

# **BIG BEND RESOURCES – BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK, LAJITAS & LAJITAS GOLF RESORT & SPA**

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## **BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK (BBRSP)**

From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Website: *"Welcome to the Other Side of Nowhere!"*

*Big Bend Ranch State Park offers outdoor recreation for the truly adventurous. This remote park features rugged mountains, steep canyons, amazing views, unparalleled night skies, and solitude in a high desert setting. The park stretches along the Rio Grande in far west Texas, on the U.S.-Mexico border...The park has 238 miles of multiuse trails (for hiking, biking and horseback riding). Visitors can explore 70 miles of unmaintained dirt roads in high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles. The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo area offers great day-use access. Visitors can float, fish and hike, or drive the scenic Camino del Rio (FM 170). Each February, the park helps host the Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest. Visit our Activities page to learn more."*

*The over 300,000 acres of the park (half the size of Rhode Island) resides across the southern portions of Brewster and Presidio County (mostly in Presidio County). It is filled with some of the more dramatic geological formations of the Big Bend like the famed Solitario, a dome like structure in the northeastern section of the park that was formed 35 million years ago. It also has some of the most rugged roads anywhere in the Big Bend area that are fit only for a 4-wheel drive, high clearance vehicle that might just be perfect for an adventurous filmmaker. If a primitive, rugged setting is what your script calls for, this is the place. Come Shoot 'Em Up in a great Texas State Park!*

### **~BBRSP GENERAL INFORMATION~**

Headquarters

Mailing Address

HCR 67, Box 33

Marfa, Texas 79843

432-358-4444

Physical Address

1900 Saucedo Ranch Road

Presidio, Texas 79845

*The difference between the Mailing and the Physical address may seem odd when you consider the park is in the southern end of both Brewster and Presidio County, but out here, with so much remote happening, we just consider it sort of normal. Often a headquarters (perhaps for more than one park as in Alpine) is where they can get mail and have phone service (and maybe a grocery store) and often there is a Headquarters inside the park. Those services are not always available to the in-park headquarters as is the case of some of the more remote settings like Back Gap WMA or Big Bend Ranch State Park.*

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch>

### **Lodging**

*Lodging is available at the Saucedo Ranch House and Saucedo Bunkhouse (meal service is available if arranged in advanced).*

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch/fees-facilities/lodging>

### **Campsites**

*There are some very nice sites along the Rio Grande, which could be used for staging or as a base camp. There are no formal campsites in the backcountry of the park. It is left up to the individual to choose his or her campsite. For Equestrian Campsites and more information regarding camping in the park, see the hyperlink below.*

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch/fees-facilities/campsites>

### **Activities**

*The following are some of the activities that can be arranged thru the park:*

- Ranger Tours
- Hiking and Mountain Biking
- Horseback Riding
- 4X4 Touring
- River Access
- Nature Viewing
- Stargazing

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch/activities>

### **Barton Warnock Visitor Center**

Texas FM Highway 170 just east of Lajitas

HC 70, P.O. Box 375

Terlingua, Texas 79852

432-424-3327

*"Barton Warnock Visitor Center serves as the eastern visitor center for Big Bend Ranch State Park and is located near Lajitas. Permits for backpacking and camping (no hookups) at Big Bend Ranch State Park can be obtained at Barton Warnock or at Fort Leaton State Historic Site, the western visitor center for the park. Visitors can also purchase river-use permits, licenses, and information about the Big Bend region."*

*Just on the eastern edge of Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa in southern Brewster County, the Warnock Center is well worth a "pre-scout" visit to give you an in-depth overview of the area.*

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/barton-warnock>

### **Contrabando Movie Set & Ghost Town**

*"A ghost town within the Big Bend Ranch State Park, 9.5 miles west of Lajitas, Texas on the Texas State Highway 170. The Contrabando consists of an original adobe building called 'La Casita' and several later additions that became part*

of the Contrabando during its use as a movie set. The movie set was constructed in 1985 for the Roy Clark film *Uphill All the Way*. The site has been used as a set for nine movies including John Sayles' 1996 movie *Lone Star*; as well as *Dead Man's Walk* and *Streets of Laredo*, which were part of the *Lonesome Dove* miniseries." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contrabando>

## **LAJITAS GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Lajitas is both a community of South Brewster County and one of the great resorts of West Texas. To say Lajitas is fraught with history is an understatement.*

