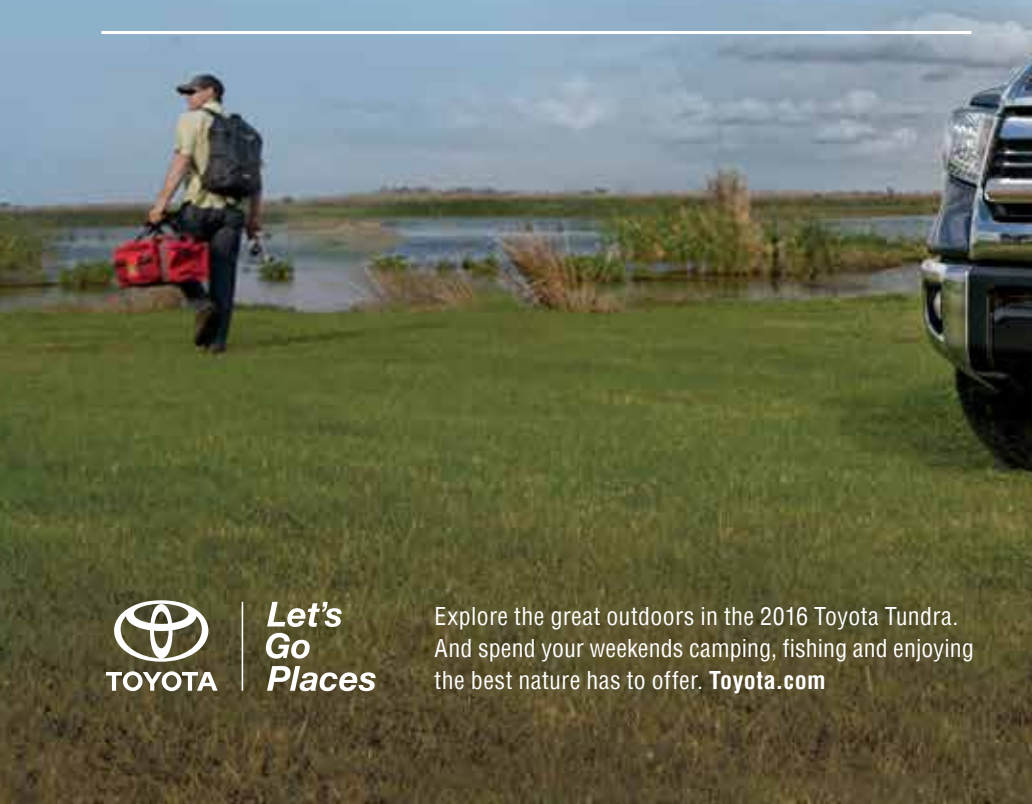


State Park Guide

Maps
Facilities
Activities



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Carter P. Smith Executive Director
Brent Leisure State Parks Director
Josh Havens Communications Director

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Cover photo: Palo Duro State Park, Chase Fountain

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WELCOME

from Brent Leisure, State Parks Director

Visitors, the future looks bright – exceedingly bright!

Texas has passed breakthrough legislation to put more dedicated funding into your state parks.

In the short term, most of the new funding will be used for much-needed capital repairs and improvements. It will also go toward grants to build or improve city and county park systems. Other planned improvements include modernized utilities, renovated historic sites and upgraded visitor centers.

In the future, dedicated funding will allow for continued maintenance, more visitor programs, greater availability of staff and new state parks to meet the needs of our rapidly growing state.

Our brighter future wouldn't be possible without the vision of the Texas Legislature, as well as the visitors, volunteers, friends groups, communities, industry professionals and corporate partners who contributed support along the way. To you we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation.

Park Improvement Projects (Planned and Underway)

More than 80 improvements are planned or underway, including:

- **19 restroom replacements** including Caddo Lake, Guadalupe River, Mustang Island and Ray Roberts Lake
- **13 modernized electric and water systems** including Brazos Bend, Copper Breaks, Fairfield Lake, Lake Somerville, Martin Creek Lake, Possum Kingdom and Stephen F. Austin
- **Abilene SP** - swimming pool and bathhouse repairs
- **Balmorhea SP** - roofing and motor court renovations, camping loop upgrades
- **Battleship TEXAS SHS** - critical structural repairs
- **Franklin Mountains SP** - new visitor center
- **Galveston Island SP** - beachside revitalization including boardwalks, tent platforms, group shelters and electric/water sites
- **Huntsville SP** - dam, boathouse and lodge patio repairs
- **Indian Lodge** - Black Bear Restaurant renovation, new exterior
- **McKinney Falls SP** - flood repairs, renovated visitor center
- **Mission Tejas SP** - new visitor center
- **Sheldon Lake SP** - new boardwalks and campsites

See the full list:

texasstateparks.org/brighterfuture

What is there to do in state parks?

Eat together at a family-friendly picnic, tour a hallowed historic site or choose from some of these visitor favorites:



Camp

Find a site that meets your needs. Test out new recipes, share your favorite stories and enjoy the stars.



Ride a Horse

Have you always wanted to ride a horse? Now is your chance! Ask about guided outings, rental options and stables.



Ride a Bike

Pedal across parks at any speed, in any style, with any group. Choose the routes, surfaces and distances that fit your comfort zone.



Fish

Fish without a license in as many as 70 state parks. Many offer tackle loaner programs and special learn-to-fish events.



Boat or Paddle

Rent canoes and kayaks, explore a Texas Paddling Trail or launch a boat.



Hike

Start with a shorter loop, tackle tougher terrain or join a guided tour.



Swim

Beat the heat at creeks, rivers, lakes, springs, pools and ocean beaches.

Kids 12 and under get FREE ADMISSION at more than 90 Texas State Parks!

Many state parks offer special guided and self-guided programs. Below are a few examples. Ask your park what's available!

Geocache Challenge



Travel to new parts of your favorite parks by joining these modern-day treasure hunts. Bring your phone or GPS unit. Win prizes

by locating hidden caches. Many are camouflaged, but none are buried.

Texas Outdoor Family



Choose a workshop and make your own adventure. Set up a tent, cook outdoors, build a campfire, and play outside! We provide all the equipment. No experience necessary.

Civilian Conservation Corps



Tour any of 29 parks to marvel at architectural treasures like shelters,

bridges, cabins, refectories and more. See how these diverse work crews - including young adults as well as war veterans - overcame the Great Depression and built the first state parks in Texas. Their legacy stands today for future generations.



Dark Skies

Escape city lights and gaze up at views you won't find anywhere else. By coming to a star party, or trying your own self-guided constellation tour, you show your support for parks with highly-rated skies and nearby observatories.

Junior Ranger

Pick up a free Junior Ranger activity journal or check out free packs from participating parks. Use the binoculars, magnifying glass, sketchbooks and guidebooks to explore the park.



Texas Buffalo Soldiers

Bring history to life with stories, costumes and tools. Track an animal, fish with a cane pole, cook over a campfire, visit frontier forts and more. Step into the life stories of

those who bravely served in America's first African American regular army regiments.



Find state park events near you:
tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

texasstateparks.org/activities

What type of park visitor are you?

Whether you're looking for relaxation or adventure, Texas State Parks offer an experience perfectly fitted for YOU.



<< The Adventurer

You seek limitless opportunities to explore, experience new thrills and simply have a lot of fun.

On your next trip:

- Travel deep into the mountainous desert for backcountry camping at Big Bend Ranch (p.24)
- Surf the waves while spotting coastal marine life at Mustang Island (p.38)
- Hike 34 miles of rugged trails and wilderness at Colorado Bend (p.45)

The Comfort Traveler >>

A great park visit for you means the chance for relaxation and scenic views while only a short drive from local destinations.

On your next trip:

- Enjoy the brilliant blue and red sunsets over the charming, wooded Atlanta (p.71)
- Rent a boat and while away the day at Eisenhower (p.83)
- Watch for roadrunners, cottontails and bobcats at Falcon (p.104)



<< The Family Planner

Your state park visit gives you easy ways to keep your kids entertained and inspire their love for the outdoors.

On your next trip:

- Make sandcastles on the beach and explore the wetlands at Galveston Island (p.36)
- Swim and kayak in the sparkling blue waters of Inks Lake (p.49)
- Watch your child reel in their first catch (or second and third!) at Lake Arrowhead (p.65)

>> Show us what kind of park visitor you are!
Share your experiences on Instagram or Twitter by tagging [#TxStateParks](#)

The catch that day was only half the story.

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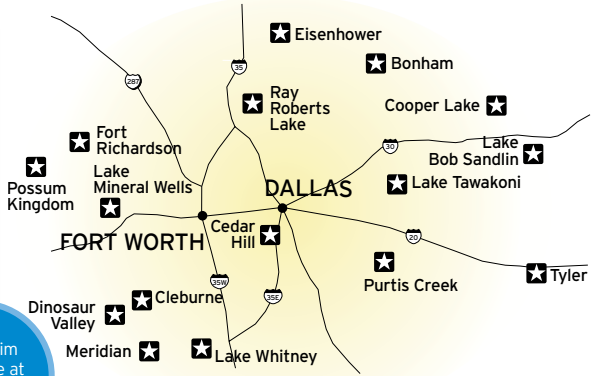
Where do you want to go?

You'll find many state parks nearby.

Dallas/Fort Worth Area >>



Fish, swim or paddle at Purtis Creek SP.



<< Houston Area



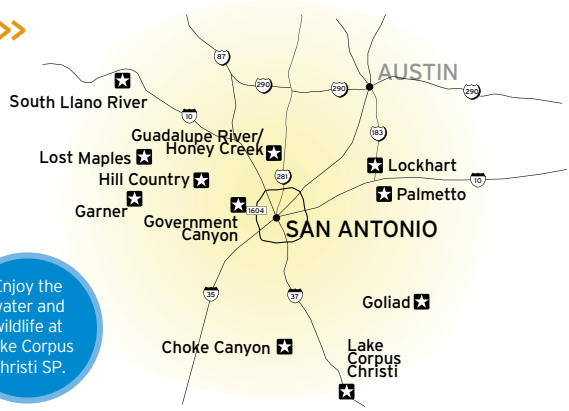
Stay at a screened shelter at Stephen F. Austin SP.



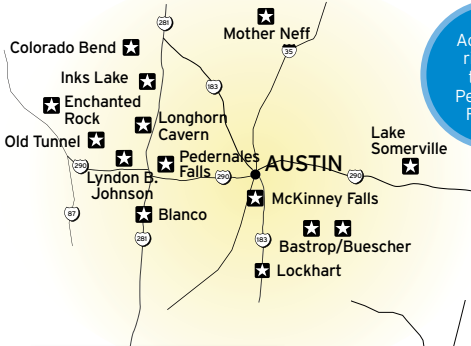
San Antonio Area >>



Enjoy the water and wildlife at Lake Corpus Christi SP.



<< Austin Area



Access the river and trails at Pedernales Falls SP.



Experience the water and trails at Lake Casa Blanca SP.



<< South Texas Area

El Paso Area >>



Hike and camp at Franklin Mountains SP.



PLACES TO STAY

Enjoy the softer side of camping.

Outdoor recreation by day.
Indoor comforts at night.

Lantana Resort - Ray Roberts Lake SP

Choose from a variety of overnight accommodations:



Screened shelter at Blanco SP



Screened shelters

These protected, enclosed shelters are available in dozens of parks and include amenities such as outdoor fire rings, picnic tables and grills.

State parks with screened shelters:

Abilene, Blanco, Brazos Bend, Buescher, Caddo Lake, Cleburne, Cooper Lake, Eisenhower, Falcon, Fort Parker, Garner, Goliad, Huntsville, Lake Bob Sandlin, Lake Brownwood, Lake Corpus Christi, Lake Livingston, Lake Mineral Wells, Lake Whitney, Martin Dies, Jr., Martin Creek Lake, Meridian, Stephen F. Austin, Tyler



Limited-service cabins and modified shelters

Enjoy amenities such as air conditioning, microwaves and bunk beds, with group restrooms and showers nearby.



Limited-service cabin at Lake Colorado City SP

State parks with limited-service cabins and modified shelters:

Buescher, Caddo Lake, Choke Canyon, Cleburne, Cooper Lake, Falcon, Fort Richardson, Huntsville, Inks Lake, Lake Bob Sandlin, Lake Colorado City, Lake Corpus Christi, Martin Creek Lake, Martin Dies, Jr., McKinney Falls, Palmetto, Palo Duro Canyon, San Angelo, Stephen F. Austin, Tyler



CCC-built Rim Cabins at Palo Duro Canyon SP

Lodges

Indian Lodge in Davis Mountains SP is a full-service hotel that includes a restaurant, swimming pool and meeting room.



Indian Lodge in Davis Mountains SP

Full-service cabins

One of the most popular attractions in state parks, these cabins feature amenities such as air conditioning, heat, bedrooms, kitchens, microwaves and restrooms.

State parks with full-service cabins:

Bastrop, Caddo Lake, Cooper Lake, Daingerfield, Garner, Lake Brownwood, Martin Creek Lake, Mother Neff, Palo Duro Canyon, Possum Kingdom, Sea Rim, Village Creek

Lantana Resort in Ray Roberts Lake SP north of Dallas features stunning lake views as well as a full-service marina.

San Solomon Springs Courts in Balmorhea SP feature motel-style lodging next to the world's largest natural swimming pool.

Sauceda Ranch House in Big Bend Ranch SP can accommodate up to eight visitors. A well-appointed kitchen is available.



Group bunkhouse at Cleburne SP

Group bunkhouses, overnight recreation halls

Choose from a range of styles and sizes, perfect for family reunions or other large group gatherings. Most include amenities such as air conditioning, restrooms and beds.

