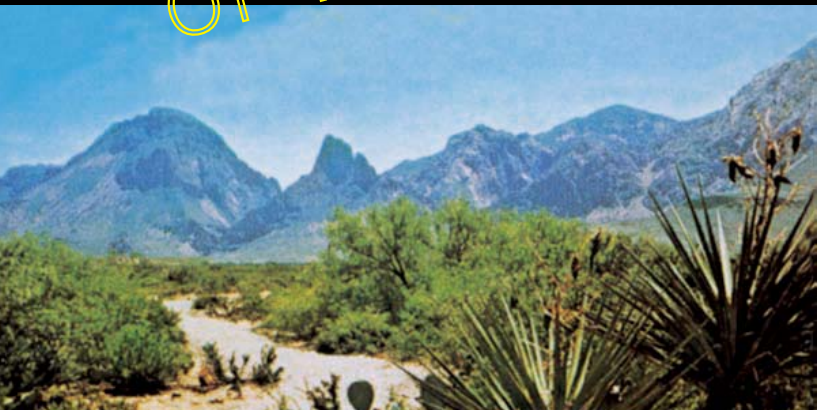


*the magnificent*

# Big Bend

OF TEXAS



Fort Stockton CVB  
P.O. Box 1000  
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FT. STOCKTON,  
TX 79735  
PERMIT NO. 71

# FORT STOCKTON

*The Beginning of your Big Bend  
Adventure.*





# Fort Stockton historical tour

**DIRECTIONAL SIGNS** have been erected to guide visitors around town to sixteen points of interest. The tour begins at Paisano Pete at the intersection of Dickinson (Business I-10) and Main Street. Brochures with a map of the route are available from the Chamber of Commerce, Annie Riggs Museum, Historic Fort Stockton, and Grey Mule Saloon.

The tour signs are blue and white with a black arrow. Following the arrows, the visitor travels through the National Register Historic District and will see general mercantile stores, a saloon, two churches, even a house ordered from the Montgomery Ward Catalog. Not all of the buildings on the tour are open to the public. Several of the buildings now serve alternative uses either as offices or homes. The tour is just under two miles long.

Fort Stockton is a designated Main Street City and numerous downtown businesses take pride in refurbishing the store fronts along the historical tour.

The Annie Riggs Museum, housed in a turn-of-the-century adobe hotel, provides insight into the region's history and development with exhibits in thirteen areas.

The tour travels past the 1912 Pecos County Courthouse (Fort Stockton is the county seat), the 1883 Jail, the oldest remaining school in town, the "Oldest House" and the Grey Mule Saloon.

Also on the tour is one of the nine springs in the Comanche springs system, which once had a flow of 65 million gallons of water a day.

Yes! Fort Stockton has a fort. The frontier army post, active from 1867-1886, includes three remaining Officers' Quarters, the Guardhouse, and Parade Grounds. Two Enlisted Men's Barracks and their Kitchens have been reconstructed, one of which houses the Fort Museum.

The tour ends at the Fort Cemetery. All the headstones are for civilians, as the military personnel and dependents were exhumed and moved to the National Cemetery in San Antonio in 1888. Sheriff A.J. Royal's tombstone bears the inscription "assassinated", a testament to a violent period in our history.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (on tour)



Three of the original eight Officers' Quarters still stand at Historic Fort Stockton. (#15 on tour)



This second jail provided temporary quarters for many outlaws after its construction in 1883. It was enlarged in 1913. (#5 on tour)





Church, built in 1896. (#14 on tour)

**INFORMATION READILY AVAILABLE:**

Need information about what there is to see and do in Fort Stockton and the surrounding area? There are two information centers to help you:

**Chamber of Commerce Depot Visitor Center**  
1000 Railroad Ave.  
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735  
(432) 336-2264  
1-800-336-2166  
Mon. - Sat. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Fort Stockton CVB**  
Director of Tourism  
Fort Stockton City Hall  
121 West Second, P.O. Box 1000  
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735  
(432) 336-8525, Ext. 16  
1-877-336-8525  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: @  
[www.tourtexas.com/fortstockton](http://www.tourtexas.com/fortstockton)

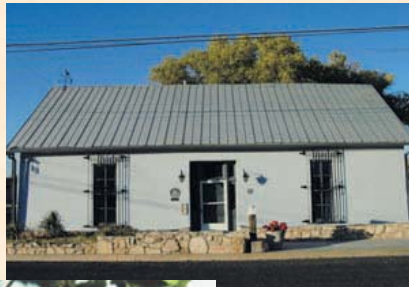


World's Largest Roadrunner, Paisano Pete is 11 feet tall, 22 feet long and is a favorite snapshot subject. (#2 on tour)

