



TEXAS STATE PARKS

State Park GUIDE



Maps, photos,
facility details
and activity
information



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When it comes to escaping the city for a quick day trip or a relaxing weekend, many Texas state parks are just a skip away.

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Meet the four-legged, finned, feathered and furry residents of Texas state parks.



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An important message for State Park Visitors



from Brent Leisure, State Parks Director

Texas State Parks are unique and beautiful places with rich stories to share and a wide range of outdoor opportunities to enjoy. During your visit, I encourage you to take an interpretive tour or attend a scheduled activity to experience what makes our land, resources and history so special.

I also want to inform you of some recent changes. We are pleased to report that many park improvement and repair projects that were funded from previous legislatures are now complete or almost finished. This includes upgrades and renovations to cabins, campsites, restrooms, group facilities, playgrounds, roads and other amenities at dozens of parks.

However, as you are undoubtedly aware, the entire country continues to experience difficult economic times. These challenges have affected all levels of government as well as families. Even so, our state parks remain affordable, safe and family-friendly destinations. However, as part of our belt-tightening, we have modified or reduced hours of operation at some parks. **These sites have been denoted with a special icon in this publication; we encourage everyone to check www.texasstateparks.org/access or call our Customer Service Center for updates at (512) 389-8900 in advance of your trip.**

There are also ways that you can help us keep parks open and maintained. You can make a donation online, or when renewing your vehicle registration (starting January 1, 2012). In addition, your entrance, camping and park pass fees, and your park store purchases also help directly fund parks. To find out more about how you can help, visit our webpage at www.texasstateparks.org/help

On behalf of all of our dedicated and professional staff, welcome to Texas State Parks. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay and leave with wonderful memories, and a greater appreciation for the natural and cultural resources we are preserving for you and future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Leisure". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Outdoor Family Fun in Texas State Parks

Texas State Parks are great places for family outdoor fun, and research shows that spending time in nature is good for your children's mental and physical well being. This prescription for better health is one of the best values for your money. It's more affordable than going to movies or amusement parks. Plus we've introduced several programs that make enjoying the outdoors easier than ever.



No License Needed

Did you know that no one needs a fishing license or stamp to fish inside the boundaries of a Texas State Park? Regardless of age, or where you're from, the Free Fishing in State Parks program makes it possible to fish anytime you like, once you've entered the park, no license required.

Go Fish!

Learn-To-Fish events provide all the necessary instruction and equipment (including bait!) to get you started. Children can even win prizes, including fishing equipment and other outdoor gear.

The events are free to all park visitors who have paid park entrance fees.



Texas Outdoor Family

The Texas Outdoor Family program is designed to teach you and your family basic outdoor skills needed to enjoy a great overnight camping experience. Workshops are hosted at state parks for hands-on experience with basic outdoor skills such as camping, outdoor cooking, orienteering and various outdoor activities such as kayaking, fishing or wildlife watching. No experience or equipment is necessary! Our highly skilled outdoor specialists and trained volunteers offer the experience and the equipment. You just bring the food and enthusiasm!



Geocache Challenge

Combine the thrill of treasure hunting with the precision of global positioning devices, and you've got geocaching! The Texas State Parks Geocache Challenge brings this popular pastime to participating state parks. All you'll need is a GPS unit (or mobile phone that has a global positioning feature), the coordinates for the hidden treasure (or caches), and a free Texas State Park Geocache Challenge Passport Book (available at participating state parks). Each cache is hidden somewhere within the park; inside it you'll find small prizes, a logbook, a special orienteering punch, and facts about the park. Don't know how to geocache? Selected state parks will host "how-to geocache" workshops throughout the year.



Kids Play Free!

Admission to Texas State Parks is free for kids age 12 and younger. It's more affordable than going to movies or amusement parks, and research shows that outdoor time is more important than ever for our kids' mental, emotional and physical well-being.

