



THE RIO GRANDE BOQUILLAS CANYON TO MARAVILLAS CREEK & MARATHON, TEXAS

~ BIG BEND ON THE TEXAS / MEXICO BORDER ~



MARCH 17 - 20 • MARCH 22 - 25

For 28 years, SUNRISE has had a tradition of running springtime trips on the Lower Canyons of the legendary Rio Grande - along the Texas/Mexico border. An icon of the American Southwest, the Rio Grande flows through some of the most beautiful and remote desert canyons on the continent - and is still regarded as one of the nations' last frontiers.

In 2006 we are presenting a new, somewhat leisurely option, for those wishing to savor the beauty and ambiance of West Texas, the Big Bend, and the Rio Grande - within a shorter 4-day time frame.

Primarily flatwater and short, easy Class I-II rapids, this portion of the Rio features the smaller, more intimate canyon landscapes of BOQUILLAS CANYON, linked with the uppermost reaches of the LOWER CANYONS - with a take-out at Maravillas Creek. This trip also includes an overnight in the picturesque



and historic West Texas town of MARATHON - the last civilization north of the Big Bend. Accommodations are with the famous restored national landmark hotel - THE GAGE, or the MARATHON HOTEL. Visit the legendary White Buffalo Bar and gourmet Cafe Cenizo. This trip provides a relaxed 4-day desert canyons getaway, with a historical perspective, and is certainly ideal for those looking to incorporate a river trip into their Southwest vacation.



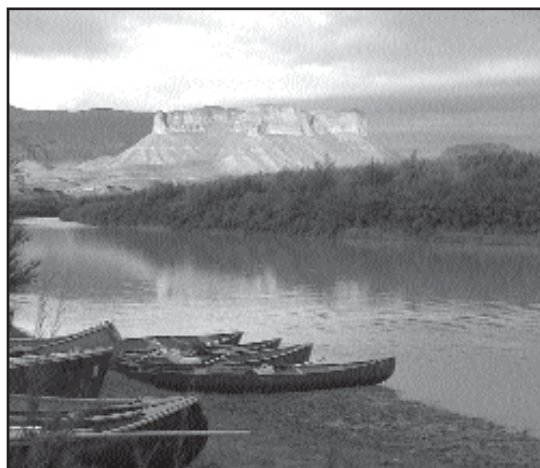
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THE RIO GRANDE

BOQUILLAS CANYON

TO MARAVILLAS CREEK

& MARATHON, TEXAS

ITINERARY & LOGISTICS

~ 2006 ~

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\$895 p.p. (\$1685 for Two)

3 Days (2 nights) on river & 1 night's accom. in Marathon

CLIMATE & RIVER CONDITIONS:

Essentially a mellow trip, placid water and easy current alternate with short, non-technical rapids and tight bends (class I-II), all of which are runnable. Whitewater technique, especially solo paddling and poling, has always been our specialty. We run the Rio Grande at the optimum season - late March through early April is "springtime" in the southwestern desert. Cacti are flowering and the climate is perfect; fairly hot and dry, with an abundance of sunshine, no bugs and perfect swimming.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE:

** Participants have two options for rendezvous:*

1) Meet in ODESSA, TEXAS on the afternoon/evening PRIOR to the trip departure date (3/16 or 3/21); (fly to Midland/Odessa Airport) at the: QUALITY INN & SUITES: 3001 E. Business 20, Odessa, Texas 79762 - (915) 333-3931 (Travel gear/luggage may be left in our locked storage room at the hotel during the trip; vehicles may be parked at the hotel.) That evening we will do a briefing, review personal gear, distribute packs, etc., and take care of any last minute preparations. The drive to the river on the following morning (early) is approximately 4 hours through the heart of the West Texas ranch and oil country, into Marathon, then through the Chisos Mountains and the easternmost edge of Big Bend to our put in at the top of Boquillas Canyon. You arrive back in Odessa early in the evening on the published ending date (3/20 or 3/25) in the early afternoon. Thus, arrange for a morning flight out on the day AFTER the published ending date; (e.g. 3/21 & 3/26) We provide meals starting with lunch upon reaching the river, and ending lunch the last day on river..