Wikipedia says this about Lajitas: "*Lajitas is an unincorporated community in Brewster County, Texas...For many years the mayor of Lajitas was Clay Henry III, a 'beer-drinking' goat...*"

Texas History On-Line has this to say: "*...Lajitas is on the western edge of Big Bend National Park in southwestern Brewster County. It is at an altitude of 2,200 feet on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande at the San Carlos ford of the old Comanche Trail, in the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert and at the southern extreme of the Rocky Mountains. The name Lajitas is Spanish for "little flat rocks" and refers to the Boquillas flagstone of the area. The region was inhabited by Mexican Indians for many years. They were driven from the area by the Apaches and later by the Comanches during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Anglo-Americans first arrived in the mid-1800s...*

*H. W. McGuirk, the leading citizen of Lajitas from 1902 to 1917, operated the store-saloon, farmed, and helped manage the Terlingua Mining Company. He also funded the construction of a church and a school... In 1916 the interruption of commerce by Francisco (Pancho) Villa's bandits brought Gen. John J. Pershing's troops to Lajitas, where they established a major cavalry post. In the 1980s a motel stood on the actual foundations of the post.*

*The Lajitas property continued to change hands and in 1949 was bought by Rex Ivey, Jr., who hand-dug a well and installed a generator for the area's first electric lights. Due to the closing of the Terlingua quicksilver mines, the number of residents in Lajitas had dwindled to four. In 1977 Ivey sold part of the Lajitas area to Houston entrepreneur Walter M. Mischer, of Mischer Corporation; Mischer had begun development and restoration of the community in 1976...In the mid-1980s Lajitas was a resort town with fifty residents and fifteen businesses. The old church had been restored, and there were three motels, a hotel, a restaurant, a golf course, a swimming pool, an RV park, and an airstrip...The old trading post remained open. In 1990 the population was still reported as fifty. In 1995 the Big Bend area was becoming increasingly popular as a site for movie making. Lajitas, according to one producer, was just about the only place where 'you can shoot 360 degrees'... At that time a TV miniseries, *Streets of Laredo*, starring James Garner, was being filmed in Lajitas. In 2000 the population was seventy-five."*

*Today the farseeing Mischer's and Ivey's have been replaced by another caring and creative owner, Kelcy Warren. After a disastrous 100-year flood of the Rio Grande in 2008, Mr. Warren committed himself to restoring and updating the property. Today, Lajitas ranks high with the finest of resorts and has Texas' number one rated golf course, the Lanny Wadkins' designed *Black Jack's Crossing*. There are few locations where you can shoot the "vast and primitive" desert during the day and bask in the lap of luxury at night. So take a look at our photos and Shoot 'em Up in Lajitas!*

Lajitas Weather: <http://www.wunderground.com/q/zmw:79852.2.99999>

### **~COMMUNITY & COUNTY SERVICES INFORMATION~**

*There are no formal Lajitas "city" services. For services in the county see the resources in our Resource Directory for Brewster County/Terlingua or see the contacts below:*

Brewster County Sheriff's Department Ronny Dodson Sheriff  
201 West Ave E Alpine, Texas 79830  
432-837-3488, Dial 911 for Emergencies  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brewster-County-Sheriffs-Office/270335429657543>

Terlingua Fire & Emergency Services Station 23250 FM 170  
Terlingua, Texas 79852  
432-371-2536

Jim Burr – Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Brewster County  
P.O. Box 496 Terlingua, Texas 79852  
432.371.2127

Big Bend Chamber Of Commerce PO Box 607  
Terlingua, Texas 79852  
432-371-2320  
*Serving Study Butte, Terlingua and Lajitas*  
<http://bigbendchamber.homestead.com/Index.html>, Email: [bbchamber1@yahoo.com](mailto:bbchamber1@yahoo.com)

### **~BANKS ~**

*Nearest bank is either in Presidio or Terlingua*

## **~CHURCHES~**

St. Mary & St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Lajitas, TX Diocese: Rio Grande

Lajitas Chapel Lajitas, Texas 79852

432-386-6235

*The Lajitas Chapel is the restored church in the resort.*

<http://www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org/>

## **~HOSPITAL, MEDICAL & HEALTH CLINICS~**

Big Bend Regional Medical Center – SBB

2600 North Highway 118

Alpine, Texas 79830

432-837-3447 – Dial 911 for Emergencies

*North of Alpine on Texas Highway 118 off of US 90 takes you to a Level-4 Trauma and Designated Emergency Department – the BBRMC serves as the Big Bend areas only hospital.*