Discovery and Interpretive Centers

Dozens of state parks and historic sites have interpretive centers with fascinating exhibits that entertain and educate visitors (shhhh, don't tell the kids they're learning!). Nature centers and living history museums illustrate the diversity of Texas' wildlife, environment, and culture—past and present. And our newest discovery centers at Guadalupe River and Caprock Canyons State Parks offer hands-on activities that will bring out every child's inner explorer!



Texas state parks belong to you and future generations to experience. To help take care of the park, here are some things to remember: leave no trace; if you pack it in, then pack it out; stay on trails and tread lightly; don't take anything from the park (rocks, leaves, wood, etc.) as it is a crime to remove or damage any state property or resource; pick up litter; keep your dog on a leash and pick up after it.

texasstateparks.org

Learn more—and start making priceless memories! 

 facebook.com/texasparksandwildlife

Day Tripper

WHEN IT COMES TO ESCAPING THE CITY FOR A QUICK DAY TRIP OR A RELAXING WEEKEND, MANY STATE PARKS ARE RIGHT NEARBY.

Dallas/Fort Worth Area

Cedar Hill State Park

Located in the city limits of the metro suburb of Cedar Hill and inside Dallas County is an 1,800-acre park and nature preserve that sits along the shoreline of 7,500-acre Joe Pool Reservoir. With two large boat ramps and



Great water access at Cedar Hill SP.

its own marina, Cedar Hill provides quick access to big water, but is quaint enough for a kayak. Cedar Hill is also a renowned biking park, with more than 12 miles of biking trails, and another 4.5 miles of hiking trails. The park also boasts an impressive 350 developed campsites.



Ray Roberts Lake State Park

"Ray Rob" is close enough to the metroplex to hit the water by lunchtime, and big enough to take the whole gang. With three park units, and five addi-



Beautiful Lantana Lodge at Ray Roberts Lake SP.

tional satellite park entry points, the sprawling park is located near the towns of Pilot Point and Sanger (about an hour to the north of DFW), and grants access from all sides to the 30,000 surface acres of fishing and skiing delight on this U.S. Corp of Engineers impoundment. The park has a marina, as well as overnight accommodations at Lantana Lodge. Or, camp if you want, in the more than 200 developed campsites.



Eisenhower SP offers access to 70,000-acre Lake Texoma north of DFW.

Eisenhower State Park

Not to be overlooked, Eisenhower State Park to the north near Denison is located on the huge, 74,000-acre Lake Texoma just up Highway 75 bordering the Texas-Oklahoma state line, and is legendary for its water fun. The park also has its own marina and yacht club, and lots of hiking trails to boot.

Lake Tawakoni State Park

One of the newest state park units in the DFW area, the park is located just outside the town of Wills Point (an hour east of Dallas). In its entirety, the reservoir covers 36,000 acres with some 200 miles of shoreline. The park rests on 376 acres and can make for a perfect day at the lake with its swim beach, a four-lane boat ramp and 40 picnic sites.

Cooper Lake State Park

Not far from the Metroplex to the east, Cooper Lake is located just north of I-30, near Sulphur Springs. The gateway to a 19,000-acre

lake, the park offers miles of trails, a sandy beach and even cabins available for rent. Cooper is considered by many as a great largemouth bass and hybrid-striped bass fishing lake.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park



Lake Mineral Wells SP and Trailway features a 645 acre reservoir.

West of Fort Worth, Lake Mineral Wells offers an intimate lake environment at 645 surface acres of water which can make for some great fishing. The park offers miles of trails for hiking, numerous campsites and even rock climbing as well.

Possum Kingdom State Park



Lakeside camping at Possum Kingdom SP.

“Ol’ P.K.” remains almost folkloric to this region of Texas, and beckons anglers, boaters, even scuba divers to its 17,000-plus surface acres of clear, deep-blue expanse, as it

has for more than 50 years. Visitors to Possum Kingdom State Park can also choose to camp or stay in one of the park’s seven cabins.