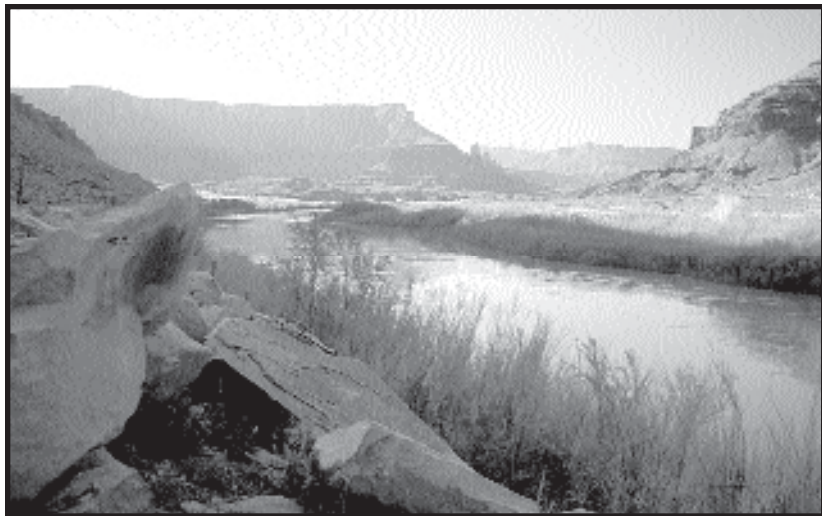
2) Meet in MARATHON, TEXAS mid morning on the trip departure date (3/17 or 3/22) at the GAGE HOTEL. Marathon is 2/3 the distance between Odessa and the river - only 1 hour from the put-in. This option may be desirable for those who are already in the vicinity of Big Bend - and are travelling with their own vehicle. You arrive back in Marathon the last evening (3/19 and 3/24) with accommodation provided.

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ITINERARY:

DAY 1: Drive to River from Odessa via Marathon.

Put in at **BOQUILLAS CANYON** in **BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**. Approx. 4 hours on river, (incl. instruction at put-in). Camp on river. Full dinner, including steak, salmon, appetizers, salad, wine & Margaritas.

DAY 2: Full day on river - from Boquillas Canyon to edge of park - into small intimate canyons which proceed the Lower Canyons. Camp on River. Mexican buffet dinner.

DAY 3: Day on river - easy I-II rapids - take out at **MARAVILLAS CREEK** early-afternoon.

Approximately 1.5 hour drive through Black Gap Wildlife Refuge north to Marathon. Arrive late afternoon in **MARATHON**, a small, picturesque West Texas town which serves as the last civilization north of the rugged Big Bend country. Check into the beautifully restored and elegant **GAGE HOTEL** - for nearly 100 years considered the Oasis of the Trans Pecos Desert. The Gage is designated on the National Historic Register and also features the famous White Buffalo Bar, and fine dining at Cafe Cenizo.

DAY 4: Morning at leisure in **MARATHON** which has a number of interesting small shops and cafes. Afternoon transfer back to **ODESSA** - (approx. 2.5 hours). Arrival late afternoon.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:

Sunrise International operates in conjunction with a travel agency and we can assist you in obtaining the most economical fares available. We strongly recommend that you try to in Midland/Odessa on a morning or afternoon flight - in case of luggage delays.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT: Trip balances are due in our Maine office **three weeks prior to the trip start date.**

FORMS & INSURANCE:

Unless already submitted, a trip form is enclosed. ***KINDLY FILL OUT ALL THE FORMS PROVIDED AND RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*** This will enable our guide to prepare for your trip properly.

Also enclosed is an **optional** travel insurance application - should you desire short term traveler's insurance for yourself and your baggage. Baggage is carried entirely at owner's risk. Trip cancellation insurance will also cover your losses on non-refundable air and land costs on trips cancelled due to illness or logistical changes due to natural conditions, etc..



INCLUDED: 3 Days & 2 nights on river, with all meals, equipment, & the service of a minimum of two professional Sunrise guides licensed for the Rio Grande, (add. guides at a participant/guide ratio of approx. 5:1.) Price also includes all park/river corridor fees, permit and access fees, & taxes. Incl. transfer from Odessa, Texas to/from the river. Personal packs and tents are provided (unless you opt to bring your own).

NOT INCLUDED: Hotel accommodations off river in Odessa, TX (see above), transfer from airport to hotel, meals off river, personal liquor & beverages, purchases, gratuities.