State parks with group bunkhouse or overnight recreation hall facilities:

Bastrop, Big Bend Ranch, Bonham, Cleburne, Daingerfield, Devils River SNA, Estero Llano Grande, Fort Parker, Hill Country SNA, Lake Brownwood, San Angelo, Stephen F. Austin



Sauceda Ranch House in Big Bend Ranch SP

Is your favorite space already booked? Consider a weekday visit, or try a state park nearby! Choose from a full range of options:

texasstateparks.org/facilities

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Whether you travel in a Class A motorhome or with a cozy pop-up, stay the night or spend a few weeks in the perfect places for your home away from home.



How long can I stay?

- Ask about seasonal discounts for weekly or monthly stays.
- We warmly welcome “Winter Texans”
- If you plan to visit longer than one month, consider applying to become a park host! Hosts assist visitors with information, perform litter collection and light maintenance and serve about 25 hours per week.

How do I get my site?

- texasstateparks.org/reservations
- (512) 389-8900
- Know your vehicle length.
- Consider the amenities you want, such as water hookups, electricity or dump station.
- Ask ahead about reserving additional group facilities.



More info on RV-compatible sites: texasstateparks.org/facilities

For same-day reservations, or site-specific facility questions, please contact the park directly.



WHO NEEDS WILD PLACES & WILD THINGS IN TEXAS?

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
BELIEVES WE ALL DO. IF YOU SHARE
THIS BELIEF, WE INVITE YOU TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION WITH US.**

Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) has leveraged public funds with private philanthropy to advance Texas' proud outdoor traditions and conserve our state's wildlife, habitat, recreational areas, and natural resources. In 2014, TPWF and a multi-partner coalition acquired the stunning Powderhorn Ranch on Matagorda Bay, pictured here.

tpwf.org | 214.720.1478 | info@tpwf.org



Sharing our home

You may see these and other species in their natural habitats when you visit. Many plants and animals depend on state parks to stay alive and thrive. With every visit, you help manage and conserve the rich biodiversity of Texas.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

This kingbird has a tail that doubles its body length. It perches in the open and flies out to catch insects in midair, also known as “hawking.”



Beaver

This sleek, streamlined swimmer assures its water supply and establishes its territory by building a dam and home of mud, rocks and wood.

Bobcat

This shy-natured, mostly nocturnal cat has small tufts on the tips of its ears. Its ability to adapt to changing conditions has allowed this native species to thrive even in landscapes near urban areas.



Greater Roadrunner

This swift, animated cuckoo often runs instead of flying, whether chasing down reptiles or fleeing from danger. Its X-shaped footprint helps conceal the direction it is heading.



Gray Fox

This elusive, mostly nocturnal mammal has a unique ability to climb trees to hunt or escape danger.



Badger

With a keen sense of smell second only to dogs, and an ability to dig faster than any mammal, these ferocious fighters will growl, snarl and emit a scent if provoked. They often compete with coyotes for food and are unaffected by snake venom unless struck on the nose.

Bottlenose Dolphin

One of over 20 cetacean species found on the Texas coast, these curious, intelligent mammals have stout bodies, short beaks and erect dorsal fins.



To help keep wildlife wild, please maintain a safe, respectful distance.

Black-tailed Prairie Dog

These heavy-bodied rodents live in towns divided into wards and coteries. Family members greet each other with bared teeth and “kiss” as a form of recognition.



Lost Maples SNA



Government Canyon SNA



Devils River SNA

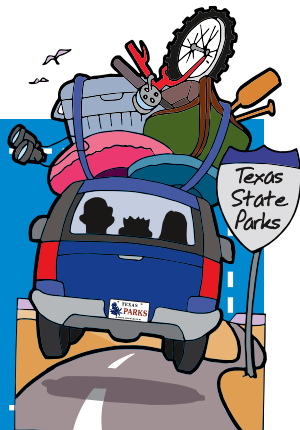
What are State Natural Areas?

These sensitive ecosystems are some of the most valuable native habitats you can visit on public lands in Texas, and they need your help to stay healthy. Please expect more nature, fewer developed facilities and different hours of operation.

texasstateparks.org/wildlifewatching

Pack it up!

Ensure that you and your group have the supplies to make your visit as enjoyable, comfortable and safe as possible.



SAFETY BASICS

- bug spray
- bungee cords/rope
- candles
- cell phone
- compass
- duct tape
- flashlight/headlight
- pocketknife/multi-tool
- sunblock
- GPS
- map
- lantern
- matches
- rain poncho
- water filters
- whistle

FIRST AID KIT

- personal medication
- bandages
- sterile gauze
- antibiotic cream
- burn ointment
- sunburn lotion
- scissors
- tweezers
- eye wash

SHELTER & BEDDING

- tent and poles
- tarp
- sleeping bag & pad
- pillow/headrest

SPECIAL CLOTHING

- hiking boots
- camp shoes
- hat/cap
- sweater
- swimsuit

CLEANING ITEMS

- dish rags
- pot scrubber

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- toothbrush & toothpaste
- washcloth(s)/towel(s)
- biodegradable soap
- comb/brush
- nail clippers
- razor
- toilet paper
- shower bag
- sanitary napkins
- clothespins

RECREATION

- binoculars
- bird guide

- camera
- cards, games
- firewood (sold at many state parks)
- fishing gear

COOKING & DINING

- water
- food
- cooler
- camp stove
- fire starter/lighter
- can opener
- charcoal
- salt, herbs, spices
- cooking oil
- pot holders
- paper towels
- plastic trash bags
- tongs & spatula
- aluminum foil
- measuring cups
- plastic silverware
- paper plates/bowls
- plastic cups
- zip lock bags
- cutting board
- charcoal chimney
- smoker
- chairs
- folding table
- tablecloth

Keep your day on the water fun and safe by following these tips:

Swim Smart. Stay Safe.

- **Wear a life jacket and sunscreen.**
- **Supervise children at all times.**
- **Learn to swim.**
- **Drink plenty of water and take breaks.**

(Summer heat can cause dehydration even when you are in the water.)

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2501 Post Oak Blvd.

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The Quarry Market

DALLAS

5400 East Mockingbird Ln.
Preston Forest Center

SOUTHLAKE

Southlake Town Square



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STATE PARK VISITOR FEES



Thank you for keeping Texas State Parks open and well-maintained! Every time you visit a state park, you help fund important park upkeep, valuable visitor programs and popular new improvements. About 50% of the state parks operating budget comes directly from visitor fees. All fees vary by park.

Entrance Fee - for day use, including a variety of activities and visitor programs. This fee allows entrance to multiple state parks in the same business day.

Admission to Texas State Parks is FREE for kids 12 and under.

Facility Fee - additional fee paid to stay overnight at a campsite, cabin or guest room, or to rent a group facility, meeting room or pavilion.

Activity Fee - additional fee paid to participate in a special park activity, tour a historic site or ride a ferry or tram.

Make your reservation:

texasstateparks.org/reservations

(512) 389-8900* * 8a.m. - 6p.m. Mon. - Wed., 8a.m. - 5p.m. Thurs. - Fri., except holidays. For same-day reservations, contact the park directly.

Unlimited park visits. All year.

Get an annual park pass and enjoy a year of free admission.

Texas State Parks Pass

Get **unlimited free entry** to more than 90 state parks for you and a carload of guests (good for 12 months).

Plus, receive discounts on camping, park store merchandise and more.

\$70
per pass
Two-card membership for \$95



Purchase your State Park Pass during your next visit to a state park or by calling (512) 389-8900.

Parklands Passport

Qualifying seniors, persons with disabilities and disabled veterans can apply for a free Parklands Passport. The pass includes discounted or free entry to the more than 90 state parks. Present proof of qualifying benefit at any state park office to receive your Parklands Passport.

Note: Texas does not recognize annual pass programs of other state park systems or the National Park Service.

Youth Group Annual Pass

Nonprofit youth groups can buy this pass and get free entry for a year for youth visitors, ages 13 to 17. Each pass costs \$100 and is good for 50 kids and adult chaperones. Download and submit your application at least four weeks before your visit.

texasstateparks.org/passes














































STATE PARKS DIRECTORY

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
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| 34 | Gulf Coast | 78 | Prairies and Lakes |
| 44 | Hill Country | 98 | South Texas Plains |
| 60 | Panhandle Plains | 110 | Facilities & Activities Index |

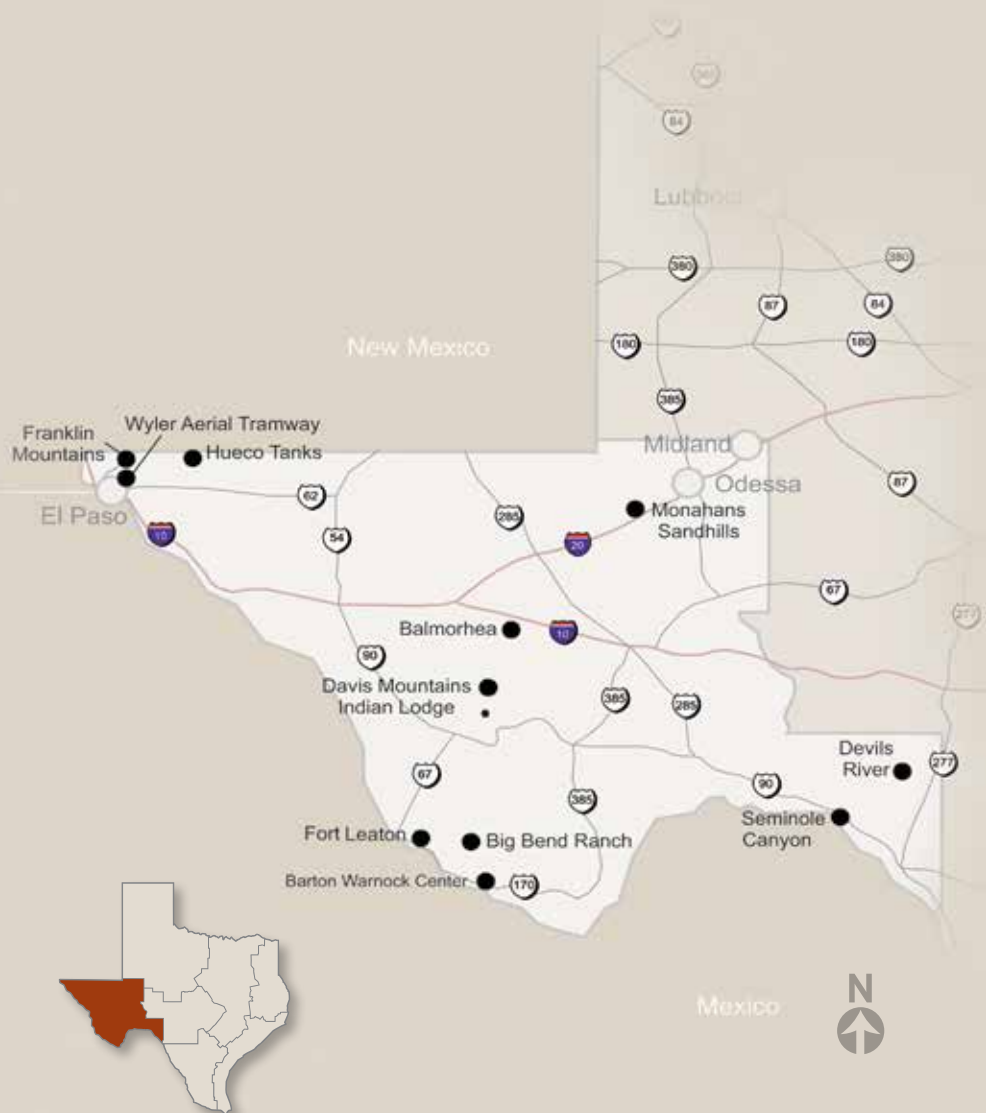
Facilities & Amenities in Texas State Parks

Use this legend as a reference for each of the parks listed in the State Parks Directory pages.

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Boat Ramp |  Open Beach |
|  Cabins |  Park Store |
|  Cabins - Limited |  Picnic Tables |
|  Camp - Group |  Playground |
|  Campsites - Primitive/Walk-in |  Restaurant |
|  Campsites - Tent |  Restrooms |
|  Campsites - Water and Electric |  Rock Climbing |
|  Campsites - Water, Electric and Sewer |  Screened Shelter |
|  Campsites - Dump Station |  Shelters with A/C |
|  Civilian Conservation Corps |  Showers |
|  Exhibit/Interpretive Center |  Swimming |
|  Facility - Day Use Only |  Swimming Pool |
|  Facility - Day Use Group |  Trails - Biking |
|  Facility - Equestrian |  Trails - Equestrian |
|  Facility - Overnight Group |  Trails - Hiking |
|  Fishing |  Trails - Mountain Biking |
|  Fish Cleaning Shelters |  Trails - Nature/Interpretive |
|  Fishing Pier |  Trails - Primitive Hiking |
|  Fishing Tackle Loaner Program |  Watercraft Rental |
|  Golf |  Water Skiing |
|  Historic Site/Museum |  Wheelchair Accessible |
|  Motel/Lodging |  Wi-Fi available www.texasstateparks.org/wifi |

Check texasstateparks.org or (512) 389-8900 in advance of your trip in case of schedule or operational changes.

