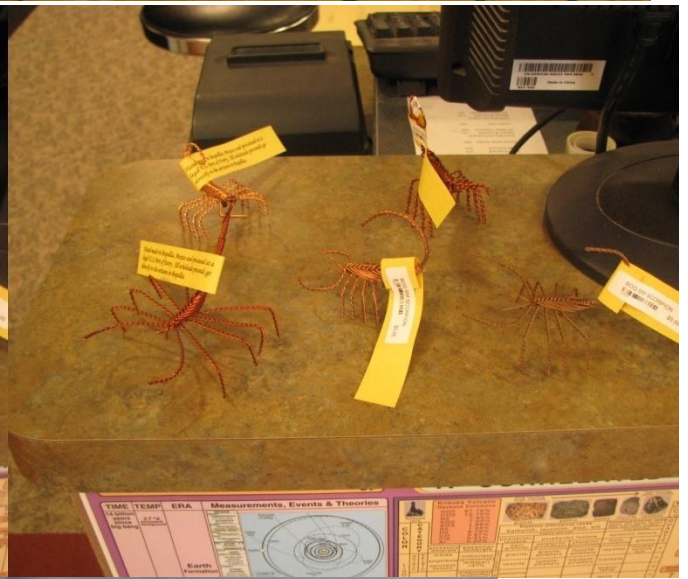




Quetzalcoatlus northropi

The wing bones of this species were discovered in the park by Douglas A. Lawson in 1971. The reconstructed wing is shown 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.

























Chisos Basin, Window View Trail (after lunch)





View of "Casa Grande"





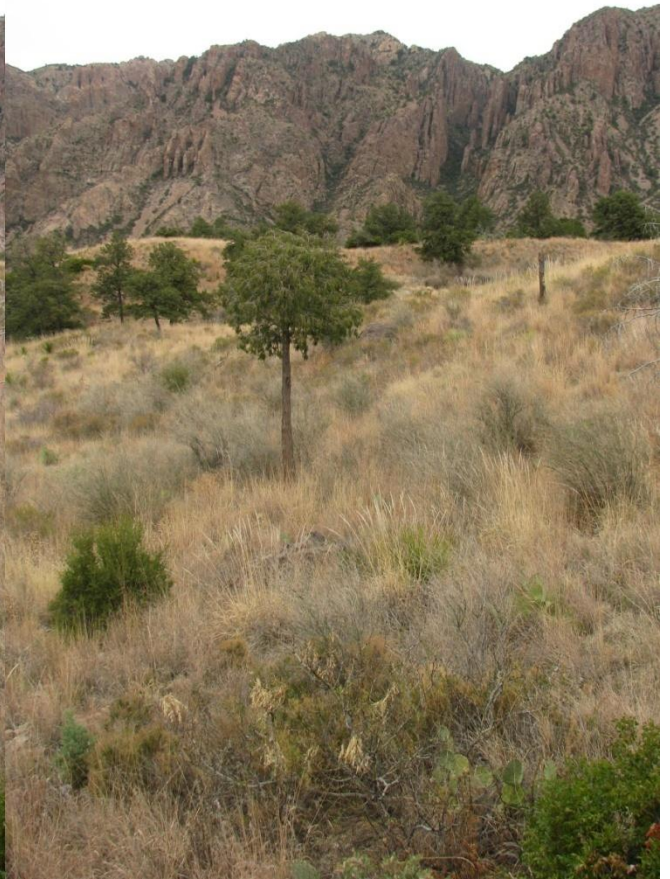
Views through “The Window”





Beyond the Basin







Wide angle looking back at "Casa Grande"

