

Friday  
January  
25 08

In the morning we headed over to the Cafe for Breakfast. It has some seating outdoors and more



seats in a tent. As the morning was rather nippy, we dressed in layers prepared to brave the cold.

Inside the kitchen there were 2 tables and one was unoccupied so we decided to eat where it was nice and warm. The cook gave us a warm welcome and took our orders. The food was delicious, but a bit pricey as everything was "extra".



While there, we met the local hairdresser and shared travel stories with her. She is off to Australia soon for an adventure down-under. We wish her safe travels.

This is a shot of her hair salon.

After breakfast we set out for Big Bend National Park.



The weather was a bit dreary, but we made the best of it. At the gate, the Ranger gave us some tips for places to see and Percy got a dog biscuit.

As we headed down the road, we noticed that the mountains were partly covered with dense clouds. This reminded us of our trip to Japan when Mount Fugi was completely blanketed with clouds.

Further down the road we noted that the vegetation was changing. In the lower slopes,



there were junipers, oaks and Mexican pinons. Higher up there were Arizona pines and Douglas firs.

Green prickly pears have been a common scene along our way, but here we noted different colours of the same plant. At the Interpretive center the guide explained that there are dozens of varieties of this desert plant.





One of the campers suggested that a drive to the "basin" was a good idea, so



we headed up into the mountains and down the other side. On the way in, we actually drove through the clouds and found that the

sun was shining above and the thermometer registered warmer than it was at the lower elevation (10 C in the basin and 12 C at the top)

The campsites were beautiful, but due to the windy roads and precipitous slopes, the sites are only meant for tents or small

rigs, so we will not be able to bring our rig here.



On the way out, we once more went through the clouds and the temperature plummeted again.



Over the past week, we have seen quite a few cacti with tall tree like centers.  
Not sure what they are called, but they are interesting to look at.



As we turned north again to head home, we travelled through the badlands.





Outside of Big Bend we saw an RV park that has seen better days.

Wonder why the Statue of Liberty is here?



Alpine was our next stop. They have amazing murals on the walls of the businesses.





This one was on the side of an amazing old car that has a substantial roof rack and antlers on top.

We got home again just in time to watch the sun set behind the rig.





Frequently RV parks are situated close to the railroad. The Marathon park is no exception, and when the train

blows it's whistle it is so loud that conversation must be halted until the train has passed. Fortunately the trains are infrequent and pass rather quickly.

After supper we strolled down to the porch with our blankets for



conversation with our neighbours around the fire. Neil and Ellen have been full-timing with their fifth wheel for 3 years and Ann is travelling alone in her truck camper. They all had interesting tales to tell about their adventures along the road.



One wall in the courtyard has a fountain that looks like a face when it is lit up at night.



## Saturday January 26 08

Neil and Ellen joined us for dinner. Maureen made a Creole and Ellen brought some salads. They also brought their road atlas and pointed out things that we should see down the road. We enjoyed their company and hope that we will meet again sometime.

## Sunday January 27 08

We were sad to leave Marathon today as the park is a jewel and there is plenty to see in the area. We will probably come

back again  
someday.



Our next  
destination  
was Fort  
Clark  
Springs  
near  
Brackettville  
Texas.

We arrived  
at 2 pm.

The sun

was shining and the thermometer was a pleasant 23C.

The park is on the site of a Military Fort built in the mid 1800s. The area is filled with plenty of history that includes famous confederate *Generals* such as Ulysses, Lee and Grant. The base was decommissioned in 1946 and the area seems to have suffered from the loss, as everything looks rather old and worn out.



Monday January 28 08



Back in the early 1950s a movie set was built by John Wayne near Fort Clark Springs to stage a movie called the Alamo.

Since then, many other movies and documentaries have been shot on the same site. The set is now called Alamo Village and as we were so close, we decided to check it all out.

Strolling through the sets, we marvelled at the variety of buildings and props.







Inside the Museum, fantastic posters advertised some of the many movies shot here.

The screen's 12 million dollar spectacle!  
thousands in the cast! years in the making!



**CAST**  
JOHN WAYNE  
RICHARD WIDMARK  
LAURENCE HARVEY  
TERRY ADKINS  
LARRY HUGHES  
DICK CROGGIN  
RICHARD BOONE  
JAMES EARL RAY  
JAMES HANCOCK  
JAMES EARL RAY  
JAMES HANCOCK  
JAMES EARL RAY  
JAMES HANCOCK

# THE ALAMO

JOHN WAYNE · RICHARD WIDMARK · LAURENCE HARVEY  
TERRY ADKINS · LARRY HUGHES · DICK CROGGIN  
RICHARD BOONE  
JAMES EARL RAY · JAMES HANCOCK



Some of the buildings were open, and we could imagine how it would feel to be back in the old west.









Percy wanted to chase some of the local kitties.



When we arrived back a flock of wild turkeys waddled by our campsite.





Some deer ventured out of the woods to check us out.

When they walked back into the underbrush, they were well



camouflaged. This picture has five deer in it but only two are visible.

Brother Roy asked us for pictures of our bikes. It is really difficult to take pictures while riding, so here is one showing how we carry them from place to place.



We usually leave the bikes attached to the rig when the weather is poor or we are only staying for a few days, but we will certainly use them when we settle down in Harlingen next month.

## Tuesday January 29 08

We left Fort Clark at 1020 am and headed east. The sun was shining and the truck thermometer registered a pleasant 23C. Some of the roads were rather narrow and bumpy, but we took our time and after missing a turn and making a rather difficult turn around, we arrived at Lake Corpus Christie around 4 pm. The thermometer was up to 28C - finally some

hot  
weather!



The lady at the office explained that their sign blew down recently, and they have not replaced it yet. A sign sure would

have made our entrance a lot easier. The park is very small and the sites have cement "sidewalks" that the trailers are to be parked on. Unfortunately, these "walks" are very narrow, and our extra wide rig does not fit on them.

It took us more than an hour to set up - much longer than usual.

We ended up wedging the slides between the service post and the pole at the back.

The park is situated on a pretty lake, but the pool is empty and everything looks like it needs attention. Percy was not happy to find a large Lab resting under our rig after dinner.