BIG BEND COUNTRY



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Balmorhea State Park

9207 TX-17, Toyahvale 79786 📞 (432) 375-2370

GPS Latitude N 30 56 42.21 | Longitude W 103 47 11.79



Dive into the cool waters of the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool, which covers 1.75 acres and stays at 72–76 degrees year-round. Scuba divers love the clarity even at a 25-foot depth. In addition to swimming and camping, the park offers lodging at the San Solomon Springs Courts, a retro-style motel built by the CCC in the early 1940s with an adobe look. Canals along the Courts lead

to a restored *ciénega* (wetland), where a window built below ground provides a view of the underwater world.

Devils River State Natural Area

HC 01, Box 513, Del Rio 78840 📞 (830) 395-2133

GPS Latitude N 29 56 22.84 | Longitude W 100 58 13.18



Fed by clear springs flowing from seeps and streams within the region's karst topography, the Devils River is one of the most ecologically intact rivers in Texas, giving life to diverse plants and wildlife. The state natural area's large size and remoteness support day hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Advance preparation is a must, as all camping and facility stays are by reservation only, and

all reservations must be made at least one day in advance. A permit is required for all paddling trips on the Devils River which access TPWD-managed lands. *For more information about the Devils River State Natural Area Access Permit, please visit the park page online.*

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

FM 170 East, Presidio 79845 📞 (432) 229-3613

GPS Latitude N 29 32 38.004 | Longitude W 104 19 39

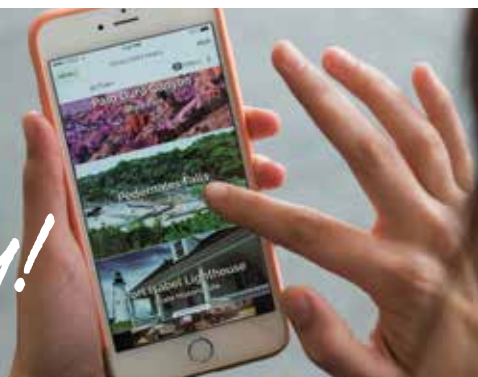


Picnic at this 1848 adobe fortress and former trading post on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande where Ben Leaton conducted business with the Apaches, Comanches and Mexicans. Today the site is an active museum offering audiovisual programs, reenactments, tours and colorful events. Fort Leaton is the western gateway to Big Bend Ranch State Park and River Road (FM 170). Enjoy the holidays with the annual reenacted *posadas* in December.





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New



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TexasStateParks.org/app

Franklin Mountains State Park

Headquarters: 1331 McKelligon Canyon Road, El Paso 79930 ☎ (915) 566-6441

GPS Latitude N 31 50 32.60 | Longitude W 106 29 11.20

Tom Mays Unit: 3.5 miles East of I-10 on Transmountain Road

GPS Latitude N 31 54 29.40 | Longitude W 106 31 31.65



At the westernmost tip of Texas, where the mountains meet the sky and cities hug the Rio Grande, lies the largest state park in an urban setting. Franklin Mountains State Park encompasses 26,627 acres in the city of El Paso. Hike rugged terrain in 40 square miles of Chihuahuan Desert wilderness, scrub vegetation and open space with over 100 miles of multiuse trails that are especially popular with hikers and mountain bikers. Camp and picnic, too. Ground fires are allowed in designated fire rings only; charcoal fires can be built in grills at the picnic sites.

Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site

6900 Hueco Tanks Road No. 1, El Paso 79938 📞 (915) 857-1135

GPS Latitude N 31 55 33.78 | Longitude W 106 02 31.59



This site is named for the natural rock basins in its granite outcroppings that capture rainwater, a precious resource in the Chihuahuan Desert environment. For millennia, people seeking life-giving water and the diverse plants and animals that could be found here left curious and beautiful paintings on the

rocks. Today this ancient site preserves more than 2,000 pictographs that are a wonder to behold.

Because of the sensitive nature of the site, visitation is limited and reservations are recommended for day use, camping and tours. Pictograph tours, hiking tours and bouldering tours in the guided area are available by advance request Wednesday through Sunday. *Reservations can be made by calling the Hueco Tanks reservation line at (512) 389-8911 📞*

Indian Lodge State Park

16453 Park Rd 3, Fort Davis 79734 ☎ (432) 426-3254

GPS Latitude N 30 35 34.79 | Longitude W 103 56 38.4



Nestled in the Davis Mountains, within Davis Mountains State Park, this southwestern, pueblo-style adobe lodge charms with its original handcrafted interiors and furnishings dating from its 1930s construction by the CCC. In addition to the guest rooms with cable TV, telephones and private baths, the lodge has a full-service restaurant, a group meeting room

and a swimming pool, making this truly a unique destination in a mountain setting. *Reservations can be made by calling the Indian Lodge reservation line at (512) 389-8982.* 📶

Monahans Sandhills State Park

Park Road 41, Monahans 79756 📞 (432) 943-2092

GPS Latitude N 31 37 08.00 | Longitude W 102 48 43.52



Fun-loving travelers surf the sand dunes that rise as high as 70 feet in this geologic wonderland. These sand dunes are only a small part of a larger 200-square-mile dune field that stretches into New Mexico. Rent sand disks, then visit exhibits that explain the dune dynamics and desert wildlife. Picnicking and camping are also popular at this park, located off I-20 west of Odessa, just east of the town of Monahans. 📶

Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site

Hwy. 90 West, Park Road 67, Comstock 78837 📞 (432) 292-4464

GPS Latitude N 29 42 00.36 | Longitude W 101 18 47.01



Ancient pictographs, rugged limestone terrain and spectacular canyons lure visitors to Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site. People once lived in these natural rock shelters carved into the canyon walls. They painted distinctive ancient symbols that tell us of their passing. The park contains rock art more than 4,000 years old and considered to be some of North America's oldest. Visitors can hike the rugged landscape, take a guided tour into the canyons to see the renowned pictographs in Fate Bell Shelter, camp in a tent or RV, or learn more inside the park's interpretive museum. Seminole Canyon has many stories to tell. Guided rock art tours are available Wednesdays through Sundays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (times vary during summer months). Contact the park for more information. 📶

Wylers Aerial Tramway

1700 McKinley, El Paso 79930 ☎ (915) 566-6622

GPS Latitude N 31 48 36.50 | Longitude W 106 28 39.79



Glide to the top of Ranger Peak inside Franklin Mountains State Park in an airborne Swiss gondola. From a mile-high seat in the sky, see Mexico, New Mexico and the city of El Paso unfold below you. Souvenirs, snacks, books and gifts are available at the Observation Deck on top. After dark, catch the panorama of El Paso and its gold- and silver-hued lights against a dramatic desert backdrop. Plentiful hiking opportunities between the peak and the base exist for those looking to explore from a different perspective. 📶



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State Parks

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GULF COAST



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Battleship Texas State Historic Site

3523 Independence Parkway South, La Porte 77571 📞 (281) 479-2431

GPS Latitude N 29 45 05.72 | Longitude W 95 05 23.64



Located at San Jacinto Battleground, Battleship Texas is the last surviving Dreadnought-type ship in the world and is the only remaining battleship to have served in both World Wars. When she was commissioned in 1914, the vessel was considered the most advanced military weapon on the planet. During her service, Texas was modernized many times with the latest in cutting-edge technology and was the first U.S. battleship to launch an aircraft, mount anti-aircraft batteries and have radar installed.

Brazos Bend State Park

21901 F.M. 762, Needville 77461 📞 (979) 553-5101

GPS Latitude N 29 22 15.16 | Longitude W 95 37 54.58



Named one of America's top state parks by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, this park includes almost 5,000 acres of lakes, prairies and bottomland hardwood forests. Areas of huge live oak trees draped in Spanish moss provide shade to the park's three day-use areas. Thirty-five miles of multiuse trails, spanning a diverse ecology, offer visitors prime viewing of alligators, white-tailed deer and more than 300 species of birds. Six small lakes and a winding, tree-lined creek offer places to fish. Touch a "baby" alligator at the park's nature center, which is open daily. Nature programs are offered every weekend and most holidays. The George Observatory is also located within the park and has three telescope domes for star parties on Saturday nights. *For more information about the observatory please call (281) 242-3055.* 📶

Galveston Island State Park

14901 F.M. 3005, Galveston 77554 📞 (409) 737-1222

GPS Latitude N 29 11 55.10 | Longitude W 94 57 23.40



Galveston Island State Park is an excellent example of Texas Gulf Coast ecology, providing access to almost 2,000 acres of beach, bay and wetland areas that provide ample fishing, kayaking, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Multiuse campsites are available on both the beach and bay sides of the park with restrooms and showers nearby. A day use area with shaded picnic tables, grills, restrooms and rinse-off showers is available for beach goers.

Goose Island State Park

202 S. Palmetto St., Rockport 78382 📞 (361) 729-2858

GPS Latitude N 28 08 00.67 | Longitude W 96 59 03.44



Brown pelicans, rare whooping cranes and fishing in the bountiful waters of Aransas, Copano and St. Charles bays draw visitors to Texas' first coastal state park. Protected from coastal storms, the park is located on the southern tip of the Lamar Peninsula and is dominated by dramatic wind-sculpted trees. It is home to the "Big Tree," a massive coastal live oak estimated to be more than 1,000 years old and one of the natural wonders of Texas. Goose Island features camping areas overlooking Aransas Bay or beneath the shade of live oak groves. 📶

Lake Corpus Christi State Park

23194 Park Rd 25, Mathis 78368 📞 (361) 547-2635

GPS Latitude N 28 03 47.23 | Longitude W 97 52 20.20



Swimming, boating, waterskiing and sailboarding fill summer hours on this large placid lake, while angling for black bass, striped bass, crappie and catfish are year-round pleasures. The CCC built an impressive caliche crete open-air refectory with arched walls and a tower that affords excellent views over the lake.

Lipantitlan State Historic Site

Day use only, c/o Lake Corpus Christi State Park. 📞 (361) 547-2635

GPS Latitude N 27 57 53.99 | Longitude W 97 49 4.79

A historical marker commemorates this site, named for the Lipan Apache and the 1835 battle between Texian insurgents and the Mexican Army that occurred here.

Mustang Island State Park

17047 State Hwy. 361, Port Aransas 78373 📞 (361) 749-5246

GPS

Latitude N 27 40 24.13 | Longitude W 97 10 29.71



Seaside beaches stretch for five miles along the open Gulf of Mexico, inviting a perfect summer-at-the-shore experience. This is truly one of the best places to see coastal marine life, from green sea turtles to blue herons. Reservations are recommended for campsites with water and electricity. Primitive beach camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are rinse showers, bulk water and portable toilets in convenience stations along the beach. Come take in the surf and the sun! 📶

Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site

421 East Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel 78578 📞 (956) 943-2262

GPS Latitude N 26 04 40.1 | Longitude W 97 12 27.1



This coastal “light” was built in 1852 in response to requests from sea captains for help in navigating around the low-lying Texas coast. Technology changes, the coming of the railroad and the consequent drop in commercial shipping made lighthouses obsolete. At one time there were 16 lighthouses on the Texas coast. Now, only one of the historic structures is open to the public. A museum, a replica of the lighthouse keeper’s cottage and picnic tables sit in the shadow of the 72-foot-high tower, which is operated by the city of Port Isabel.



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tpwd.texas.gov/email

Resaca de la Palma State Park

1000 New Carmen Ave., Brownsville 78521 📞 (956) 350-2920

GPS Latitude N 25 59 13.19 | Longitude W 97 33 50.39



Located in the heart of the Rio Grande delta, the park boasts 1,200 acres of semitropical habitat, and is home to a vast diversity of wildlife and endless recreational opportunities. Visitors can watch great kiskadees, altamira orioles and green jays or relax on an informative tram tour. Experience one of the most well-preserved ecosystems in south Texas, only minutes away from the urban center of Brownsville. The bird blinds and observation decks found throughout the park provide the ideal setting for birding. Dazzling blue metalmark and Mexican bluewing butterflies can be found in the butterfly gardens surrounding the Visitor Center. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the miles of hiking and biking trails, multiple geocaches and numerous picnic tables. Park visitors can participate in ranger-led programs and guided nature walks. The Texas State Park Store “Sabal” offers a variety of field guides, books, and souvenir and educational items. Bicycles and binoculars are also available for rent.

San Jacinto Battleground-Monument

State Historic Site

3523 Independence Parkway South, La Porte 77571 📞 (281) 479-2431

GPS Latitude N 29 44 56.5 | Longitude W 95 04 51.7



The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site preserves the proud history of Texas and the United States. The Battle of San Jacinto, fought here on April 21, 1836, secured Texas' independence from Mexico. The battle's importance to state, national, and international history is demonstrated by the site's National Historic Landmark status.

