

BIG BEND RESOURCES – MARATHON

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MARATHON GENERAL INFORMATION

“Where There's Nothing “to do” ...a peaceful serene community, blessed with friendly people, beautiful surroundings and delightful climate, punctuated with vibrant, energetic events”

The unincorporated town of Marathon was founded in 1882 when the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway first laid tracks through the townsite (now the Union Pacific tracks). It is the second largest community in Brewster County with a population of 430, but don't let that fool you, Marathon is a very cool place. Dominated by the Trost & Trost designed Gage Hotel, the community is filled with wonderful locations from West Texas elegant to the bizarre. There are great interior and exterior spaces well worth spending the extra scouting time. Is this the next filmmakers dream location? Come see for yourself and Shoot 'em Up in Marathon!

~CITY & CITY SERVICES INFORMATION~

(Most of the following information is courtesy of the Marathon Chamber of Commerce's Website - a most thorough and informative site - perhaps the most informative of all the websites in the Big Bend. For Brewster County information, please see our [Brewster County](#) section.)

Marathon Chamber of Commerce
Marathon, Texas 79842

Marathon Weather: <http://www.wunderground.com/q/zmw:79842.1.99999>

At the time of this writing, the Chamber and Visitor Center is not manned and the only way to contact them is to send an email through the website. The MCC website is filled with lots of history and information about the area and the community, a very good reference tool.

<http://www.marathontexas.com/index.php>

Brewster County Sheriff's Department
Ronny Dodson Sheriff
801 North Avenue I
Marathon, Texas
432-386-4221

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brewster-County-Sheriffs-Office/270335429657543>

Susana Gonzales – Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3
PO Box 401
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4530

Marathon Community Center

PO Box 421

Marathon, Texas 79842

“Located on Salmon Street (Second Avenue North between Avenue D and Avenue E), the Community Center contains a large room used for dances and community group meetings, a kitchen, smaller meeting room, and toilet facilities. It was built by Brewster County and fronts on the street recently named for Emilio Salmon, who represented Marathon as a Brewster County Commissioner for 36 years. The Community Center is managed by Marathon's Volunteer Fire Department, a non-profit group headed by Fire Chief Daniel Eaton. Funds are presently being raised to assist in the renovation of the facility.”

Marathon Historical Museum

Next door to Marathon Public Library

Marathon, Texas 79842

“The Marathon Historical Museum is housed in an adobe building constructed about 1886 that was the first schoolhouse in the area that later became Brewster County. Exhibits within the museum cover Marathon's history through its settlers (Native American, Mexican and Anglo) and through specific artifacts and displays relating to railroads, ranching, mining, business, mercantile, industry, banking, the schools, the military, and geology. The museum is operated by the Marathon Museum Society, chartered in 1977.” The museum is open by appointment only at the moment while the community arranges funding for full time use.

<http://www.marathontexas.org>

Marathon Public Library

106 North 3rd Street East

PO Box 177

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4136

Internet, books and movie rentals - a very nice small library

Marathon Independent School District

109 N 5th

PO BOX 416

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4431

The school district is made up of two buildings, and Elementary School building and a High School building.

<http://www.marathonisd.com>

United States Post Office

107 North 1st E

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4472

~BANKS & TAX PREPARER~

Della E. Shackelford

Dthomas & Associates

810 1/2 N 6th Street

Marathon, Texas 97842

432-208-0284

Tax Filing Specialist

TransPecos Banks

PO Box 421

109 West Highway 90

432-386-4500

Marathon, Texas 79842

Full Banking Service and 24-Hour ATM – Branch in Alpine

<https://www.transpecosbanks.com/>

~CHURCHES~ SBB

Marathon Baptist Church

109 NE 3rd Street

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4396

Methodist Church
Avenue D and North 3rd Street
Marathon, Texas 79842

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Avenue C and North 3rd Street
Marathon, Texas 79842

~HOSPITAL, MEDICAL & HEALTH CLINICS~

Marathon Rural Health Clinic
South 1st at 101 South Post Road
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4316

From Pecos County Memorial Hospital Website: *"The clinic dates of operation will vary on the following days Monday, Tuesday & Wednesdays. The clinic will be open twice a week from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. The last appointment will be scheduled at 4:30 pm.... For Appointments please call 432-386-4316 to be seen by: Dr. Boinpally, Family Practice, Dr. James Luecke, Family Practice, Pamela Richardson, FNP, Ken Vongsavath, PA."* The Pecos County Memorial Hospital is the supporting entity for the Health Clinic – even though it is slightly farther away than the Big Bend Regional Medical Center. Ambulances come out of Alpine.