<http://www.bigbendhealthcare.com/Big-Bend-Regional-Medical-Center/Home.aspx>

Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Inc

Terlingua Ghost Town

Terlingua, Texas 79852

432-371-3147, 24 Hour Hotline 800-834-0654

*24 Hour Emergency Shelter, Legal Advocacy, Counseling, Support Group, Community Education, Assistance with basic needs, Outreach Services*

<http://familycrisiscenter.homestead.com/Terlingua.html>

## **LAJITAS RESORT & RESORT FACILITIES**

### **Lajitas Golf Resort & Spa**

Lajitas, Texas 79842

877-LAJITAS, Front Desk 432-424-5000, Fax 432-424-5001

*Rated the number one Golf Resort in Texas, it has almost any facility that you might need (including a lovely small theatre for dailies) as well as a very friendly and well informed staff. One of the things about the resort that is important to remember is the difference in seasons. The Fall, Winter, and early Spring are the prime seasons because of the moderate temperatures. During late Spring and Summer you can make great deals for rooms and locations. And it is a dry, high desert heat that often isn't as hot as you might think.*

<http://www.lajitasgolfresort.com/>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

*101 Rooms are available including the rooms at the Cavalry Post, La Cuesta, Badlands Hotel, Officers' Quarters and the Boardwalk Condos.*

### **VILLAS AT LAJITAS**

*Rio Vista Villa, Amigos House, Ambush Cottage, Lajitas Lookout, Lajitas Villa*

### **ACTIVITIES**

*All of the following can be arranged through the resort and many would make picturesque locations.*

#### **Black Jack's Crossing Golf Course**

*See Golf Course below.*

#### **Agave Spa**

*"A variety of spa treatments such as massages, facials and body treatments are available."*

#### **Shooting Activities**

*A Five Stand Sporting Clay Shoot, a Cowboy Action Shoot, a Combat Course and a Pistol and Rifle Range are available with expert instruction year round.*

#### **Equestrian Center**

*"The Lajitas Equestrian Center offers a variety of services; including trail rides, riding lessons, basic and advanced riding clinics and boarding. We strive to match horse and rider to make your experience an enjoyable one, whatever your skill level.*

*Trail Rides by the Hour, Full & Half Day Trail Rides, Horseback Riding Lessons, Sunrise and Sunset Trail Rides, Buena Suerte Overnight (a 3 1/2 hour ride to the historic Fresno Mine and the ghost town of Buena Suerte.*

*There, our cowboy cooks prepare a world-class campfire dinner), Stargazer Mesa Rides with Cowboy Cookin' are but some of the equestrian events that can be arranged." The center itself is a good location area.*

### **Long Horn Museum**

*"...the Yates Longhorn Museum is housed for public viewing, free of charge, at the historic Trading Post building at Black Jack's Crossing Golf Club..."*

### **Mountain Biking**

*"The Fresno Saucedo Loop at Big Bend Ranch State Park has been named an epic trail by the International Mountain Bicycling Association..."*

### **Fitness Center**

*"...located on the Hotel Boardwalk..."*

### **Stargazer Mesa**

*"Nestled in the hills of Lajitas' back country is the perfect location for a unique dining experience that is truly away from it all. Star Gazer Mesa provides guests a setting and dining experience that is true to the Old West, using Dutch ovens and hot coals to prepare an outstanding meal..." There are a couple of good western style locations on the way up to the mesa and some very nice scenic views from the top.*

### **Jeep Rental**

*There are a couple of four wheel drive, four door Jeep Wrangler's available for rent that would make great scouting or production vehicles.*

### **Birding**

*"The Big Bend is home to, or in the migration path of, numerous species." There are guides available that can also be helpful as location guides.*

## **CEMETERY**

*A historic cemetery that is located at the entrance to the Maverick Ranch RV Park.*

## **DINNING**

*Besides the following eateries, Lajitas' culinary staff can prepare special meals for your crew in one of their "conference rooms" and is certainly capable of catering a shoot under some circumstances. Just give them a call to make arrangements.*

### **Candelilla Café**

*"Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Candelilla Café! Candelilla Café offers a diverse menu which features prime cut steaks, chicken, seafood and a selection of signature side dishes. Choose from creative selections such as Queso con Rajas, Fajitas, or a great filet; offering an interesting twist on traditional Tex Mex cuisine. With panoramic views from the dining room and patio of Lajitas Mountains and Black Jack's Crossing Golf Course you'll enjoy the friendly service and savory cuisine provided by our Executive Chef. Outdoor dining and a welcoming fire pit make for a perfect Texas evening of dinner and conversation."*