Mule Ears Peaks, Trailhead to Mule Ears Spring, 3 Jan. 2009





The Mule Ears





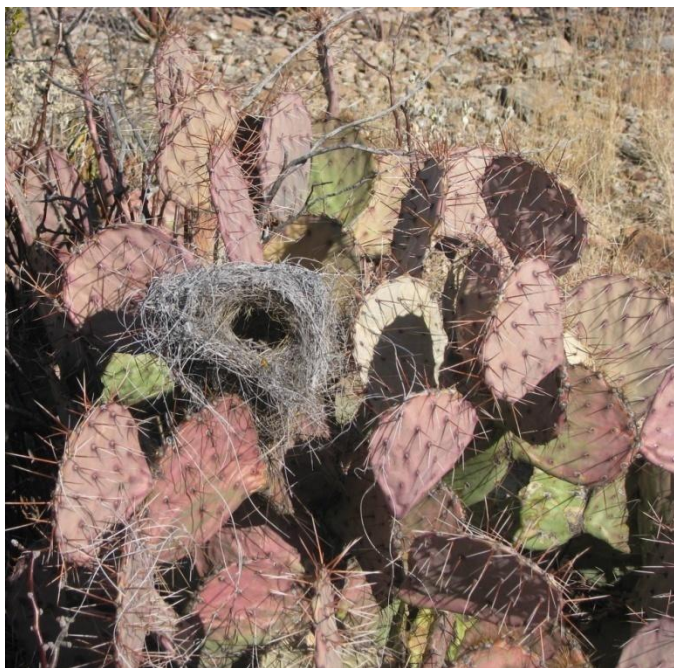
















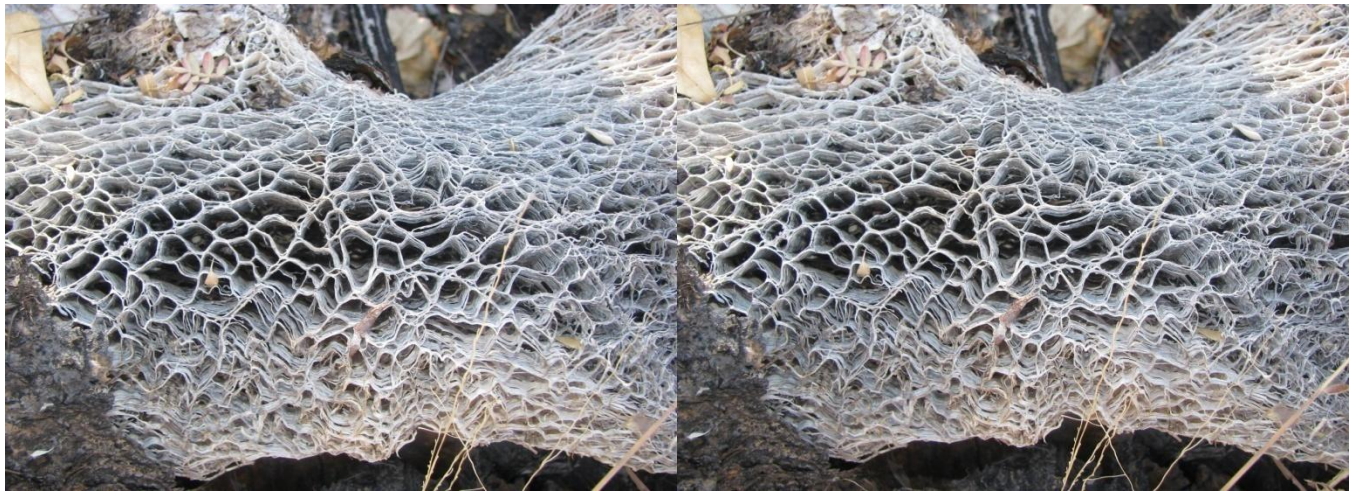










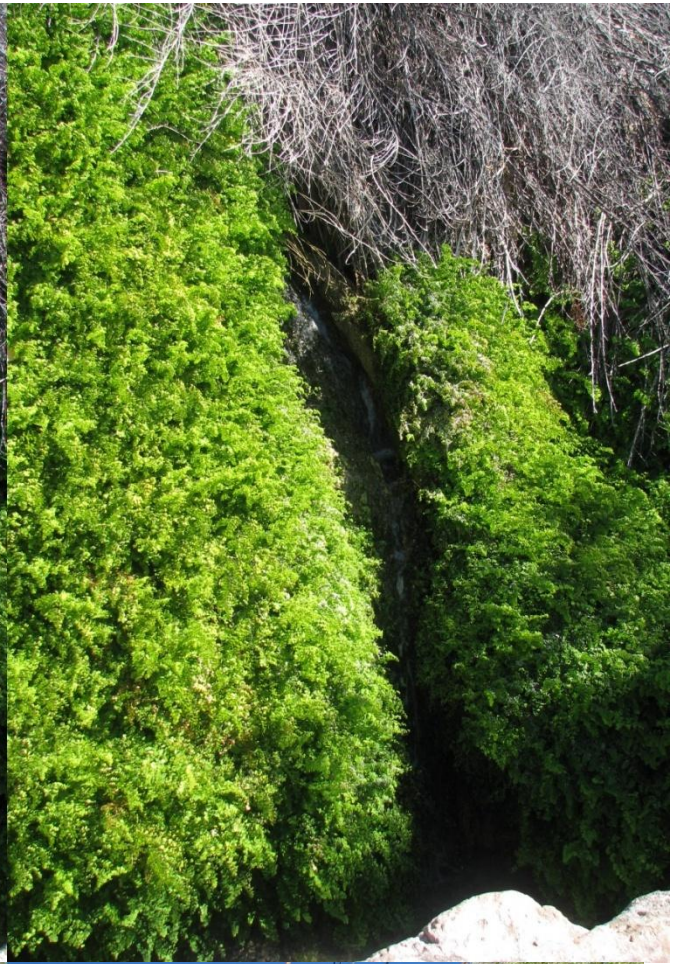
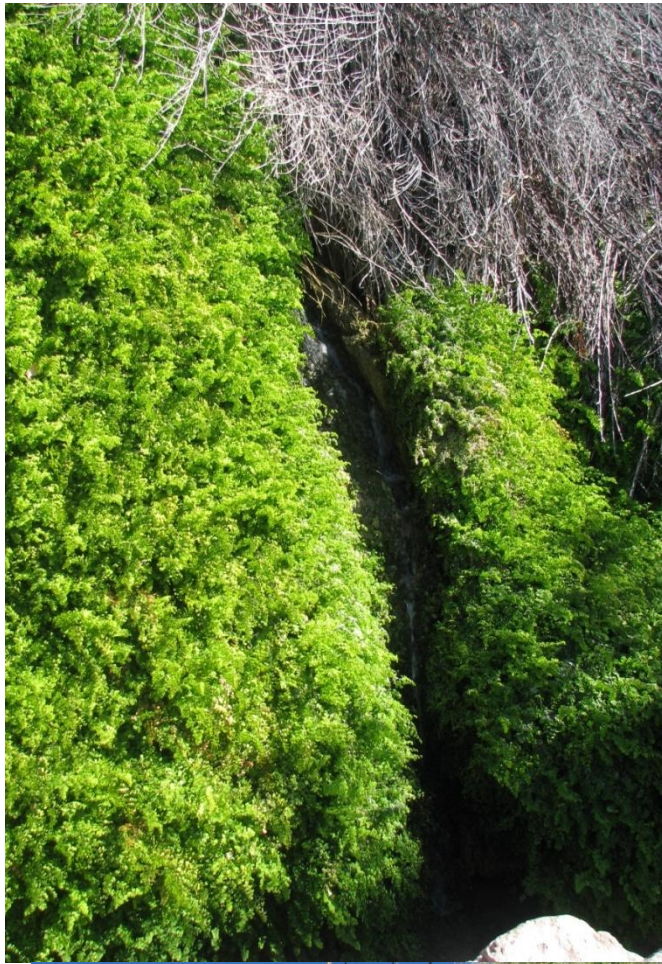
















Looking back at the spring from the trail. The cottonwood tree is just above the spring.



Shelf fungus (pretty dry!)

