



VAN HORN

Crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail

V I S I T O R ' S G U I D E



© Laurence Parent

WWW.VANHORNTXAS.ORG

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Crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail

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HISTORY OF VAN HORN

The story of Van Horn, Texas, is the story of the frontier...of independence, opportunity and wide open spaces. Here, American Indians, Spanish explorers, pioneers and generals have reveled in the majesty of the Texas Mountains, inspired by the spirit and the promise of the West.

The story of Van Horn is the story of ordinary people with extraordinary dreams. It began ages ago as Indians roamed and horses ran free.

And it continues today. Generations after rail lines gave rise to a community, innovation and imagination drive the pursuit of the next American dream.

We invite you to walk in the footsteps of the frontier, experience the people and places that shaped a nation and take with you the inspiration, vitality and spirit of the West.



Maj. Jefferson Van Horne discovers the Van Horne wells, a routine stop for coaches of the San Antonio-El Paso Mail through the 1860s.



Confederate forces seize the Van Horne Wells, taking Army Garrison Commander Lt. James Judson Van Horn as prisoner.



Texas and Pacific Railway was built. Town of Van Horn established. Last Indian battle in Texas was fought at Victorio Canyon. Town cemetery established.

S. Goynes is shot dead by his brother-in-law in a feud over a watering hole; becomes the first adult buried in the Van Horn cemetery.

1849

2

1861

1881

3

1882

ATTRACTIONS

Van Horn offers magnificent landscapes, abundant wildlife and an incomparable night sky, all to be enjoyed year round in the West's most hospitable climate.

Red Rock Ranch

Scenic driving tours and guided hikes acquaint travelers with the magnificent landscapes and abundant wildlife around Van Horn. Tours include introduction to the geology of the Chihuahuan Desert, visits to movie sets and the largest array of petroglyphs in the southwest. Appointment and fee required. For information call 432-283-7800 or 800-735-6911.



Photo from Red Rock Ranch

Mountain View Golf Course

This nine hole course offers stunning views of surrounding mountains and often a glimpse of area wildlife. The municipal course is open Tuesday-Sunday, daylight to sunset. 432-283-2628.



The first store was built by W. D. Johnson and a Mr. Hyler. A post office was established with P. H. Manuss as postmaster.



The first schoolhouse was constructed.



The first Old Settlers' Reunion was held - Van Horn's biggest annual event.

John E. Cox built the Cox Building, known today as the Clark Hotel Museum.

The Cox building was expanded to house a dance hall, opera house, saloon & community center.

1886

4

1893

1899

1901

5

1905

ATTRACTIONS

Clark Hotel Museum

Once the traveler's choice for elegant accommodations, the Clark Hotel is now home to museum displays featuring pioneer and Indian relics, railroad paraphernalia, antique cars, the former town saloon and pioneer family heirlooms. 432-283-8028.

Bowlero Archery

Located at 303 Van Horn Drive, Bowlero Archery offers target shooting, bowhunting, archery instruction, desert jeep tours, and outfitter services. Come explore the world of archery. Visit www.bowlero.us or call 432-448-1187.

Van Horn City Park

With shaded picnic areas, a public swimming pool, playground and restrooms, Van Horn City Park is a welcome stop for travelers and families at 3rd Street and Austin.



Van Horn State Bank opened.

Culberson County organized and Van Horn becomes county seat. First county election was held on April 18, 1911.

E.E. Churchill built the County courthouse for \$44,335.

Culberson County Sheriff J. H. Feeley was killed in a gunfight.

Cox building was converted to the Clark Hotel, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Town of Van Horn incorporated; G. M. Langdon elected the first mayor.

1909

1911

6

1914

1914

1918

7

1945

CELEBRATING OUR WEST TEXAS HERITAGE

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

JANUARY

Culberson County Stock Show
Stock show and sale accompanied by family activities, lots of barbecue and a western dance.

MARCH

Texas Mountain Art Seminar, Show & Sale
Annual celebration of Texas Mountain heritage through the work of regional artists. Event includes an art show and sale and a small business seminar.

APRIL

Building Bridges Art Show
Three-day event including sculpture, photography, oil painting and watercolors by local and regional artists who build the bridge to younger generations and share the joy of art.