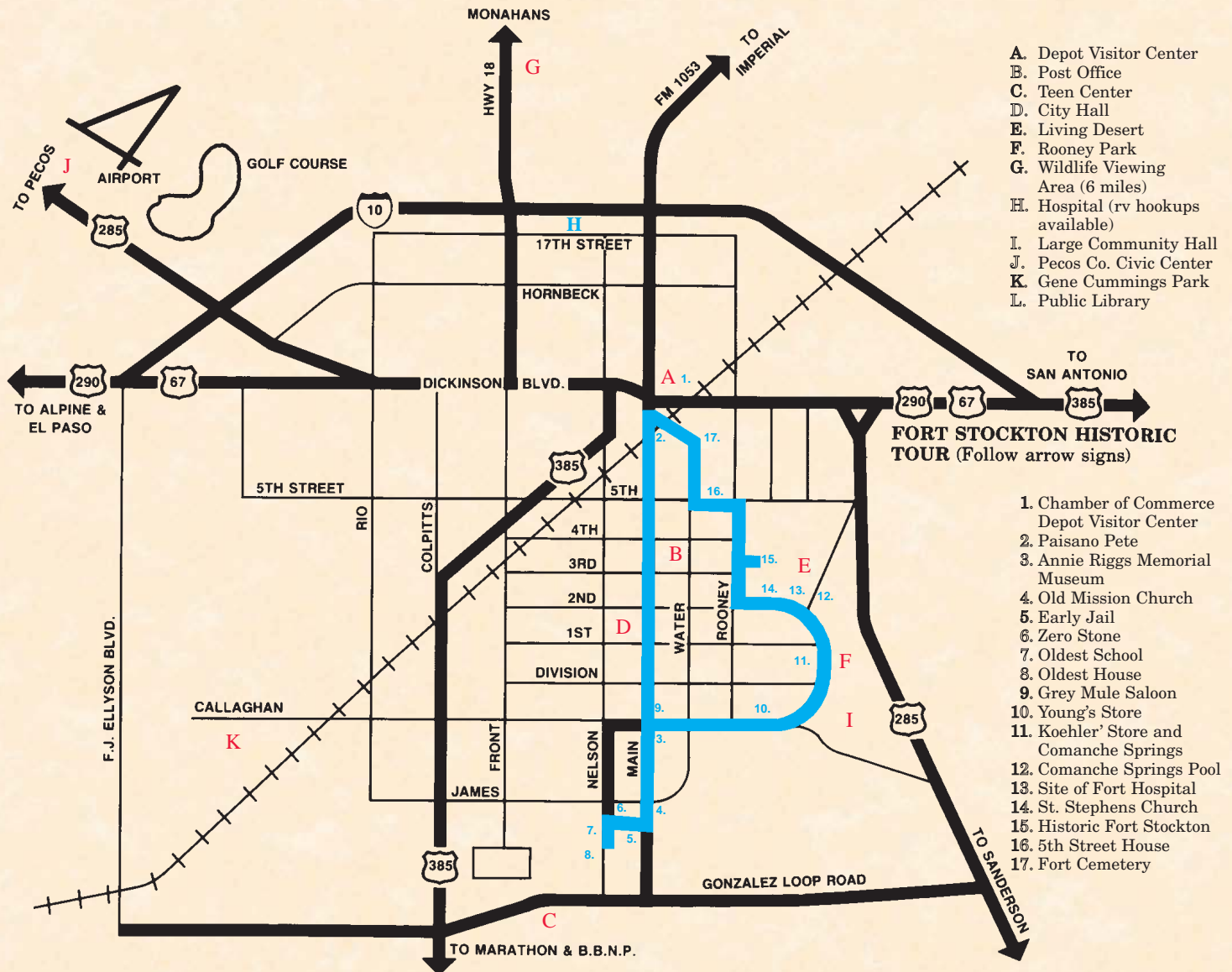


Chamber of Commerce Depot Visitor Center. (#1 on tour)

(Right) Grey Mule Saloon was a favorite hangout of cowboys. It now houses a coffee shop and gallery for area artisans (#9 on tour)



Comanche Springs pool, located on site of Comanche Springs system. Once flowed 65 million gallons of water per day (#12 on tour).