Pecos County Memorial Hospital
PO Box 1648
387 West I-10
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735
432-336-2004, Fax 432-336-4545

US 385 North takes you to Fort Stockton. The ride is a bit longer than the one to Alpine. It is a Trauma-4 Level (Basic Level) facility. PCMH hospital supports the Marathon Rural Health Clinic.

<http://www.pcmhfs.com/getpage.php?name=index>

Big Bend Regional Medical Center – SBB

2600 North Highway 118
Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-3447 – Dial 911 for Emergencies

US 90 West takes you to Alpine a Level-4 Trauma and Designated Emergency Department – serves as the Big Bend areas only hospital.

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

~LANDMARKS & ATTRACTIONS~

Bank Vault

"For many years, the local merchants acted as bankers for their customers. In 1907, the Marathon State Bank was organized. A fire destroyed the building owned by W. J. McIntyre and Sons in June 1920. The vault still remains standing at the rear of what is now the Famous Burro Bar & Grill." (Excerpt from the Magnificent Marathon Basin, Annejo P. Wedin 1989).

Crinoids Hills

"Located at the road cut 5 miles west of Marathon on Hwy 90, digging around in the dirt could turn up fossils of various types deposited when the Marathon Basin was an inland sea."

Cemetery – SBB

"Located at the 1/2 mile mark on the Post Road, the Marathon cemetery is a cemetery enthusiast's dream. A lot can be gleaned about Marathon's colorful past by walking around and noticing the layout and arrangement of the graves, some dating back to the 1800s."

The Gage Hotel – SBB

102 NW 1st Street
West Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4205

"Welcome to the Gage Experience. " One of [Trost & Trost's](#) early 20th Century creations with wonderful grounds and great ambience. Not only a good place to stay, but a great location in and of itself.

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

Jail

"A windmill located in the middle of Marathon's North First Street served as an early jail for drunkenness and petty crimes. The offender being chained to a leg of the windmill. Other structures were used to serve as a jail, however, as a

result of numerous colorful escapes, it became apparent to the citizens that a better 'Calaboose was needed. Rocks were then dug from a ledge on the northwest part of town and a jail was built to the south of the old Ritchey store. Upon completion of the upgrades to the cells in Alpine, the old ones were sent to Marathon." (Except from the Magnificent Marathon Basin, Annejo P. Wedin 1989)

Post Road – SBB

"Starting at the center of town, the post road runs south for 5 miles to the Post Park. Marked in 1/2 mile increments, very little traffic, and fabulous views makes this road ideal for running, walking and biking. Wildlife such as deer, javelinas, turkey, or even an occasional fox can be seen in the early mornings or late evenings." What makes this road so special is the lack of posts, poles, reflectors, mile markers, or basically any signage at all. Makes for that all too rare clean shot.

Post Park – SBB

Post Park is an old-fashioned County Park five miles south of Marathon, featuring cottonwoods, a spring-fed pond, picnic tables, dance slab and barbecue area with lots of parking. Usually open to the public 24-7 it may also be reserved for special events. It is also one of the few accessible sources of spring water in the Big Bend region. Lots of room and neat history.

~TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER~

Big Bend Telephone

808 North 5th Street

Alpine, Texas 79830

800-592-4781

The Rural Telephone and DSL 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/>

Mountain Zone TV

307 East Avenue E

Alpine, Texas 79830

432-837-2300

One of the Big Bend's local internet suppliers

<http://www.mountainzonetv.net/nav/main.htm>

MARATHON ART GALLERIES

Evans Gallery

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4366

"James Evans has been photographing the people and landscapes of the Big Bend and across its border since 1988."

<http://www.jameshevens.com/Home.html>

Sonworks Gallery

900 East Highway 90

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-0329

"Wood is good. The world of Wesley Spears has always been full of items that nail, glue or weld together."

<http://sonworksgallery.celtecindustries.com/index.html>

MARATHON AUTOMOTIVE PARTS, FUEL & SERVICE

Aguilar Fina

801 Northeast 1st Street

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4364

Big Bend RV Supply – Recreational Vehicle Services

201 NE 1st Street (Highway 90)

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4184

Your complete RV needs connection in the Big Bend Region! Common hardware supplies also available

<http://www.bigbendrvsupply.com>

Mustang Propane

300 South US Highway 385 # A

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4422

Propane sales, service, and appliances for the tri-county area including all Rinnia Continuous Water Heaters - Available 24-hours for emergency

Sixto's Shell Services Station (also called J&Ds)

901 East Highway 90

Marathon, Texas 79842

432-386-4551

Station was damaged in fire in early 2014 and has been renovated. "24 hour Pump Service, Lottery/Beer/Food, Breakdown Service & Repairs."