Purtis Creek State Park

For bass fishing, check out Purtis Creek State Park, a 1,500-acre park to the southeast of Dallas near Eustace. Although the lake is only 355 acres, the angling action—which is catch-and-release for bass—can be outstanding,



Fish from the bank, pier or boat at Purtis Creek SP.

And since the lake is fully contained within the state park, no one ever needs a fishing license to fish anywhere at Purtis Creek.

Fort Richardson State Park

Situated near a 385-surface-acre lake, Fort Richardson features a restored frontier outpost—circa 1860s and 1870s—in addition to its many recreational offerings.



Quarry Lake at Fort Richardson SP.

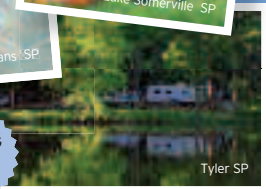
Wish you were **HERE.**



Monahans SP



Lake Somerville SP



Tyler SP

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FREE
FISHING
IN
STATE
PARKS

No fishing license required to fish in Texas State Parks.

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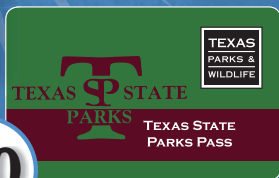
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www.texasstateparks.org

TEXAS STATE PARKS

This year, experience all the great things to see and do at more than 90 State Parks across Texas. Whether you're visiting for the first time, or coming back to a family favorite, find out what makes this land so unique and our state so grand. Rediscover everything you love about Texas – visit a State Park today.



No entry fee for a year for you and carload of guests with the Texas State Parks Pass!

Texas State Parks won't be the same without you.



Donate \$5 when you register your vehicle.

TEXAS
PARKS &
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Beginning January 1, 2012, you can help fund Texas State Parks when you register your vehicle. Visit www.texasstateparks.org/help to find out more about this program and other ways to help keep our state parks open and maintained.

Houston Area



Great fishing and wildlife viewing at Brazos Bend SP.

Brazos Bend State Park

Less than 30 miles southwest of the Houston skyline, Brazos Bend seems a world away. A preserve for more than 300 adult American alligators and more than a thousand others that are less than 6 feet in length, the 5,000-acre park features several lakes for fishing, a visitor center, huge live oak trees, and more than 30 miles of multiuse trails in addition to its water and electric campsites, primitive sites and screened shelters.

Sheldon Lake State Park

Just east of Houston's downtown is Sheldon Lake, a unique day-use park that features a unique educational facility, opportunities for nature study, a reservoir, and great fishing ponds for kids.

San Jacinto Battleground and Battleship TEXAS State Historic Sites

Further to the southeast in La Porte, Battleship

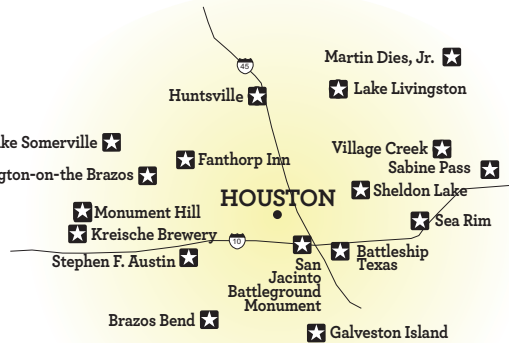


Battleship TEXAS is the last remaining Dreadnought-type ship in the world.

TEXAS and the San Jacinto Battleground stand as sentinels along the bay. Folks can tour the TEXAS—the only surviving Dreadnought to have served in World War I and World War II—as well as tour the famed battlefield site where Texas troops defeated Mexican forces under General Santa Anna in 1836.

Stephen F. Austin State Park

To the west just off Interstate 10, Stephen F. Austin, near Sealy, pays homage to the “Father of Texas,” who established the first Anglo colony in Texas in 1828. The park includes full-hookup campsites and the former town site of San Felipe, which was burned by citizens fleeing advancing Mexican troops in 1836.