- A. Depot Visitor Center
- B. Post Office
- C. Teen Center
- D. City Hall
- E. Living Desert
- F. Rooney Park
- G. Wildlife Viewing Area (6 miles)
- H. Hospital (rv hookups available)
- I. Large Community Hall
- J. Pecos Co. Civic Center
- K. Gene Cummings Park
- L. Public Library

**FORT STOCKTON HISTORIC TOUR** (Follow arrow signs)

- 1. Chamber of Commerce Depot Visitor Center
- 2. Paisano Pete
- 3. Annie Riggs Memorial Museum
- 4. Old Mission Church
- 5. Early Jail
- 6. Zero Stone
- 7. Oldest School
- 8. Oldest House
- 9. Grey Mule Saloon
- 10. Young's Store
- 11. Koehler' Store and Comanche Springs
- 12. Comanche Springs Pool
- 13. Site of Fort Hospital
- 14. St. Stephens Church
- 15. Historic Fort Stockton
- 16. 5th Street House
- 17. Fort Cemetery

**HISTORIC TOUR**

1. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Depot Visitors Center.
2. PAISANO PETE, World's Largest Roadrunner, 11' tall, 22' long.
3. ANNIE RIGGS MEMORIAL MUSEUM, was originally the Riggs Hotel, built in 1899. It is an excellent example of Territorial Architecture built of adobe with Victorian wood trim, and houses exhibits on area history.
4. ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, first church in Fort Stockton, built 1875.
5. OLD JAIL, Pecos County's original jail was built in 1883.
6. ZERO STONE PARK AND PECOS COUNTY COURTHOUSE. The Zero Stone is a marker placed as the zero reference point for surveys. The courthouse was built in 1912. There are four additional markers in the park.
7. THE OLDEST REMAINING SCHOOL built by the people of Pecos County, erected 1883. The east end was used by the U.S. Army as a telegraph office.
8. OLDEST HOUSE is believed to have been the sutler's store at Camp Stockton, 1859-1861.
9. GREY MULE SALOON — circa early 1890's
10. YOUNG'S STORE transom bears the date 1876, the year that W.F. Young opened this sutler's store.

11. KOEHLER'S STORE also served as a bank and saloon, it was built in 1878. The second floor was added in the 1930's as a WPA project. It now serves as the Small Community Hall. Across the street is one of the nine springs in the Comanche Springs system. This one is named the Blue Hole.
12. COMANCHE SPRINGS PAVILION AND SWIMMING POOL. The pavilion was built in 1938 over the Big Chief Spring. It was the largest spring in the system and flowed 65 million gallons of water a day.
13. ROLLINS-SIBLEY HOUSE built in 1905 partially on the foundation of the Old Fort Hospital.
14. ST. STEPHEN EPISCOPAL CHURCH, built in the 1896, was one of the first Protestant churches west of the Pecos River. Moved here in 1958.
15. HISTORIC FORT STOCKTON (1867-1886), Guardhouse, Officers' Row, and Parade Grounds; a museum is housed in the enlisted men's barracks and a visitor's center is located at 301 E. Third.
16. 5TH STREET HOUSE, the house itself was ordered from Montgomery Ward Catalog in the late 1920s.
17. OLD FORT CEMETERY where only a very few markers show anyone over the age of 40, a testimony to the hard frontier life. Used from 1875-1912.



# Historic Fort Stockton

301 E Third, 336-2400

**YES, THERE IS A FORT** in Fort Stockton! Historic Fort Stockton is located on the east side of town and consists of original and reconstructed military buildings. Today the site includes Officers' Row, Guardhouse, Enlisted Men's Barracks, and the Parade Grounds. There is a visitor's Center at the west side of parade grounds.

Military presence began here with the establishment of Camp Stockton in 1858 by troops of the 1st and 8th Infantry, US Army. It was named for Commodore Robert Field Stockton, a naval officer who distinguished himself during the Mexican War. This first site was southwest of the present location, near the present Courthouse.

The post protected travelers and settlers on the numerous roads and trails that made use of the abundant water supply of Comanche Springs. It was here that these trails crossed the Comanche War Trail.

The US Army withdrew from Texas during the Civil War and abandoned Camp Stockton in 1861. Confederate troops briefly occupied the site until they too, withdrew. By the end of the war little remained of this first post.

In July 1867, Colonel Edward Hatch, Commander of the 9th Cavalry, re-established Fort Stockton at its present



location. The new fort was garrisoned by four companies of the 9th Cavalry, one of the new regiments created for the black men who sought security in the US Army after the Civil War. These black enlisted men, called "buffalo soldiers" by the Indians, were commanded by white officers.

