STOP 3

Fort Leaton

The Chinati Mountains are a small range that you will see on this drive. The mountains elevations varies from 4,605 to 7,728 feet above sea level. The highest point in the range is Chinati Peak, with an elevation of 7,728 feet (2,355 m). The peaks' dome-shaped hump can be seen rising prominently in the distance to the southwest from US 90 between Van Horn and Marfa. The elliptically-shaped Chinati Peak runs from northwest to southeast for fourteen miles. Chinati Peak is encircled by jagged desert peaks and rugged canyons.

You'll be going through a pass Ranch to Market Road 2810. The mountains are primarily composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks, and are believed to be the remains of a number of explosive volcanic caldera-building events in the remote past. There are some large quartz monzonite intrusion domes on the west side of the calderas and many dikes of peralkaline rhyolite on the north side of the calderas.

The Chinati Mountains

located on the north side of the calderas and many dikes of peralkaline rhyolite on the north side of the calderas.

STOP 2

Chinati Hot Springs

The waters of Chinati Hot Springs have long been a traveler's destination because of their restorative properties. The pool's mineral-rich water stays at a constant 100 degrees, and is believed to possess healing abilities. Apaches say the name ‘Chinati' is derived from the Apache word meaning “Mountain.” The springs were thought to have been a place of healing for Native Americans. The springs are now a state park with hot spring-fed swimming pools and a picnic area.

You'll want to call ahead and get a reservation so you'll have a room for changing and you'll have your chance to enjoy the waters secured. Take Hot Springs Road about a half mile outside of Ruidosa to Chinati Hot Spring's gate. It's also known as Pinto Canyon Road, out of Marfa.

STOP 1

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

Fort Leaton is a fort established in 1848 as a border trading post by former Indian hunter Benjamin Leaton. The massive adobe fortress protected his family and employees from Indian raids. The fort will serve as a backdrop for the dramatic life of the town's formidable history (people have been living and farming around here for 3,500 years, and the modern city was originally in Ojinga, Mexico). The town itself boasts comfortable hotels, shopping both in town and across the bridge. Marvels abound, from the ghostly Chinati Bend Ranch State Park. Many visitors enjoy exploring the outdoors by car, motorcycle or river raft.

The original adobe structure was a private residence dating back to the early 19th century featured occasional Comanche raids. The late 19th century featured occasional Comanche raids. The fort was abandoned and burned in 1883.

The Chinati Mountains are also known as Pinto Canyon Road, out of Marfa. To the south of Marfa, the mountains are known as the Chinati Mountains. The Chinati Mountains are a small range that you will see on this drive. The mountains' elevations varies from 4,605 to 7,728 feet above sea level. The highest point in the range is Chinati Peak, with an elevation of 7,728 feet (2,355 m). The peaks' dome-shaped hump can be seen rising prominently in the distance to the southwest from US 90 between Van Horn and Marfa. The elliptically-shaped Chinati Peak runs from northwest to southeast for fourteen miles. Chinati Peak is encircled by jagged desert peaks and rugged canyons.

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