



Davis Mountains Education Center

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1-800-403-3484

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www.dmectexas.org/elderhostel

Chinati Foundation – Art Mecca, Marfa Ghost Light Mysteries, and Starlit West Texas Skies (Program #14239)

About the Davis Mountains Education Center (DMEC)

The Davis Mountains Education Center (DMEC) is located on a serene hillside just outside the historic town of Fort Davis. We have a dining room, lodging, and indoor and outdoor program facilities. Some local attractions include Fort Davis National Historic Site and McDonald Observatory.

Our office is usually staffed Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., but we do vary our hours due to programs and group demands and can often be reached after hours and weekends. You may leave a message, and a staff member will return your call.

The following information should answer the majority of your questions; however, you are welcome to contact us if you still have questions. *When calling, please specify the program number you have a question about, we operate a variety of programs.*

About Fort Davis

The town of Fort Davis is located in the heart of the Davis Mountains of West Texas. The town was established in the 1850s and currently has approximately 1,000 residents. At an elevation of 5,050 feet, Fort Davis is the highest town in Texas. This elevation provides for a mild year round climate. The average summer high is 88° F with low humidity, and the average winter low is 30° F. The average annual rainfall is less than 17 inches. However, summer monsoons arrive in July and continue until September. *If you are traveling during this time period, bring a rain jacket.* The average number of sunny days in Fort Davis is 243. Hotels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, gift shops, the Chamber of Commerce, a library, a post office, a doctor's office, and a museum are located nearby. You can go to www.FortDavis.com to learn more about area attractions and to get the current forecast. Fort Davis is located in the Central Time Zone and daylight savings time does apply April – October.

About Marfa

Marfa is located at an altitude of 4,830 above sea level in a semiarid region. The Texas mountain ranges ring the town of Marfa with the Davis Mountains to the North (highest peak, Mt. Livermore, 8378 feet), the Chisos Mountains to the southeast and the Chinati Mountains to the southwest. The highest pass in Texas, Paisano pass (5,074 ft.) is situated 12 miles to the east between the twin mountains near Alpine, Texas. You can go to <http://www.marfatx.com/> to learn more about Marfa.

Health concerns/physical activities

Elevation during your trip ranges up to 5,050 feet (Fort Davis). This is not one of our more active programs. The primary physical strain will be getting on and off the trains and buses. Participants must also be able to stand for up to one hour, be able to negotiate bus and train steps, and be able to transport their own luggage for a short distance. If you are prone to motion sickness, we suggest you take necessary medication prior to traveling on the train or bus.

What to wear and bring

Dress is casual. Some items you should bring include:

- a comfortable pair of walking shoes (a must),
- a jacket (warm for winter trips, or light for cooler summer evenings and mornings),
- a sweater or two for evening and early mornings,
- clothing that can be worn in layers is best,
- a swimsuit - some lodging facilities offer indoor or outdoor pools or hot-tubs.

Necessary items to pack

- a hat or cap, sunscreen,
- alarm clock,
- small flashlight,
- a supply of your medications,
- antibiotics,
- motion sickness medicines, etc.,
- a small personal first aid kit is useful with band-aids, antibiotic ointment, tweezers, pain medication, etc., and
- washcloth, wet wipes or waterless antibacterial hand wash.

Additional items that you may want to bring—

- camera with spare batteries and film,
- a walking stick or cane,
- a small "fanny pack" or backpack,
- a cushion for softer seating if you like, and

Dietary concerns

Your meals are planned and paid for in advance. You will enjoy meals at DMEC prepared by our kitchen staff, and at a variety of area restaurants. We plan your meals taking into consideration nutritional value and variety. If you have special dietary needs, please specify this on the *Personal Information Form* you send us in advance. We will make every effort to meet your dietary needs. Please keep in mind that plate changes are not possible at mealtime due to time constraints. Everyone usually finds plenty of food and a variety of choices.

Cellular telephones/computer access

Cellular phone service and internet access can vary. Contact your local carrier for information on your specific coverage and service. A public access computer is available at DMEC in Fort Davis. *Remember your log-in and password* for access to your local provider website.

Emergency contact information

Emergency phone calls should be directed through the DMEC office. Advise friends and relatives of these numbers:

- DMEC office, daytime: 432-426-3481 and 1-800-403-3484,
- DMEC office e-mail: info@dmectexas.org.
- DMEC office, after hours, in an emergency, and only after trying the above number, you can call Scott Turner at home at 432-426-3427.

Illness/accident/emergency situations

We do everything that we can to make your trip safe. However, as is life, people do become ill, have accidents, or require other emergency assistance. Elderhostel, Inc. provides, as a part of your enrollment cost, a 24-hour travel assistance and insurance plan for medical and other emergencies. This service is provided by American International Group, Inc. (AIG Assist). An informational brochure entitled *Welcome to US/Canada Programs, Elderhostel*, is included in your program confirmation material from Elderhostel and will explain your coverage. This travel assistance and insurance plan covers you from beginning to end of your program. For more information regarding this coverage, contact Elderhostel at 1-877-426-8056.

Pre-Program Checklist

- Return Personal Information Form**, including shuttle service request, rooming requirements, and special needs, as soon as possible.
- Confirm shuttle arrangements two weeks prior to program** by calling 1-800-403-3484 or e-mailing info@dmectexas.org.