The post-war fort was occupied for nineteen years (1867-1886). The fort's 960 acres were leased from

civilian landowners. An additional 25 acres on Comanche Creek were leased for the fort's garden.

By the early 1880's the "Indian menace" was no longer a threat, and the future of the fort was limited. It was finally abandoned in 1886 as the frontier moved west.



The guardhouse, one of the first buildings constructed, was completed in 1868. It has three solitary confinement cells in addition to a large holding cell.



Officers' Quarter #7, one of three remaining quarters on Officers' Row.

The fort consisted of about 35 buildings. Two of them were built of limestone and the rest were built of adobe. Of the original buildings, only four remain: the Guardhouse and three of the eight Officers' Quarters.

The Guardhouse, one of the first buildings completed, contains jailer's quarters, three solitary



## #15 on Tour



confinement cells, and a larger holding cell. A stone set into the south exterior wall is inscribed, "Erected 1868 by Lieut. J.L. Humfreville, Q M" (Quartermaster).

Of the three remaining Officers' Quarters, OQ #7 has been restored to its 1870's appearance. During the restoration, one room was left bare of interior plaster to reveal construction techniques unique to adobe materials.

The City of Fort Stockton is committed to the acquisition, restoration and reconstruction of the Fort. Extensive archeological excavations preceded and documented the reconstruction of the Barracks

and their accompanying Kitchen/Mess Halls.

Historic Fort Stockton, listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, is owned by the City of Fort Stockton and managed by the Fort Stockton Historical Society. A support group, Friends of Fort Stockton, assists in fund raising for the continued development of the fort.

The Historic Fort Stockton



Fort Stockton was garrisoned by companies of the 9th Cavalry, known as "Buffalo Soldiers".

Museum is located in Barracks #1. A fifteen minute video provides an introduction to the site and interpretive exhibits provide additional information.

### Historic Fort Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday — 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Extended Summer Hours

Admission Charge

(432) 336-2400

## Annie Riggs Memorial Museum

THE ANNIE RIGGS MEMORIAL MUSEUM still keeps house with the past, the exhibits echoing yesteryear in Pecos County. It is owned and operated by the Fort Stockton Historical Society.

In the lobby, a stern-faced lineage of sheriffs gaze down at the visitors signing the guest book. The desk from Sheriff A.J. Royal's office whispers of his 1894 murder, a bloody chapter in the history of Pecos County. A 1902 ballot box from Sheffield can be found on the desk. The box was fished out of the Pecos River where it was tossed when the folks in East Pecos County objected to an election which didn't go to suit them.

The parlor is home to two early pianos of Fort Stockton. Hanging on a wall are the house rules set by Annie Riggs. Provisions were made for guests with no luggage, spitting on the floor and for the burning of light's unnecessarily.

One guest room is furnished much as it was during the hotel's heyday. The cast iron bed was ordered from Sears & Roebuck in 1900 for a cost of \$6.75, including freight.

Other rooms offer displays on the area's vast and diversified history. The Archeology Room exhibits the tusks of a Columbian mammoth, and related artifacts found at a site eight miles from town. The Butz Room features a Wells Fargo strong box made of cast iron and the safe from Koehler's Store with its hidden keyhole.

Other rooms feature the cowboy era with saddles, bits and spurs, pioneer women and their clothing. Visitors learn of geologic formations and why and where we have oil and gas. The Temporary Exhibit Room has displays that change periodically as well as an excellent mural of Pecos County history by artist Stylee Reed, and an opportunity to view a video of local history.



Family-style meals were served in the dining room. Today it is graced by a Tiffany style lamp, antique spur collection, colored glass collection, historic photos and more.



301 S. Main, 336-2167



#3 on Tour



The adobe hotel with Victorian detailing was built in 1899 and has housed the Annie Riggs Memorial Museum since 1955.



The parlor was off-limits to Annie's children when a hotel. The period pieces include two early Fort Stockton pianos, a Civil War era cranberry glass chandelier, prints of young ladies purchased by Annie, victrolas, portrait of Annie's father, 1<sup>st</sup> Pecos County Judge George Frazer, a massive secretary and other artifacts



Every other Thursday night from June through August country and folk music concerts are held at the Museum. The outdoor programs are free and visitors are welcome. Call for reservation information.

The Annie Riggs Memorial Museum is open six days a week, and is located at the corner of Main and Callaghan (number 3 on the historical tour).

Visitors can experience a thriving desert garden at the back of the museum, inviting benches on the wrap-around porches and an interior courtyard with a restored Pecos County buggy.