Castolon Visitors Center





Javelina (Peccary) Skull





Yellow Mud Turtle

Rio Grande and Santa Elena Canyon

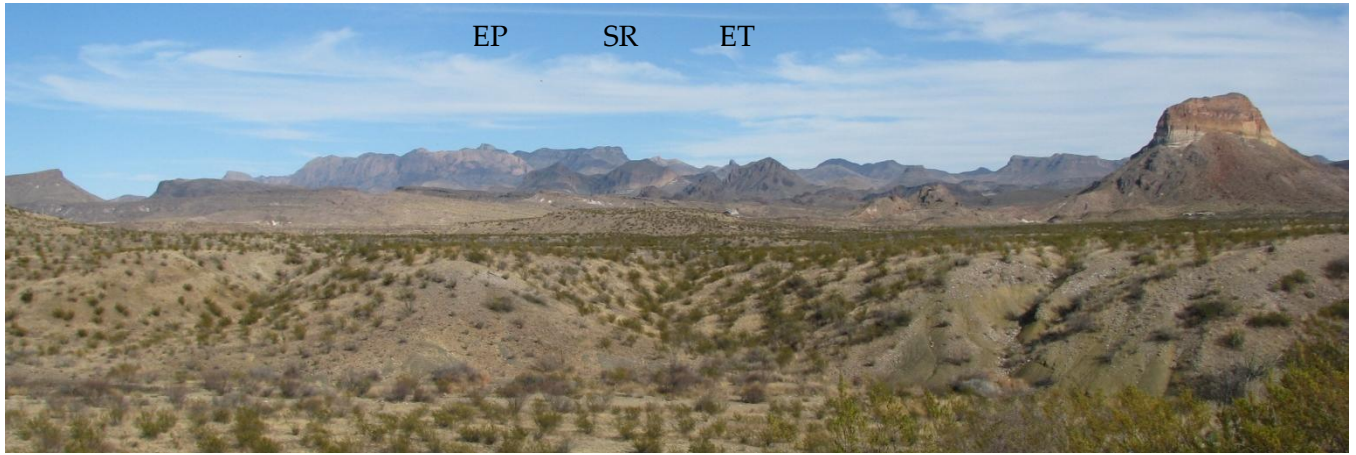






(Briefly looking across the road from the Selena Elena overlook)





Emory Peak, South Rim, and Elephant Tusk. Emory Peak is 16 miles away and 1 mile higher.

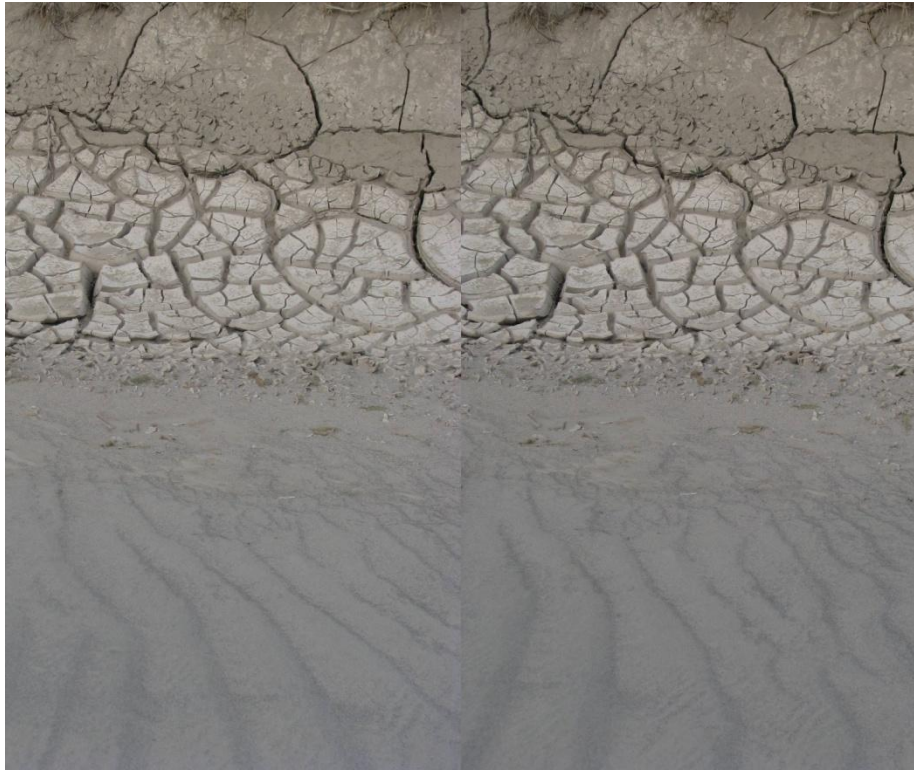


Back at the Canyon, Sarah's enjoying the view.





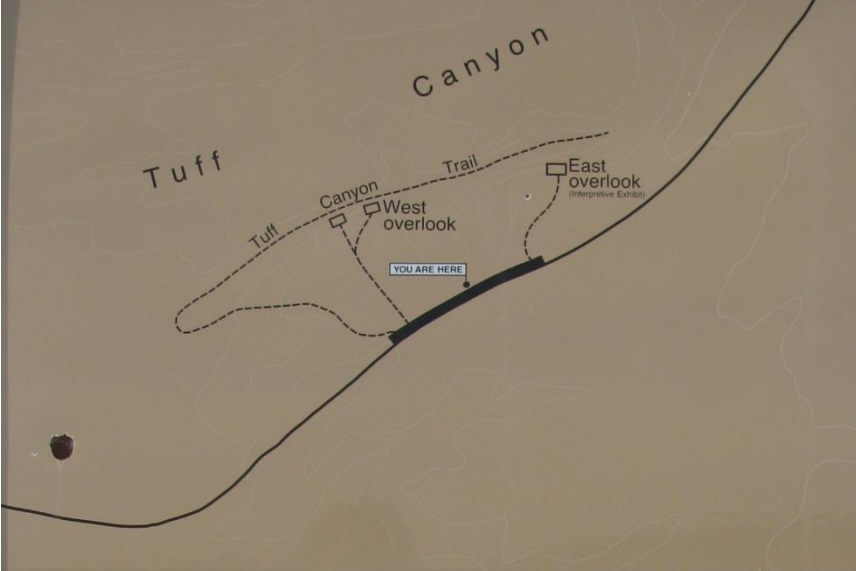






Javelina!

Tuff Canyon




The map shows a trail winding through Tuff Canyon. Key locations marked include 'Tuff Canyon', 'Trail', 'West overlook', 'East overlook (Interpretive Exhibit)', and a 'YOU ARE HERE' marker. The canyon is depicted with dashed lines indicating its boundaries and a solid line for the trail.

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 aluviones en Big Bend. Para descubrir porque, 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 senda 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 becappered 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



T E X A S

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

Boquillas Canyon

Canyon Trail

YOU ARE HERE

Boquillas

Rio Grande

Boquillas Canyon Trail

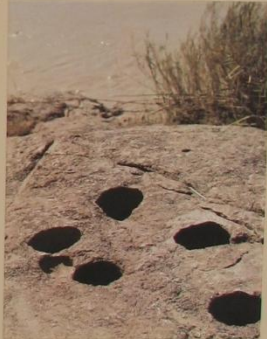
To appreciate the canyon's enormous scale, hike to the entrance where the Rio Grande disappears between towering cliffs. The 1.4 mile round-trip hike is a journey down a vast time corridor.

