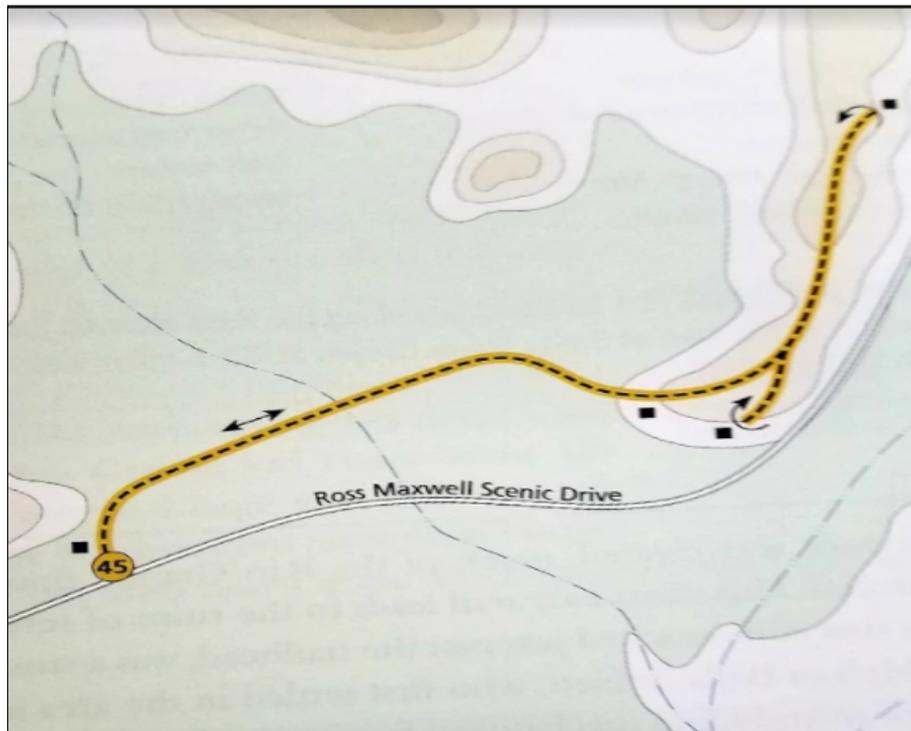


Santa Elena Canyon Big Bend National Park



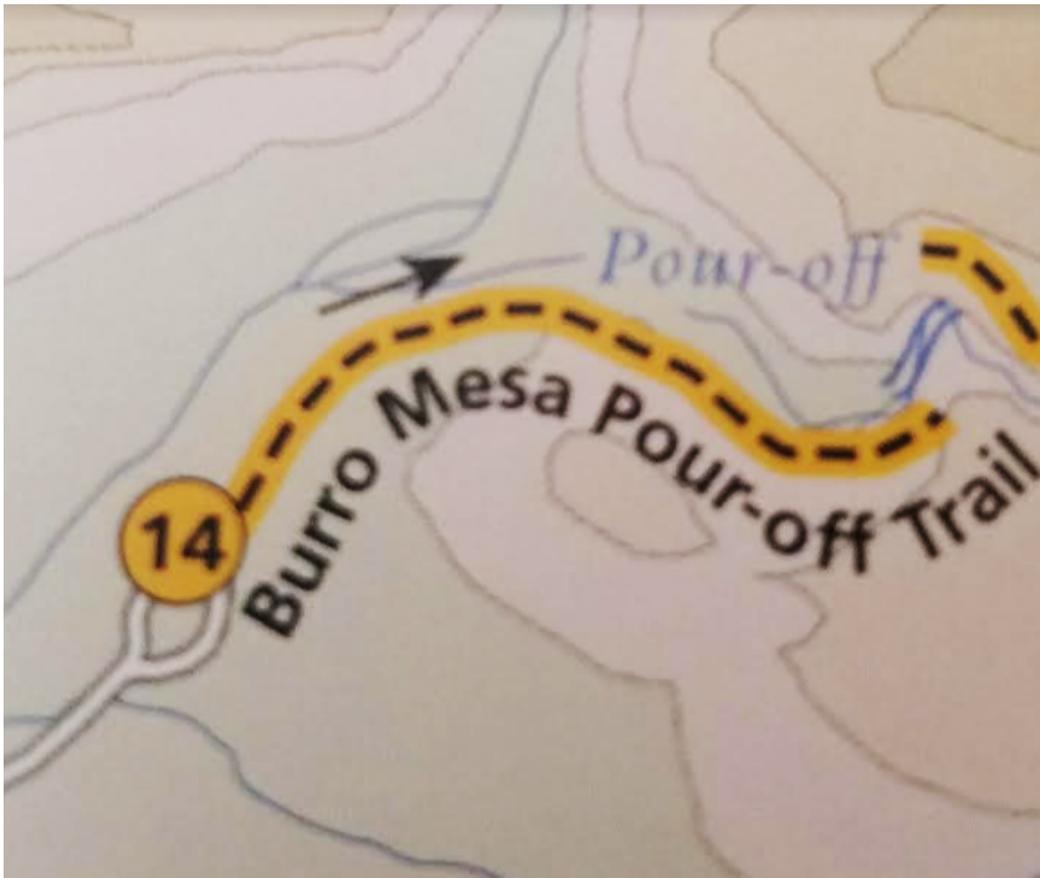
The Santa Elena Trail is one of the most popular and scenic trails in Big Bend National Park. This trail leads into a spectacular canyon cut by the Rio Grande. It is considered an easy hike except for a series of stairs up the canyon wall to a ledge. Total distance is 3K and the path is dirt with a short paved section. Directions: From Big Bend Resort Motel head east on Hwy 118 for 3 miles to enter BBNP. Continue for 9 miles and turn right at Castolon/Santa Elena Junction (Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive). Then go 29 miles to the end of the road to reach the trailhead.