Visitors can follow the footsteps of the soldiers while appreciating the native prairie grasses, marshes, and bottomland forests being restored to their 1836 appearance. Tour the San Jacinto Museum of History at the base of the 570-foot tall San Jacinto Monument. This Texas icon, over 12 feet taller than the Washington Monument, is the tallest masonry column in the world. 📶

Sea Rim State Park

19335 S Gulfway Drive, Sabine Pass 77655 📞 (409) 971-2559

GPS Latitude N 29 40 31.8 | Longitude W 94 02 38.2



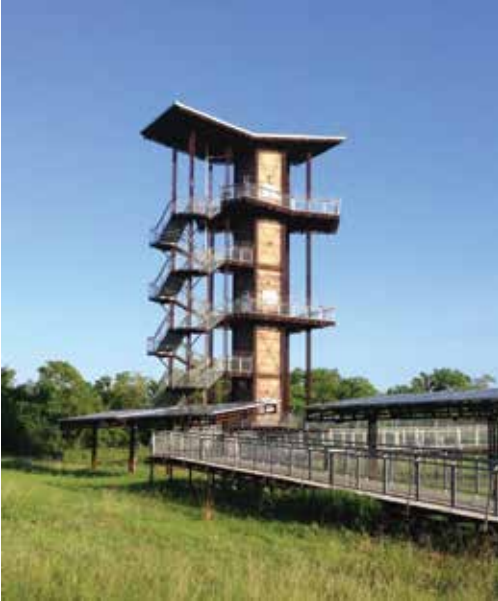
“Sea Rim” refers to the portion of coastal shoreline where marsh grass and wetlands intersect with the gulf surf waters, an area in southeast Texas formed by silt deposits from the Sabine River delta. Fishing, crabbing, birding, nature study and other day-use recreation activities are popular along the

five miles of Gulf of Mexico beach with more than 4,000 acres of marshland habitat. In addition to the beach day use area and primitive beach campsites, the park has 15 water and electric campsites, a full service cabin, west dune boardwalk with rinse off showers, kayak and canoe rentals, and marsh paddling trails. The park also offers the Gambusia Interpretive Trail and seasonal equestrian trails along the beach. Other facilities such as a marsh viewing platform, and nature trails are planned. 📶

Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center

14140 Garrett Road, Houston 77044 📞 (281) 456-2800

GPS Latitude N 29 51 28.04 | Longitude W 95 09 36.90



Only 15 miles from downtown Houston, this 2,800-acre “green and blue island” is surrounded by the highways, railroads and industry of the Bayou City. Sheldon Lake provides excellent wildlife viewing, paddling, boating and fishing. Open for day use, the park features a fish hatchery “gone wild” plus wheelchair-accessible trails and LEED-certified facilities demonstrating sustainable design and alternative energy at work. This outdoor classroom for all ages provides programming for schools, groups and individuals by reservation. Free catch-and-release fishing is permitted at two stocked ponds while free catch-and-keep fishing is permitted in the shallow waters of the 1,200-acre Sheldon Reservoir. Take a stroll along the 3,000-foot Prairie/Wetland Boardwalk or enjoy a bird’s-eye view of Sheldon Lake and the restored prairie and wetlands atop the John Jacob Observation Tower. 📶

Blanco State Park

101 Park Road 23, Blanco 78606 📞 (830) 833-4333

GPS Latitude N 30 05 34.11 | Longitude W 98 25 25.57



Located four blocks from Blanco's charming, historic town square, the park borders one mile of the spring-fed Blanco River and draws crowds from nearby Austin and San Antonio to relax in the sun, swim, tube, fish and camp. Bring your own volleyball and net, horseshoes and floats to make the most of the facilities. Spend a quiet weekend picnicking under the trees and watching stars at night. Shelters,

campsites and a CCC-built group facility make this park popular with both tent campers and RVers, as does its proximity to U.S. Highway 281. Rent tubes and canoes at the state park store. Blanco State Park is well known as a small, peaceful, family-oriented park. 📶

Colorado Bend State Park

P.O. Box 118, Bend 76824 📞 (325) 628-3240

GPS Latitude N 31 01 22.40 | Longitude W 98 26 32.67



Colorado Bend offers a rugged and picturesque landscape suited to primitive tent camping. You'll discover 34 miles of hike and bike trails, spring-fed creeks and swimming holes, limestone bluffs and canyons, and abundant wildlife. Visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking, birding, mountain biking, backpacking, geocaching, and swimming. Hike to Gorman Falls, a breathtaking 65-foot travertine waterfall that cascades down to the Colorado River, or take the guided tour on Saturday afternoon.

Reserve a weekend cave tour to explore the underground passages and large chambers found beneath this unique piece of the Texas Hill Country.

Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area

Headquarters: 101 North Sweeten Street, Rocksprings 78880 📞 (830) 563-2342

GPS Latitude N 30 03 33.19 | Longitude W 100 06 35.17



Peer into the depths of Devil's Sinkhole, then watch as millions of bats emerge into the Texas evening sky. The natural area is home to the largest single-chambered and third-deepest cavern in the state. Evening flight tours are offered Wednesday through Sunday evenings during the summer to witness the bat emergence. Access to the natural area is limited to tours, and reservations are required. Birding tours are also available. Make reservations through the Devil's Sinkhole Society: (830) 683-2287.

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

16710 Ranch Road 965, Fredericksburg 78624 📞 (830) 685-3636

GPS Latitude N 30 29 45.45 | Longitude W 98 49 11.53



Climb to the top of this unique pink granite dome that rises 425 feet above the surrounding countryside, 1,825 feet above sea level. Enchanted Rock State Natural Area covers 1,640 acres and is one of the largest batholiths, or exposed underground rock formations, in the United States. Enchanted Rock was

designated a National Natural Landmark in 1970 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The park is very popular with rock climbers, and for geological study, picnicking and school groups. It is also a renowned destination for birdwatching, stargazing, hiking and tent camping, especially on weekends. Mid-week or off-season periods offer smaller crowds, and visitors are encouraged to reserve campsites months in advance. *All trails close from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise with the exception of the Loop Trail.* 📶

Garner State Park

234 R.R. 1050, Concan 78838 📞 (830) 232-6132

GPS Latitude N 29 34 54.48 | Longitude W 99 44 30.69



Garner State Park is a summer ritual for so many families that now some represent the fifth generation to have spent part of their vacation on the Frio River. Some of the traditions began during the 1930s when the CCC boys constructed a stone dance pavilion and invited local girls to the dance. Now the park hosts the oldest outdoor dance in Texas with jukebox music filling the valley each summer evening. During the day, enjoy tubing in the cool waters among the cypress trees and many scenic views. Summer weekends are

typically busy, with parking lots filled, and day users may be turned away. Best advice: Visit during mid-week or off-season periods. Reserve cabins, shelters and campsites months in advance. A visitor center, seasonal grocery store, miniature golf and pedal boats are also available. 📶

Government Canyon State Natural Area

12861 Galm Road, San Antonio 78254 📞 (210) 688-9055

GPS Latitude N 29 32 57.60 | Longitude W 98 45 53.43



Whether hiking, mountain biking or camping under a Hill Country sky, this 12,242-acre preserve located minutes from the Alamo and San Antonio Riverwalk offers ample opportunity to explore. In addition to the nearly 40 miles of trails, which range from rugged canyon land to gentle rolling prairie, this natural area is home to 25 walk-in tent sites and 20 picnic sites. Protecting a landscape dedicated

to recharge of the Edwards Aquifer, Government Canyon also provides sanctuary for a diverse array of plant and animal life. Search for the elusive golden-cheeked warbler while hiking the Back Country or spot wild turkey, bobwhite quail, or white-tailed deer while traversing the live oak savannah of the Front Country. For a glimpse into the distant past, imagine the landscape of Central Texas 100 million years ago while visiting dinosaur tracks preserved in the limestone bedrock of Government Canyon Creek. The visitor center complex includes a store, a rentable, screened meeting facility and a rentable, covered group picnic pavilion. The natural area is only open Friday-Monday, with special holiday openings. 📶

Guadalupe River State Park

3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch 78070 📞 (830) 438-2656

GPS

Latitude N 29 51 11.23 | Longitude W 98 30 15.66



Located at the southeastern edge of the Hill Country, visitors can enjoy a full complement of outdoor recreational opportunities ranging from picnicking and camping to hiking and horseback riding. Within the park's boundaries flows the scenic Guadalupe River, complete with bald cypress-lined banks, dramatic limestone bluffs and natural rapids, making it a favorite destination for swimming, fishing, tubing and canoeing/kayaking. The park also provides an excellent put-in and take-out spot for float trips. The Discovery Center located within the park provides visitors with wonderful educational opportunities to "Take a Closer Look" at the nature of the park and river through exhibits and ranger-led programs. 📶



HONEY CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

This 2,000-acre natural area is home to four protected wildlife species including the golden-cheeked warbler. Towering bald cypress and sycamore trees envelop Honey Creek in an oasis of amazing beauty. Spanish moss drapes overhead branches while dwarf palmetto and maidenhair fern adorn the creek banks. Access is available only through Guadalupe River State Park via 9:00 a.m. Saturday Guided Hike.

Kickapoo Cavern State Park

20939 Ranch Road 674, Brackettville 78832 📞 (830) 563-2342

GPS Latitude N 29 36 36.19 | Longitude W 100 27 08.90



Containing nearly 6,400 acres in the southwestern Hill Country, the park is relatively undeveloped—a natural open space where visitors can find solitude—but offers great activities. This park has a network of caverns, including one large enough for guided tours. It also boasts 16 tent sites and four full hookup campsites, great bird-watching and miles of trails for hiking and biking, in addition to Stuart Bat Cave where folks can view spectacular Mexican free-tailed bat flights during evenings of warm weather months. Contact the park in advance to schedule a Wild Cave tour. *Park is open Fri.-Mon., closed Tues.-Thurs.* 📶

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[texasstateparks.org/
fishing](https://texasstateparks.org/fishing)



Lake Brownwood State Park

200 State Highway Park Road 15, Brownwood 76801 📞 (325) 784-5223

GPS Latitude N 31 51 25.20 | Longitude W 99 01 42.85



An atmosphere of rustic tranquility and beauty pervades this CCC park with its stone cabins, lodges and historic recreation hall. The locally quarried native rock

cast in the outdoor patios and stairs taking visitors to the lake gives the park a timeless feel. Year after year, families return to hold their reunions here in the large group facilities. The 7,300-surface-acre lake attracts swimmers, boating enthusiasts and anglers. 📶

Longhorn Cavern State Park

6211 Park Road 4 S, Burnet 78611 📞 (830) 598-CAVE or (877) 441-CAVE

GPS Latitude N 30 41 04.05 | Longitude W 98 21 3.24



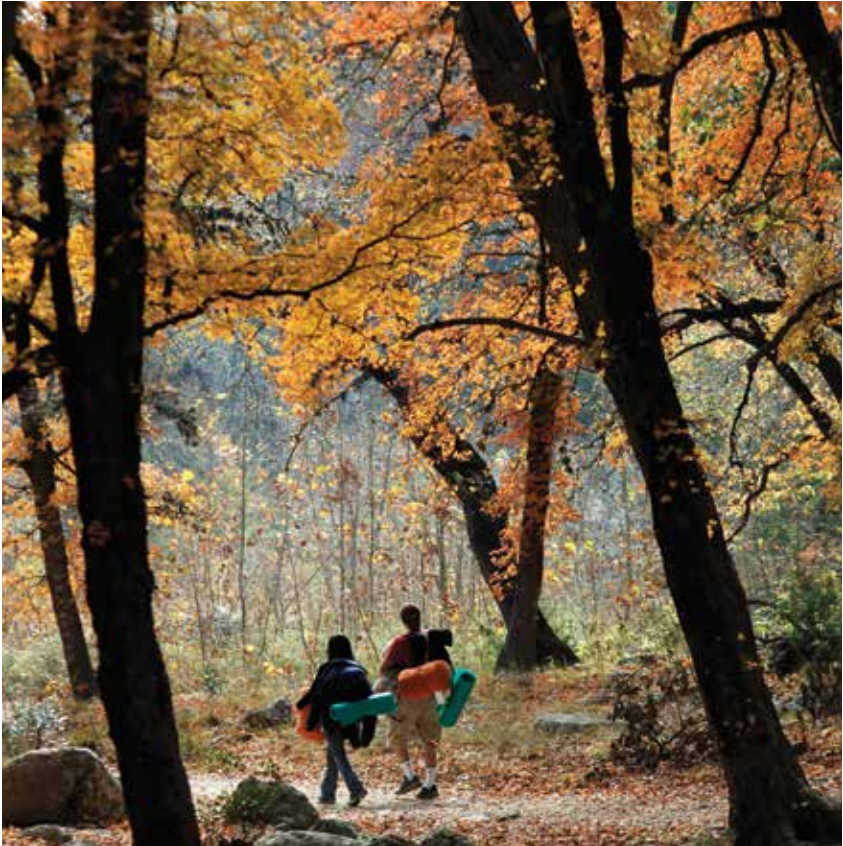
This beautiful cave near Inks Lake was cut long ago by underground streams. Today it stays at a comfortable 68 degrees. Cavern access is limited to tours and special programs, which are offered year-round. Wear comfortable shoes to take the 1-1/4-mile tour through the cave. For the more adventurous, the park offers a “wild” cave tour, an off-the-trail adventure to test your physical and mental capabilities. Picnicking and hiking are also options on the surrounding park grounds, and the park offers a full-service deli, snack bar and gift shop.

Lost Maples State Natural Area

37221 F.M. 187, Vanderpool 78885 ☎ (830) 966-3413

GPS

Latitude N 29 48 27.72 | Longitude W 99 34 14.26



Along the course of the Sabinal River, springs flow through scenic and rugged limestone canyons, filling little ponds with grassy banks, perfect places to pitch a backpacker tent. Wildlife thrives everywhere, including the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. Hike along the 11 miles of trails up steep canyon cuts to reach several dramatic overlooks. The star of this 2,200-acre natural area remains a stand of uncommon Uvalde bigtooth maples, relics from the last Ice Age. Large weekend crowds journey here when the maples turn vivid reds and yellows in late October and early November, so it's best to schedule a mid-week trip during this peak season. 📶

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

199 Park Rd 52, Stonewall 78671 📞 (830) 644-2252

GPS Latitude N 30 14 15.82 | Longitude W 98 37 34.75



This popular park is nestled along the banks of the Pedernales River in the beautiful Hill Country. It honors the 36th president of the United States and the

influence he had on rural America.

