Dallas Sierra Club’s

Davis Mountains Explorapalooza

Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30, 2016

An Enchanting Outing to Texas’ Big Sky Country

This is an outing for people who like exploring the outdoors at an easy pace. We’ll have an excellent combination of wonderment, mystery, and excitement on our trip to West Texas. A comfortable motor coach will transport us to the West Texas towns of Fort Davis, Marfa, and Alpine. The weekend will be spent learning about the landscape that surrounds us and the stars that circle over our heads. Lodging options include camping at Davis Mountains State Park with hot showers or staying in the town of Fort Davis in a comfortable, restored motor lodge. Depart on the Friday morning of Memorial Day weekend and return to Dallas on Memorial Day (Monday) night after four days and three nights of adventures.

WHEN, WHAT, WHERE?

Friday, May 27:
Depart Dallas (IH 635 and Midway Road) at 8:00 AM
Lunch in Sweetwater, TX
Camp at Davis Mountains State Park, Fort Davis, TX
Or stay at Stone Village Tourist Camp, Fort Davis
Dinner at a restaurant in Fort Davis

Saturday, May 28:
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, Fort Davis, TX
Box lunch at Nature Center
Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis
Dinner at McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis
Star Party at McDonald Observatory
Camp at Davis Mountains State Park
Or stay at Stone Village Tourist Camp

Sunday, May 29:
Hike from Davis Mountains State Park to Fort Davis National Historic Site (hike not compulsory)
Lunch in a restaurant, Fort Davis
Tour the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine
Stroll the streets of Marfa, TX
Picnic dinner at the Marfa Lights Viewing Center
Camp at Davis Mountains State Park
Or stay at Stone Village Tourist Camp

Monday May 30:
Cool off and relax at Solomon Springs in Balmorhea State Park before heading on to Dallas
Box lunch at Balmorhea State Park
Dinner at a restaurant on our journey to Dallas

CAMPING: We’ve reserved eight water-only campsites at Davis Mountains State Park. It’s a short walk to nice bathrooms with flush toilets, hot water and hot showers. All sites have picnic tables, and a water spigot nearby.
Stone Village Tourist Camp: For those of you whose Therm-a-Rest is never quite thick enough, we’ve reserved a room block at the Stone Village Tourist Camp. The Stone Village is a restored 1935 motor inn with a diverse offering of room types. There’s also a market and bakery on the property. Room rates range from $40 to $100 per night. The room expense is not included in the trip fee. [Click here](#) for a link to the SVTC site.

SIGHTS: We’ll visit the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, a nature preserve with 6 miles of hiking trails and botanical gardens. Their botanical garden features one of the largest collections of Chihuahuan desert cactuses in the world, with over 175 species. We’ll have a guided hike through the varied landscapes on the preserve—from canyons to grasslands. We’ll have time to wander the exhibits in the visitor center and also the botanical gardens.

At the Fort Davis National Historic Site we’ll have a guided tour of one of the best preserved frontier military posts in the Southwest. Active from 1854 until 1891, it protected travelers heading from San Antonio to El Paso along the Trans-Pecos portion of the road.

Saturday night we’ll be up late enjoying the dark West Texas skies at a Star Party at the McDonald Observatory. Get a tour of the late May constellations, peer through telescopes at different features in the night sky, and learn about the heavens above.

The Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine features the natural and human history of the Big Bend region, as well as featuring artists who have portrayed the region in their works of art.

The Marfa Lights have been described as mysterious orbs of floating light in the Chihuahuan desert east of Marfa. Earliest accounts of these supernatural phenomena date back to 1883. Waiting and looking for these orbs has been made more comfortable with a Viewing Center built along Highway 90.

Take a dip in the world’s largest spring-fed swimming pool at Balmorhea State Park. Explore the restored desert wetlands that attract unique species of birds and are home to several species of endangered fish.

TRANSPORTATION: The Dallas Sierra Club has chartered a coach bus with a professional driver to provide all transportation. This is not the sleeper bus we routinely charter for overnight trips, but a newer bus seating more passengers. The bus is equipped with a toilet.