Left Center: Typical guest room of western days. The cast iron bed was a \$6.75 bargain from Sears & Roebuck circa 1900.

Left: Outdoor folk music concerts are held every other Thursday evening in the summer.

### **Annie Riggs Museum Hours:**

Monday through Saturday — 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Extended Summer Hours

*Admission Charge*

*(432) 336-2167*



# Ste. Genevieve Wines and the Stockton Plaza

IF IT'S FROM TEXAS, it's probably popular. Western clothes and Tex-Mex cuisine are hot and getting hotter. Handmade cowboy boots have shown up on the feet of Hollywood's most notable celebrities. But the last thing most people expected to be the next big thing from Texas was wine. Until recently, that is.



Ste. Genevieve Wines are turning up on tables all over. The largest of Texas' 104 wineries, Ste.

Genevieve is one of the fastest growing wines in the country. Quality is the reason. Ste. Genevieve wines hold their own in state, national, and international competitions. As a result, Ste. Genevieve is now among the best selling brands in the state.

Few people realize that there was a thriving commercial wine industry in Texas more than a hundred years before the California wine business began. Today, Texas is the fifth largest wine producing state.

The majestic mesas depicted on the Ste. Genevieve label make their own contribution to the vineyards. Wine grapes require well drained, sandy soil; a soil rich in calcium is best. Because the mesas are limestone mountains topped with layers of sandstone, centuries of erosion have covered the Escondido Valley below with near perfect calcareous soil.

Ste. Genevieve offers Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Fume Chardonnay, Shiraz, Pinot Grigio, White Zinfandel, and Red Zinfandel, plus their special blends - Texas Red, Texas White, Texas Blush, Sweet Red and Sweet Moscado.

## STOCKTON PLAZA

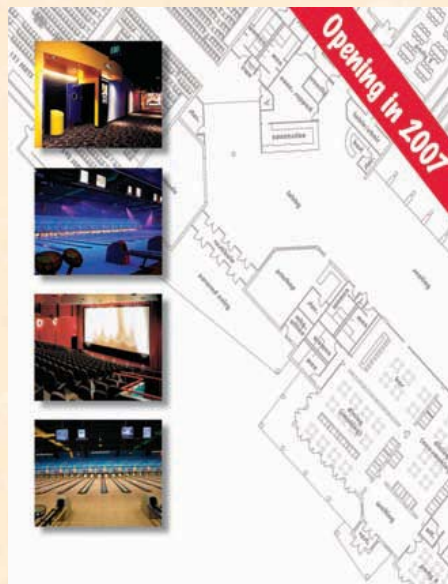
Located along Interstate Highway 10, Stockton Plaza Entertainment Complex will be the premier entertainment center in Fort Stockton, TX. Incomparable to any other entertainment complex in this region, Stockton Plaza will have the only movie theater, bowling center, arcade, an 18-hole outdoor miniature golf course and snack bar area combined into one large venue.

We expect our guests to have an enjoyable experience during their leisure time at our establishments. We will provide exceptional service and better amusements than anyone else in the region. A simple, yet entertaining atmosphere will create a sense of excitement for locals and tourists alike. We would like to provide entertainment alternatives to the citizens that are unlike any other options available. Families, teens, single adults, tourists and interstate travelers alike will enjoy participating in the different entertainment choices.

At Stockton Plaza, patrons of all ages can enjoy a wonderful meal in our expanded snack bar, play in the arcade/redemption game center, bowl on the 16 full-size lanes or kids can enjoy their very own mini-bowling lanes and view the latest movies in our theater.

The Complex will also include a bowling pro-shop, a concession counter, a billiards area, and a bar. Two private rooms available as individual or combined use in a private party or corporate conference setting.

It is our goal to continue to invest in the lives of the residents of Fort Stockton and surrounding communities. We look forward to a late 4th quarter opening and are well underway with construction. The local market can watch as the complex begins to grow and take shape.





## Accommodations

Visitors to Fort Stockton will find an abundance of motels, RV parks and restaurants. There are over 1000 rooms available from 16 motels and 300 sites at 8 campgrounds. There are 25 restaurants in the city with everything from fast food franchises to home-cooked food.

