



# BIG BOND

## *SURVIVAL GUIDE*

*WHERE  
TO GO*

*WHAT TO  
BRING*

*AND  
MORE*





# WELCOME



Out here, the desert strips away the noise and leaves what matters: music, connection, and the kind of freedom that only exists under a sky full of stars. This is your weekend to tune in, let go, and make something unforgettable together.

The **Big Bond Survival Guide** shares a collection of tips from what to pack to how to thrive in the elements. It's an equal parts prep list, love letter to the desert, and reminder that we're all guests here.

So gear up, drink water, respect the land, and take care of each other. We'll see you where the bass meets the dust and the stars feel close enough to touch.

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# WHERE TO GO



## GOAT PENS CIRCLE, TERLINGUA, TX 79852

The entrance to Big Bond is on S County Road and will be on your right. Drive slowly, because the gate can be easy to miss and other cars can come around corners.

### PRO TIP

Bring a hard copy of travel directions, just in case your cell service goes out

### CHECKING IN

- At the gate, greeters will welcome you to the festival and ask everyone to show their wristbands for entry. Have your wristband ready when you arrive for a quick check-in!
- The greeters will conduct a quick vehicle search for prohibited items and stowaways.
- Campsites are available on a first come, first serve basis.



# WHAT TO DO

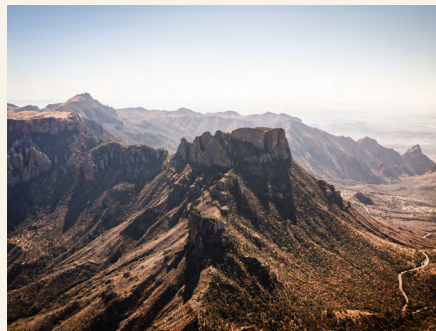


## *EXPLORE BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK*

Just a short drive from camp, Big Bend National Park is one of Texas' most breathtaking escapes. It's a mix of canyons, rivers, and desert that shifts color with every hour of light. If you're looking to explore before, during, or after the festival, here are a few favorite spots to check out:



**SANTA ELENA CANYON**



**LOST MINE TRAIL**



**BOQUILLAS HOT SPRINGS**

# WHAT TO DO



## EMBRACE THE OUTDOORS

Big Bond gives us a chance to breathe fresh air and enjoy the open landscape around us. The desert has its own kind of magic, where time slows down and every sunset feels like a small reward for making the trip.

Take a walk, find a quiet spot, and let yourself settle into the rhythm of it all.

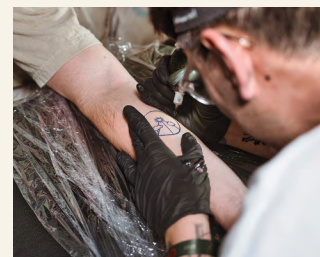


## ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

From sunrise to starlight, there's something for everyone. Expect a mix of activities like: yoga, live art, flash tattoos, and more. Check the festival schedule for times and locations. Things tend to flow with the rhythm of the weekend, so stay open and go with it.

**If you're feeling creative,** bring your own spark to the desert. Pack beads for bracelets, a watercolor set, your journal, or a yoga mat. Big Bond is a space for expression and connection, just keep it kind, conscious, and fun.

If you want to showcase a bigger piece of creative, please email [info@bigbond.us](mailto:info@bigbond.us)



## VISIT TERLINGUA

Once a historic mining village, Terlingua is an artistic desert town just down the road, now full of character.

Grab a bite or a drink at one of the local spots, browse handmade goods from desert artists, or check out the historic Ghost Town.

Support local businesses where you can and be respectful of the community.



# COME PREPARED



The desert is beautiful, but it doesn't mess around. Staying comfortable (and safe) out here means planning ahead and respecting the elements. Here's what to know before you roll in.



## WATER

There's no potable water on-site, so plan accordingly. Bring at least 1.5 gallons per person per day, more if you're camping in the sun, drinking, or dancing hard. Use it for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, and staying cool.

There will be outdoor showers and restrooms available, but the water should not be used for drinking or cooking. Make sure to stock up on water and ice - Terlingua has a few last-minute spots, but once you arrive, nothing will be available on-site.