Our coach will depart promptly at 8:00 AM on Friday, May 27 from the Walmart parking lot at the southwest corner of LBJ Freeway (IH 635) and Midway Road, between Sam’s and Walmart. Arrive early to load your gear. The bus will not wait for late arrivals, so allow time for holiday weekend traffic. The bus will be available for boarding by 7:30 AM. If you leave your vehicle at Walmart, hide valuables. Neither the Sierra Club nor Walmart are responsible for the security of your car or its contents. We have left vehicles at Walmart for multiple days on many occasions and have never experienced theft or vandalism. The bus will return to the Walmart at 9:00 PM on Monday, May 30. We’ll update the expected return time after a dinner stop on May 30.
COST: The price per person is $290 (payable by check or money order to "Dallas Sierra Club") for complete registrations received by Friday, May 1 or $320 for later registration, if available. The price includes:

- All transportation from the pick-up point at Midway and IH 635 and back to the same point.
- All beverages served on the bus.
- All admissions to scheduled sights.
- State Park daily entrance fees and campsite fees.
- Box lunch Saturday at the Nature Center.
- Dinner Saturday night at the Star Date Café, McDonald Observatory.
- Picnic dinner Sunday night at the Marfa Lights Viewing Center.
- Box lunch Monday at Balmorhea State Park.

Items not included in the trip price are:

- Four restaurant meals (Friday lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch and Monday dinner). These will be at local restaurants likely to accommodate our group with reasonable menu variety and speed.
- Three breakfasts to eat in camp. Motel campers will have a bakery on site. Some rooms feature a kitchenette.
- Lodging at the Stone Village Tourist Camp for those wanting to stay at the motel.

The Sierra Club has reserved a block of six rooms at the Stone Village Tourist Camp in Fort Davis. The Camp rooms are very basic with a shared bathroom, and run $40 per night. The Motel rooms have more amenities and run between $75 and $100 per night. If you plan to stay at the motel, please indicate so on the Participant Preference Form. Once your Participant Preference Form has been received, the trip coordinator will contact you with instructions on reserving your room through the hotel management. Our room block is held until May 1. If our room block is filled, trip participants may still book rooms at the Stone Village if any are available. If you need to cancel your room reservation, you must do so before May 22; otherwise you will be billed for one night’s stay.

The trip price has been set for break-even with 30 participants. With more participants, the trip will yield income for pursuit of Dallas Sierra Club conservation and outings programs.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Notify the Trip Coordinator if you must cancel. There is a $30 fee for cancellations through May 1. There will be no refunds for cancellation after that date. See the Travel Insurance paragraph below. On rare occasions the Dallas Sierra Club must cancel or change trips. If this occurs, our responsibility is limited to a refund of any trip fees you have already paid. The Dallas Sierra Club is not responsible for airfares or other payments you incur that are a consequence of a trip cancellation or change.

Travel Insurance: We encourage you to purchase travel insurance to cover non-refundable expenses in the event you or the Dallas Sierra Club cancels a trip, medical expenses incurred on a trip and possible medical evacuation from a trip.

REGISTRATION: After carefully reading this complete trip description:

1. Complete the Medical Form.
2. Complete the Participant Preference Form.
3. Sign the Release of Liability. A parent or guardian must sign for a minor. Minors eight years or older may ride on the bus with at least one parent per child. Sorry, only original signatures are acceptable on the Release of Liability. We cannot accept copies or emailed releases.
4. Mail the three forms and a check or money order payable to “Dallas Sierra Club” to Trip Coordinator: Annie Wilson, 906 Delk Drive, Arlington, TX 76013. You are registered after these forms and your check have been received and your participation has been approved by the Trip Coordinator. If your acceptance has not been confirmed, you may contact the Trip Coordinator to inquire.

PREPARATIONS, RULES AND CAUTIONS:

Bus Rules and Comfort Tips: These rules are important for safety and courtesy to your fellow passengers:

- Leave your cooler at home. With gear for so many people, we cannot accommodate coolers for individuals or eating groups. Avoid items that require refrigeration. The only meals campers will need to provide at the State Park are breakfasts for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The Sierra Club will provide bottled water, chilled soft drinks and beer for consumption on the bus.
- Glass containers are not allowed on the bus. They can break, causing a hazard and mess.
• No perfume or cologne, please. Some people are highly sensitive to scents.
• Smoking, pets and firearms are not allowed.
• Electronic devices are fine if with earphones that don’t leak sound.
• Phone calls on the bus should be limited to urgent and short messages.
You may stash a crushable bag (up to 8 inches high by 12 inches deep) in either an overhead bin above your seat or under your seat. Larger items must go in the cargo bins below the bus interior. You may leave gear on the bus. Temperatures on a parked bus can get hot, so be cautious about leaving electronic devices. A rain jacket in the overhead bin may be smart if rain is a possibility.