### MOTELS in Fort Stockton: Area Code (432)

Atrium .....	1305 N. Hwy. 285 85 rooms / 336-6666
Best Western - Swiss Clock Inn .....	3201 W. Dickinson 96 rooms / 336-8521
Budget Inn .....	801 E. Dickinson 29 rooms / 336-3311
Comanche Motel .....	1301 E. Dickinson 25 rooms / 336-5824
Super 8 (Hotel).....	3100 W. Dickinson Reservations 1-800-800-8000      95 rooms / 336-8531
Days Inn Motel .....	1400 N. Hwy US 285 50 rooms / 336-7500
Deluxe Motel .....	500 E. Dickinson 32 rooms / 336-2231
Executive Inn .....	901 E. Dickinson 28 rooms / 336-2251
Hampton Inn (Hotel) .....	2271 West IH 10 59 rooms / 336-9600
Holiday Inn Express .....	1400 N. Hwy 285 1-800-HOLIDAY
LaQuinta Inn .....	2601 W. I-10 97 rooms / 336-9781
Motel 6.....	3001 W. Dickinson 139 rooms / 336-9737
Sands Motor Inn .....	1801 W. Dickinson 85 rooms / 336-2274
Econo Lodge .....	800 E. Dickinson 80 rooms / 336-9711
Sleep Inn & Suites.....	I-10, Exit 256 Opening 2007      49 rooms / 877-424-6424
Town & Country Motel.....	1505 W. Dickinson 16 rooms / 336-0600

### CAMPGROUNDS

A & M Camper Park.....	1000 N. Gatlin 20 sites / 336-6401
Amigos #11 Store and RV .....	3601 W. Dickinson 12 sites / 336-6166
Comanche Land RV Park.....	West I-10 & Exit 257 58 sites / 336-6403
Comanche Motel - Mobile Home Park .....	1301 E. Dickinson 6 sites / 336-5824
I-10 RV Park .....	West I-10 & Exit 259 27 sites / 336-6275
J&L Mobile Home & RV Park .....	4606 N. Hwy. 1053 18 sites / 290-0695
KOA Campground .....	I-10 & Exit 264 85 sites / 336-2494
Parkview RV Park .....	Sanderson Hwy. 285 100+ sites / 336-7733

For a complete accommodation and restaurant guide, contact the Fort Stockton CVB or the Chamber of Commerce  
Inquire for discounts available at some locations

## One Day Trips

USING FORT STOCKTON as a base of operations, the visitors finds the exciting prospect of numerous day trips to explore this fabulous area of West Texas. Around you lies the rugged grandeur of the Big Bend Country, the storied Davis Mountains, Fort Davis National Historic site, the awesome Carlsbad Caverns and the spectacular Guadalupe National Park. At the end of each glorious day, the visitor can find a comfortable night's rest in one of the 16 modern motels or 8 R.V. Parks.



Those not familiar with our area may be awed by the mileage. Visitors should keep in mind that the highways are well maintained; traffic is minimal and there are beautiful picnic areas and historical markers waiting to be discovered.

## Calendar of Events

FORT STOCKTON hosts many special events such as country & folk music concerts, art shows, cook-offs, community theater, and rodeo events.

Listed below are just some of the special events that occur throughout the year.

Sheep Dog Trails .....	Early January
Pecos County Livestock Show .....	2nd Saturday, January
Wild Game Dinner .....	February
Texas History Day-Annie Riggs Museum .....	March
4-H Scholarship Auction.....	1st Saturday, April
Antiques Appraisal-Annie Riggs Museum.....	April-May
Big Bend Open Road Race.....	4th Saturday, April
Cinco de Mayo Celebration.....	May
Summer Off the Patio-Annie Riggs Museum (Folk Music Concerts).....	Alternate Thursdays, June-August
4H Horse Show .....	3rd Week, June
4th of July Celebration .....	July 4th Weekend
Water Carnival .....	3rd Weekend, July
Road Runner Road Race.....	1st Saturday, October
Old Timers Day-Annie Riggs Musseum.....	October
Arts and Crafts Show.....	3rd Saturday, November
Christmas Open House-Annie Riggs Museum ..	1st Friday, December
Christmas Parade .....	1st Friday, December



# Community Interest

**IN ADDITION** to special events, visitors will find a warm welcome to the numerous local organizations and clubs such as Lion's Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, Art Association, Garden Club, and Senior Citizen Activity Center, to name a few.

Fort Stockton is blessed with fine civic and privately owned recreational facilities:

**Coliseum & Civic Center:** The indoor arena and coliseum provide an outstanding assortment of entertainment. Rodeos, cutting horse, and roping competitions are held on almost a weekly basis. The Civic Center hosts dances and other activities. Located at the Airport off Hwy. 285. Call (432)

336-6261 for current engagements.

**Swimming Pools:** Comanche Springs Pool (#12 on tour) and Gene Cummings Park (K on City Map) have Olympic pools open summers to the public and the High School indoor pool is open in the evenings year round.

