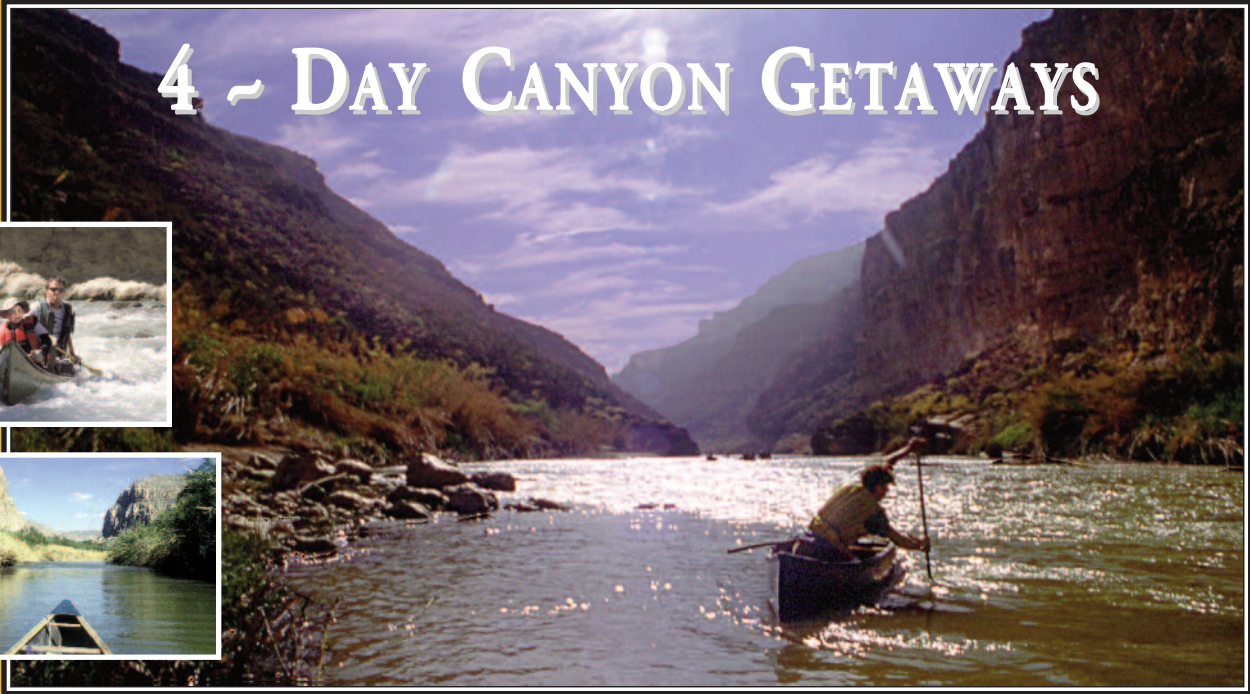




THE RIO GRANDE: BOQUILLAS CANYON TO MARAVILLAS CREEK

& MARATHON, TEXAS

~ BIG BEND ON THE TEXAS / MEXICO BORDER ~



SCHEDULED WED. - SAT. • MARCH 7 THROUGH APRIL 21

~ CUSTOM DATES FOR PRIVATE TRIPS MAY BE ARRANGED ~

For over 30 years, we have 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 recent years we introduced 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 4-5 day time frame. BOQUILLAS CANYON - adjacent to Mexico's Sierra del Carmen mountain range - the vertical relief from river level to mountain-top is over 7000 feet.

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



town of MARATHON - the last civilization north of the Big Bend. Accommodations at the famous restored national landmark hotel - THE GAGE HOTEL Visit the legendary White Buffalo Bar and gourmet Cafe Cenizo. This trip provides a relaxed 4 -5 day desert canyons getaway, with a historical

perspective, and is ideal for those seeking to incorporate a river trip into their Southwest vacation.



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~SINCE 1973 ~

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

ITINERARY & LOGISTICS ~ 2012 ~

4 DAY TRIPS SCHEDULED

WEEKLY: WED. THRU SAT.