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 proporción enorme del cañón camine hacia la entrada donde el Rio Grande desaparece entre los acantilados altísimos. La caminata de ida y vuelta 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. Continúe hacia la orilla del río y encontrará un lugar totalmente retirado pero que está a algunas yardas del estacionamiento. Durante la estación de las lluvias (el verano y los principios del otoño) la corriente se oscurece por la arenisca silicea que perpetuamente "a cortando el barranco.

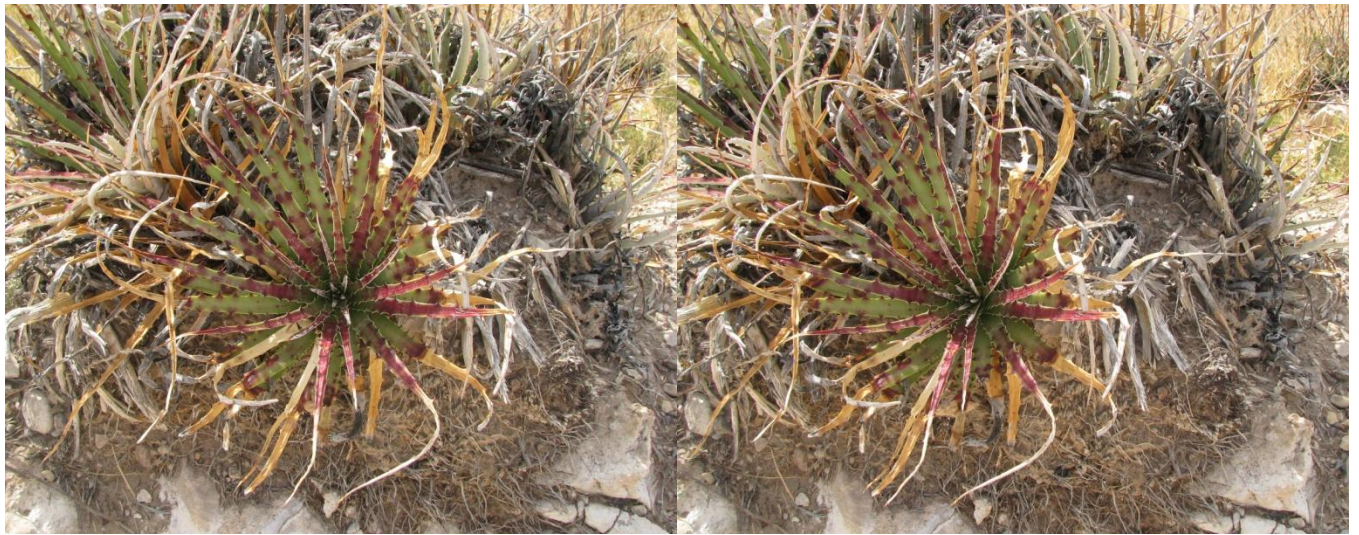


In bedrock along the river you might find prehistoric mortar holes where nomadic tribes ground seeds, roots, and mesquite beans.

On the Texas side, look for the sand dune blown against the cliff by down-canyon winds.

En el lecho de la roca a lo largo del río es posible encontrar hoyos que anteceden de morteros donde las tribus nómadas molieron semillas, raíces, habas de mesquite.

En el lado texano busque por la duna arenisca aventado contra el acantilado por los vientos que pasan por el cañón.



Locals across the river



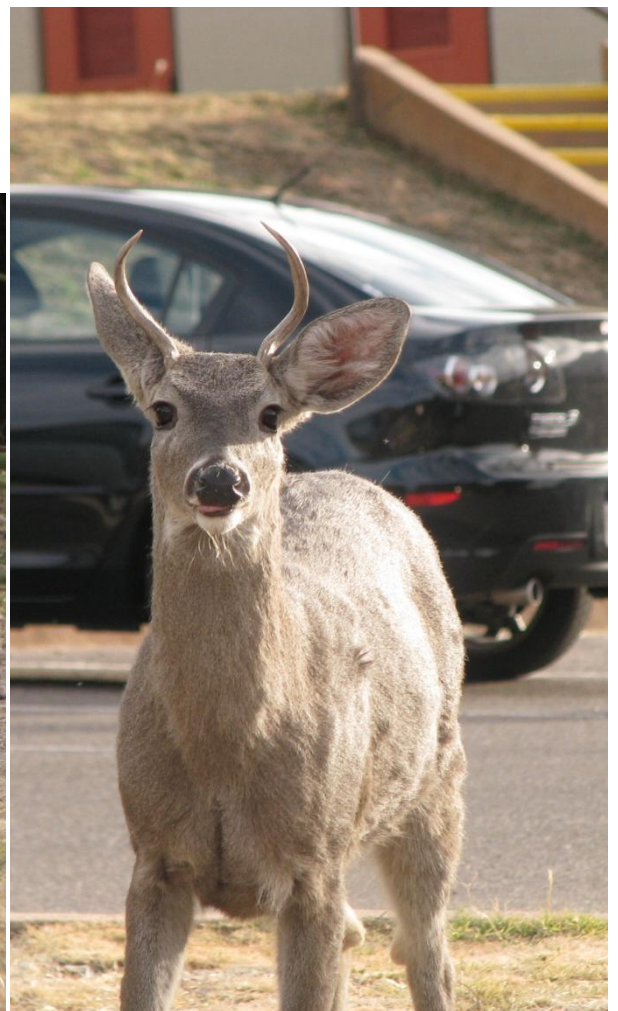
All natural, organic price list





Tough Neighborhood! These are actually used for fire training in the visitor center parking lot.

Chisos Basin Lodge



Oh Deer! In the parking lot!

Hiking the Laguna Meadow Trail, 5 January 2009



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.



Woolly Bear Caterpillar



Agaves live for 30-40 years, flower once, and then die. Lots of bugs, birds, and bats visit the flowers.



Pretty Lady



Goofy lookin' guy.