Huntsville and Lake Livingston State Parks

To Houston's north, two pineywood retreats offer camping, hiking, horseback riding and great fishing. Huntsville has group facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corp, while Livingston has a swimming pool and access to a giant 84,000-surface-acre reservoir.

Village Creek State Park

Just north of Beaumont and east of Houston, Village Creek offers great paddling along the creek or hiking among the nearly 2,500 acres of huge pine and magnolia trees in the heart of the Old Texas Big Thicket. Enjoy primitive camping, water and electric campsites and even an eight-person cabin.



Village Creek SP is famous for paddling.

San Antonio Area

Government Canyon State Natural Area



Government Canyon State Natural Area has more than 40 miles of scenic trails.

Just a stone's throw beyond northwest San Antonio's Loop 1604, in Helotes, is a premier hike-and-bike day-use park. With more than 8,600 acres and more than 40-plus miles of trails, this rugged park also protects some of the precious Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.

Guadalupe River State Park

Guadalupe River State Park is located north up Hwy. 281 between Boerne and New Braunfels. The park stretches along four scenic miles of river frontage and provides access to the Guadalupe River—long considered the



Scenery, fishing and tubing are great at Guadalupe River SP.



premier place for summertime tubing in Texas.

Honey Creek State

Natural Area is also located within the park.

With its huge bald cypress trees, it is accessible only through guided tours, and preserves more than 2,000 acres of pristine woods.

South Llano River State Park

Farther out west is South Llano River State Park, another tubing hot spot along the South Llano River just off Interstate 10, near the town of Junction.

Garner State Park

Despite its somewhat remote location near the small town of Leakey, Garner is one of the most frequently visited state parks in Texas and for decades has been considered great for camping, swimming, tubing and kayaking—and don't forget the famous Garner State Park dance during warm summer evenings.



Find great hiking trails at CCC-built Palmetto SP.

Palmetto State Park

Near the towns of Luling and Gonzales, Palmetto State Park—named for the unique dwarf palmetto plant which gives the park a tropical, almost Jurassic feel—beckons with access to the San Marcos River, and is located just downstream from the Luling Zedler Mill Paddling Trail. The park is also great for wildlife viewing and has miles of renovated and boardwalk trails.

Lockhart State Park

Just outside the town of Lockhart, the quaint park features a swimming pool, golf course, and CCC-built group facilities.



Goliad SP features Mission Espíritu Santo, beautifully reconstructed to provide visitors with history and outdoor recreation.

Goliad State Park

A little farther to the south-east, Goliad preserves rich Texas history and landmark Mission Espíritu Santo, near the historic Fannin Battleground site. The park

also features a swimming pool and campsites near the San Antonio River.

Lake Corpus Christi State Park

This 21,000-acre lake sits just outside of Mathis. Great for camping, boating and fishing, Lake Corpus Christi also offers screened shelters in addition to water and electric hookup campsites.

Choke Canyon State Park

If it's big water you want, head south to Choke

Canyon near Three Rivers, located on the shore of a 26,000-acre reservoir. Choke Canyon routinely rates as one of the best largemouth bass lakes anywhere in Texas.



Choke Canyon SP offers world-class bass fishing.

El Paso Area

Franklin Mountains State Park

Within El Paso's city limits is the nation's largest park within an urban environment, at more than 24,000 acres. The Franklin Mountains overlook the Rio Grande border along the historic Paso del Norte, and this desert mountain park features miles and miles of multi-use trails for day use.



Inside Franklin Mountains SP, the Wyler Aerial Tramway provides visitors a unique view high above the El Paso area while riding in sky gondolas.

visitors get an unobstructed view for 7,000 square miles, that encompasses three states and two countries. There's also a great store for souvenirs.