Visitors can view bison, white-tailed deer and Texas longhorn cattle, all of which are pastured within sight along the back roads of the park. The park offers a number of outdoor activities including fishing in the Pedernales River, bird-watching, hiking on nature trails and wildlife photography. During the summer, visitors can enjoy a swim in the Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis or a family baseball game at the ball diamond. Rental facilities include a dining hall and group picnic area. The park is also legendary for its spring and summer wildflowers, which blanket many of the open fields. At the Visitor Center, a short film chronicling President Johnson on his ranch is shown throughout the day and presidential exhibits are on display. Visit the state park store for unique Hill Country gifts and presidential related items. 📶



THE SAUER-BECKMANN LIVING HISTORY FARM is a working farm which recreates Hill Country life as it appeared at the turn of the 20th century. Daily demonstrations include milking cows, gathering eggs, cooking on a wood-burning stove and tending livestock, all done by staff in period clothing using historical

methods and tools. For groups of 15 or more wishing to have an hour-long interpretive tour of the living history farm, please call ahead for reservations.

Visitors can obtain a permit to tour the ranch administered by the National Park Service at the LBJ State Park Visitors Center Complex. Tour stops include Lyndon B. Johnson's birthplace, the Junction School he attended as a child, the Texas White House, and the place of rest of our 36th president.

Pedernales Falls State Park

2585 Park Road 6026, Johnson City 78636 📞 (830) 868-7304

GPS Latitude N 30 18 29.08 | Longitude W 98 15 27.43



A clear, spring-fed river flowing down gently sloping limestone creates the lovely “falls.” While the first three miles, including the falls, are closed to swimming, wading and tubing, other areas of this beautiful river are open to water play. Other spots beckon anglers, while trails through the tree-shaded hills pull bird watchers and hikers away from the water. The park is home to the endangered golden-cheeked warbler in the spring and the indigenous rufous-crowned sparrow year-round. Bird watchers can seclude themselves in a covered viewing and photography blind with feeders and a drip bath.

📶 (available near HQ building only)

South Llano River State Park

1927 Park Road 73, Junction 76849 📞 (325) 446-3994

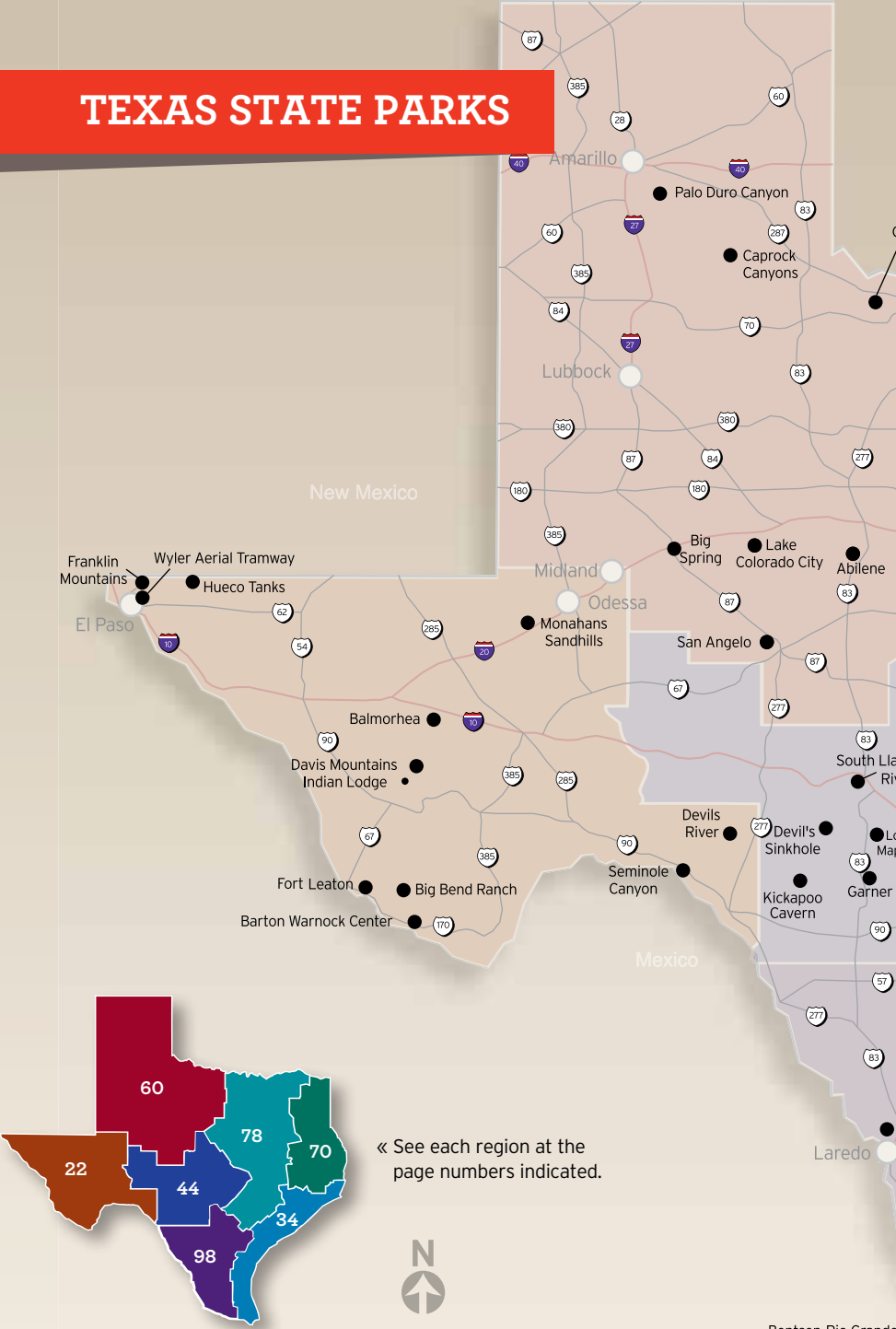
GPS Latitude N 30 26 43.72 | Longitude W 99 48 14.79



This delightful riverside park, known for water and wildlife, is located on the western edge of the Edwards Plateau just south of Junction. Visitors can hike, bike and bird-watch on the trail or experience the South Llano River, deemed by the Lower Colorado River Authority to be one the “most pristine water bodies in the state.” Come enjoy and relax along the riverbank and have a picnic, swim, tube, fish and take kayak/canoe trips. Wildlife watchers can sit in one of four observation blinds to see many varieties of birds and also hike the park’s trails and into the 2,200-acre wooded hills of the former Walter Buck

Wildlife Management Area, now part of the park, for even more great places to see wild turkeys, jackrabbits, deer and numerous bird species. This small, peaceful and family-oriented park offers RV and tent camping and year-round interpretive and educational programs. Park Headquarters is located in the historic Buck homestead, a restored homesite circa the late 1800s.

TEXAS STATE PARKS



« See each region at the page numbers indicated.

Copper Breaks

Lake Arrowhead

Oklahoma

Eisenhower

Cooper Lake

Arkansas

Atlanta

Daingerfield

Louisiana

Caddo Lake

Martin Creek Lake

Ray Roberts Lake

Bonham

Lake Tawakoni

Fort Richardson

Possum Kingdom

Dinosaur Valley

Lake Brownwood

Meridian

Colorado Bend

Enchanted Rock

Lyndon B. Johnson

Blanco

Government Canyon

Choke Canyon

Lake Casa Blanca

Falcon

Valley

San Antonio

Goliad

Lake Corpus Christi

Lipantitlan

Mustang Island

Resaca de la Palma

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Brownsville

Estero Llano Grande

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Fort Worth

Dallas

Cedar Hill

Cleburne

Lake Whitney

Mother Neff

Inks Lake

Longhorn Cavern

Pedernales Falls

McKinney Falls

Lockhart

Palmetto

Goliad

Lake Corpus Christi

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Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Port Isabel Lighthouse

Fairfield Lake

Fort Parker

Mission Tejas

Fort Boggy

Huntsville

Fanthorp Inn

Lake Somerville

Washington-on-the-Brazos

Stephen F. Austin

Brazos Bend

Galveston Island

Galveston Island

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Galveston Island

Purtis Creek

Tyler

Lake Livingston

Village Creek

Sheldon Lake

Sea Rim

San Jacinto Battleground/Monument

Battleship Texas

Galveston Island

Galveston Island

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Gulf of Mexico



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ROAD TRIP TIPS

BEFORE YOU GO...

COVER UP: Make sure your auto insurance and registration are up-to-date. Visit geico.com for a free quote and to enroll in their Emergency Road Service plan.

STAY IN TUNE: Take your car for a thorough check-up and make sure everything is in working order.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT! Numerous apps designed for the 21st-century road trip can help you save money on gas (Gas Buddy, Fuel My Route), avoid traffic and tolls (iExit), teach you how to fix a flat tire (Breakdown Lane) and find the best local attractions and restaurants (Roadside America, Roadfood).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: Burn DVDs with music, comedy, podcasts and books so you don't use up the power on your electronic devices. Subscribe to a satellite radio station for even more choices.





...ON THE ROAD

KEEP IT CLEAN: A garbage bag will prevent clutter from accumulating at your feet. Keep wipes and paper towels handy for those inevitable spills and messes. Create zones in the car to keep things organized and easy to find.

STAY HEALTHY: Keep a cooler filled with ice, water and fresh food, or stop at a local farmer's market so you don't rely on fast food. Get out of the car and do some physical exercise *every day*.

MAP IT OUT: Record your journey on an atlas or map. This is a great way for kids to learn an important skill and GPS isn't always available!

WISH YOU WERE HERE: Write a blog from the road or post travel updates on social media to share this special experience with your friends and family.



Abilene State Park

150 Park Road 32, Tuscola 79562 📞 (325) 572-3204

GPS Latitude N 32 14 26.34 | Longitude W 99 52 44.65



Discover a wooded oasis on the banks of Elm Creek in the midst of the Texas Midwest, located just south of the city of Abilene. Pecan, red oak, cottonwood and elm trees arch over the campground. A historic water tower and observation deck constructed by the CCC with rust-colored sandstone overlook the large swimming pool, a popular summertime attraction. White-tailed deer and other wildlife can be spotted along a wooded hiking trail. Fishing, hiking, biking, boating and picnicking are available at adjacent Lake Abilene, the newest section of the park. A one-mile nature trail plus an ADA-compliant, 1/2-mile trail are also available at the main park area. 📶

Big Spring State Park

1 Scenic Drive, Big Spring 79720 📞 (432) 263-4931

GPS Latitude N 32 13 55.99 | Longitude W 101 29 26.48



On the edge of the town of Big Spring, the park sits on a high bluff overlooking the vast Rolling Plains at this northern edge of the Edwards Plateau. Years ago, Comanches made camp here, and cattle drivers and immigrants moving west even carved

“graffiti” into the stone outcropping. Today, a three-mile drive curves along the limestone rim rock ledge around Scenic Mountain and is enjoyed by joggers, walkers and those who come to see the variety of bird species that live here. Views at the top are quite dramatic from the individual picnic tables or from the CCC-built group pavilion.

Caprock Canyons State Park and Railway

850 State Park Road, Quitaque 79255 📞 (806) 455-1492

GPS Latitude N 34 24 48.31 | Longitude W 101 03 32.54



In the red bluffs near Lake Theo, archeologists unearthed a collection of bison jawbones left by prehistoric hunters in a ceremonial arrangement. A replica of this arrangement is now displayed in the park. The spirit heart of the bison still beats proudly today in the Caprock Canyons, as descendants of the Charles Goodnight bison herd, dubbed the “Official Texas State Bison Herd,” are free to roam within certain boundaries of the park and are protected for

future generations to enjoy. This park is also open to campers who can stay in developed sites below the canyon rim or venture out to backcountry sites. A full moon on a quiet night in the remote canyons of this 15,000-acre park is an experience that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. 📶

CAPROCK CANYONS TRAILWAY is another big draw. The trailway, a converted section of old railway, crosses abandoned railroad trestles, goes through Clarity Tunnel and takes hikers, bikers and equestrians overland through these rolling plains for 64 miles of natural beauty.

Copper Breaks State Park

777 Park Road 62, Quanah 79252-7679 ☎ (940) 839-4331

GPS Latitude N 34 06 44.06 | Longitude W 99 44 34.94



The Rolling Plains expand into the legendary wide-open spaces of North Texas, once home to huge grasslands, wild bison and native hunters. This arid land has been eroded by the Pease River into a place of gullies, mesas and juniper breaks filled with wildlife. Frogs, turtles, raccoons and an occasional horned lizard can be seen in the park. Two small lakes (60 and 10 acres) offer fishing year-round for bass, catfish, crappie and sunfish. Equestrian campers can take a 9.5-mile overland trail through the backcountry. This remote park is popular with campers seeking peace and quiet as well as picnicking, hiking, biking, and geocaching. Stargazing is also especially popular at this park, which has been certified at the “Gold-tier” level by the International Dark Sky Association. The visitor center includes a park store, lecture room and historical museum. 📶

Fort Richardson

State Park, Historic Site and Trailway

228 State Park Road 61, Jacksboro 76458 📞 (940) 567-3506

GPS Latitude N 33 12 22.14 | Longitude W 98 09 25.09



This multipurpose recreational park also preserves an important historic site. Settlers pushing into North Texas after the Civil War clashed with Comanche and Kiowa Indians, prompting the U.S. military to respond with a line of defensive frontier forts. Richardson was the northern anchor. The park features several restored post buildings, which hark back to a soldier's life in the Old West. Surrounding the old fort

grounds, the park offers camping and outdoor activities, including primitive tent sites, full hookup RV sites, wildlife viewing nature trails and fishing in two reservoirs. Guided tours are available during the week; self-guided tours are available on the weekend. Call for tour times or to schedule a group tour.