MAY

Cinco de Mayo Festival
Full day of celebrating the culture and traditions of old Mexico with food, arts and crafts. Mariachi bands, folklorico dancers and local talent. A colorful, moonlit outdoor dance concludes the celebration.

JUNE

Frontier Days & Rodeo
A Van Horn tradition since 1899 complete with parade, an AJRA rodeo, golf tournament and dance. School reunions and historical tours are scheduled along with traditional events.

AUGUST

Mountain View Golf Tournament
Two-man, two-day (Saturday and Sunday) tourney with B-B-Q on Saturday night.

Old Car Festival

Nearly 100 classic cars roll into Van Horn each year to compete in a wide variety of categories.

AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER

Culberson County Fair
The Rodeo Arena and Community Center host this family event. Animals, food and handcrafts are judged with fun and games for all.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Trans-Pecos Big Buck Tournament
An annual desert mule deer tournament with cash and prizes.

DECEMBER

Annual Lighted Christmas Parade
Since 1994, festive floats adorned in lights celebrate the Christmas season. Viewing is easy from the sidewalks on Broadway.

Exact dates for these annual events may vary; call 866-4-A-Howdy (424-6939) or visit us online at www.vanhorn-texas.org.



Courthouse recognized by the Texas Historical Commission.

"Lonesome Dove" filmed in Van Horn and areas of West Texas.

"Blue Sky" filmed in Van Horn and areas of West Texas.

"Dead Man's Walk" filmed in Van Horn and areas of West Texas.

Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos purchases 100,000 acres in northern Culberson County for space launch facility. "The Three Burials" filmed in Van Horn and areas of West Texas.

1962

1988 **8**

1993

1995

9

2005



VAN HORN

Crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail

WWW.VANHORNTEXAS.ORG | 866-4-A-HOWDY (424-6939)



Colored letters indicates advertisers map location. Number of units follow lodging name.

