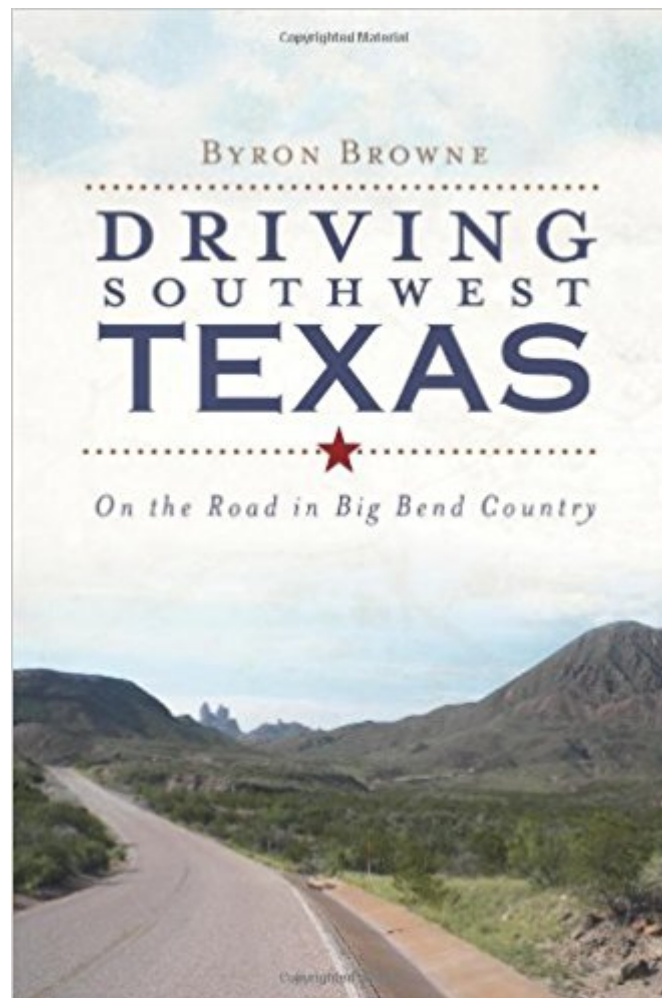




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Driving Southwest Texas:: On The Road In Big Bend Country (History & Guide)



Synopsis

West of Austin lies Big Bend Country. A region of rich history that still resembles the old frontier, Southwest Texas epitomizes the mystique and allure of this grand state. From the sweeping desert vistas to the canyons of Big Bend National Park, the geography itself is nothing short of incredible. Whether it's discovering historic Fort Davis, sharing in Annie Riggs's legacy or watching the Marfa Lights, a treasure awaits every traveler in this land. Join historian and travel writer Byron Browne as he and his wife, Angie, explore the sights and stories of this unique and charming piece of the Lone Star State

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Byron Browne (1963-) was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. As a teen-ager he and his family left west Texas. After a year in New Orleans, he spent his young adult years in the Dallas area. In 1994 he moved to Austin, Texas where he has been since. His first book, 'Driving Southwest Texas', was published in February of 2011. A document of he and his wife's adventures while touring this portion of the state, the book is a first-person narrative that is as enthralling and informative as the territory it describes. Mr. Browne has been published in a variety of newspapers and magazines with an eclectic assortment of topics. From the bull fights of southern Spain to the vineyards of west Texas Mr. Browne's writing is as rich as the subjects included in the books and articles.

I read this book in preparation for an upcoming trip and was hoping for some insight in to the things I

wanted to see and do in the area. The book does give some of that information, but it really isn't the focus of the book. It is really more of a travel journal than a comprehensive travel guide. The author spends a lot of time on the history of areas he visits (which I like), and describes the places he visits. While the detailed descriptions of his encounters with the various shop owners and museum curators he met along the way were mildly interesting, they really didn't serve my purposes for reading the book particularly well. The author visited many museums in the area which is something many tourists might want to do, but he spends a lot of time describing, for example what he read in the museum archives; which, while at times somewhat interesting, is not what most visitors would want to know about the museum. The author occasionally went off on tangents remembering vacations he took as a child with his father or when he was in college which seemed to serve no purpose other than as filler for the book. The book is a relatively pleasant read of someone's stream-of-consciousness dump of their trip, but will not be what you're looking for if you're looking for something jam packed with information of all of the places to visit, what to do, where to eat, where to find the best scenery etc. I was especially disappointed in the coverage of Big Bend National Park. Only one site in the park was discussed in any detail. There are of course many books that will detail every nook and cranny of the parks, but I will have to go buy one of those now, because this book isn't really what I was expecting. Still, I do feel better prepared for my trip armed with the vignettes of history about the region sprinkled throughout the book and I'm glad I read it. I would recommend this as reading for the history it contains, but calling it a "guide" as the title suggests is a bit misleading.

Byron Browne's book is a great ride through the harsh yet beautiful landscape of the Big Bend and Davis Mountain areas of Texas. No other part of the state is as rugged, or remote, as this land nestled in the bend of the Rio Grande. Browne is thorough on his subject, knowledgeable about the rich history of the area, and thoughtful about those he encounters on his journey. Not only is the book well-written, but it's quite a good yarn as well. I highly recommend this book.

A gem of regional travel writing. An absorbing and very well written (and researched) tour of a fascinating corner of Texas.

Join author Byron Browne and his wife Angie as they take a road trip out to the Big Bend to explore one of the most interesting and beautiful areas of the Lone Star state. It's a 400 mile trip from Austin, but it's well worth it. Browne documents the flora and fauna and folklore of the Big Bend as he and

his wife travel from town to town, often meeting the locals on their own turf and spinning a few yarns along the way. They manage to cover quite a bit of ground for so slim a volume, carefully taking us along as they discover the myriad parks, museums, rest stops, and scenery that can be found along the endless miles of highway out in West Texas. Well written, informative, and fun, I definitely recommend this book to anyone who enjoys good travel writing, cultural anthropology, and history. Never been to the Big Bend? This book will whet your appetite and have you hankering to pack your bags as soon as you can plan the trip. Been there and want to relive some of the memories or see what you might have missed? Read and enjoy. Five stars.

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