### **Thirsty Goat Saloon**

*"The Thirsty Goat Saloon is the resort's designated watering hole, named for Lajitas' duly elected mayor, Clay Henry, who is also a goat! Clay Henry was famous for his thirst for Lone Star Beer. The Thirsty Goat is the perfect spot to relax with friends and family. With its Old West charm leather sofas & chairs it's the perfect place to sit back and enjoy the food while listening to great live music!"*

### **Licha's Bakery**

*"If it's breakfast on the run you are looking for, stop by Licha's Bakery and enjoy a great cup of coffee with homemade kolaches, Danish, turnovers, muffins or a hot cinnamon roll."*

### **General Store Deli**

*"Stop by the Deli where we make box lunches to go, wine and cheese baskets or anything you will need for your day of exploration in the Big Bend Region."*

## **GOLF COURSE**

*"Black Jack's Crossing is the centerpiece of Lajitas Golf Resort...Black Jack's Crossing was designed by golf superstar Lanny Wadkins, winner of the 1977 PGA Championship...Named after U.S. Army General, "Black Jack" Pershing who pursued Pancho Villa across the Rio Grande, the golf course combines the historical features of the land with stunning setting...Several breathtaking mountain holes set against spectacular mountain vistas make this course a true work of art."*

The Director of Golf is the very affable PGA Pro Greg Smith. Black Jack's Crossing Pro shop is located in the historic Lajitas Trading Post, which was built in 1899. It also houses the Fayette Yates Texas Longhorn collection that fills five rooms with over 1,000 Texas longhorn cattle mounts. The course is a par 72 with five sets of tees that range from the Black tees of 7413 yards, the Maroon tees of 6858 yards, the Gold tees of 6111 yards and the Rose tees of 5442 yards. The course is a dramatic ocean of green in the midst of the Chihuahuan Desert Mountains on the edge of the Rio Grande. It is rated the number one course in Texas by the Dallas Morning News.

### **LAJITAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The [airport](#) was recently renovated and updated in 2014. "Lajitas Airport is a privately owned airport for the use of the resort's guests and property owners. The runway has full 100LL and Jet A fuel, complimentary tie down services and offers transportation to the resort. The 7500' Lajitas Airport runway and airport complex is designed to accommodate a wide range of aircraft, giving guests the flexibility to fly in on virtually any sized aircraft.

Landing reservations for Lajitas Airport must be made at least 72 hours in advance of your arrival. Please call the Lajitas hotel front desk at (432) 424-5000 to arrange your arrival and ground transportation. The Brewster County Sheriff barracks is located on the Lajitas Airport property, so your aircraft is safe and tucked away while you enjoy your vacation at our golf resort.

Due to the mountainous terrain, we are a daylight VFR airport."

### **MAVERICK RANCH RV PARK & CAMPING**

"Maverick Ranch RV Park offers 101 sites including 60 pull-through sites. In addition, 18 "Primitive Wilderness Campsites" are available...features full hook-ups, wireless Internet access, clean bathrooms with private showers, laundry facilities, general store and a swimming pool. Additionally a community center is available for group gatherings and pool parties."

### **MEETINGS & EVENTS**

#### **MEETING SERVICES**

Lajitas Golf Resort has offers full service meeting coordination and catering.

#### **MEETING VENUES**

Lajitas Golf Resort has a myriad of special meeting spaces and areas. See the list of the following venues and the [Room Capacities Chart](#) online.

#### **Executive Board Room**

"Our Board Room is the ideal setting for meetings for up to 12 people. This room is equipped with high back leather armchairs, large conference table, A/V connections with internet, flat screen TV, and a retractable 10 x 10 screen."

#### **Flat Rock Theater**

"...The Flat Rock Theatre is the perfect presentation venue complete with a built-in stage, movie screen, control booth, and lobby. The Theater seats up to 60 and has been used for business presentations, demonstrations, or a private group movie night." It has also been used for the new Viva Terlingua Film Festival in 2014 and makes an intimate screening room.

#### **Lajitas Amphitheatre**

"The Lajitas Amphitheater is a stunning open-air performance hall that is a perfect venue for staged performances."

#### **Pavilion Ballroom & Terrace**

"The Pavilion Ballroom offers 3600 square feet of unobstructed space with high ceilings, abundant natural and adjustable indoor lighting, a fireplace, and beautiful chandeliers. Designed for groups up to 180, the Pavilion Ballroom offers an accompanying terrace."