MARATHON GROCERY

The French Company Grocer

206 North Avenue D

Marathon, Texas 79842

423-386-4522

"Groceries, natural foods, beer/wine, hot pizzas, homemade sandwiches/bread/cookies, meat/fish, hardware, toys, camping stuff & Internet with picnic tables on the porch! Open 'til 9 pm every night." Well worth the stop.

<http://www.frenchcogrocer.com/Home.html>

MARATHON HOTELS, MOTELS, GUEST HOUSES, RV PARKS & CAMPING

The Gage Hotel – SBB

432-386-4205

102 NW 1st Street

Highway 90 West

Marathon, Texas 79842

"Welcome to the Gage Experience." One of [Trost & Trost's](#) early 20th Century creations with wonderful grounds and great ambience. Not only a good place to stay, but a great location.

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

Additional accommodations available through the gage:

Celaya House

"Located immediately behind the historic hotel, this house includes one bedroom with a king bed and one bedroom with 2 double beds, a large living area with TV, kitchen, one bath, which will comfortably accommodate a family of four. Also includes private fenced yard and covered parking."

Captain Shepard's Inn

"This exquisitely restored historic home, built in 1899, is located one block north of the historic hotel. Native landscaped garden and grounds provide walled private space ideal for larger group gatherings. The main house includes 5 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, TV room, dining room and butler's kitchen. The carriage house, with screened in porch, is located behind the main house and features two beautifully appointed rooms with king beds and private baths, and TV."

Casa Jardin (Garden House)

"This spacious one-room house has a king bed, twin day bed, TV and a kiva fireplace. Located adjacent to the Gage Gardens, across the street from the historic hotel. French doors open to a private patio with a view of the garden orchard. Also includes fenced yard and covered parking"

Wilson House

"Located next to the beautiful Gage Gardens, this property is across the street from the historic hotel. An open floor plan includes a sitting area with TV, fireplace, king bed and 2 twin beds in an open loft. A full kitchen and bath complete the amenities. The home also features a huge covered porch, private fenced yard and covered parking."

The [Trost & Trost](#) designed hotels in the Big Bend area are: [Holland Hotel](#) in Alpine, Gage Hotel here in Marathon, Paisano Hotel in Marfa and the El Capitan Hotel in Van Horn. All of them have undergone excellent renovations in the past few years and are well kept. There are hotel history buff's that make a mini vacation by staying in each of the hotels on their way east or west.

Marathon Motel & RV Park – SBB

PO Box 141
West Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
866-386-4241

"Sunsets, stargazing and storm chasing, we've got the sky for you!" Wonderful little park and southwest style walls frames this picturesque motel and RV park.

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

Eve's Garden Bed & Breakfast

PO Box 323
Avenue C and N 3rd
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4165 or 432-386-3479

"Organic Bed & Breakfast & Ecology Resource Center." This is a must see hotel. Colorful does not do it justice. Not a straight line in the place and a great indoor garden with desert elegant style rooms and a terrific guest breakfast – with style!

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

La Loma Del Chivo Hostel

401 SW 6th Street
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-2116

"Hostel with numerous offerings to those who get the joke." This is the Hostel a movie should have been made of – the '60s commune you never lived in.

http://www.lalomadelchivo.org/La_Loma_Del_Chivo/Welcome.html

~GUEST HOUSES~

Also see Additional Accommodations under the Gage Hotel.

J & G's Hideaway

201 East South 5th
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-7827 or 432-386-3939

"Newly renovated house located in a quiet neighborhood on the south side of town, walking distance to restaurants and other attractions"

Casa La Vista

645 Dickson
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-2222

"A Simple Getaway. Naturally."

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

Marathon Vacation Homes

Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4439

"The best family lodging values in Marathon, Texas."

<http://www.marathonvacationhomes.com/red-house>

Marathon Vacation Homes offers the following homes for over-night and short stay accommodations:

Blue-Green House, Red House, Third Street & Avenue B and Tina's Mountain Vista

La Esmeralda
Marathon, Texas 79842
858-395-3850
"As seen in Southern Living Magazine."
<http://www.vrbo.com/145463>

Rancho Villa Guest House
Marathon, Texas 79842
512-423-2695
"Where your biggest problem is not wanting to leave."
<http://www.westtexasgetaway.com/>

Blas Payne House
Marathon, Texas 79842
817-938-4498
"Lovingly restored historic adobe home originally built by Blas Payne"
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Blas-Payne/207496199291122>

McGonagill House
505 NE 1st Street
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-935-9755 or 432-395-2454
"We try to meet all the needs of our guests with old fashioned southern hospitality."
<http://www.vrbo.com/382522>

Adobe Hacienda Lodges
Marathon, Texas
432-386-4200
"The Friendliest Places to Stay in West Texas."
<http://www.adobehaciendas.com>

Adobe Hacienda Lodges offers the following homes for over-night and short stay accommodations:
Garcia House, Ortega House and the Monroe Payne A & B Units

MARATHON RESTAURANTS, SALOONS & LIQUOR STORES

~RESTAURANTS~

12 Gage Restaurant at the Gage Hotel
102 North West 1st Street
West Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4205, Fax: 432-386-4510
http://www.gagehotel.com/dining_12_gage.html

Big Bend Pizza
Highway 90 across from the Visitor Center
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-8883

"If Pizza is your thing, Big Bend Pizza is your place! Vegetarian or meat, homemade crusts and sauces!"