Wyler Aerial Tramway

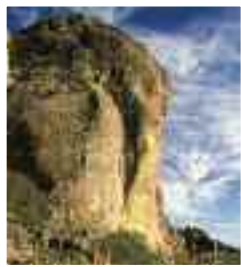
High atop Ranger Peak inside Franklin Mountains State Park, folks can take a four-minute ride in unique, Swiss-made cable cars, called sky gondolas, traversing 2,600 feet and overlooking a steep canyon more than 200 feet below. From the peak

Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site

About 30 miles northeast of El Paso lies some of the best rock climbing anywhere in the Southwestern U.S., as well as amazingly well preserved rock art pictographs. Hueco Tanks is



named for the large pockets of rainwater that pool among the rock basins, called "huecos." In addition to great interpretive history tours, visitors can also enjoy hiking and camping. Access is controlled to ensure that these valuable resources are protected.



Hueco Tanks SP and SHS offers great rock climbing and amazingly preserved rock art dating back thousands of years.

Austin Area



Canoe rental at Inks Lake SP

Inks Lake State Park

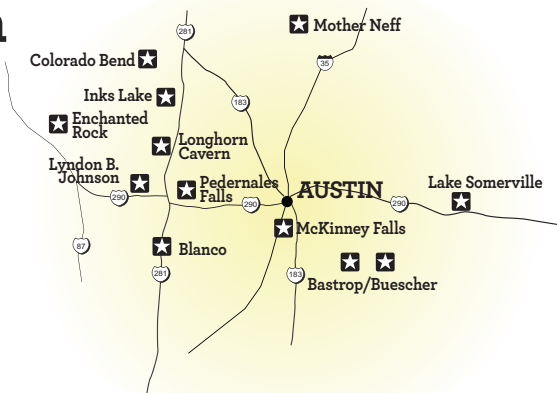
This popular stop located west of Austin, just off Hwy. 281 near Burnet along the Colorado River's famed Highland Lakes chain, is renowned for clear, open water, scenic landscapes, wildflowers and more than 200 campsites and cabins. At 830 surface acres, Inks Lake is big enough for most any watercraft, yet small enough to allow for quiet canoe trips below its granite cliffs.

Blanco State Park

This favorite summer retreat, located on Hwy. 281 near the town of Blanco, is dissected by the Blanco River. This is the perfect place to swim, tube, fish or just relax under the trees.



Swim or fish near the falls at Blanco SP.



Pedernales Falls State Park



River access and lots of trails at Pedernales Falls SP.

Located near Johnson City off Hwy. 290, the park encompasses 5,200 acres of tree-covered hills, and access to the Pedernales River. "P-falls" is also popular with birders, who can use the park's birding blinds to look for the rare golden-cheeked warbler.

Lake Somerville State Park

Just beyond the town of Giddings and northeast of Austin, the park features more than 11,000 surface acres of open water. The Nails Creek Unit is prime for trail biking and equestrian use with 13 miles of trailway that connects to the Birch Creek Unit.

McKinney Falls State Park

McKinney Falls State Park is near the heart of everything in Austin. Located on the city's southeast side, it's within the city's limits, yet it seems miles away. With its paved hiking trails, scenic creeks and waterfalls, and even an ancient volcano and historic Native American rock shelter, there's something for everyone.

Bastrop and Buescher State Parks

To the east of Austin, along Hwy. 71, Bastrop and Buescher state parks beckon to road bikers, campers, anglers and those just wanting a quick getaway amid the lost pine forests. Both parks feature group facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corp, fishing ponds and miles of hiking trails.

Rio Grande Valley Area



Brilliantly colored green jays can be seen in any of the Rio Grande Valley State Parks.

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

As headquarters for the World Birding Center network, Bentsen-RGV State Park's 750-plus acres also represent a significant remnant of the ever-vanishing riparian floodplain forest land that once covered this fertile region of Texas. Known for birds like the plain chachalaca and colorful green jays that frequent the park, it also has primitive tent camping, miles of hike and bike trails, and a two-story high hawk tower. The headquarters facility boasts an interpretive museum, butterfly habitat garden and a fantastic state park store.