#### **Specialty Outdoor Venues**

"With spectacular views of the Big Bend, Lajitas offers over 15,000 SF of unique open air venues!"

#### **Maverick Ranch Conference Center (in the Maverick Ranch RV Park)**

"Maverick Ranch has two connected meeting rooms, a parlor, and an outdoor pool terrace. The Conference Center offers 4,800 square feet of event space, and many beautiful common areas."

### **SALON & SPA**

#### **Agave Spa**

"Full service spa offering treatment from Desert Sage Massage, Rio Grande Mud Wrap and Peppermint Foot Soak. Salon for nails and hair." They offer packages for men and women including golfers.

432-424-5146

## SHOPS & SHOPS ON THE BOARDWALK

### Christina's World

*"Eclectic jewelry, imported folk-art and unique creations by local artisans."*

432-424-3250

### Grocery Store

*"The Lajitas General Store is open to all guests and community residents; providing groceries, necessities and sundries. Guests participating in day excursions, such as hiking, biking and hunting, can order boxed lunches from our fresh deli selections." The store is an important source of water, gas, ice and a very good deli. It can be a very long ways when you find you have forgotten one of these essentials.*

### Red Rock Outfitters

*"Outdoor wear, camping equipment, hiking gear. Tours of all kinds including river rafting and canoeing, horse trips, mountain bicycling, and interpretive tours may be arranged."*

432-424-5000

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

### Big Bend Telephone

808 North 5th Street Alpine, Texas 79830

800-592-4781

*The Rural Telephone and Internet supplier serving Brewster County*

<http://www.bigbend.net/>

### Big Canyon TV

610 North 5th Street

Alpine, Texas 79830

432-837-7484

Dish Satellite TV Service, Dish-Net Internet, DTS Satellite Phones, Large Screen Televisions

<http://bigcanyontv.com/>

## TRANSPORTATION – AIRPORTS & AIR SERVICE

*Please see the [Alpine Transportation](#) section for complete information on commercial flights.*

### ~AIRPORT~

*The Lajitas airport has recently undergone a refurbishment and should be in good shape. "Landing reservations for Lajitas Airport must be made at least 72 hours in advance of your arrival..."*

### Lajitas International Airport

FAA INFORMATION EFFECTIVE 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

#### Location

FAA Identifier: 89TE

Lat/Long: 29-16-40.5000N / 103-41-15.5000W  
29-16.675000N / 103-41.258333W  
29.2779167 / -103.6876389 (estimated)

Elevation: 2637.8 ft. / 804 m (estimated)

Variation: 09E (2000)

From city: 4 miles E of LAJITAS, TX

Time zone: UTC -5 (UTC -6 during Standard Time)

Zip code: 79852

#### Airport Operations

Airport use: Private use. Permission required prior to landing

Activation date: 10/2001

Sectional chart: EL PASO

Control tower: no

ARTCC: ALBUQUERQUE CENTER

FSS: SAN ANGELO FLIGHT SERVICE STATION

Attendance: 0800-1700

FOR SVC CALL 432-424-5000.

Wind indicator: yes

Segmented circle: no  
Lights: FOR NIGHT LNDGS PLEASE CALL 432-424-5000.  
Landing fee: yes

Airport Services  
Fuel available: 100LL JET-A

#### Runway Information

Runway 7/25  
Dimensions: 7505 x 100 ft. / 2288 x 30 m  
Surface: asphalt  
Runway edge lights: medium intensity

#### RUNWAY 7 RUNWAY 25

Latitude: 29-16.550000N 29-16.800000N  
Longitude: 103-41.950000W 103-40.566667W  
Elevation: 2600.0 ft. 2630.4 ft.  
Traffic pattern: left left  
Touchdown point: yes, no lights yes, no lights

#### Airport Ownership and Management from official FAA records

Ownership: Privately-owned  
Owner: LAJITAS CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC  
HC 70 BOX 400  
LAJITAS, TX 79852  
Phone 432-424-5000  
Manager: AL BLAINE

#### Additional Remarks

- NO TOUCH & GO LNDGS.

#### Instrument Procedures

There are no published instrument procedures at 89TE.

#### Some nearby airports with instrument procedures:

KPRS - Presidio Lely International Airport (41 nm NW)  
E38 - Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport (66 nm N)  
KMRF - Marfa Municipal Airport (68 nm N)