FROM MARCH 7 - 10 THROUGH APRIL 18 - 22

from \$995 p.p

4 days & 3 nights, excl. last nite in Marathon

*PRIVATE PARTIES may arrange custom dates 3-6 days in duration
which can include last evening's hotel reservations in Marathon, Texas
& shuttles from Midland/Odessa to either Marathon or Terlingua, Texas*

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 - learly 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:

MARATHON, TEXAS on the morning of the trip departure date- at the GAGE HOTEL. This option is preferred- especially for those who are already in the vicinity of Big Bend - and are travelling with their own vehicle. You arrive be back in Marathon the last evening., and vehicles may be left at the Gage Hotel. The nearest commercial airport is Midland/Odessa (MAF) - approximately a 3-4 hour drive to Marathon, through the heart of the West Texas ranch and oil country. Participants should plan to arrive the afternoon PRIOR to the trip departure date. Transfers from Midland/Odessa to at additional cost.

(cont.)



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ITINERARY:

DAY 1: Drive to River from Marathon.

Put in at **BOQUILLAS CANYON** in **BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**. Approx. 4 hours on river, (incl. instruction at put-in). Camp on river. Sample dinners, include steak, salmon, appetizers, salad, Mexican buffet, wine & Margaritas. Special dietary needs accommodated.

DAY 2-3: Full day on river - from Boquillas Canyon to edge of park - into small intimate canyons which proceed the Lower Canyons . Camp on River.

DAY 4: 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 mid-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. (participants may also opt for a cabin at the nearby Marathon Motel; an attractive, restored property with landscaped gardens and patio - overlooking the desert just outside of town.

Depart following morning.

AIRLINE & HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Sunrise International can assist with obtaining both airfares and hotel reservations. We strongly recommend that you try to arrive in Midland/Odessa on a morning or afternoon flight - in case of luggage delays, and to permit adequate time for drive to Marathon. Private parties may opt to include last night hotel accommodations within price of trip.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT: : Deposits (approx. 1/3 of trip fee) accepted via MC/VISA/AMEX or personal check. Trip balances are due in our Maine office three weeks prior to the trip start date.

TRIP FORMS & PACKING LISTS:

Will be forwarded upon confirmation of reservation. Please fill out all trip forms provided and return them as soon as possible, which will enable our guide to prepare for your trip properly.



INCLUDED: 4 days & 3 nights on river, with all meals, equipment, & the service of a minimum of two professional guides licensed for the Rio Grande, (add. guides at a participant/guide ratio of approx. 5:1). Shuttles to/from Marathon, Texas to the river. Personal packs and tents are provided (unless you opt to bring your own). Price includes all park/river corridor fees, permit and access fees, & taxes.

NOT INCLUDED: Prior or last evening's accommodations in Marathon, Texas. (see above) Transfers from Odessa, Texas to/from the river and/or Marathon, meals off river, personal liquor, purchases, & gratuities.



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 toward the early morning hours, perhaps as low as the forties on the February 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.

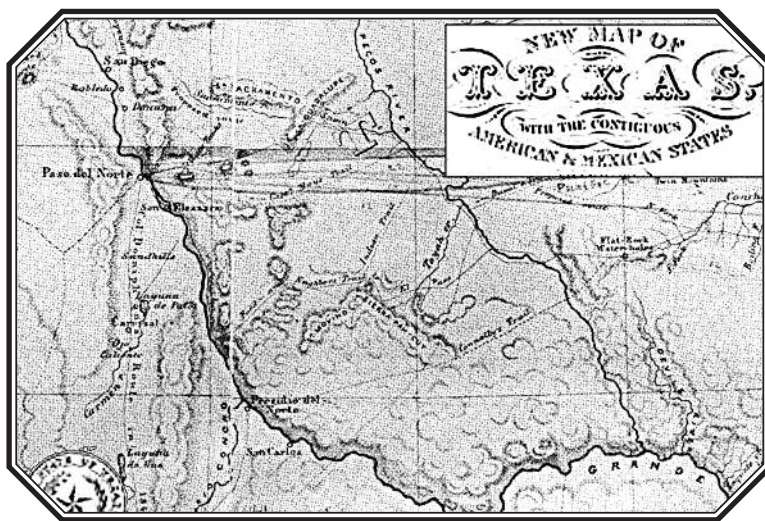
As with all our trips, we will provide you with the proper river packs, tents, and P.F.D.'S (life jackets/vests), although you may provide your own gear, if suitable. We also have waterproof containers available for cameras, binoculars, and miscellaneous small gear. (*Again, please remember to send back 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: A government photo ID, preferably a passport, is necessary - due to registration requirements with park and border agencies.



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