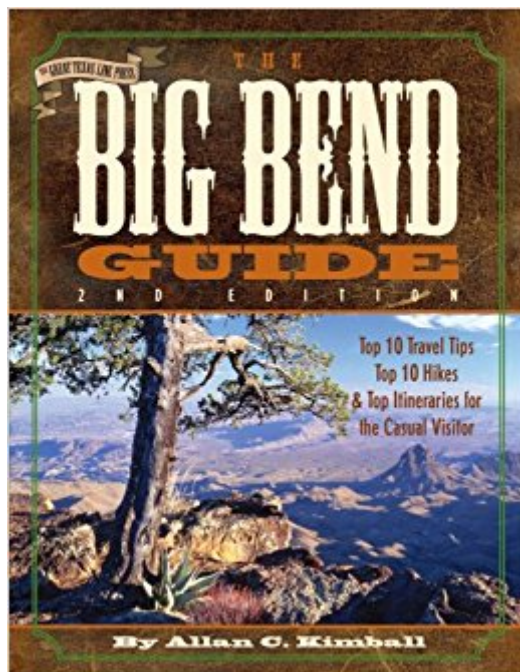


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# The Big Bend Guide



## Synopsis

Updated in late 2015, this pocket-sized primer lays out a slew of recommended daily itineraries, including the best sights, the best hikes and then the best places to hit after a day on the trail or the river. The guide provides tips on what to see and how to do it best, with thorough lists Kimball has collected over the decades of intimate contact with this national treasure. The Lajitas Sun called it "a practical, compact, generally well-written and entertaining package of advice. And it s one of the best guides on the market. There's a powerful amount of information packed into its 104 pages."

## Book Information

Paperback: 104 pages

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## Customer Reviews

"One of the best I've seen. The book is written with a touch of humor and an obvious love for Big Bend." --Austin American-Statesman. "Whether spending two days or 10, Kimball provides the skinny on what to do, what to see, and how to get there." --Texas Highways magazine. "While diminutive, Kimball's book contains plenty of useful information for anyone planning a visit to the 800,000-plus-acre Big Bend National Park or any of the beautiful country around it. The literature of the Big Bend is almost as extensive as its rugged desert and mountain terrain, but Kimball's guide is the best small source I've seen." --Mike Cox. --Lone Star Book Blog "An inexpensive, compact guide filled with travel tips, hikes, itineraries and other useful information." --San Angelo Standard-Times "For first time visitors to Big Bend, Kimball's guide is as important as bringing along enough water." --Austin Chronicle

Allan Kimball, an award-winning journalist and photographer, reported for the Houston Post and the San Antonio Express-News. Over the years, he has grilled presidents, found clandestine

government airstrips and covered stories ranging from gubernatorial races to beer-drinking goats. A member of the Baseball Writers Association of America, he covered the Houston Astros for the Pasadena Citizen. And he has chased killer bees throughout Central and South America.

This provided a nice guide to some of the trails. I purchased this in preparation for an upcoming trip and appreciate the "top 10 hikes" and other information about the area. It seems to focus on the high points rather than providing a deep comprehensive list of every trail in the parks. Once nice thing is that the book covers both the state and national parks which opened up some new ideas for me since I had been focusing on the National Park only. Although the size is nice and compact (not much bigger than your cell phone), the 5 point font (or whatever it is) is a bit hard to read if you're getting older like I am.

I used this guide to help plan a birding trip to Big Bend NP. While the focus of the book is not the NP specifically, it was a useful guide. It's written in a witty voice that makes it entertaining as well as informative. The book's divided into three sections. The first is general information for the park, things to bring with you, etc. The second section is the top 10 hikes in Big Bend NP and Big Bend Ranch State Park. The third section is itineraries for trips of various numbers of days. The book does not focus on the NP, so the hikes include several from the state park which is nearby" (a relative term in this gigantic area). The same goes for the itineraries -- they include the NP, the state park, the ghost town of Terlingua, historical sites, etc. A good guide and for the price worth getting even if you're only visiting the NP.

This book is exactly what you need to plan your trip! The author writes like he's having a conversation, so it's down to earth and easy to understand. He breaks things down by ability level as well as priority to see based on your length of stay. Absolutely essential, especially if you're a newbie to Big Bend.

Certainly not the most complete book on the subject, but it fits in your back pocket and the writing is entertaining. Big Bend is truly one of the most amazing parks I've been to, this guide will help you squeeze the most out of it. Anything not included here can be easily supplemented at a Ranger Station in the park.

Our plans in this area went kaput. Thankfully I had ordered this on a whim and our vacation greatly

improved. A MUST buy.

I enjoy reading about state parks, but to me, Big Bend is the most fascinating of all. It has been considered the darkest place in the U.S. at night and for good reason. You have to mean it if you want to get there. This has some good information that you will enjoy.

Pay attention to the size. 4.5"x5.5". I didn't, so the print is too small for me to see.

Great little booklet. It is long on tips and descriptions of places and hikes (incl. a star rating), and short on fluff. When we planned our trip to Big Bend, this book gave us all the information we needed. Of course, if you go hiking, you need to get a real map from National Geographic or at least the map from the National Park at the park's entrance, but other than that, you are ready to go! As a plus, the Big Bend Guide fits neatly into your pocket.

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