

GULF COAST REGION



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 in recent years, 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 multi-use trails, spanning a diverse

ecology, offer visitors prime viewing of alligators, whitetail deer and more than 300 species of birds. Three 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 four large telescopes for star parties on Saturday nights.

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



Although Galveston Island State Park experienced extensive hurricane damage, some camping and day use has been restored to both the beach side and bay side. Both areas also have restroom facilities, and the beach side also has tables, grills and showers. Plans are to eventually rebuild a redesigned Galveston Island State Park.

Goose Island State Park

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

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



Sighting brown pelicans and rare whooping cranes, and fishing 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 and 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

P.O. Box 1167, 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 limestone 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

Lake Texana State Park

406 Park Road 1, Edna 77957 ☎ (361) 782-5718

GPS Latitude N 28 57 16.56 | Longitude W 96 32 49.23



A tranquil escape found halfway between Houston and Corpus Christi, the calming waters of Lake Texana offer complete water recreation activities from fishing, boating, and water skiing to an ADA compliant fishing jetty, lighted fishing piers and even canoes and kayaks for rent. A six-mile hike-and-bike trail offers several access points to help provide a great outdoor adventure and allows you to choose the length of time you wish to be on the trail. Enjoy spacious campsites that provide great opportunities to view wildlife, or bring a picnic and take advantage of the tree-shaded day-use area.

Mustang Island State Park

P.O. Box 326, 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 stingrays to blue herons. 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 4 40.79 | Longitude W 97 12 25.19



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 two of the historic structures are open to the public. A museum, a replica of the lighthouse keeper’s cottage and picnic tables on the grounds sit in the shadow of the 72-foot-high tower, which is operated by the City of Port Isabel.

San Jacinto Battleground-Monument

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



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

Visit the battleground, and follow a trail and boardwalk through a wetland where native prairie grasses, marshes and bottomland forests are being restored to their 1836 appearance to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Tour the 570-foot-tall San Jacinto Monument, one of the world's tallest.

Sea Rim State Park

P.O. Box 356, Sabine Pass 77655 📞 (409) 971-2559

GPS Latitude N 29 40 31.36 | Longitude W 94 02 36.99



The park is currently being repaired following hurricane damage. The park continues to offer numerous day-use recreation opportunities within its more than 4,000 acres of marshland and 5 miles of Gulf of Mexico beach shorelines. Activities include fishing, birdwatching, nature study, hiking, wildlife viewing and beach access. Primitive camping is also available in some areas. Contact the park or visit the website for the latest park updates.

Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center

15315 Beaumont Hwy., Houston 77049 ☎ (281) 456-2800

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



A “green and blue island” on the edge of Houston, this 2,800-acre park in northeast Harris County features a reservoir for fishing, wildlife viewing and canoeing as well as the adjacent Environmental Learning Center. Take a hike on the wheelchair-accessible trails at the learning center to see its diverse pond, swamp, prairie and forest habitats, which are home to herons, alligators, turtles and other wildlife. The LEED®-certified facilities demonstrate “green architecture” and alternative energy at work. Climb to the top of the solar powered observation tower where you will get a bird’s eye view of Sheldon Reservoir and prairie. Free catch-and-release family fishing is permitted on weekends at two of the learning center’s stocked ponds.

Fulton Mansion State Historic Site

P.O. Box 1859, Fulton 78358 ☎ (361) 729-0386

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Lake Houston Park

22031 Baptist Encampment, New Caney 77357 ☎ (281) 354-6881

Operated by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation.

Sabine Pass Battleground State Park and Historic Site

P.O. Box 356, Sabine Pass 77655 ☎ (409) 971-2559

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

1702 N. 13th Street, West Columbia 77486 ☎ (979) 345-4656

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Walter Umphrey State Park

3897 MLK, Jr. Drive/Hwy. 82, Port Arthur 77640 ☎ (409) 985-4811

Managed by Jefferson County.

Free Fishing in State Parks!

Fish *without a license* at more than 50 state parks across Texas! Grab your rod and reel and get out to enjoy one of America's favorite pastimes!

Some state parks have a "Tackle Loaner Program." Many also offer free, fun, family-oriented fishing events. Check out the website for a list of parks that provide loaner equipment and for upcoming Go Fish! Learn-to-Fish events, fishing derbies and "Fish with a Ranger" events.

www.texasstateparks.org



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