

TEXAS RANGER – 10 DAYS

Day 1: Arrival day in Dallas

Welcome to the Texan city of Dallas and the largest of the lower 48 states. Things are bigger in Texas and Dallas is no exception. You'll find several galleries with vast art collections and fascinating museums, as well as some terrific local steakhouses. A welcome meeting will be held in the hotel lobby at 18:00 hrs this evening where you can meet your fellow travellers and tour leader.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 2-3: Austin

Leave the cowboys and oil wells of Dallas behind and head for Austin. Laidback best describes the capital of Texas and if you're in the mood for some live music then there are plenty of authentic honky-tonk bars offering an enjoyable evening's entertainment. You're free to explore Austin at your leisure. Optional activities, such as bathing at Barton Springs or tackling the ribs at Stubbs' BBQ, are always highly memorable. Head for a recommended local bar, such as the Mean Eyed Cat. Austin has proclaimed itself as 'The World's Live Music Capital' so you can expect to find all manner of evening entertainment available with toe-tapping country tunes always providing plenty of happy hoe-down moments. There's free time allocated for you to purchase some more tax-free bargains in Austin.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 4: San Antonio

Next up it's time to experience Texas on a totally different scale as you head for the historic streets of San Antonio. You'll quickly discover a wide range of cultural sites with the Battle of the Alamo museum often proving to be one of many popular highlights. Aside from the Texas Revolution, San Antonio is also well-known for its River Walk, which features bars, restaurants and plenty of tax-free shopping.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 5-6: Silver Spur Guest Ranch

Welcome to the Silver Spur Ranch where you'll be staying for the next couple of nights and enjoying a healthy dose of home-cooked hospitality. This is an authentic Western experience and the owners encourage you to make yourself at home. From evenings around the fire place to days spent in the saddle or by the pool, the Silver Spur promises to be an absolute Texas treat. If you can picture a classic Western lodge with walls lined with cedar and ceilings that appear to go on forever then you'll be pretty close to the essence of the Silver Spur. There's an air of the Wild West and from learning how to ride to tucking into a second helping of Tex-Mex cuisine, this is your chance to savour the best of both worlds. In the evening, enjoy a hay ride to learn more about their longhorn cattle, make s'mores on their fire pit or head into Bandera to the legendary 11th Street Cowboy Bar!

Accommodation: Texan Ranch included | Meals: Two breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners included

Day 7-8: Rio Grande / Big Bend National Park

With over 1,000sq miles of protected desert and mountain park land to explore, your journey from the ranch to Big Bend National Park signals the start of a truly memorable couple of days along the US side of the Mexican border. Dusty walking trails lead you past plants, lizards and fields of cacti. If you're on the lookout for birds then you've come to the right place as Big Bend is home to almost 500 varied species.

Enjoy the chance to take in the scenery as you take a relaxing two-man canoe paddle or raft (depending on time of year) down the legendary Rio Grande as your guide shares the tales of old and you experience the natural beauty of this phenomenal area. This is such an enjoyable and relaxing way to spend your time on the Rio Grande and you're bound to soak up as much natural and cultural information as you will sunshine. In the afternoon, there will be time to hit one of the trails or visit the

Terlingua ghost town.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

NB: National Park regulations don't allow your leader to guide you through Big Bend however you will have all the information that you need before you independently hit the trail.

Day 9: San Angelo

Next up is the fascinating city of San Angelo - founded by European Americans in 1867, when the United States constructed Fort Concho to protect the frontier from hostile threats. The fort was home to cavalry, infantry and the famous Black Cavalry, otherwise known as Buffalo Soldiers. Upon arrival, optional excursions include a visit to historic Fort Concho and Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum for something rather different and unique.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 10: Dallas

This morning you make your way back to Dallas where your group will head out on an included John F Kennedy tour featuring the grassy knoll and the infamous 6th floor of the School Book Depository. The assassination of JFK is obviously one of the darker moments in Dallas' history however, it does make for a fascinating tour and as you come to your own conclusions about the fate of the then president you'll be transferred to your hotel whereupon this chapter of your travels will draw to a close.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We can book you post-tour accommodation at our gateway hotel if required. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

Special Departures

If you want to make sure you're right in the heart of the action at the absolute best time to be there, then why not book one of our 'Special Departures'?



Visit the Texas State Fair in Dallas

Experience the largest state fair in the USA, with everything from live music to truck test drives and livestock shows. Ride the 212ft Texas Star Ferris wheel or try some unique deep fried foods (deep fried Oreos anyone?)

Book trips departing in September and October 2016 & 2017.