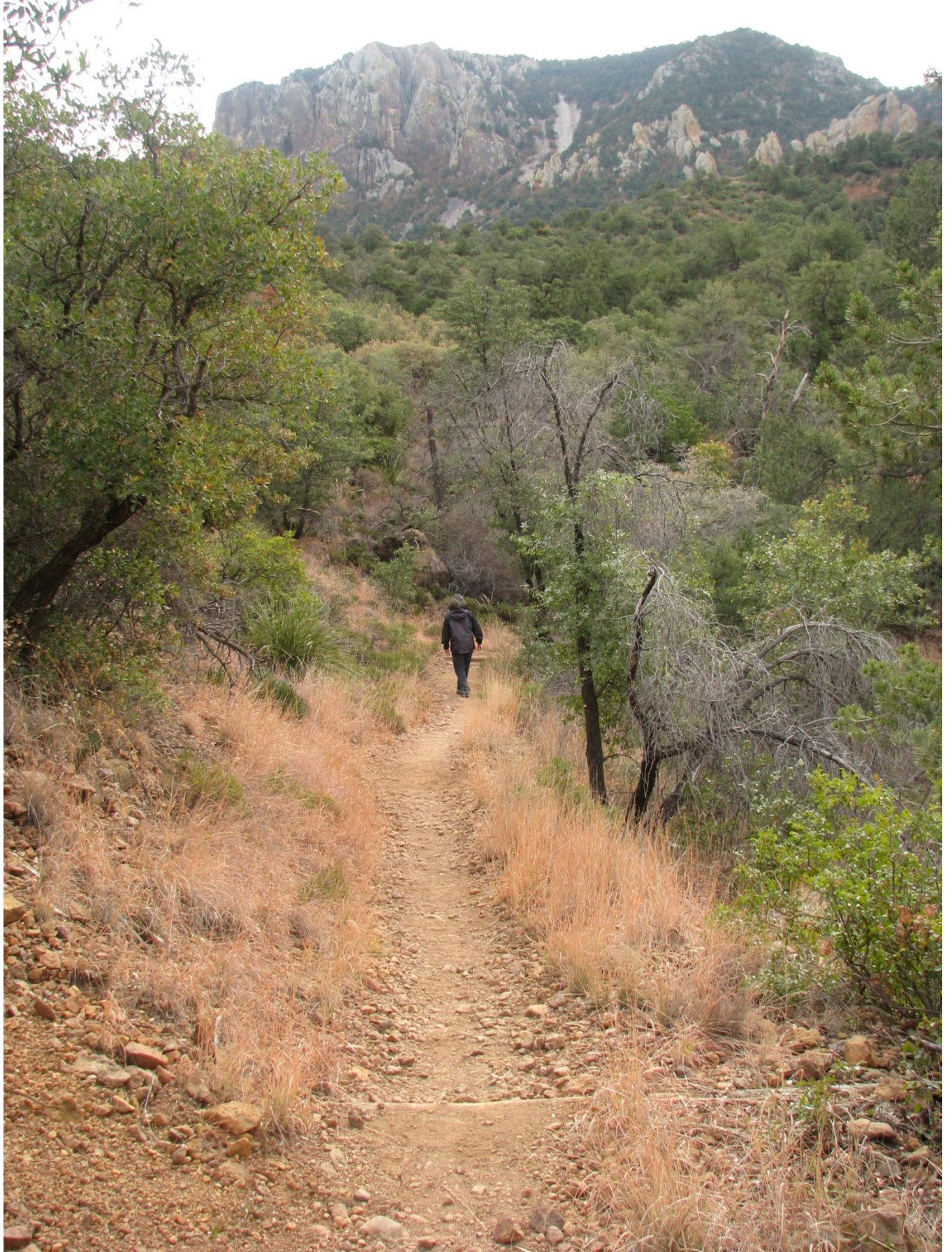
















Small Mammal Poo







Beetle Exit Holes





Mistletoe





Dangling agave showing roots





Bear Poo!





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.



Footprint! Bobcat? Fox? Other?













Self Portrait



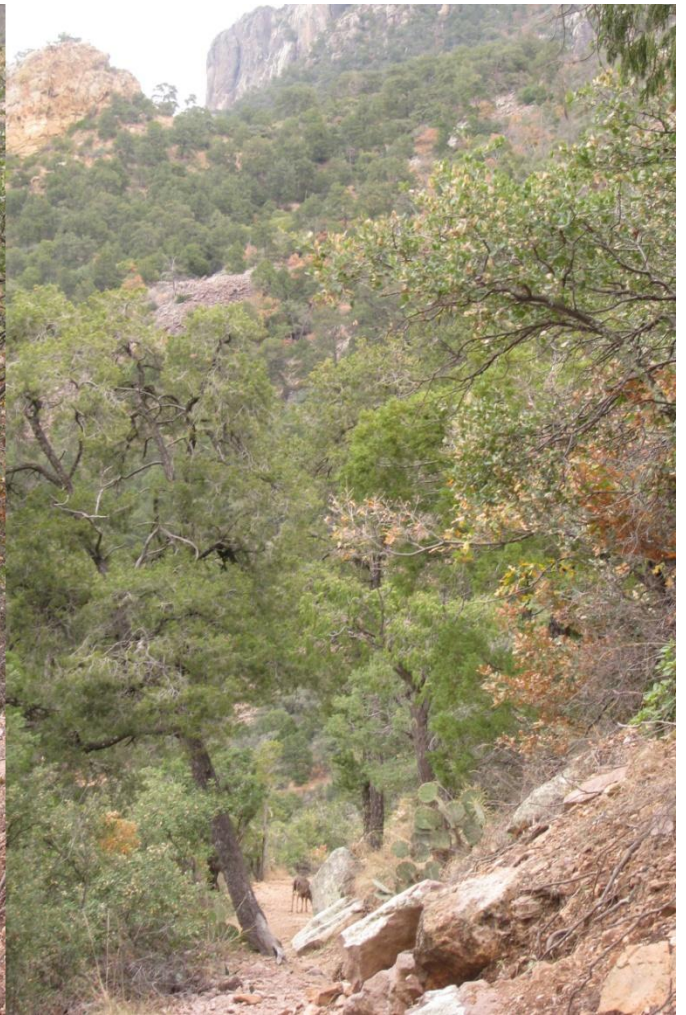
Picture taken by a nice guy that happened by along the trail.



Shelf fungus on a fallen branch.