## SHELTER

Come prepared with shelter that can handle sun, wind, and temperature swings. Shade structures are highly recommended for daytime comfort. At night, temps can drop fast, so bring quality sleeping bags/blankets and warm layers.

Your setup doesn't need to be fancy — just secure, shaded, and ready for whatever the desert throws your way. Tape down corners, stake your tent well, and keep electronics or gear off the ground in case of rain.

## THE ELEMENTS

**Rain:** It's rare, but when it happens, it comes fast. Keep cords and power sources off the ground, waterproof your tent, and avoid running generators in standing water. Help your neighbors, seek safe shelter (like in your car), and stay put until the storm passes.

**Light:** Once the sun goes down, it gets really dark. Carry a flashlight or headlamp, and decorate yourself or your camp with small lights so others can see you. It's part safety, part style.

**Temperature:** Daytime highs can reach over 100°F and drop into the low 50s at night. Bring layers, pace yourself in the heat, and use sunscreen often — the UV index at 3,000 feet hits harder than you think.

Watch for signs of dehydration: headaches, dizziness, stomach cramps, mood swings, or chills in warm weather. If that happens, seek shade, sip water, and ask someone nearby for help.

The desert can be intense, but it rewards the ones who come prepared. Respect the elements, take care of yourself and your crew, and you'll have an unforgettable weekend under the stars.

# COME PREPARED



## CHOOSE YOUR CAMPING STYLE

Your camp is your home for the weekend, so make it your own. Whether you're rolling in with an RV, parking your van, pitching a tent, or setting up something totally unique, the goal is simple: stay covered, stay comfortable, and settle in.

Big Bond welcomes a variety of shelter types: **RVs, vans, cars, tents, yurts, geo domes, and creative builds of all kinds.** If it keeps you shaded during the day, dry if it rains, and cozy at night, you're in good shape.

You don't need a fancy setup to have a good time, just something that protects you from the elements and helps you rest easy between sets. Make it functional first, then add your personality. Bring a rug, hang some lights, paint a sign; this is your desert canvas.



## CAMP PLACEMENT & ETIQUETTE

**Camping spots are first come, first serve,** so plan to arrive early if you want to set up close to friends or snag your preferred area. There's plenty of space, but coordination goes a long way in keeping things smooth.

Be mindful when choosing your spot — avoid blocking pathways or crowding others. Leave enough room for neighboring camps to set up and breathe.

Keep noise levels respectful outside of official music hours, especially in the late-night and early morning. Remember, some people are resting up for the next sunrise set.

Community is a huge part of Big Bond. Lend a hand if someone's tent is struggling in the wind, share shade if someone needs a break, and keep an eye out for one another. The best camps are the ones that feel like little pockets of friendship in the desert.

## A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Keep your setup within your camp space.
- Secure tents and shade structures tightly; desert winds are no joke.
- If you're bringing an RV or generator, check our guidelines for noise, placement, and safety.
- There are no RV hookups.
- Leave no trace. When you pack out, your space should look like you were never there.

# COME PREPARED



## WHAT TO PACK

Think of packing as setting yourself up for a weekend of comfort, creativity, and good vibes. Out here, being prepared means you can focus on what really matters: the music, the stars, and the people around you.

Here's what to bring to make your Big Bond experience smooth from start to finish:

### THE ESSENTIALS

- |                                        |                                                |                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water         | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm + cool layers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food + snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Earplugs              | <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp or flashlight                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooler + ice  | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit         | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries / Power bank                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Reusable water bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter       | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel + Soap          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions and Medical essentials, like epipens |

### NICE-TO-HAVES

- |                                                          |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp lights or string lights    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes + hand sanitizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga mat or blanket             | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable mirror            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra shade (canopy tent, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat + sunglasses           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarp or ground cover            | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art/creative supplies           | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood                   |

### DO NOT BRING

We'll keep it simple: leave behind anything that could harm the land, wildlife, or vibe.

- Glass containers
- Fireworks, explosives, or open flames
- Single-use plastics
- Firearms and other weapons of any kind
- Pets
- ATVs
- Stowaways
- Illegal drugs & paraphernalia
- Bad attitudes



# BIG BOND ETHOS

At Big Bond, we gather under desert skies to connect—with music, with each other, and with the moment. Our ethos is a living pulse, made up of the values that guide how we show up and how we share this experience. These aren't rules. They're reminders of what makes the bond between us strong.