Estero Llano Grande State Park

Located in Weslaco and at the geographic center of the Rio Grande Valley network, this park features preserved

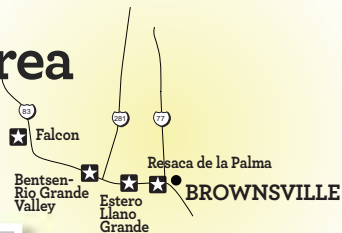


Trails meander through the scenic wetlands of Estero Llano Grande SP.

wetlands habitat in a more urban location. Many diverse bird species can be spotted along the park's numerous boardwalks and three miles of trails. The park also features a bunk house and cabins for rent.

Resaca de la Palma State Park

The newest and largest state park component of the World Birding Center, Resaca is only minutes outside of Brownsville. Named for the shallow oxbow ponds once formed by Rio Grande flooding, the park has wetland environments—attracting shorebird and waterfowl species such as black-bellied whistling ducks and herons—as well as traditional South Texas scrub brush, which attracts everything from roadrunners to long-billed thrashers. The park also has hike and bike trails for day use.



Falcon State Park

Considered the westernmost edge of the Rio Grande Valley, the state park is more than 500 acres of parkland along Falcon International Reservoir—a huge, 60-mile-long impoundment of more than 95,000 surface acres formed by a dam along the Rio Grande border with Mexico. The park offers a wide range of developed campsites with fire rings, including full RV hook-ups, and screened shelters with and without air conditioning. Most notably, Falcon State Park offers access to one of the most renowned largemouth bass fishing in the southwestern U.S.



Falcon SP is widely recognized for its fishing, especially for largemouth bass.



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Packing it Up

A basic inventory of supplies for your next trip to a state park can ensure that you and your group have the essentials to make your visit as enjoyable, comfortable, and (most importantly) safe as possible. Below are a few suggested items to consider. So check your luggage before you leave, and make sure you have room.



First-Aid Kit

Always plan for minor emergencies, which will hopefully never occur. Bandages, over-the-counter medicines and pain relievers, tweezers, rubbing alcohol, gauze, scissors, pliers—these and other items should be packed and stored for easy access for every trip.

Drinking Water

It's wise to include drinking water in your supplies, and plenty of it. The Texas

sun is strong, and activities such as hiking or playing outdoors can drain your body of fluids. Always take a bottle of water or two in your backpack, even for short hikes. Many state park stores sell water and soft drinks, but to be safe, bring your own as well.

Insect Repellent

Whether on the trail, out on the lake or even in the tent, annoying bugs and biting flies can disrupt an

otherwise pleasant trip. Many of today's products are not only effective, but also gentle to skin and environmentally friendly.

Flashlights and Batteries

For cave tours, night hikes or just general safety and convenience at the campsite, a flashlight (at least one) can be invaluable. Make sure and bring along some extra batteries too, as chances are good that they'll get a lot of use.

Rain Jacket and Tarp

It's never a bad idea to plan for weather changes in the Lone Star State, as they can happen quickly and without much notice. The tarp can be used in various ways, such as covering your camping area and supplies while gone from the campsite, or during inclement weather.

Sunscreen and Hat

Sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or more is always recommended, and make sure to apply it throughout the day, especially in regions of direct sunlight or in and around water, which can reflect and intensify the effects of harmful rays. And a wide-brimmed hat, or even a ball cap, can help keep your face shaded.

Sturdy, Comfortable Shoes

It's important to keep your feet dry and comfy for hiking, bird watching, biking or other activities. Trails can often have rocks, loose gravel, tree roots, and steep inclines, so you'll want good traction as well.

Air Pump

A small, inexpensive hand-held pump can save the day, whether you're inflating an emergency bike tire in a pinch, an air mattress or even sports balls for recreation.

Walking Stick or Pole

An oft-undervalued accessory, for either a long hike or short walk, a walking stick—whether wood or metal—can really ease the stress and impact on knees and ankles, and can provide key extra balance while on steep or rugged hikes and climbs. Hiking and walking are great exercise, and a walking stick will allow you to do them longer and more safely. Many state parks stores offer walking sticks for sale.