Experience and Conditioning: Walking is required at each destination. Walking distance at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center will be about two miles. Participants should be able to walk comfortably at normal adult speed. Campers should be capable of pitching their tent and preparing their own simple breakfasts.

Gear: Each camper is responsible for bringing his or her own camping equipment (tent, ground cloth, sleeping bag, etc.) Arranging to share with a friend is fine. Pack gear in a backpack or duffel bag to keep it together. Luggage is okay for the motel option. Contact the Trip Coordinator before departure if you’d like advice about gear.

Clothing: Lightweight, versatile layers are key to comfort. Days are hot and nights are cool. You’ll definitely need a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen for UV protection. Bring swim gear for the springs (goggles if you want to see the fish). Wear comfortable shoes for walking the grounds of the nature center, Fort Davis, and elsewhere. Bring rain gear. West Texas is desert, but when it rains, it pours!

Food: Bring food for breakfasts in camp for three days. Bring snacks such as granola bars, as some days dinner will be late. Due to space limitations in the bus cargo areas, don’t bring coolers, sticking with food items that require no refrigeration. Bring a small, lightweight burner with fuel for cooking, if you plan to cook. A ban on fires could be in effect. If all you need is boiling water, Sierra Club leaders can provide that for you at meal times. Please, no large propane stoves (i.e. Coleman stoves). Bring cash for meals at five restaurants.

Water: Potable water will be available at faucets in the State Park. Bring a bottle that you can fill with water to drink while away from camp.

Medical: Our trip leaders have wilderness first aid training, but they are not medical professionals. Participants are encouraged to bring first aid supplies and a basic knowledge of how to deal with medical emergencies. If you have medical training, tell the leaders so she or he can use your skill in an emergency. Inform the leaders if you have a medical condition that could require special treatment (controlled diabetes, heart problems, allergic reactions, etc.) in an emergency. Carry any necessary medications for those conditions on your person at all times and tell others where you store them. If you are extremely allergic to bee stings, poison ivy or anything else we could encounter, ask your doctor if you should carry an antidote kit.

Group = Safety: It’s important for safety to follow the directions of the Trip Coordinator and other designated Sierra Club leaders. By failing to obey the leader’s instructions, you assume the risks that result. The group should stay together to minimize the chance of someone getting lost or an injured person going unaided. If you leave the group, you do so at your own risk. Participants who leave the led group against leader advice will be asked to sign out of the trip and are no longer part of the trip. Don’t expect the group or the leader to do more than notify authorities if you do not return. The leader’s responsibility is to those who are following him or her, not to those who choose to follow a different route or schedule.

If you get lost, don’t wander aimlessly. Stop and wait on a trail. When leaving camp for even a moment, especially at night, be careful to stay oriented and not lose your way back.

QUESTIONS about the trip or your acceptance may be directed to the Trip Coordinator, Annie Wilson, 682.232.4980 or annie_c_wilson@hotmail.com.

CST 2087766-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. (California has a law called the California “Seller of Travel” Law. Because the Sierra Club is a California non-profit corporation, we are required to post this notice.)
Please fill in this form as accurately as possible. It is essential for leaders to evaluate individual and group health needs as part of trip planning, and for use during emergencies. After reviewing this form, the leader may contact you to discuss whether the trip will be safe and enjoyable for you considering your medical history.

We will keep the information on this form confidential. It will be seen only by leaders, medical personnel, or others who know and understand its confidential nature. This form will be destroyed following the trip. If you choose not to go on the trip, this form will be destroyed immediately.

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**General Information**

First Name: ___________________ Last Name: ___________________ Nickname: ___________________

Address: ___________________ Gender: ___________________

City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

Home Phone: ___________ Work Phone: ___________ Mobile Phone: ___________

Email Address: ___________ Date of Birth: ___________

Height: ___________ Weight: ___________ Blood Pressure: ___________ / ___________ Resting Heart Rate: ___________ bpm

Emergency Contact: ___________________ Relationship: ___________________

Home Phone: ___________ Work Phone: ___________ Mobile Phone: ___________

Secondary Emergency Contact: ___________________ Relationship: ___________________

Home Phone: ___________ Work Phone: ___________ Mobile Phone: ___________

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**Evacuation and Medical Insurance Information**

We strongly encourage you to have medical and evacuation insurance and to bring your insurance card or other documentation with you on the trip.

