

9 Day/10 Night Trip Itinerary

Cost: \$2,700 per person

Total Days: (Marathon, TX to Marathon, TX) 9 days, 10 nights

Group size: 4-9

Instructor to Client Ratio: 1 to 3

Meeting Place: Marathon, TX (The Gage Hotel)

Accommodations:

- 1 night at Marathon Motel (night 1)
- 3 nights camping along Rio Grande River (nights 2,3,4)
- 2 nights at Dead Horse Mountain Ranch (nights 5 & 9)
- 3 nights backcountry camping (nights 6,7,8)
- 1 night at Marathon Motel (night 10)

Amenities:

Marathon, TX: Hidden Dagger reserves rooms at the Marathon Motel which is included in the price of your trip. Price adjustments can be made for those who reserve their own accommodations for Night 1 and/or 10.

The Ranch: The Lodge and Rock House both include heaters, running water, showers, toilets, beds, stoves, tableware, cooking utensils, and refrigerators. There are multiple sleeping arrangements at head quarters. Small houses, campers, and platforms for tents are available.

Minimum age: 12

Multi-sport activities: canoeing, camping, hiking, backpacking, and jeep/side by side rides

Note: An optional guided trip to hike in Big Bend National Park with an overnight stay at Rio Grande Village (night 2) can be added to this trip. (Refer to a *Taste of Big Bend* on the trip page for more info)

Day by Day (9 day trip)

Day 0/Night 1: Arrive at the Marathon Motel in Marathon, TX (on your own) between 3-6pm. (Hidden Dagger will reserve room/s in advance). Our entire group will meet for a welcome dinner at the *12 Gage Restaurant* located at the *Gage Hotel* at 6:30 pm for introductions and an overview of the next 9 days.

Day 1/Night 2: Meet at the Marathon Motel at 7:30 am with luggage. (Note: personal and rental vehicles will be parked at a specified location). Embark on the 2 hour scenic drive with a Hidden Dagger Instructor. On the road, view the southernmost extension of the Rocky Mountains and the ethereal Chisos Mountains as we enter Big Bend National Park. Arrive at Rio Grande Village to meet the rest of the instructors and load canoes. After a safety brief, start paddling and set up camp along the Rio Grande. Have dinner, star gaze, and socialize!

Day 2&3/Night 3&4: Paddle through Boquillas Canyon and camp along river

Day 4/Night 5: Paddle to the takeout at La Linda. Unload canoes and pack up. Enjoy a fun and exciting ride up to Dead Horse Mountain Ranch. Arrive at the Lodge by 3pm. Clean up, relax, unwind, and enjoy a view that spans across the Chihuahuan Desert to the Sierra del Carmen Mountains in Mexico. Dinner at 7pm with drinks and a fire.

Day 5/Night 6: Breakfast at 8am at the Lodge. Explore the surrounding area with your instructor. Learn the diverse plant and animal life, extensive human history, geology, and so much more that makes this remote corner of the world so unique.

Day 6/Night 7: Breakfast at 8am. Embark on a 3 day backpacking trip over the Dead Horse Mountain Ranch. Explore old Native American campgrounds, canyons with sheer bluffs, and epic summits! Backcountry camp.

Day 7/Night 8: Backpacking cont. Backcountry camp.

Day 8/Night 9: Backpacking cont. Arrive back at the Lodge by 5pm. Dinner at 7 pm.

Day 9/Night 10: Breakfast at 8am. Choose your own adventure! Relax, read, meditate, hike, jeep ride... return to Lodge by 12pm. Leave by 2pm. Arrive in Marathon by 4pm. Say goodbye!

***All itineraries and hiking routes are subject to change if it risks the safety and/or well-being of the group. Water levels can effect the craft we choose to use(canoe or raft).**

Packing List Guide(9 day Trip)

General Packing List

*There are no washers and dryers at the Lodge, however, hanging lines are present for hand washing and drying if needed.

- 2-4 pairs of wool socks for hiking
- 1-3 pairs of hiking pants
- rain pants
- 1-2 synthetic long underwear
- 2-5 pairs of underwear (preferably synthetic)
- hiking boots (preferably waterproof/resistant)
- comfortable camp shoes and/or extra pair of tennis shoes
- sleep ware

- 2-4 synthetic short sleeve and/or long sleeve tops
- sun shirt
- fleece jacket
- coat or down/puffy jacket
- rain jacket
- wind breaker
- swimsuit
- sun hat
- warm beanie
- gloves
- trekking poles/walking stick

Optional: Gaiters (helps protect against cactus), sock liners

- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine products...)
- Contact solution with case, glasses
- Personal medication
- **Life saving medication is required** i.e. inhalers, albuterol, epi pens
*make sure prescription is not expired and is full
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- binoculars
- camera
- at least 2-2L water bottles and/or camelback
- day pack
- personal snacks/drinks
- passport (if you plan to visit Mexico)

Optional: personal pillow, drinks, food, books, watch

On the River

- water shoes (old tennis shoes, sandals with a heel strap..)
- camp shoes (closed toes preferred for optional hikes along river)
- sun shirt
- synthetics pants or shorts
- synthetic shirt/s
- sleeping attire

- tent with rain fly
- sleeping bag (at least 30 degree bag)
- sleeping pad
- water bottle/s
- sun cap
- sunglasses
- warm jacket/layers
- socks
- rain gear
- toiletries
- sunscreen
- personal medication
- swimsuit
- camera (optional: water protective case or bag)
- headlamp

Optional: ice chest for personal drinks, snacks...

Overnight Backpacking Pack List

*in addition to a portion of the materials above

- long underwear
- fleece pants
- wool or fleece long sleeve
- 50L or more backpacking pack
- sleeping bag <30 degree bag preferred
- sleeping pad (inflatable or foam)
- tent with rain fly
- headlamp

Optional: fleece liner, jet boil or backpacking stove