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR STATE TRAILWAY, part of the Rails-to-Trails program, is a 10-mile hike, bike and equestrian trail with an improved surface that passes through open prairie and along Lost Creek, and circles two reservoirs. A day-use trailhead provides restrooms, a picnic pavilion and tables, a swimming beach and a fishing pier, with convenient parking near Fort Richardson and the town of Jacksboro.

Lake Arrowhead State Park

229 Park Road 63, Wichita Falls 76310 📞 (940) 528-2211

GPS Latitude N 33 45 30.132 | Longitude W 98 23 42.72



On the gently rolling open plains near the city of Wichita Falls, the 16,400-acre lake brings an influx of anglers eager to hook crappie, white bass, black bass, blue and channel catfish. A nine-lane boat ramp provides ready access to the lake, while a lighted pier and floating boat dock also accommodate anglers. Horseback riders and hikers will find five miles of mostly flat, grassy trails. The 18-hole disc golf course and active prairie dog town make this a unique state park.

Lake Colorado City State Park

4582 F.M. 2836, Colorado City 79512 📞 (325) 728-3931

GPS Latitude N 32 19 05.80 | Longitude W 100 56 11.04



The lake provides an ideal habitat for many species of birds and wildlife for nature enthusiasts to enjoy. Canoeing and kayaking are also popular activities with park visitors; both are available for rent. The quarried sandstone, limited-service cabins fit right in with

the reddish and rocky landscape while providing a climate-controlled interior. A covered overhang on each cabin shelters the picnic table from the sun and affords guests outdoor meals with a view. For groups, the recreation hall is a great place for your next special event or gathering with a commercial-grade kitchen. 📶

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

11450 Park Road 5, Canyon 79015 📞 (806) 488-2227

GPS Latitude N 34 59 04.84 | Longitude W 101 42 06.51



One of the most renowned destinations in Texas, this mysterious terra-cotta badland, referred to as the “Grand Canyon of Texas,” calls out to the adventurous to come exploring. A daylong horseback ride or challenging hike will take you to the famous Lighthouse rock formation. Or drive to the top of the canyon and take in the breathtaking view from the overlook. The full-service park offers primitive and

developed campsites as well as rock cabins and fully furnished CCC-constructed cabins. Longhorns still graze at the park, too. The popular outdoor musical “Texas” is performed in the park’s amphitheater every summer. 📶

Possum Kingdom State Park

3901 St Park Rd 33, Caddo 76429 📞 (940) 549-1803

GPS Latitude N 32 52 25.17 | Longitude W 98 33 34.20



Located in the rugged canyon country of the Brazos River Valley, Possum Kingdom holds 20,000 surface-acres of some of the clearest, bluest water in the Southwest. The clarity is especially good for scuba diving as well as swimming, boating, skiing and fishing. Anglers pull in largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, white bass and sunfish. Towering rock formations, part of the Palo Pinto

Mountains, give the shoreline near the dam and along the lower lake an unusual landscape. A marina and store in the park rents non-motorized boats and covered boat slips, and sells a variety of supplies and souvenir items in addition to motorboat fuel. 📶

San Angelo State Park

3900-2 Mercedes Road, San Angelo 76901 📞 (325) 949-4757

GPS Latitude N 31 27 16.45 | Longitude W 100 29 33.93



The park is located at the transition of the Edwards Plateau ecoregion, the Rolling Plains natural region and the Trans-Pecos desert. It embraces a diverse mixture of vegetation including riparian bottomland trees such as pecan, hackberry and mesquite, which are more common in the arid plains. The park is also home to the Official Texas State Longhorn Herd. The

heated and air-conditioned limited-service cabins, open-air group pavilions and equestrian campsites offer a range of options to complement the more than 50 miles of equestrian, hiking and biking trails. 📶

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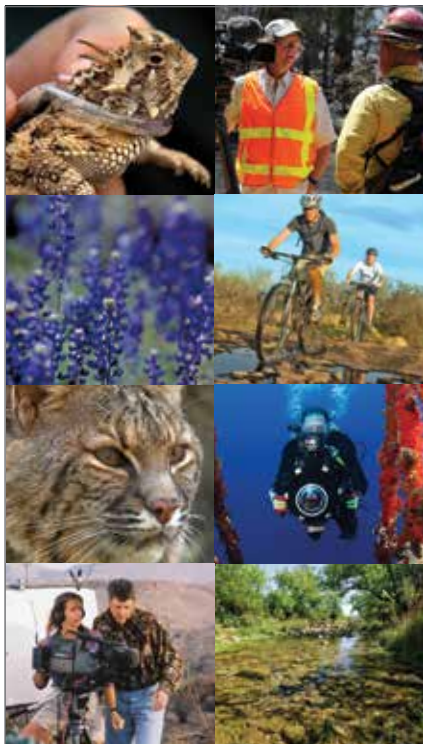
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Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

341 State Park Road 2117, Pittsburg 75686 📞 (903) 572-5531

GPS Latitude N 33 03 14.54 | Longitude W 95 05 56.76



Foliage on the sweet gum, hickory, maple and other hardwood trees turns to red and gold here in the fall. The lake offers great bass fishing, for which East Texas is famous. And the park's proximity to Interstate 30 makes it a popular destination for residents of the DFW Metroplex. Visitors to the park enjoy a host of recreational activities, from fishing and boating to hiking and wildlife viewing of animals such as bobcats, white-tailed deer and bald eagles. Campers can choose from water/electric sites, screened shelters or limited-use cabins.

Lake Livingston State Park

300 Park Road 65, Livingston 77351 📞 (936) 365-2201

GPS Latitude N 30 39 23.65 | Longitude W 95 00 05.14



Located on the shores of a huge 83,000-surface-acre lake fed by the Trinity River, with three boat ramps this Southeast Texas park is an angler's delight. Catfish and white bass are plentiful, and in 1976 a 114-pound flathead catfish set a state record. The park's lighted fishing pier and tackle loaner program provide beginning anglers the opportunity to participate. Other activities include the Pineywoods Nature Trail, featuring two ponds and a bird blind, which is a favorite of birders from around the state. The newly remodeled Park Store offers concessions,

souvenirs, and rentals of canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. A new Environmental Education Center will feature interactive exhibits to educate and entertain children and adults. The park offers a wide range of campsites that include 77 full hook-up sites and unique screened shelters, some of which are ADA-compliant. An air-conditioned activity center for up to 50 people is welcome in the summer heat, as is a cool plunge into the park's refreshing lake.

Martin Creek Lake State Park

9515 County Road 2181D, Tatum 75691 📞 (903) 836-4336

GPS Latitude N 32 16 40.80 | Longitude W 94 33 57.56



A small island in the lake, reached via a footbridge, has primitive campsites for backpackers wanting a quiet retreat. There are limited campsites available on the island, so be sure to make a reservation. Because the lake water cools a power plant, the water stays warm, making this an excellent channel cat and bass fishery, even during cold-weather months.

Bluegill and redear sunfish are also present in high numbers. The park has a lighted fishing pier and boat ramps. Stay overnight in this unique Pineywoods park in cabins, cottages or enclosed shelters as well. Enjoy tent camping, or park your RV for a spell and make yourself at home.

Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

634 Park Road 48 South, Jasper 75951 📞 (409) 384-5231

GPS Latitude N 30 50 47.47 | Longitude W 94 09 56.48



Pitch your tent or park your RV on the shores of this reservoir under lofty pine, oak and beech trees in the northern corner of the Big Thicket. The mix of habitats at this biological crossroads brings in arid country critters such as roadrunners, as well as swamp dwellers like alligators. Boat ramps and rentals help get you to Lake B.A. Steinhagen, and a lighted fishing pier lets you fish along the shore. Channel, blue and

flathead catfish can all be caught here and spotted bass can be caught in the nearby Angelina River. Crappie fishing reigns in the spring. There are several beginner-level mountain biking trails, and for paddling enthusiasts, four marked paddling trails on the lake and river offer beginner and intermediate visitors access to the water. Both bicycles and canoes can be rented at the park. The park's environmental education center is worth a visit, and the group hall hosts many family gatherings every year. 📶

Mission Tejas State Park

120 State Park Road 44, Grapeland 75844 📞 (936) 687-2394

GPS Latitude N 31 32 33.28 | Longitude W 95 13 55.56



The park commemorates the first Spanish mission in East Texas. Fearing the French would claim New World dominion over lands that Spain wished to control, Spanish leaders in Mexico mounted an expedition to settle the Pineywoods in 1690. It was this pioneering effort at mission-building that resulted in the first contact with the Caddoan-speaking Hasinai people. Chancing upon an East Texas farming village, the Spanish explorers were greeted in the Caddoan language with a word that sounded like “tayshas.” It meant “friends” or “allies,” but it was recorded as a place name, becoming the Spanish word Tejas and the English word Texas. This 659-acre park provides a relaxing retreat in the Neches River uplands for campers, anglers, picnickers and hikers. El Camino Real Historic Trail traverses the park, enabling visitors to walk in Davy Crockett’s footsteps.

Tyler State Park

789 Park Road 16, Tyler 75706-9141 📞 (903) 597-5338


GPS Latitude N 32 28 55.81 | Longitude W 95 16 59.91



Come enjoy the northern Pineywoods of East Texas. This iconic CCC state park features a heavily wooded pine forest setting with a 64-acre clear, spring-fed lake. Timeless “modernistic design” craftsmanship in the stonework and wooden buildings built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) makes this park a unique and historic treasure. Tyler State Park’s steep and hilly terrain makes it well known as a great place for hiking and mountain biking. The park features approximately 11 miles of multi-use hike and bike trails and 3 miles of hiking only trails. Other popular activities include fishing, scuba diving, swimming, paddling and birdwatching. Many visitors enjoy seeing the fall colors and the flowering dogwood and redbud trees that bloom in the spring. Full-service RV 50-amp hookups, tent sites, screened shelters, limited-service cabins, a group hall and a group pavilion are available. The park’s Blackjack Hill area features a group RV area and is great for special events as well. Additional features include two lighted fishing piers and a boat ramp, and a state park store and boat house with several different types of personal watercraft rentals. 📶

Village Creek State Park

8854 Park Road 74 (off Alma Drive), Lumberton 77657

 (409) 755-7322

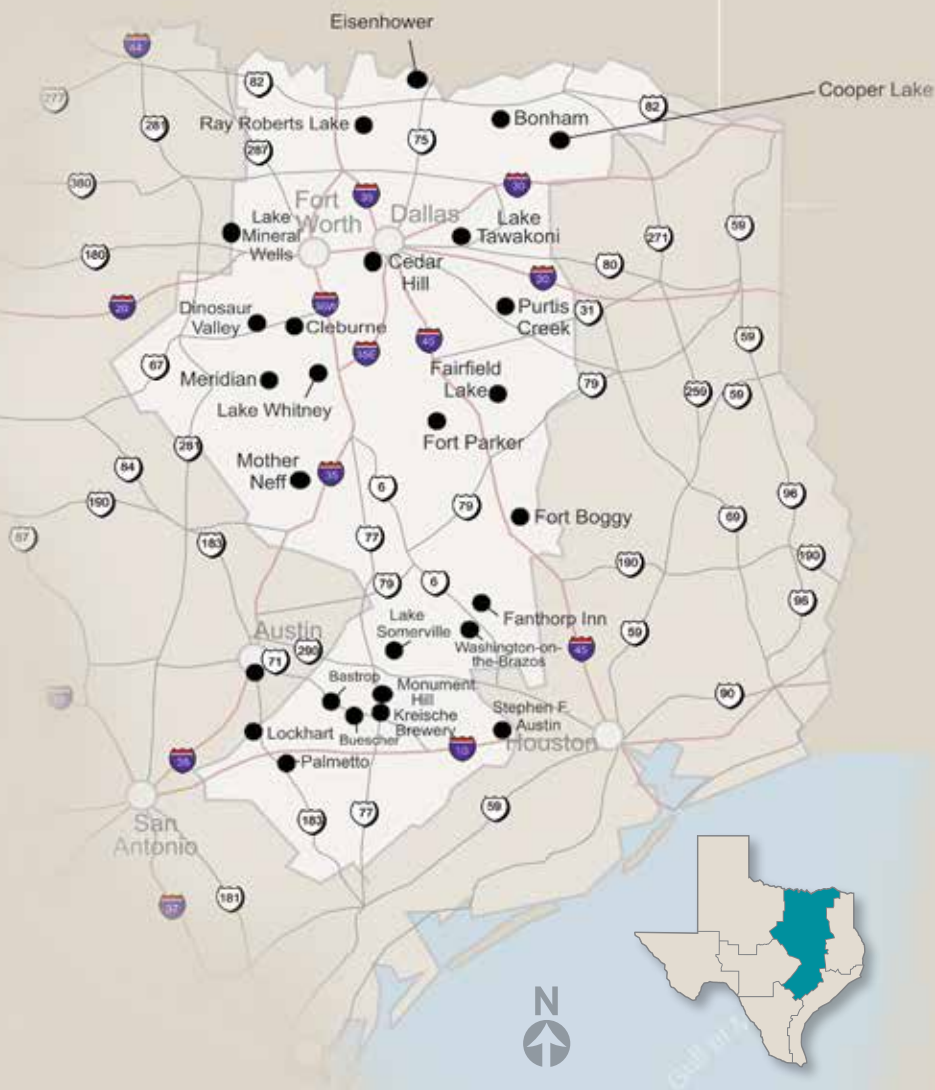
GPS

Latitude N 30 15 03.34 | Longitude W 94 10 40.15
(FRONT GATES: Latitude N 30 14 47.5 | Longitude W 094 10 52)