## *ACCOUNTABILITY*

Out here, we take care of ourselves and each other. Being prepared means showing up ready, mentally and physically, for whatever the desert throws our way. We pack smart, plan ahead, and take ownership of our impact. Accountability is freedom—it means no one has to carry your weight but you.

## *INCLUSION*

Everyone belongs here. Whether you roll in solo, with friends, or find your crew on the dance floor, this community thrives on connection. We go out of our way to make the stranger feel seen, to offer a hand, a smile, or a spark of conversation. That's the bond we're here to build.

## *LEAVE NO TRACE*

The desert gives us her beauty, we return the favor by leaving no trace behind. Pack it in and pack it out, every last thing. If it wasn't here when you arrived, it shouldn't be here when you leave. Wind gusts can carry away more than you think, so keep your setup secure and skip the glitter or feathers. When in doubt, pick it up, even if it's not yours.

## *AUTHENTIC EXPRESSION*

Desert nights invite full expression—loud, quiet, colorful, weird, or wild. Big Bond is a space to drop the mask and be yourself, fully and freely. Expression is sacred, as long as it honors the freedom and safety of others. Be bold. Be kind. Be real.

## *LIFE IS NOW*

Big Bond, like life, is fleeting—here for a moment, then gone. So we lean all the way in. We dance through dust, laugh under stars, and let go of everything that keeps us from being fully present. No past, no future. Just the hum of the music and the heartbeat of the desert. Life is now. Let's live it.

### *IMPORTANT:*

There are no dumpsters in Terlingua for festival waste. Locals pay for their own services, so let's respect that and haul our trash home. The future of Big Bond depends on keeping good energy with our desert neighbors.

# TAKE CAUTION



Out here, safety and fun go hand in hand. The desert is wild, beautiful, and unpredictable—and that’s part of the magic. Big Bond is about letting loose, connecting deeply, and being mindful while you do it. Here’s what to know so you can stay safe, hydrated, and happy under the sun and stars.



## SAFETY FIRST

**Terlingua Fire & EMS is about 8 minutes from camp: Call 911 if you have an emergency.**

The nearest hospital, Big Bend Regional Medical Center, is roughly 1.5 hours away.

Keep a first aid kit on hand, drink plenty of water, and wear lights at night so you’re easy to spot in the dark. **If someone looks off, check in.**

**The terrain has deep ravines, loose rock, and some serious elevation changes.** Save the climbing for daylight and always watch your footing. Driving vehicles is not allowed in camping areas or near the stage after dark, so park and let your feet do the exploring.

When it comes to fire, only build in designated rock rings. Keep flames low and never use gasoline to start one. **Carbon monoxide is no joke either; don’t run generators or stoves inside tents or enclosed spaces.** Park cars and gear a safe distance from where you sleep.

## SAFE CAMPING PRACTICES

Set up on level ground, away from dips or dry washes that can flood in rain.

Secure tents and shade structures against wind gusts.

Keep fires small, gear tied down, and walkways lit. The desert can swing from scorching days to chilly nights, so plan for both and layer up.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Big Bond happens on private land, but the laws of Texas and the federal government still apply. The vibe may feel like the wild west, but let’s keep it peaceful and legal. Law enforcement sometimes stops by to check things out, usually it’s all chill and handled by organizers.

## BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINTS

You’ll most likely pass a border patrol station on your way to or from Big Bond. If you’re stopped, it’s no big deal: stay calm, show ID if asked, and be polite.





Big Bond started as an idea to bring people together under the desert sky, far from the noise, the rush, and the everyday routine. What began as a small spark among friends has grown into a shared experience built on connection, creativity, and care.

Each year, we're blown away by the energy this community brings: the art, the music, the laughter echoing through the night. You show up ready to create, explore, and celebrate life in its rawest form. That's what makes Big Bond more than a festival. It's a bond between people, between nature, and between the moment you're in and the one you'll never forget.

As you dance, build, wander, and rest, remember that you are part of what makes this magic possible. So drink water, stay kind, and look out for one another. Leave the desert better than you found it, and take that same spirit home with you.

We'll see you under the stars.

With love and gratitude,

***THE BIG BOND FAMILY***