**Tennis:** 16 lighted courts, visitors are always welcome.

**Theater:** 1 screen movie theater. - Coming 2007

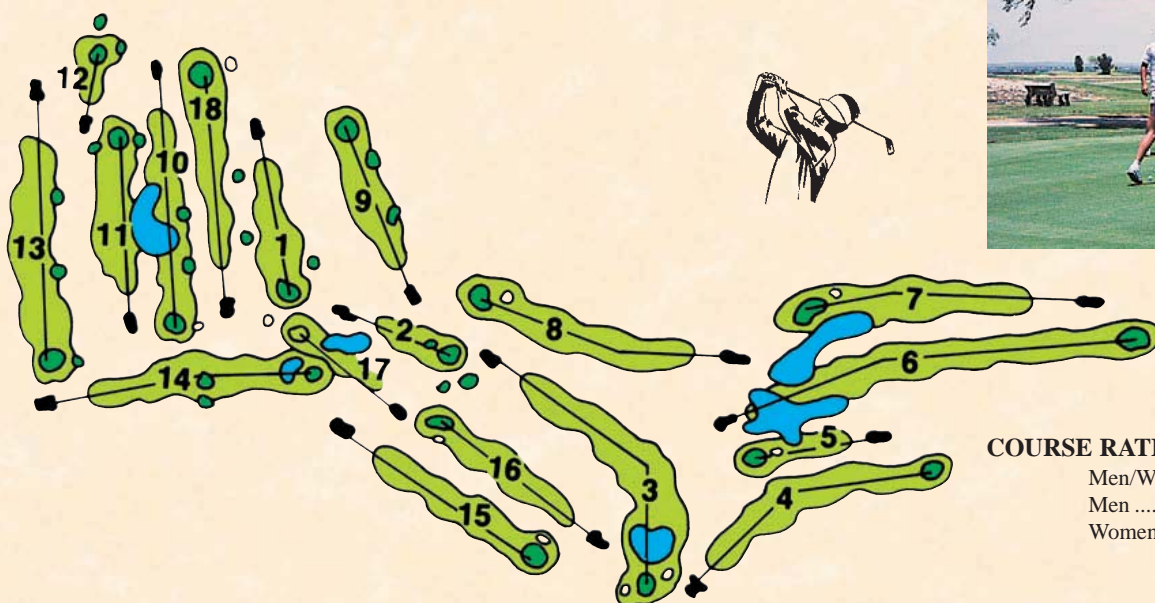
**Teen Center:** Teenagers have their own facility where they can play pool, video games, ping-pong, enjoy the snack bar, and more. Hours vary, call (432) 336-4618 for more information. Located at 1201 W. Sherer (Letter "C" on map), there is a small admission fee.

**Fort Stockton Public Library:** 500 N. water; (432) 336-3374 website: fortstockton.lib.tx.us Open 6 days a week. The library offers computers onsite and free internet access. Adult and children books, movie rentals and numerous research volumes available. Hosts various music and arts related classes throughout the year. (Letter "L" on map)

**Rooney Park:** Enjoy walking trail, olympic size pool, basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields. lots of trees and picnic areas available. Two playground areas. (Letter "F" on map)

**Desert Pines Golf Course (Municipal):** Located on U.S. Highway 285 (one mile northwest of Fort Stockton). This is the home course of Blaine McCallister, PGA touring professional. Course is open Tuesday through Sundays. Green fees are \$20.00 on weekdays and \$25.00 on weekends and holidays. Carts are \$10.00 for nine holes and \$20.00 for 18 holes. For more information, call (432) 336-2050

Pecos County 18 Hole Municipal Golf Course is home to PGA Touring Professional, Blaine McCallister.



## COURSE RATINGS/SLOPE

Men/Women .....	72
Men .....	70.8/114
Women .....	68.3/117





## Points of Interest

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pecos County Aquaculture Projects</li> <li>2. Dinosaur Tracks</li> <li>3. Ste. Genevieve Vineyards and Winery</li> <li>4. Fort Lancaster State Historic Site</li> <li>5. Big Bend National Park             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panther Junction</li> <li>Boquillas Canyon</li> <li>Chisos Mountain Basin</li> <li>Santa Elena Canyon</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Fort Leaton State Historic Site</li> <li>8. Museum of the Big Bend</li> <li>9. Fort Davis National Historic Landmark</li> <li>10. Davis Mountain State Park</li> <li>11. McDonald Observatory</li> <li>12. Balmorhea State Park</li> <li>13. West of the Pecos Museum</li> <li>14. Monahans Sandhills State Park</li> <li>15. Carlsbad Caverns National Park</li> <li>16. Guadalupe National Park</li> <li>17. Hueco Tanks State Historic Site</li> </ol> |
|--|---|