Village Creek State Park reveals a fascinating world of diverse habitats including bottomland hardwood forested swamps, mixed pine-hardwood forested slopes, and arid sandhill pine forests. These very distinctive habitats are home to thousands of species of animals and plants that are not normally found in such close proximity to each other. They all thrive in this region known as the Big Thicket—a forest so dense that early pioneers struggled to settle it. This ecological marvel once comprised more than 3 million acres of East Texas. A small portion is set aside as a park with eight miles of trails, picnic sites, camping facilities, and access to paddling on wide, slow-moving Village Creek, which is part of the Texas Paddling Trail system. A beautiful creek-side cabin perfectly suited for a family getaway, a group picnic pavilion that is ideal for large groups, and a primitive camping area set aside for youth groups, are all available by reservation at this park.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Bastrop State Park

100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop 78602 📞 (512) 321-2101

GPS Latitude N 30 06 36.61 | Longitude W 97 17 12.98



Located just east of Austin, Bastrop is set among the “Lost Pines,” believed to have once been part of an extensive pine-oak forest in Central Texas. The fully-equipped cabins and most group facilities were constructed by the CCC in the 1930s. Because they were built using local timber and sandstone, these historic buildings blend in with the landscape. In September 2011, a

wildfire affected 96 percent of the park but damaged only two small overlook structures. While the forest is still recovering from the wildfire, all campsites and facilities and most hiking trails are open to the public. In addition to nature study and hiking, the park also features a large, oval-shaped, CCC-built swimming pool. 📶

Bonham State Park

1363 State Park 24, Bonham 75418 📞 (903) 583-5022

GPS Latitude N 33 32 48.15 | Longitude W 96 08 40.27



Escape to the laid-back atmosphere of this quiet park surrounding a 65-acre lake, located just northeast of the Dallas metro area. Water activities include boating, canoeing, swimming and fishing. A fishing pier provides visitors with an added opportunity to fish. A gently rolling terrace is dominated by tall, mature trees, making it perfect for hiking, walking, picnicking or just relaxing. Developed campsites and a group

complex enhance overnight stays. Raccoons, squirrels, rabbits and numerous songbirds are among the wildlife in the park. A newly renovated indoor complex sleeps 94 and includes a game room. 📶

Buescher State Park

100 Park Road 1E, Smithville 78957 📞 (512) 237-2241

GPS Latitude N 30 02 20.90 | Longitude W 97 09 29.66



Buescher State Park is joined to Bastrop State Park by a 12-mile road that is perfect for biking or a leisurely drive. Both parks are located in the “Lost Pines,” believed to have once been part of an extensive pine-oak forest in Central Texas. Rent canoes and hit the water, or hike and bike along the 7.7-mile loop trail through the forest. Fishing is excellent in the small woodland lake that is stocked

for anglers. Camp in the peaceful quiet along the lake or at campsites set back in the forest. A CCC-built group facility is also available for rent, as are three limited-service cabins. *A wildfire burned 50 percent of the park in October 2015 - only the forest along the trail areas was affected.*

Cedar Hill State Park

1570 West F.M. 1382, Cedar Hill 75104 📞 (972) 291-3900

GPS Latitude N 32 37 18.19 | Longitude W 96 58 44.86



Minutes southwest of downtown Dallas, this park has 10 lanes of boat ramps giving access to the 7,500-acre Joe Pool Reservoir. Crowds are easily accommodated at the more than 300 developed and walk-in campsites. Over 15 miles of hiking and biking trails, maintained by the Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, crisscross the varied terrain and are suitable for novices and experts alike.

Because the park was developed at the site of a 19th-century farm, a number of buildings have been restored to recreate the old Penn Farm as it was before the DFW Metroplex grew so large. Penn Farm is open daily for self-guided tours that take visitors through the old barns and outbuildings. 📶

Cleburne State Park

5800 Park Road 21, Cleburne 76033 📞 (817) 645-4215

GPS Latitude N 32 15 8.46 | Longitude W 97 32 58.63



Wildlife abounds at this park, which is ideal for camping or day use, located just outside the city of Cleburne, southwest of the Fort Worth area. Animals scurry through the woods, and in early spring, bluebonnets blanket the open fields, creating picture-perfect picnic settings. Hike-and-bike trails zigzag through limestone hills, canyons and ruggedly beautiful wooded terrain. Enjoy the clear, spring-fed lake created by an earthen dam with a charming, three-level spillway, or catch a glimpse of beavers as they build a dam. 📶

Cooper Lake State Park

Doctors Creek Unit, 1664 F.M. 1529 South, Cooper 75432 📞 (903) 395-3100

GPS Latitude N 33 20 57.08 | Longitude W 95 39 52.02

South Sulphur Unit, 1690 F.M. 3505, Sulphur Springs 75482 📞 (903) 945-5256

GPS Latitude N 33 17 16.1 | Longitude W 95 39 28.1



Cooper Lake offers a variety of both land- and water-based recreational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy the breathtaking sunsets and spectacular scenery by boat, foot or horseback. Or, picnic under towering oak trees, swim at the sandy beach, explore developed trails, or boat and fish on

the 19,300-acre lake. Overnighters can choose from cabins, shelters and developed or primitive campsites, including equestrian sites for horses. Both the South Sulphur and Doctors Creek units offer shelters with amenities. Wildlife watchers are often rewarded with sightings of bald eagles, white pelicans, wild turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons and beavers. Together, both park units encompass 3,026 acres and some 31 miles of shoreline; canoe rentals have been added as well. 📶

Dinosaur Valley State Park

1629 Park Road 59, Glen Rose 76043 📞 (254) 897-4588

GPS Latitude N 32 14 46.50 | Longitude W 97 48 48.13



Take the kids to put their little feet in the world-renowned dinosaur footprints in the Paluxy riverbed. The trackway dates to the Cretaceous period 113 million years ago and was an important clue for paleontological theories about how and where dinosaurs walked. Since the riverbed tracks are only visible when the water is low, a replica in the park's exhibit is also available for viewing. Great hiking and biking trails meander through

the uplands with trailheads near the campgrounds. This park enjoys year-round popularity with mountain bikers, campers and RVers.

Eisenhower State Park

50 Park Road 20, Denison 75020-4878 📞 (903) 465-1956

GPS Latitude N 33 48 37.11 | Longitude W 96 35 59.92



The park's heavily forested shoreline of rolling hills and limestone bluffs has been called Texas' North Coast. It overlooks Lake Texoma, the 89,000-acre watery playground for yachts, sailboats and every form of water-based recreation. Visitors can access the lake via boat ramps and shorelines. Rentals and marina services are provided by a privately operated marina located in the park. Visitors can hike and bike on scenic trails that border the lakeshore. An ATV trail offers enthusiasts a place to ride along the wooded hills of the park's backcountry. Shaded campsites accommodate RVs

and tents as well as screened shelters, group facilities, and a limited use cabin. Eisenhower welcomes travelers coming from the north, as it is located along the Texas-Oklahoma state line, but it is also within an hour of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Lake Texoma is world renowned for fishing. You can catch striped bass, smallmouth and catfish along park shorelines. 📶

Fairfield Lake State Park

123 State Park Road 64, Fairfield 75840 📞 (903) 389-4514

GPS Latitude N 31 45 55.11 | Longitude W 96 04 23.37



The waters of Fairfield Lake are warm because they cool an electrical power plant, and that means fantastic winter fishing from November through February. Within a few hours' drive of Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and Waco, the park offers lakefront camping and walk-in primitive campsites. In the winter, one can spot bald eagles diving for their favorite food. 📶

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

579 South Main Street, Anderson 77830 ☎ (936) 873-2633

GPS Latitude N 30 28 58.62 | Longitude W 95 59 02.11



The carefully restored Fanthorp Inn offers visitors an opportunity to walk through a historic inn that served as a stagecoach stop. A communal dining table is set for a meal, frozen in time, conveying a real sense of the traveler's life in the 1850s. A replica of a Concord stagecoach completes the scene. Picnic tables are set under towering trees on the lawns surrounding the inn, ideal for an afternoon outing.

Lake Mineral Wells

State Park and Trailway

100 Park Road 71, Mineral Wells 76067 📞 (940) 328-1171

GPS Latitude N 32 48 53.28 | Longitude W 98 02 18.96



In addition to the lake's fishing and swimming, adventurers with proper equipment can climb and rappel on cliffs. Swimmers can cool off at the swimming beach, while anglers and others rent kayaks, canoes and rowboats to cruise the wonderfully tranquil lake. Located within an hour's drive of Fort Worth, the lake's south side also offers 100 picnic sites for day use, as well as access to the trailway. Cowboy poetry and stargazing are some of the programs offered at the Lone Star Amphitheater. Head for Penitentiary Hollow, where stone steps laid more than 70 years ago wind through a lakeside labyrinth of giant boulders, rock walls and narrow canyons. An overlook on a nearby bluff affords stunning views of the 646-acre lake. 📶



LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE TRAILWAY

A 20-mile-long, multiuse trail converted from an abandoned railroad right-of-way runs from just northwest of Weatherford to downtown Mineral Wells. Bring your bike, your horse or your own hooves!

Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway

Birch Creek Unit, 14222 Park Road 57, Somerville 77879 📞 (979) 535-7763

GPS Latitude N 30 18 35.82 | Longitude W 96 38 06.75

Nails Creek Unit, 6280 F.M. 180, Ledbetter 78946 📞 (979) 289-2392

GPS Latitude N 30 17 26.59 | Longitude W 96 40 01.27



Located between the cities of Austin and College Station, the two units of Lake Somerville State Park make for great family getaways. Roads and trails wind through meadows and woodland campsites. The shallow swimming area at Nails Creek unit is wonderful for small children, and canoes and kayaks are available to rent. The Birch Creek unit group trailer area offers camping for families or friends traveling together. Birch Creek is known for its fishing and lake access, while Nails Creek is a favorite among equestrians.

The Lake Somerville Trailway System connects the two units with 13 miles of trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, backpacking, birding, outdoor photography and nature study. Campgrounds for equestrians and backpackers are located along the trailway. 📶

Lake Tawakoni State Park

10822 F.M. 2475, Wills Point 75169 📞 (903) 560-7123

GPS

Latitude N 32 50 31.12 | Longitude W 95 59 37.53



This park is one of the newer overnight camping parks added to the Texas State Parks system. The 376-acre park sits along the shores of the 36,700-acre Lake Tawakoni reservoir with five miles of shoreline and a four-lane boat ramp located in a picturesque, hardwood sylvan setting, just east of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The park features 78 campsites, two large picnic areas with tables and grills and more than 4.5 miles of hike-and-bike trails. It also has a primitive group area that can be reserved for up

to 48 people. The park serves as habitat for over 250 bird species. 📶

Lake Whitney State Park

433 F.M. 1244, Whitney 76692 📞 (254) 694-3793

GPS Latitude N 31 55 52.60 | Longitude W 97 21 24.73



Boating, water skiing, sailing, fishing, scuba diving and swimming take center stage at this 23,000-surface-acre reservoir with the park's boat ramps, lakefront beach, shoreline fishing and record-size catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass and striper. Camp and enjoy hiking, biking

or birding. Some 194 species of birds have been identified here. 📶

Lockhart State Park

2012 State Park Road, Lockhart 78644 📞 (512) 398-3479

GPS Latitude N 29 51 19.58 | Longitude W 97 41 51.93



Located just south of Austin in the beautiful blackland prairie region, this charming park has something for everyone. The large, secluded hilltop recreation hall — built by the CCC in the 1930s — is a perfect setting for reunions, parties and weddings. For the golf enthusiast, there is a quaint nine-hole golf course (club and cart rental available). Other amenities include a campground, a swimming pool, miles of trails and a creek for anglers. 📶

Meridian State Park

173 Park Road 7, Meridian 76665 📞 (254) 435-2536

GPS

Latitude N 31 53 26.73 | Longitude W 97 41 50.92



This wooded 504-acre park prides itself on its relaxing atmosphere. The park surrounds 50-acre Lake Meridian, which has excellent fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, catfish, crappie and bream. Hiking trails take visitors into peaceful, serene areas of the park to view limestone outcroppings, nature and abundant wildlife. Birders enjoy a chance to catch a glimpse of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. The park offers campsites ranging from 50-amp full hookup pull through

sites to drive-up primitive sites, as well as 18 screened shelters and a day-use dining hall great for business meetings and small reunions. Reservations in advance are highly recommended. 📶

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites

414 State Loop 92, La Grange 78945-5733 ☎ (979) 968-5658

GPS Latitude N 29 53 16.58 | Longitude W 96 52 34.50



Visit the monument dedicated to the 1842 Dawson and Mier expedition, famous for the legendary “black bean” incident in Texas history. Mexican President Santa Anna decreed that captives draw one of the 17 black beans from a pot that also contained 159 white beans. Those drawing black beans were executed. The monument is a tomb for Republic of Texas patriots, recognizing fallen heroes. A beautiful view from the bluff overlooking the winding Colorado River is one of the many stops on a nature trail that connects the monument and brewery historic sites. Heinrich

Kreische, a master stonemason, immigrated to Texas in 1846 and purchased this property overlooking the Colorado River near La Grange. During the 1860s, Kreische changed his occupation to that of a brewer and started one of the first commercial breweries in Texas. Picnic on the beautiful park lawn and tour the Kreische House and the ruins of the brewery.

Mother Neff State Park

1680 S.H. 236, Moody 76557-3317 ☎ (254) 853-2389

GPS Latitude N 31 20 03.27 | Longitude W 97 28 04.36



Mother Neff State Park is named for Isabella Eleanor Neff (mother of Texas Governor Pat M. Neff), who donated the land that would form the nucleus of the park. Later donations increased it to form a thin rectangle of varied terrain and vegetation. Recent acquisitions have added additional parkland along the Leon River. Over three miles of hiking trails covering three ecosystems traverse the park. Sites with water, electric and sewer are available.