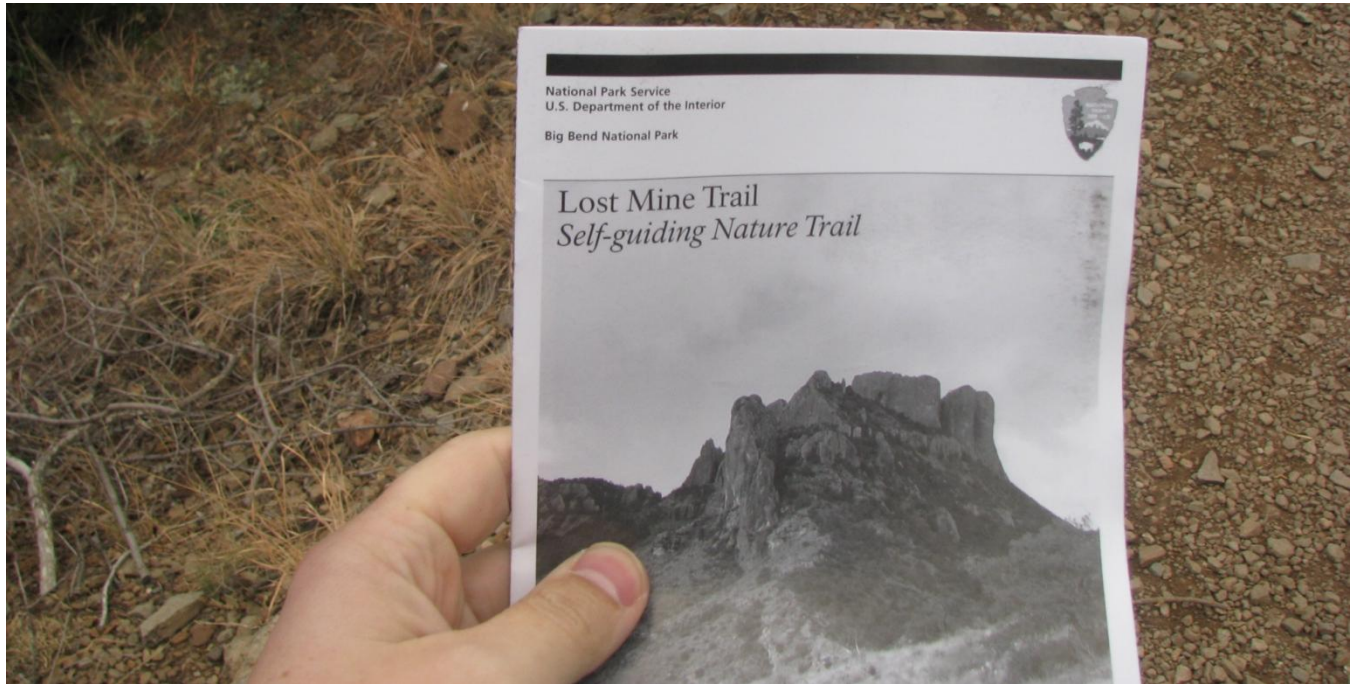








Lost Mine Trail, 6 January 2009 (A cold and blustery day)



















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

Caballos muy pequeños y animales con características de hipopótamos una vez recorrían 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 lejana.



Landscapes in Stone

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

Decipher the rock strata: these shales and flagstones are compressed streambeds and swamp sediments from a bayou landscape.

Paisajes en Piedra

El desierto aparece perenne, pero las piedras expuestas en Tornillo Flat contienen evidencia de un Big Bend dinámico. Desde los terrenos inundados por la marea, hasta bosques, hasta tierras de pasto, esta vista ha cambiado dramáticamente durante los últimos 70 millones de años.

Descifre los estratos de piedra: estos esquitos y lajas son lechos de corrientes comprimidos y sedimentos de pantanos de un paisaje de un bayou.



Outcrops visible from this overlook contain 20 million years of fossil evidence, from the Age of Dinosaurs to the Age of Mammals.

Los afloramientos visibles desde este mirador contienen 20 millones de años de evidencia fósil, desde la Edad de los Dinosaurios a la Edad de los Mamíferos.