# The Big Bend country

**ONCE YOU HAVE ARRIVED** in Fort Stockton you will soon become aware of the spectacular landscape of the Big Bend region of Texas. This entire region lies within the Chihuahuan Desert, a vast area covering most of Northern Mexico, the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas and parts of New Mexico. Annual rain fall is generally twelve inches or less. The desert abounds with plant and animal life that adapted to this arid region. Take time to see the entire area and discover its natural wonders.

Using Fort Stockton as your base, the first place you should visit is Big Bend National Park. On your way to the Park be sure to stop in Marathon, located in the famous Marathon Basin, representing our most ancient geologic formations. Visitors will find the historic hotel and the numerous shops delightful.

Big Bend National Park encompasses over 704,000 acres (1,100 square miles) and was established in 1944 to preserve outstanding examples of the rugged Chihuahuan Desert wilderness. To orient you to the Park it might be helpful to think of it as three parks in one. The Chisos Mountains, the Chihuahuan Desert, and the Rio Grande are three different parts of the Park and each provides a wide range of experiences. Be sure to stop at Panther Junction, park headquarters, for information on hiking, camping, rafting, and lodging.

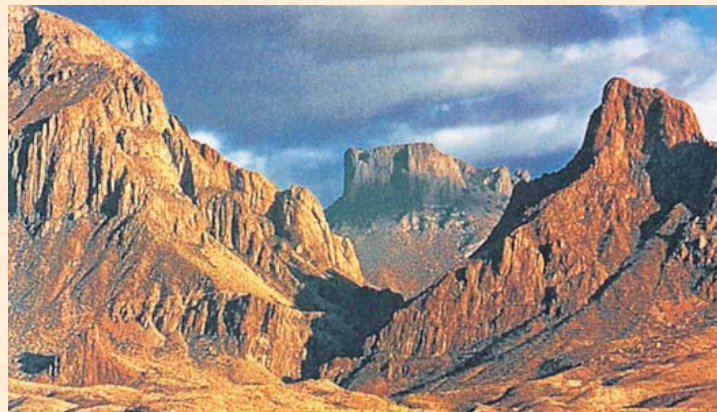
Traveling west from Big Bend National Park you will discover the ghost town of Terlingua. Here the tailings from quicksilver mining are still visible and the old cemetery stands as a mute reminder of yesteryear.

A must see 1-mile east of Lajitas is the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center. The center is located on 288,000 acre Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Should you decide to continue traveling west, you will be delighted with Highway 170, known as El Camino Del Rio or the River Road. Spectacular views abound along this scenic route.



Emory Peak in the Basin of the Chisos Mountains is the Park's highest. (Photo courtesy of Big Bend Natural History Association)



Casa Grande and the Window at Dusk, a sample of the grandeur of the Chisos Mountains. (Photo courtesy of Big Bend Natural History Association)

At Presidio you will have a chance to visit another of the many state parks in the region. Fort Leaton State Historic Site was the home and private fort of Ben Leaton, an early farmer in the area.

Another area of interest to visitors is Fort Davis where you will find one of Fort Stockton's sister forts, Fort Davis National Historical Site. While in this area you will also want to visit Davis Mountain State Park with its pueblo style lodge built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Just a few miles north of Fort Davis is McDonald Observatory. Enjoy a breath taking drive up the highest paved road in Texas to Mount Locke's 6800 foot summit. Visitors can view one of the world's largest telescopes, the Hobby \*Eberly Telescope (HET). Having an effective primary mirror diameter of 360 inches, the HET brings together scientific research and public education. Be sure to ask about the frequent "Star Parties" held at the Visitor Center.

You will find an oasis in the desert at Balmorhea State Park. The park boasts the world's largest spring fed swimming pool. The San Solomon Springs feed the pool with 26,000 gallons of water per day.

Traveling north west of Fort Stockton on Highway 285, you will find the city of Pecos, which has numerous historic sites. Farm to Market Road 652, a well maintained road, intersects Highway 285 in the tiny community of Orla. This is the shortest route to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, noted for fall foliage in McKittrick Canyon and as the highest point in Texas. It is also the quickest route to Carlsbad Caverns.

There are many other points of interest in the region such as Monahans Sandhills State Park, the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine and the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute Center between Alpine and Ft. Davis.