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<th>Evacuation Insurance</th>
<th>Medical Insurance</th>
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<td>Company Name:</td>
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<td>Policy Number:</td>
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<td>Contact Phone Number:</td>
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**Allergies**

Include medicines, foods, animals, insect bites and stings, and environment (dust, pollen, etc.). □ NONE

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<tr>
<th>Allergy</th>
<th>Reaction</th>
<th>Medication Required (if any)</th>
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Medical History

Please list all prescription, over-the-counter, and natural medications you are taking. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

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<tr>
<th>Medication Name</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Side Effects (known &amp; potential)</th>
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Do you currently have, or have a history with, the following conditions (explain in blank and use separate sheet if necessary):

☐ Yes  ☐ No Respiratory problems, Asthma, Do you smoke ____________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Diabetes ____________________________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Gastrointestinal problems ____________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Cardiac problems, Hypertension ________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Neurological problems, Seizures _______________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Vision or Eye problems ______________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Hearing problems __________________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Bone, Joint, Muscle problems _________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Head trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury _________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Substance Abuse, Anxiety, Depression ________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No If female: Are you pregnant _________________________________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Have you had an illness within the last 12 months _____________________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Have you had surgery or been hospitalized in the last 12 months ______________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Have you ever had problems related to exposure to altitude ______________

☐ Yes  ☐ No Any other health complaint or medical issue that would affect your participation in this trip ____________________________

If YES, please explain ____________________________

Date of last tetanus immunization: ____________________________ Date of most recent physical: ____________________________

Physician's name: ____________________________ Phone number: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Please have physician sign if your leader requires a physical prior to trip

Physician's signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

The information provided here is a complete and accurate statement of any physical and psychological conditions that may affect my participation on this trip. I realize that failure to disclose such information could result in serious harm to myself and other participants. I agree to inform my trip leader should there be any changes to my health status prior to the start of the trip. I understand the outing may require vigorous activity that is both physically and mentally demanding in isolated areas without medical facilities. I am fully capable of participating on this trip.

Trip Name: Davis Mountains Explorapalooza Trip Dates: May 27-30, 2016

Signature (required): ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Print Name: ____________________________
RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Outing: Davis Mountains Explorapalooza  
Date(s): May 27-30, 2016

Trip Coordinator: Annie Wilson  
Additional Leaders: Mark Stein and others

Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death (“Injuries and Damages”) from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing officially begins and ends at the location(s) designated by the Sierra Club. The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Outing, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club during the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I further agree to HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any claims, damages, injuries or losses caused by my own negligence while a participant on the outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.
- I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

Name (print clearly): _________________________________________

Signed: ____________________________________________________ Date: ______________________

If you are a minor (under age 18), your parent or legal guardian must sign this Agreement on your behalf.

I hereby agree and consent to the foregoing Agreement on behalf of the minor below.

Print Name and Age of Minor: ______________________________________ Age: ___________

Signature of Parent or Guardian: ____________________________________ Date: _________________

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Return this form, your Medical Form, the Release of Liability and your check payable to “Dallas Sierra Club” to the Trip Coordinator, Annie Wilson, 906 Delk Drive, Arlington, TX 76013.

PARTICIPANT NAME (Please print.): ____________________________________________________________

TENT CAMPING VERSUS MOTEL OPTION FOR NIGHTS OF MAY 27, 28, 29:

☐ I prefer to camp at Davis Mountains State Park.

☐ I prefer to stay at the Stone Village Tourist Camp in Fort Davis. The Trip Coordinator will contact you with instructions on booking your motel room. The motel will require a credit card to reserve your room. Motel charges should be handled directly between you and the motel. Book early, as the SVTC is not large and this is a holiday weekend.

☐ Please contact me if there’s an opportunity to share a room with someone else.

☐ I plan to share a room with ____________________________________________________________

GENERAL INFORMATION:

How did you learn about this trip? ________________________________________________________

Have you participated in a previous Dallas Sierra Club trip? _____ if so, where and when was your most recent trip with the DSC?

______________________________________________________________________________________

Food allergies/preferences: If you have specific dietary requirements, please list them here:

______________________________________________________________________________________

By signing below, I certify that I have read the trip description, rules and cautions and I understand the described conditions and risks associated with the trip. I am responsible for any evacuation and medical costs that may be incurred, should I need medical attention.

Signature of Adult Participant ___________________________ Date _________________