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PACKING CONSIDERATIONS:

Essentially, one should be prepared for a **desert climate**. Daytime temperatures usually range from the sixties to the nineties; nights start off warm, with gradual cooling towards the early morning hours, perhaps as low as the forties on the March trips. Sun protection is a very important consideration.

Specifically recommended for clothing would be lightweight, loose, long-sleeved shirts and pants, two sets, along with bathing suits, shorts, and T-shirts (jeans make very poor river pants). A lightweight jacket/anorak, and sweater/pile is recommended for evening; the jacket/anorak should also afford some protection from possible sand and wind conditions. Typically, there is little rain; although raingear would be considered advisable. Sneakers are perfect for river use, and a slightly more substantial pair of lightweight boots or shoes would be necessary for hiking and camp. Sandals, while a comfortable campsite option, are absolutely NOT recommended as river shoes. One or two protective hats or caps is a must, as well as suntan lotions of personal choice.

Sunglasses, even if you don't normally wear them, are strongly advised. Light cotton gloves are recommended for those who burn or blister easily. As regards sleeping bags, a lightweight "three season" synthetic is sufficient, with a pad/mattress, ground cloth, etc. We ask that you bring spare prescription glasses/sunglasses, and a dual supply of any necessary medications (to be kept in someone else's pack in another canoe). Participants should also have at least one knife on their person. Ideally, a large single-bladed knife on the belt or life vest for safety purposes, and a multi-bladed tool type (Swiss Army or Leatherman) for utilitarian purposes.

Clothing for Marathon is strictly casual; luggage may be left with our driver and will be waiting at the hotel upon your arrival.

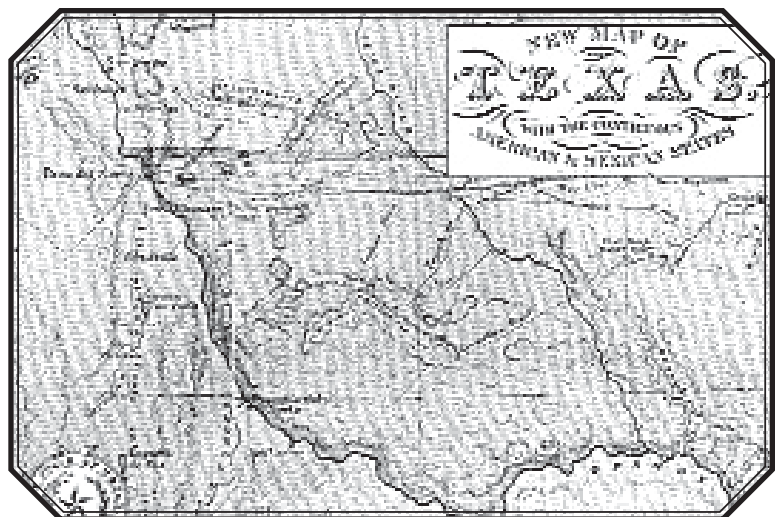
As with all our trips, we will provide you with the proper river packs, tents, and P.F.D.'S (life jackets/vests), although you may provide your own gear, if suitable. We also have waterproof containers available for cameras, binoculars, and miscellaneous small gear. (*Again, please remember to send back your trip forms, which have an attached gear needs list!*)

Lastly, we do serve wine (and Margaritas) with the evening meal; you are welcome to bring your own supply of beer, liquor, soft drinks, etc. We do carry an ice supply, and are capable of providing a limited amount of refrigerated space daily for personal use.

DRINKING WATER: We bring drinking water with us, which is resupplied from the pure hot springs found along the river banks. Although canteens and small water bottles are handy for hiking, and carrying, we will also provide you with personal gallon jugs of water which can also be replenished throughout the trip.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: We check in at historic Stillwell's Crossing, near the entrance to Big Bend National Park. The store there has a selection of books, pamphlets, and maps on the Rio Grande and surrounding Big Bend Country. If available, we especially recommend that you obtain the #2 River Guide to the Rio Grande, published by the Big Bend Natural History Association. Another excellent general source is the Big Bend Handbook put out by the National Park Service.

THE MEXICAN BORDER: Technically, we do not cross it; no passports are necessary as of 11/05. In any event, the carrying of some form of photo identification would be advisable.



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