View from the Fossil Bone Exhibit

Dagger Flats Auto Trail













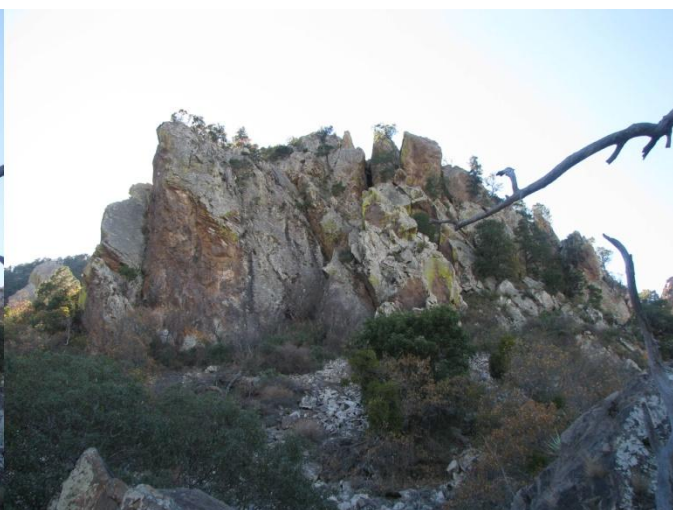
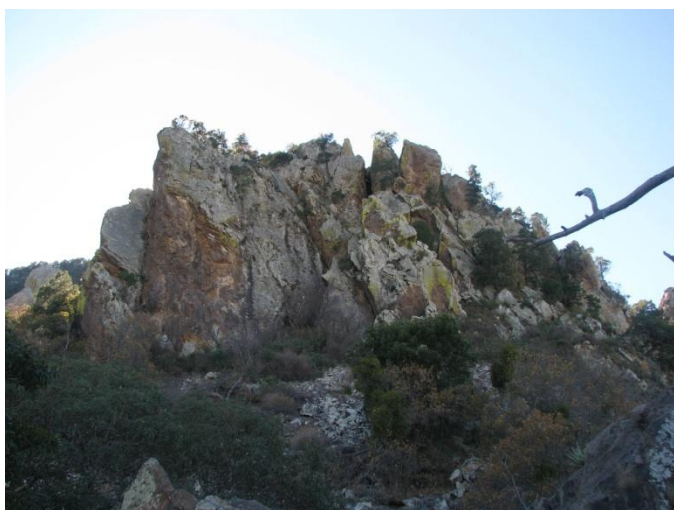
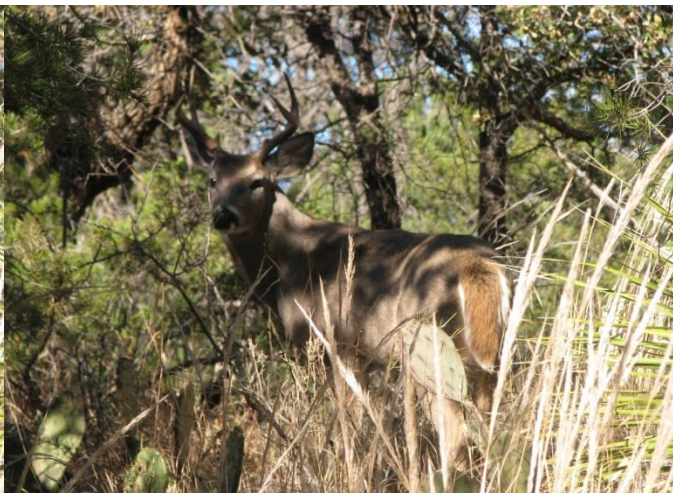
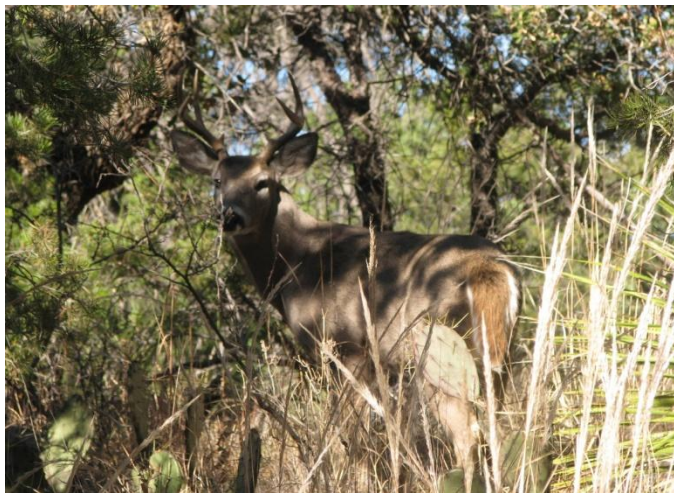