**Dorgan-Sublett Trail
Big Bend National Park**



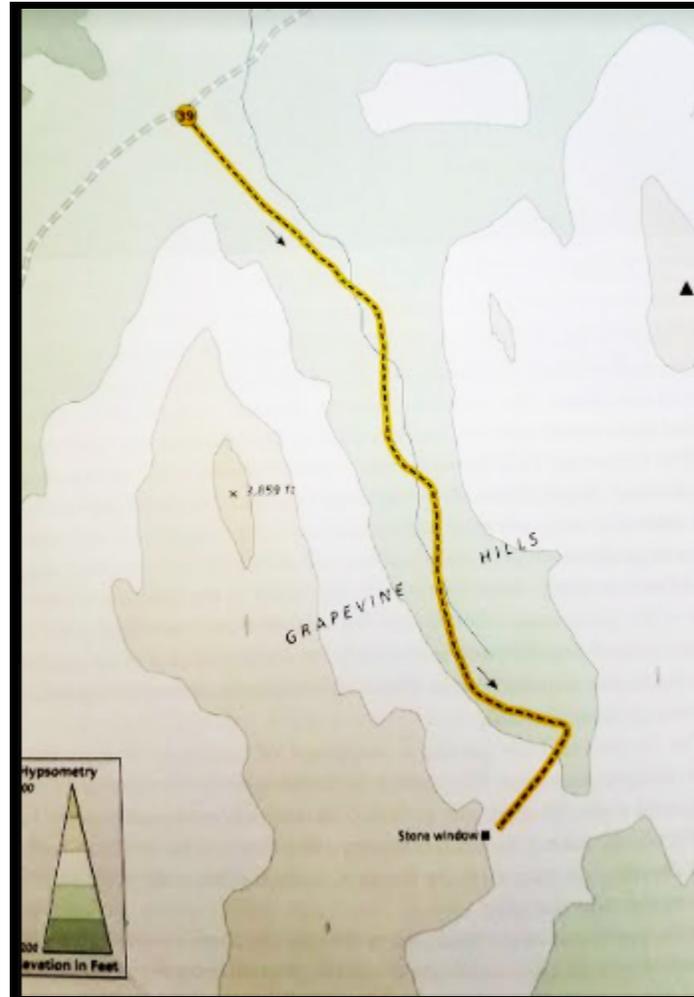
This is a very easy trail on a dirt path. It is an out-and-back trail with a total distance of 2k. The trail features several historic ruins from early settlers along the Rio Grande. Directions: From Big Bend Resort motel, head east on Hwy 118 for 3 miles to enter BBNP. Continue for 9 miles and turn right at Castolon/Santa Elena Junction (Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive). Drive 27.5 miles to the trailhead.