Johnny B's Old Fashioned Soda Fountain
109 North West 1st Street
Marathon, Texas 79842
423-386-4233

"Take a trip back in time! Full Breakfast and Lunch menu, everything you'd expect in an old fashioned diner!
Burgers and fries, grilled chicken, salads, chili dogs, malts, shakes, and banana splits - Take-out available.
Next door to the Gage Hotel - Open 7-3 every day."

Marathon Coffee Shop
301 North West 1st Street
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4352

“A truly unforgettable Marathon experience! Listen to banjo player Billy Faire, hang out with the locals and just maybe, get caught up on the local gossip.... Full Breakfast and lunch menu Specialty coffees, fresh baked goods by our 'Guest bakers'. 'Home of the Green Chili Hash Browns' Open 7 am – 3 pm for breakfast and lunch. Full breakfast menu featuring our popular breakfast enchiladas. Fresh baked goods, gourmet coffees. WiFi. Across the street from the Gage Hotel” And oh so friendly!

Mejor Que Nada
Chuckwagon Catering
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-395-2356

Pickle Creek Market and Deli
113 East Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4305

“We Strive to Serve Farm to Table Naturally Grown Produce Items. From Our Farm to Your Plate”

French Company Grocer
206 North Avenue D
Marathon, Texas 79842
423-386-4522

“Groceries, natural foods, beer/wine, hot pizzas, homemade sandwiches/bread/cookies, meat/fish, hardware, toys, camping stuff & Internet with picnic tables on the porch! Open 'til 9 pm every night.” Well worth the stop.

<http://www.frenchcogrocer.com/Home.html>

~SALOONS~

White Buffalo Bar at the Gage Hotel
102 North West 1st Street
West Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4205

“The best margaritas in Texas“

http://www.gagehotel.com/dining_white_buffalo.html

~LIQUOR STORES~

Deadhorse Armory, Lechuguilla Liquors and the High Desert Emporium
205 North 1st East
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-208-0284

“This unique business will house all you need when traveling to West Texas! Gift shop, Armory, and full Liquor Store carrying all your favorites. Your 'One Stop Shop' for all your hunting and entertainment needs.”

MARATHON SHOPS, STORES, BUSINESSES & MISCELLANEOUS ENTITIES

Casa La Vista Retreat Center
645 Dickson
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-2222
“A Simple Getaway, Naturally”
<http://casalavistaretreatcenter.com/>

Dead Horse Mountain Ranch
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-258-2898 or 480-775-5982

“Suppliers of Native, Desert Plants, and Cacti. A Multitude of Recreational Opportunities! Jeep Tours, Eco Tours, Bird Watching or Just Enjoying Nature at its Best!”

<http://deadhorsemtn.com/>

Desert Critter Wear
PO Box 477
Visit us in the Evans Gallery
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4414

"Desert Fashions Featuring Your Desert Critters - Order Online!"

<http://desertcritterwear.com/>

Desert Moon Spa
102 NW 1st Street
West Highway 90
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4205

"The Spa at The Gage Hotel"

<http://www.gagehotel.com/spa.html>

Friends of the Marathon Community Center
PO Box 421
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4500

Friends of the Marathon Public Library
Located at the Community Center Complex
PO Box 177
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-4136
Books, DVDs, Computers and internet available
Email: marathonpl@sbcglobal.net

Rusty Rabbit – SBB
Main Street next door to the Famous Burro Bar and Grill
PO Box 91
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-386-3597

"Antiques, Original art, home decor, retro and vintage clothing, western boots, old saddles. Baubles and Beads, Leather to Lace!" Terrific place for shopping and the street is a great location.

San Rosendo Crossing LLC.
Main Street next door to the Pickle Creek Market and Deli
Marathon, Texas 79842
832-722-4924
"Jewelry and Rustic Home Decor. Marathons unofficial gathering place"

Maravillas Ranch
US Highway 385 South
Marathon, Texas 79842
432-376-2204 or 432- 295-0081

"Hunters on the Maravillas Ranch have access to the abundant amount of game as well as some of the most breathtaking scenery in Texas"

MARATHON TRANSPORTATION

See Alpine Transportation