Palmetto State Park

78 Park Road 11 South, Gonzales 78629 📞 (830) 672-3266

GPS Latitude N 29 35 48.91 | Longitude W 97 35 06.14



Named for the dwarf palmetto plants found throughout the park, this 289-acre riparian refuge resembles the tropics more than the surrounding brush country. This botanical wonderland attracts more than 200 bird species. A historic pump forces artesian water into a 1930s-era cistern and water tower for release into a swampy woodlands along a nature trail. The San Marcos River flows through the park, making it a perfect put-in point for canoe trips that end in Gonzales. The park also boasts a great network of trails and boardwalks. 📶

Purtis Creek State Park

14225 F.M. 316, Eustace 75124 📞 (903) 425-2332

GPS Latitude N 32 21 13.93 | Longitude W 95 59 36.88



This large 1,584-acre park is known for its heavily-wooded, well-shaded campsites and its exceptional bass fishing. The clear-water impoundment was actually designed for trophy largemouth and has catch-and-release regulations for this species. The 355-surface-acre lake is limited to 50 boats at a time. Kayak, canoe and paddleboat rentals are also available at the park store.

Park Units of Ray Roberts Lake SP

Isle du Bois

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 📞 (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 54.43 | Longitude W 97 00 50.68

A full-service park with a six-lane boat ramp. It also has equestrian and walk-in campsites, a swimming beach and a lighted fishing pier. 📶

Johnson Branch

100 PW 4153, Valley View 76272-7411 📞 (940) 637-2294

GPS Latitude N 33 25 46.88 | Longitude W 97 03 23.29

A full-service park with a four-lane boat ramp. It also has walk-in campsites, a swimming beach and accessible trails that are ADA-compliant.

Jordan Park

2200 F.M. 1192, Pilot Point 76258 📞 (940) 686-0261

GPS Latitude N 33 24 02.6 | Longitude W 97 00 19.9

Home to Lantana Resort, a luxurious lodge overlooking the lake. The modern hotel has 30 rooms and a conference center that can accommodate up to 100 people. There's also a four-lane boat ramp for lake access.

Ray Roberts Greenbelt Corridor

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 📞 (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 3.90 | Longitude W 97 2 6.51

A 20-mile trail system meanders along the heavily wooded banks of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. It is suited to hiking, equestrian trail riding and paddling.

Sanger Marina Unit

1399 Marina Circle, Sanger 76226 📞 (940) 458-7343

GPS Latitude N 33 22 39.6 | Longitude W 97 06 27.4

A full-service marina, Lake Ray Roberts Marina, is located here and features four boat lanes, boat rentals, a fishing barge and courtesy dock.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

23400 Park Road #12, Washington 77880 📞 (936) 878-2214

GPS Latitude N 30 19 32.77 | Longitude W 96 09 15.94



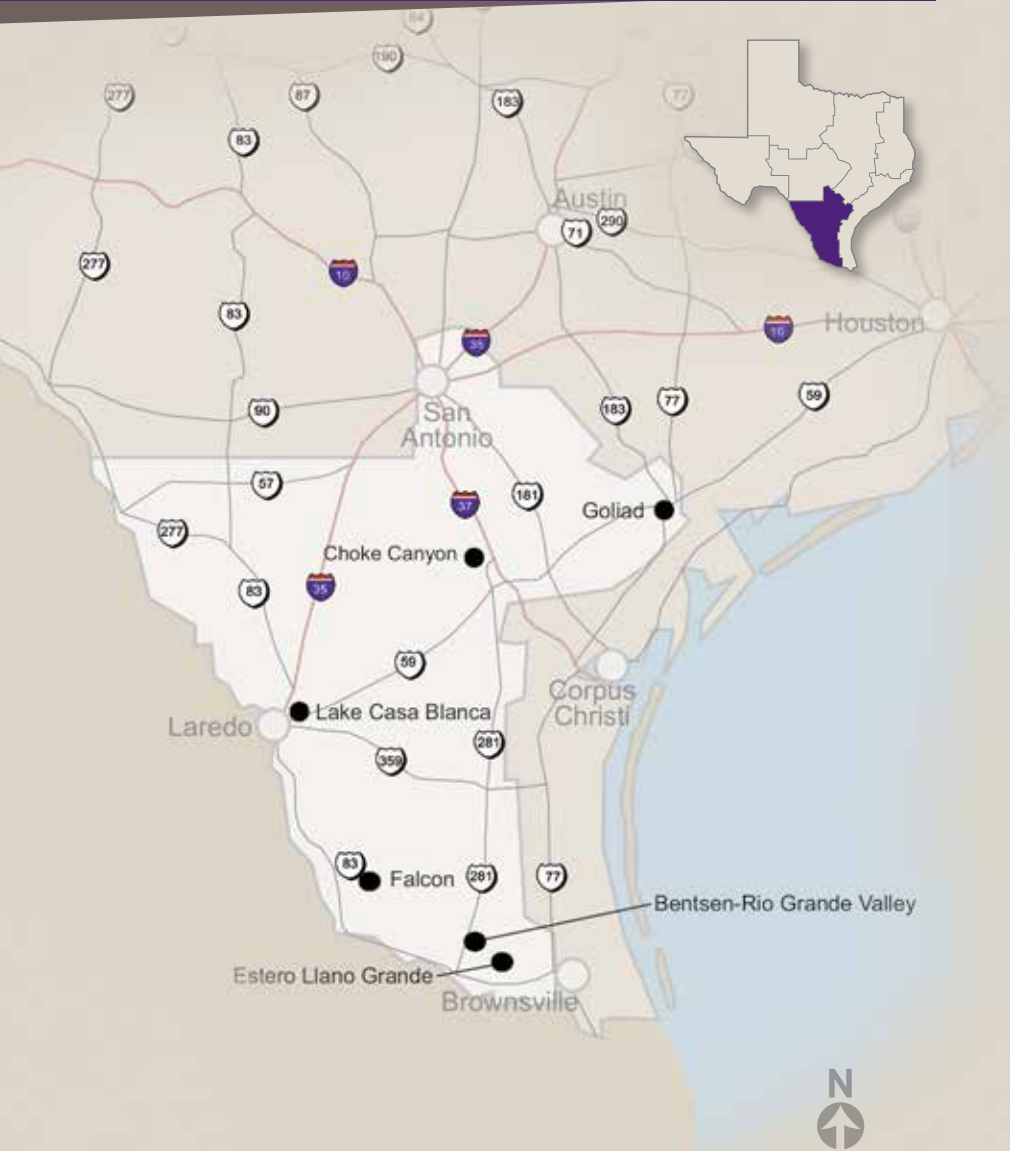
While Santa Anna's army besieged the Alamo in March 1836, Texians met in an unfinished building at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare independence from Mexico. Two weeks later, the delegates adopted a constitution for the Republic of Texas in the middle of the night. Today, visitors enjoy the many exhibits at the Visitor Center and at the Star of the Republic Museum,

which houses a collection of more than 20,000 artifacts. Visitors can also tour a replica of the building where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. A conference center, group meeting facilities and two pavilions are available by reservation. This picturesque park is also a favorite spot for picnics. 📶



BARRINGTON LIVING HISTORY FARM is a working 1850s cotton farm in the Brazos Valley. Using the home and journals of Dr. Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, period-costumed interpreters work the farm as it was done long ago so folks can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the 19th century.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

2800 S. Bentsen Palm Drive, Mission 78572 📞 (956) 584-9156

GPS Latitude N 26 11 01.28 | Longitude W 98 22 49.80



Serving as headquarters of a unique network of the nine World Birding Center sites in South Texas, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park features more than 340 species of birds and more than 200 species of butterflies on 795 acres of riparian woodland. Witness amazing hawk migrations, and enjoy bird walks and natural history tours at this key migratory stop-over. The park features nature trails, a hawk tower, birding and wildlife viewing blinds, seasonal bird feeding stations, primitive campsites, tram tours and numerous opportunities for bird and wildlife photography.

Access into the park is on foot, or by bike or tram. Visitors can pick up the latest field guides or browse through a wide selection of souvenirs and nature-inspired merchandise at the *Algunas Plumas* gift shop. Stop by the *La Familia* Nature Center to see the latest nature displays or chat with park naturalists or volunteers about what wildlife is being seen in the park. 📶

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tpwd.texas.gov/paddling

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Photo courtesy of shutterflyphoto

Lake Jackson (979) 292-0100
tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center



Athens (903) 676-2277
tpwd.texas.gov/tffc

Visit your app store to download the free TFFC app to your Apple or Android device.



Choke Canyon State Park

358 Recreation Road 8, Calliham 78007 ☎ (361) 786-3868



This park complex includes two separate park units on the shores of the 26,000-surface-acre reservoir, offering access to a wide expanse of water. That, coupled with mild weather, invites boating, waterskiing and fishing year-round. Fishing at Choke Canyon reservoir is regarded as some of the finest in Texas. Largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish and alligator gar have healthy populations here. An abundance of wildlife offers visitors the chance to see white-tailed deer, wild turkey, javelina and even alligators. The park's facilities also include a gymnasium, recreation hall, dining hall and group picnic pavilions. 📶

Calliham Park Unit

GPS Latitude N 28 27 57.81 | Longitude W 98 21 14.58

In addition to campsites and group pavilions, the park has a basketball court, tennis court and baseball diamond. An auditorium with dining hall, dressing rooms and a stage are available for rent. The park has nature trails that provide great birding opportunities to view a diverse variety of species.

South Shore Park Unit (Day use only)

GPS Latitude N 28 28 2.31 | Longitude W 98 14 47.11

This day-use section has a two-lane and a six-lane boat ramp and a lighted fish cleaning table.

Estero Llano Grande State Park

3301 S. International Blvd. (F.M. 1015), Weslaco 78596 📞 (956) 565-3919

GPS Latitude N 26 07 35.0796 | Longitude W 97 57 23.4648



Water is the magic ingredient for attracting wildlife in South Texas, and Estero Llano Grande State Park offers something special as the largest wetlands environment in the World Birding Center network. At the geographic center of the Rio Grande Valley, this 200-acre refuge in Weslaco attracts a spectacular array of South Texas wildlife with its varied landscape of shallow lakes, woodlands and thorn forest. Explore the park's many trails, boardwalks, pavilions and observation decks. While you are there, visit the park store, Humadales Alegres, which features unique souvenirs as well as wetland, butterfly, bird and other wildlife merchandise. A group camp facility, which includes a lodge, kitchen, dining halls and bunkhouses, is also available.

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Falcon State Park

P.O. Box 2, Falcon Heights 78545 📞 (956) 848-5327

GPS Latitude N 26 34 58.54 | Longitude W 99 08 33.43



On the shores of Falcon Reservoir, wild olive, wild oregano, hibiscus, mesquite thickets, huisache and prickly pear cactus give refuge to roadrunners, javelina, deer, cottontail rabbits and bobcats. While park visitors enjoy the scenic views and abundant wildlife, they can kick back at this peaceful retreat where park hosts organize a variety of activities. Visit during the winter months for great bird-watching. The world-class bass fishing draws anglers from across the United States to the 98,960-surface-acre

lake. The sunset over the lake with the mountains in the background is a view you won't forget. Visitors can also enjoy a butterfly garden. 📶

Goliad State Park

108 Park Road 6, Goliad 77963-3206 📞 (361) 645-3405

GPS Latitude N 28 39 23.68 | Longitude W 97 23 13.66



More than 250 years ago, Spanish missionaries and soldiers established Mission Espíritu Santo at Goliad on the San Antonio River. Cattle thrived on these rich grasslands, the origin of the great Texas ranching industry. Today, you can camp under massive oaks along the river, discover the site's history in the museum, and explore beautiful natural habitats while strolling along the Aranama Nature Trail. Mission

Espíritu Santo impresses with aging serenity, rising against a blue sky as an icon of the Spanish Colonial Era. General Ignacio Zaragoza (1829-1862), Mexican general and the hero of Cinco de Mayo, was born in Goliad when it was a sleepy village on Mexico's northern frontier. The 1836 Battle of Coleto Creek was fought nearby, marking a distressing loss during the Texas Revolution, and is remembered at the nearby Fannin Battleground State Historic Site. 📶

Lake Casa Blanca International State Park

5102 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo 78041 📞 (956) 725-3826

GPS Latitude N 27 32' 22.90 | Longitude W 99 27' 08.39



iBienvenidos! Welcome to the state park in Laredo, a town known as the Gateway to Mexico! Park your RV or pitch your tent and then cook up some hamburgers or fajitas on one of the park's many barbecue pits. Four recreation halls and picnic pavilions invite family gatherings or fiestas. Fishing in the park's lake is also great for largemouth bass. The park is home to a variety of wildlife and is a popular spot for migratory birds and butterflies. And, as the bilingual exit sign says, *Regrese Pronto* — Y'all Come Back Soon! 📶

The World Birding Center



The World Birding Center is a network of nine individual birding parks and sites throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where some 500 different bird species can be observed. The network includes three state parks: Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco, Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Mission.

theworldbirdingcenter.org

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Facility Indicators:

- Facilities/services provided
- Permitted but facilities not provided

Shelter Abbreviations:

- A** Shelters with A/C
- H** Motel/Lodging
- HR** Hotel and Restaurant

Site Abbreviations:

- SHS** State Historic Site
- SNA** State Natural Area
- SP** State Park
- TW** Trailway
- K** Mountain Biking
- L** Surfaced

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