**Lower Burro Mesa Pour Off
Big Bend National Park**



**This short 2k hike to a desert pour-off offers much to hikers interested in the geology of Big Bend. It is an easy out and back hike on a dirt path and a dry gravel wash.
Directions: From Big Bend Resort Motel head east on Hwy 118 for 3 miles to enter BBNP. Continue for 9 miles and turn right on Castolon/Santa Elena Junction (Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive). Then go 11.5 miles and turn right onto the Burro Mesa spur road. Follow the spur road to its end (1.8 miles).**

Balanced Rock
Grapevine Hills Trail
Big Bend National Park



The Grapevine Hills trail is a relatively easy 4k hike out and back to the Balanced Rock. The short climb to the balanced rock boulders is steep. The path is dirt and sand, gravel and cobbles of desert wash. Directions: From Big Bend Resort head east on Hwy 118 for 22 miles entering the BBNP. Turn left on Grapevine Hills Road and travel 6.5 miles on the dirt road to the trail head. **BEWARE:** This is a gravel road; generally all vehicles except those with very low clearance can drive it.

Indian Head Trail Big Bend National Park



Indian Head Trail is a 3k hike out and back to some Indian petroglyphs. This area is remote by park standards, but close to Terlingua. You'll rarely find other people along this trail even with the proximity to Terlingua/Study Butte.

To get to the trail head, exit the north side of Big Bend Resorts and Adventure and turn right onto a dirt road (Indian Head Road). Follow the road for a little over a mile. It will wind back to the left and then loop back to the right. The road will end at the fence to the park. The fence is merely a marker for the park boundary. There is a gate which is always open.

Once you go through the gate you'll see a faint trail that goes down a grade. There will be some postings in the first 200 yards about the petroglyphs and the history of the area. Hugging the Indian Head ridge on the left, continue roughly east and pay attention to the boulders at the base of the ridge to find the petroglyphs. **Don't touch the petroglyphs** but take all the pictures you want! (Description from the Hiking Project)

Terlingua Ghost Town Self Guided Walking Tour

Walk back into history to the beginning of Terlingua Mining District. Stop in the Terlingua Trading Company (open 11 am to 7 pm) and grab a map by the front door for a \$1 donation to the Terlingua Historical Society. Once home to 2000 people, Terlingua was a thriving mercury mining town. Abandoned in the 1940s, to be repopulated in the 70's. It is now an active community of artists, musicians, and free thinking individuals. Visit the many art galleries and have lunch or dinner at one of the restaurants.

Follow the Historical Society map directions and read the descriptions of the historical buildings on the route. Be sure to walk around the Perry Mansion and walk down to the cemetery for the full 3k. The paths are dirt or gravel. Stay alert for vehicles on the dirt road. This is an easy walk except the uphill climb to the Perry Mansion. There are public bathrooms next to the Starlight Theater.

Directions: Turn left out of the Big Bend Resort and Adventures Motel onto TX-118. Then immediately turn right onto FM170. Travel 4.7 miles to Ivey Rd then turn right. Continue .6 miles until you reach Terlingua Trading Company.

Closed Canyon Trail Hoodoos Trail Big Bend Ranch State Park

These hikes are along the Rio Grande river on FM 170 in Big Bend Ranch State Park. Stop at the Park Headquarters, Barton Warnock Visitor Center outside of Lajitas to pay the Texas State Park fee of \$5 per day/person. Ask the park ranger for the brochures with maps of Hoodoos Trail and Closed Canyon Trail.

The scenic drive on FM 170 is considered one of the most beautiful drives in America and should not be missed. Closed Canyon 3k hike is through a slot canyon. Turn around when the canyon becomes too narrow or difficult. Explore the rock formations and the Rio Grande riverbank on the easy 2k Hoodoo trail. The trail paths are dirt. There are port-a-potties at the campgrounds along FM 170.

Directions: Turn left out of the Big Bend Resort and Adventures Motel onto TX-118. Then turn immediately right onto FM 170 and travel 11 miles to the Barton Warnock Visitor Center. From the Visitor Center turn left back onto TX-170. Travel through Lajitas and turn right onto FM 170 for 21 miles to the Closed Canyon Trail. The Hoodoos trail is another 5 miles on FM 170.