Pinnacles Trail, 7 January 2009



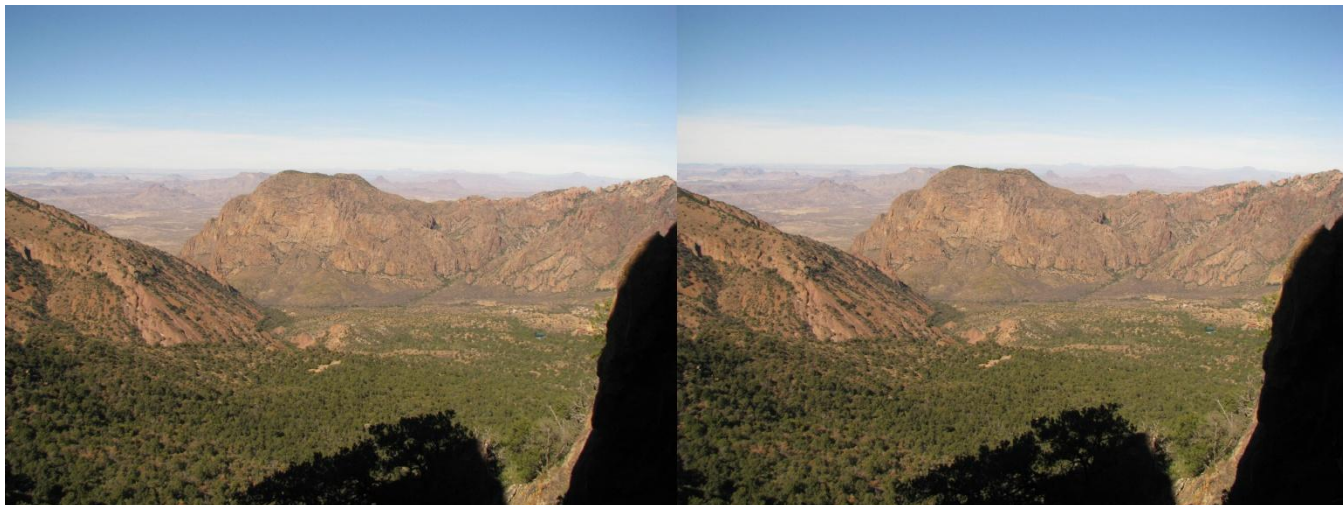








View through the window

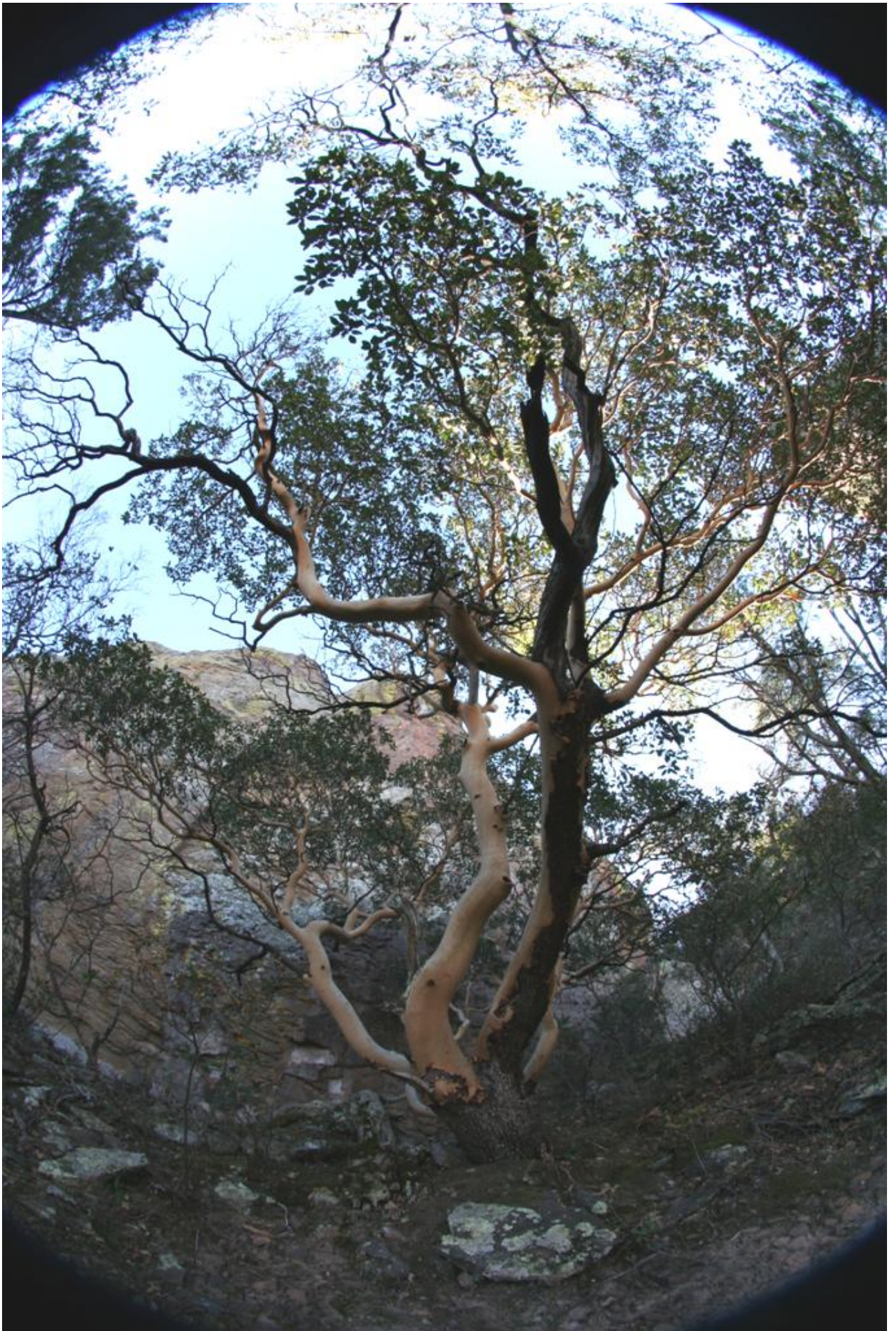


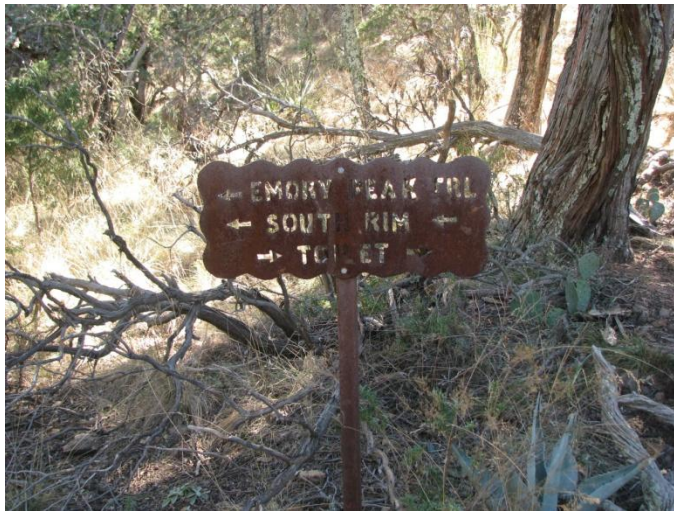
Just right of the green water tower is our hotel.

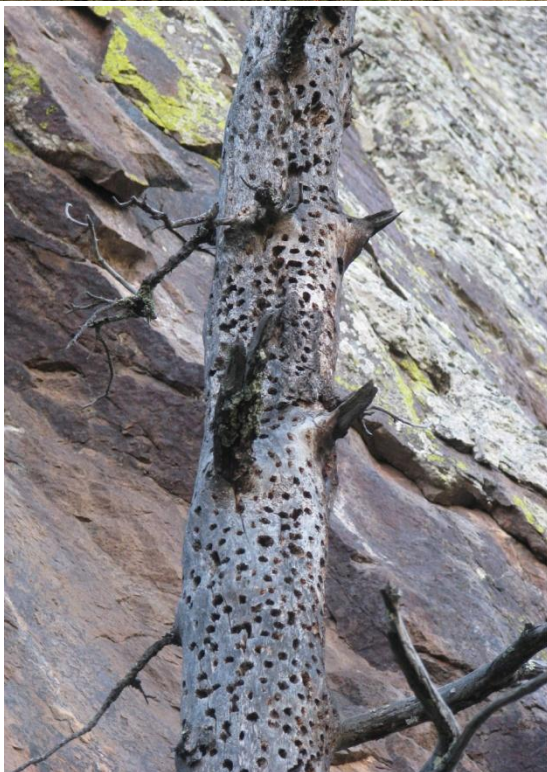
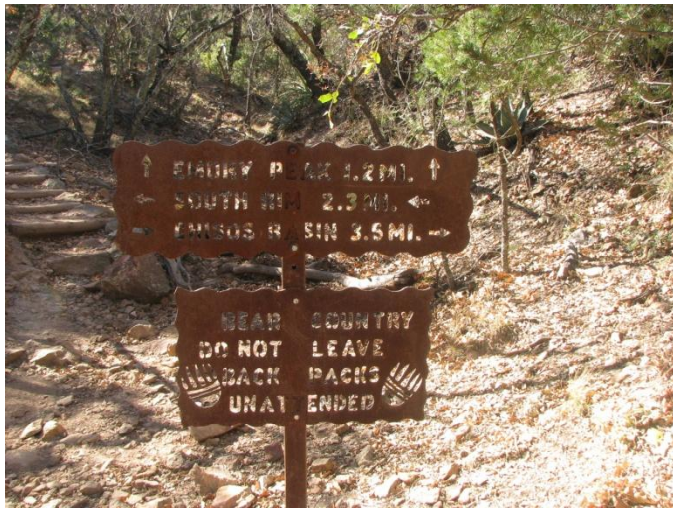




The tiny fleck of odd green to the right of the branch near the middle of the screen: that's where we started!









More Bear Poo!