Fishing Gear

You can't use it if you don't take it. Fishing is one of the most popular activities in America, and state parks offer great rivers, lakes and ponds in which to fish. And, no one ever needs a fishing license or stamp to fish inside a Texas State Park with the Free Fishing in State Parks program. Check with the park staff to find out the park property boundaries.

Camera and Binoculars

Park time is leisure time for most folks, and you'll want to remember the time, places, people and events that make your trip special. Photography—for both wildlife and landscapes—is a popular pastime, and state parks offer limitless opportunities.

Emergency Information

And last, but certainly not least, it is up to each park visitor to be familiar with park emergency procedures. Contact information for medical, law enforcement or urgent needs is available at each park headquarters office, should you ever need it. Make sure you know this information, or call ahead before your trip and obtain it.



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you by



PLACES TO STAY

Enjoy the Softer Side of Camping

No matter what your idea of “roughing it” in the outdoors might be, Texas State Parks feature a variety of softer accommodations.



Indian Lodge

Lodges

Having a lodge or hotel in a wilderness setting is to many folks about as good as it gets. Lodges in Texas state parks boast unique features, charm and make for a great way to enjoy the best of outdoor recreation during the day, and indoor comforts at night.

Indian Lodge, located inside Davis Mountains State Park is a historic, full-service lodge with a restaurant and swimming pool. Built by the CCC in the 1930s, all 39 rooms have been fully restored and it remains a shining star in our park system.

Lantana Lodge, located inside Ray Roberts Lake State Park north of the

DFW Metroplex near Denton, is a full-service lodge, restaurant and marina on the shores of a 30,000-acre reservoir. It is just far enough from city life to be a great retreat spot, and close enough to head into town when you need to.

San Solomon Courts are located inside Balmorhea State Park. The retro-style rooms and architecture of the 18-room facility make for a unique getaway in a park developed by the CCC next to the world's



Retro-style hotel at Balmorhea SP.

largest natural swimming pool. Rooms feature two or three double beds and some also have kitchens.



One-of-a-kind desert mountain scenery and comfort of the Big House at Big Bend Ranch SP.

Nestled in the one-of-a-kind scenic backdrop of the desert mountains in Big Bend Ranch State Park is **“The Big House.”** This renovated, historic ranch house has three bedrooms and baths available for rent and advance arrangements can make food service available.

Screened shelters

For some, the idea of having a screened shelter with walls, and a fire ring, picnic table and grill outside is the perfect combination. You get a near-camping experience with only screen walls allowing the sights and sounds of the outdoors in, but protection from the elements under a roof with four walls; they're also great for tossing a mattress on the inside floor.



State parks that offer screened shelters:

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

Limited service cabins and modified shelters

A growing trend is to have the benefit of a cabin—air conditioning, microwave

and bunk beds—but still have group restroom facilities and showers nearby. These are competitively priced and offer a great way to be in a park, but not really camp.



State parks with limited service cabins and modified shelters:

Buescher, Choke Canyon, Cooper Lake, Falcon, Inks Lake, Lake Colorado City, Lake Bob Sandlin, Martin Creek Lake, Martin Dies, Jr., Tyler, Palmetto, Palo Duro Canyon, San Angelo

Group bunkhouses

If you need group accommodations, some of our parks can offer barracks and bunkhouses, ranging in styles and sizes. Most have air-conditioning and restrooms, as well as beds, although linens may be needed. They're great for family reunions or large gatherings.



State parks with group bunkhouse facilities:

Bastrop, Big Bend Ranch, Bonham, Cleburne, Daingerfield, Devils River State Natural Area, Estero Llano Grande, Fort Parker, Hill Country State Natural Area, Lake Brownwood



Palo Duro

Beautiful, CCC-built Rim Cabins at Palo Duro Canyon SP.