MAP NOT TO SCALE

LODGING

Best Western American Inn (33), 1309 W. Broadway, 432-283-2030

A Best Western Inn of Van Horn (60), 1705 W. Broadway, 432-283-2410

B Budget Inn (14), 1303 W. Broadway, 432-283-2019

C Days Inn of Van Horn (58), 600 E. Broadway, 800-DAYSINN

Desert Inn (10), 401 E. Broadway, 432-283-9030

D Econo Lodge (40), 1601 W. Broadway, 432-283-2211

E Economy Inn (16), 1500 W. Broadway, 432-283-2754

F Holiday Inn Express (45) 1905 Southwest Frontage Road, 432-283-7444

King's Inn (14), 1403 W. Broadway, 432-283-2617

Motel 6 (40), 1805 W. Broadway, 432-283-2992

G Ramada Limited (98), 200 Golf Course Dr., 866-932-3678

Sands Motel (17), 805 E. Broadway, 432-283-2661

H Super 8 (40), 1807 Frontage Rd., 432-283-2282

Taylor Motel (17), 900 W. Broadway, 432-283-2266

I Value Inn (13), 901 W. Broadway, 432-283-2259

J Village Inn Motel (10), 403 W. Broadway, 432-283-2286

RV PARKS

Eagle's Nest RV Park, 1605 W. Broadway, 800-263-8875

El Campo RV Park, 408 E. Broadway, 432-283-2427

K KOA Kampgrounds, Hwy. 90 & Kamper Ln., 432-283-2728

L Mountain View RV Park, 810 S. E. Frontage Rd, 432-283-0005

RESTAURANTS

M Blue Quail Coffee, 205 West Broadway, 432-283-2262

N Chevron Country Grill/McDonald's, 432-283-1521

O Chuy's Restaurant, 1200 West Broadway, 432-283-2066

P Dairy Queen, 1800 West Broadway, 432-283-2882

Q Little Papa's PizzaPro, 400 Van Horn Dr., 432-283-1044

R Lizy's Tortilleria, 400 East Broadway, 432-283-1521

S Papas' Pantry, 515 Van Horn Dr., 432-283-2302

T Sunflower Cafe, 107 West Broadway, 432-283-7866



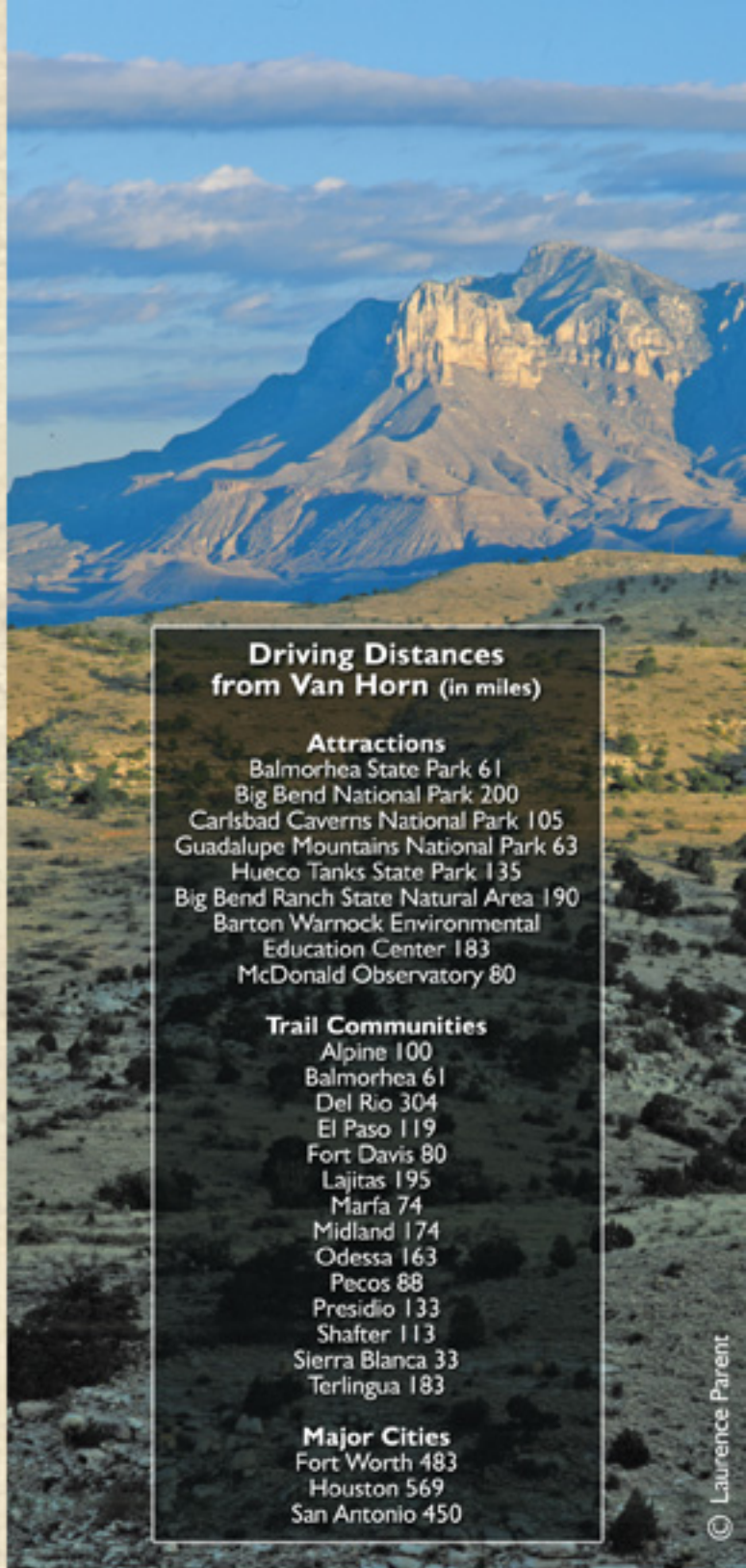
WWW.TEXASMOUNTAINTRAIL.COM

The Texas Mountain Trail

Travel the majestic landscape of Far West Texas with the Texas Mountain Trail as your guide. At www.texasmountaintrail.com you can learn about the history, culture and natural history of Far West Texas. The Texas Mountain Trail is part of a state-wide network of heritage travel organizations funded by regional partners and the Texas Historical Commission. National and state parks, historic sites, hiking, biking, and natural history tours await you for discovery. Visit one of our last and finest frontiers, experience our western traditions, explore the best of Texas from Van Horn, Crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail.



