

7. SOUTHWEST REGION (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)

There's a nice variety of terrain in this region, including mountains, woods, and desert. There are some beautiful natural areas as well as some interesting historical features and locations. These areas get extremely hot in the summer, with very high humidity in places. There are also a lot of desert areas, so please make sure to visit at a time that is safe for your dog. Always have plenty of water on hand. A summer visit may not be the best idea in most of these areas. One of the most popular Bark Ranger parks (Hot Springs) is in this region, and it's always a favorite of people who visit.

ARKANSAS:

***Arkansas Post National Memorial: Dogs allowed on all trails and grounds.

***Buffalo National River: Dogs can walk the Buffalo River Trail between Ponca and Steel Creek, the Villines Homestead Trail at Ponca, Mill Creek Trail, Tyler Bend Campground Trails (Spring Hollow, Buck Ridge, and Rock Wall Trails), Buffalo Point Campground Trails (Forest, Overlook, and Campground Trails). They are also allowed in campgrounds, in the river and on gravel bars. They are allowed to float the river with you as well.

***Fort Smith National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on all trails and grounds.

***Hot Springs National Park: Dogs are allowed on all trails.

***Lake Frierson State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on all trails and grounds.

LOUISIANA:

***Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve: There are multiple units of this park, each with separate rules for dogs. Please check the NPS site for the location you plan to visit.

***Palmetto Island State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails. They are not allowed on designated swimming beaches.

***Tickfaw State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails.

NEW MEXICO:

***Fort Union National Monument: Dogs are allowed on all trails and in picnic areas.

***Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument: Dogs are not allowed on the trail to the cliff dwellings. The park does provide kennels if you are wanting to hike to the dwellings. You cannot leave your dog in the car if doing the dwelling hike.

***Petroglyph National Monument: Dogs are not allowed on any trails in the Boca Negra Canyon area. They are allowed on all trails at Piedras Marcadas Canyon and at the Volcanoes Day Use Area. They are allowed in the non-petroglyph section in Rinconada Canyon. Asphalt and sand get extremely hot here, booties are recommended if visiting during summer.

***Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument: Dogs are allowed on all trails and in picnic areas.

***Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge: Dogs are allowed on the Field Loop Trail.

***White Sands National Park: Dogs allowed on all trails and areas. Temperatures are extremely high in the summer, so booties for the hot sand are recommended. Also make sure to carry plenty of water and watch for signs of dehydration and heat exhaustion. Rattlesnakes and cacti are present, so please be cautious and aware of your dog is walking.

OKLAHOMA:

***Washita Battlefield National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on Visitor Center Trail and in parking lots. They are not allowed on the Battlefield Trail.

TEXAS:

***Big Thicket National Preserve: Dogs allowed on all trails. Summer heat and humidity are extreme here. Dehydration and heat exhaustion are a concern during these times. There are venomous snakes (Cottonmouths, Timber Rattlesnakes, Texas Coral Snakes, and Copperheads) and poisonous plants here, so please be aware of this and be extra cautious of where your pet is walking and what they are picking up. Ticks are also prevalent, so check dogs carefully after walking here.

***Chamizal National Memorial: Dogs allowed on trails and grounds. They are prohibited from entering the "bowl" area surrounding the outdoor stage during events.

***City of Austin Parks: Several dog friendly parks and trails in the area.

***Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park: Dogs allowed on all trails, but prohibited from the Texas White House yard, inside the Cattle Show barn, or any other park buildings.

***Padre Island National Seashore: Dogs allowed on all trails, beaches, boardwalks, and campgrounds. If you have a reactive, nervous, or aggressive dog, they recommend avoiding the Malaquite Visitor Center deck and boardwalk and the stretch of beach in front of the Visitor Center since these are extremely crowded, congested, and loud.

***Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park: Dogs allowed on all trails and grounds. Again, heat is a concern in summer, as well as venomous snakes (Texas Coral Snake, Western Diamondback Rattlesnake).

***Rockport Texas Parks and Recreations: Dogs allowed in parks, with some exceptions for certain beach areas and wildlife sanctuary areas. Check the specific park you are planning on visiting for their individual rules.

***San Antonio Missions National Historical Park: Dogs are allowed at each mission complex (although not inside any of the mission churches) and on all trails. Summer is extremely hot, and caution should be used.

***Texas State Parks: Several Texas State Parks now participate. Dogs are allowed on all trails and areas of the parks, with the exception of designated swim areas. Some parks do have certain restrictions, so always double check for these. Participating parks reported include Brazos Bend, Buescher, Cedar Hill, Cooper Lake, Daingerfield, Eisenhower, Fort Boggy, Fort Richardson, Guadalupe River, Huntsville, Lake Corpus Christi, Lake Tawakoni, Lake Whitney, McKinney Falls, Mission Tejas, Palo Duro Canyon, Palo Pinto Mountains, Purvis Creek, San Angelo, South Llano River, Stephen F. Austin, and Tyler State Parks.

***Waco Mammoth National Monument: Dogs are allowed in all outdoor areas. There is a paved trail, picnic area, and grassy areas near the parking lot for them to enjoy.