



WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN

THE STARS COME OUT

A Guide to Nightlife in The Big Bend Region

by Brenda Kissko

NIGHTLIFE IN THE BIG BEND IS A WHOLE LOT COOLER.

Here in these Texas mountains, the temperatures are lower and the skies are darker. Musicians and artists find this landscape and laid-back atmosphere inspiring, and so the region has become a magnet for music lovers, stargazers, and free spirits. Out here, time stands still and the main attraction is a long sunset. Annual events like Viva Big Bend music festival are a big draw, but there's fun to be had all year long. Make the most of your nights in Far West Texas at these hip spots along the trail.

prosecco and a charcuterie board while you listen to a local band play alfresco.

The Century Bar & Grill inside the Holland Hotel on the main drag in town has frequent live music alongside inspired cocktails and delicious food. The Ole Crystal Bar is another oldie but goodie with a large dance floor and patio. Just down the road, Spicewood Restaurant has plenty of room for two stepping after you enjoy a feast from the barbecue pit. Plus, they serve a mean margarita. Old Gringo Coffee & Cocktails features regular jam sessions and drink specials. Try their queso—it's a Texas thing, y'all.

Parties frequently sell out.

Fort Davis—named a Dozen Distinctive Destination® by the National Trust for Historic Preservation® is also host to festivals throughout the year like the “Coolest” 4th of July and the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Festival.

MARFA

Marfa—that fabled Marfa where cowboys and celebrities rub elbows—is mysterious and funky. It's known as an international art destination, a hub for filmmaking, and a place to celebrate architecture. Evenings here entail literary readings, film screenings, and art gallery receptions. Live music and libations are always on tap at the many restaurants and bars throughout town.

Hang out under the stars at Planet Marfa beer garden and sip on a mezcal cocktail at The Capri. Live large like a local at Lost Horse Saloon. Gather at Al Campo Wine Garden & Rustic Bistro for South American fare served family-style. Order a mesquite old fashioned or ranch water at Bar Saint George then catch a concert at Saint George Hall.

Of course, the real bragging rights belong to those who have seen the Marfa Mystery Lights. There's a viewing center for you just east of town. They have yet to be explained, but they're a phenomenon worth looking for.

No matter where you choose to stay the night, you can rest assured a good night will be had.



ALPINE

Alpine has the largest population in the area, boosted especially by Sul Ross State University, and consequently has numerous bars and live music venues to enjoy when the sun goes down. Grab your boots and dance the night away at Railroad Blues, where everyone from Jerry Jeff Walker to Shiny Ribs has played. The Ritchey Saloon is new on the scene, though it's one of the oldest attractions in Alpine, originally built in 1886 as a railroad hotel. Split a bottle of

are treated to a constellation tour where guests explore the current night sky. This is followed by the telescope viewing where several telescopes are set up throughout the Rebecca Gale Telescope Park. You should reserve your spot in advance, as these Star



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