To learn more about the Texas Heritage Trails program, visit the Texas Historical Commission online at www.thc.state.tx.us and click on Heritage Travel.



Driving Distances from Van Horn (in miles)

Attractions

- Balmorhea State Park 61
- Big Bend National Park 200
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park 105
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park 63
- Hueco Tanks State Park 135
- Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area 190
- Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center 183
- McDonald Observatory 80

Trail Communities

- Alpine 100
- Balmorhea 61
- Del Rio 304
- El Paso 119
- Fort Davis 80
- Lajitas 195
- Marfa 74
- Midland 174
- Odessa 163
- Pecos 88
- Presidio 133
- Shafter 113
- Sierra Blanca 33
- Terlingua 183

Major Cities

- Fort Worth 483
- Houston 569
- San Antonio 450

New Mexico

Van Horn, TX

Crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail

www.VanHornTexas.org





EXPERIENCE THE TEXAS MOUNTAINS

NORTH

Guadalupe Mountains National Park - 63 miles

An 86,416-acre park bordering New Mexico, it boasts the highest point in the state of Texas at 8,749' - Guadalupe Peak. It has a mixture of barren but beautiful desert lands and wooded, game-rich mountains. McKittrick Canyon provides miles of easy hiking trails through enchanting forests, particularly breathtaking in the fall. Stop by the Visitor Center for a geology exhibition. 915-828-3251, www.nps.gov/gumo/

Carlsbad Caverns National Park - 105 miles

Continue north from Guadalupe Mountains National Park on Highway 54 into New Mexico. Carlsbad Caverns is open daily, year-round, with self-guided tours and ranger tours available. The Caverns are 750 feet below the surface (walk or take the elevator) at a cool 56°F. Explore miles of trails meandering through spectacular, high-ceilinged chambers of exotic formations, pools and Permian Age fossils. Varying fees. 800-967-CAVE, 505-785-2232, www.nps.gov/cave



Sierra Blanca

16

WEST

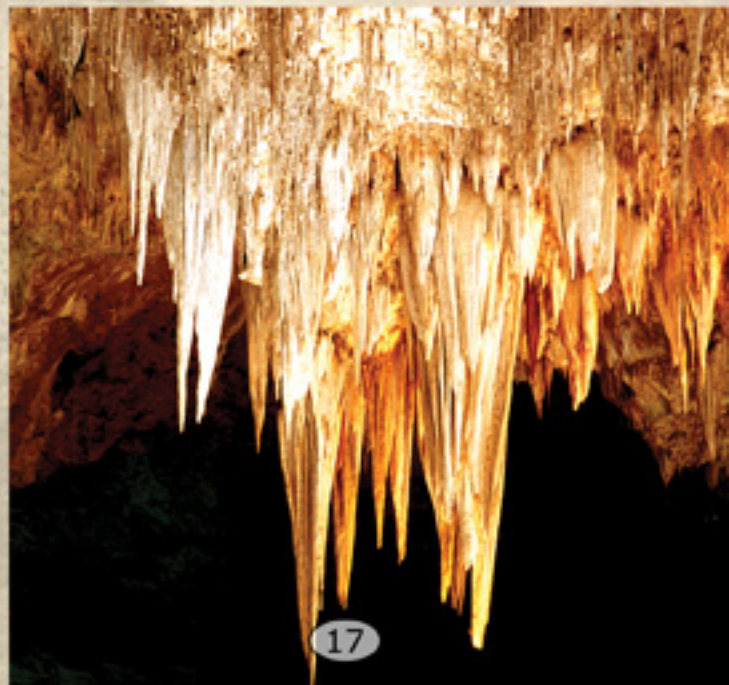
Sierra Blanca - 34 miles

In the 1800s, this town was a stop at the juncture of the Southern Pacific and Texas & Pacific railroads. Visit the Railroad Depot Museum and the Adobe Courthouse or just enjoy the scenic drive through the "desert forests" of giant yuccas, spectacular in March and April against the backdrop of the Sierra Blanca Mountains. 915-369-4118.