Cabins

Cabins remain one of the most popular attractions in our parks, both among outdoor enthusiasts, and those who just want a secluded getaway but still have lots of indoor comfort. Our cabins, many of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp, feature air-conditioning and heat, bedrooms, kitchens, microwaves and restrooms.



State parks with cabins:

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

Reservations for all accommodations are booked through state park customer service (512) 389-8900, or on our website.

It's a Yurt

Found in Abilene State park, these recent additions to the park system are actually an ancient-style canvas tent with a floor and furniture. Each yurt has a double/single bunk bed with mattresses, fold-out sofa, a microwave and a night stand. Outside is a picnic table, fire ring and water spigot.



Meet the Locals

While out and about experiencing Texas State Parks, here are some of the local residents—the four-legged, finned, feathered, and furry ones, that is—that you might encounter, depending on where you are in Texas.

Prairies and Lakes Region



Houston Toad

This endangered amphibian makes its home in Bastrop State Park. If you happen to see one, admire it from a distance.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

These birds are unmistakable with a tail that doubles its body length. It feeds mainly on insects by “hawking,” waiting on a perch and flying out to catch them in flight.

Big Bend Region

Gray Fox

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



Javelina

This small, pig-like animal has a white ring around its neck, where it gets its proper name—collared peccary.

Gulf Coast Region

Bottle-nosed Dolphin

You may see one of these curious and intelligent animals leaping offshore or swimming in the bay near Mustang Island or Goose Island state parks.



South Texas Plains Region

Greater Roadrunner

An icon of the U.S. Southwest, this swift, cartoon-like bird gets its name because it often prefers to run rather than fly, whether chasing down food such as small reptiles (snakes and lizards) or to flee from danger.



Pineywoods Region



American Alligator

These elusive, ancient creatures are often seen basking along lakes, creeks and swamps. Never approach an alligator.



Woodpeckers

The red-headed woodpecker is striking at rest and in flight, by showing its colors of red, black and white. Also look for the red crest and black body of the pileated woodpecker, one of the largest woodpeckers in North America.

Hill Country Region

Porcupine

These shy and even docile rodents eat tree bark, are excellent tree climbers, and are known mostly for their sharp quill-tipped, bushy hair. Give them space from you and your pets.



Wild Turkey

This large upland game bird lives in tree-lined or brushy areas, often near streams and rivers, and although it roosts in the tops of tall trees, it nests on the ground.



Panhandle Plains Region

Mule Deer

Found mostly in West and Northwest Texas, this hearty, hooved animal will often appear to “hop” on all fours for a quick escape, rather than run.



Black-tailed Prairie Dog

Look for their homes: large, bare patches of open ground with colonies of small dirt mounds atop their burrows, called “prairie dog towns.”



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Mustang Island State Park



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Symbol Legend

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

 CCC	 Overnight Group Facilities
 Day Use Only	 Primitive/Walk-in Campsites
 Hiking Trails	 Tent Campsites
 Primitive Hiking	 Water and Electric Campsites
 Nature/Interpretive Trails	 Water, Electric and Sewer Sites
 Biking Trails	 Screened Shelter
 Mountain Bike Trails	 Shelters with A/C
 Equestrian Trails	 Cabins
 Rock Climbing	 Full or Limited Cabins
 Golf	 Equestrian Facilities
 Fishing	 Motel/Lodging
 Fishing Pier	 Playground
 Fish Cleaning Shelters	 Boat Ramp
 Tackle Loaner	 Boat Rental
 Swimming	 Restaurant
 Water Skiing	 Swimming Pool
 Picnic Tables	 Open Beach
 Park Store	 Restrooms
 Exhibit/Interpretive Center	 Showers
 Historic Site/Museum	 Dump Station
 Day Use Group Facility	 Wheelchair Accessible

Operations of access has changed at this park.
texasstateparks.org/access

State parks with schedule or operational changes have been denoted with this special icon; check www.texasstateparks.org or call for updates at (512) 389-8900 in advance of your trip.