Hueco Tanks State Park -

135 miles

Just east of El Paso, these natural rock basins stored precious rainwater for travelers. Find ancient petroglyphs and relics from the 49ers on their way to the California gold rush. A good place for picnicking, hiking and climbing. 915-857-1135, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/hueco.



17

SOUTH

Marfa - 74 miles

Originally a water stop on the railroad, this town is now a center for the ranching trade and in contrast has also become a center for contemporary art with the founding of The Chinati Foundation by sculptor Donald Judd. Visitors come hoping to catch a glimpse of the Marfa Mystery Lights, a phenomenon defying explanation since 1883. 432-729-4942.

Fort Davis and Davis Mountains State Park

80 miles

Turn off Highway 90 at Highway 505 into the mountains of Jeff Davis County. Fort Davis was founded in 1854 for protection at the crossroads of the Chihuahuan Trail and the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. There are fascinating historic museums, a desert arboretum and the McDonald Observatory nearby. 432-524-3015, 432-426-3015, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/davis

Alpine - 100 miles

Crossroads to Big Bend National Park, this mountain town of 6,000 people is home to Sul Ross State University. Visit the Apache Trading Post, Last Frontier Museum, and Museum of the Big Bend. Watch collegiate cowboys hone their rodeo skills three days a week during school semesters. 432-837-2326, www.alpinetexas.com



Fort Leaton State

Historic Site - 139 miles

In Marfa, turn south on Highway 67 to Presidio and see one of Texas' most unusual historic sites. The massive adobe fort is largely restored and gives a glimpse of frontier life after the Mexican War. Open daily with admission fee. 432-229-3199, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/balmorhea

EAST

Balmorhea - 61 miles

Here you'll find one of the world's largest spring-fed swimming pools with scuba diving, swimming, picnic and playground areas. At Balmorhea Lake, boating and fishing are permitted. Truly an oasis in the West Texas desert. 432-375-2370, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/balmorhea

Pecos - 88 miles

Turn to the north shortly after Kent on Highway 20 to visit the the home of the world's first rodeo. A ranching and oil production center, Pecos is also the site of Maxey Park and Zoo and West-of-the-Pecos Museum. Treat yourself to a Pecos cantaloupe if you visit between July and September.



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LOGGING



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Van Horn Advocate

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ACTIVITIES/ATTRACTIONS



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Closed Mondays, unless it's a holiday, then closed on Tuesday.

CLARK HOTEL MUSEUM



"This town is so healthy we had to shoot a man to start a cemetery."

Slogan for Van Horn, attributed to A.S. Goynes who was shot a year later in 1892.

112 W. Broadway - 432-283-8028 - oldwest@telstar1.com

Van Horn City-County Library - Internet access computers available to the public. Open daily except Sundays and 2nd and 4th Saturdays only. Holiday hours may vary. Please call for library hours. 432-283-2855 Fax: 432-283-8316

TEXAS MOUNTAIN MERCANTILE

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PROJECT 7 SEVEN

Project 7 is the Van Horn Economic Development Initiative. Visit www.Project7.org to learn how Van Horn is creating opportunities for prosperity in the Texas Mountain region.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For the most current information about Van Horn events and attractions visit www.VanHornTexas.org

Emergency – Call 9-1-1

Culberson County Hospital
800 Eisenhower
432-283-2760

Culberson County Sheriff's Department
210 La Caverna
432-283-2060

**Visitor Information
Meetings and Conventions**

Van Horn Convention Center and Visitors Bureau
1801 West Broadway
432-283-2682
1-866-4-A-HOWDY

Texas Road and Weather Conditions
800-452-9292

Culberson County Airport
4000 FM 2185
432-283-2237

Van Horn Chamber of Commerce
432-283-2043

Town of Van Horn
432-283-2050

Van Horn Economic Development Corporation
432-283-7494

Public Access Channel
432-283-2050

Van Horn Advocate
432-283-2003

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and heritage of the Texas Mountain Trail.

www.vanhorn texas.org



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