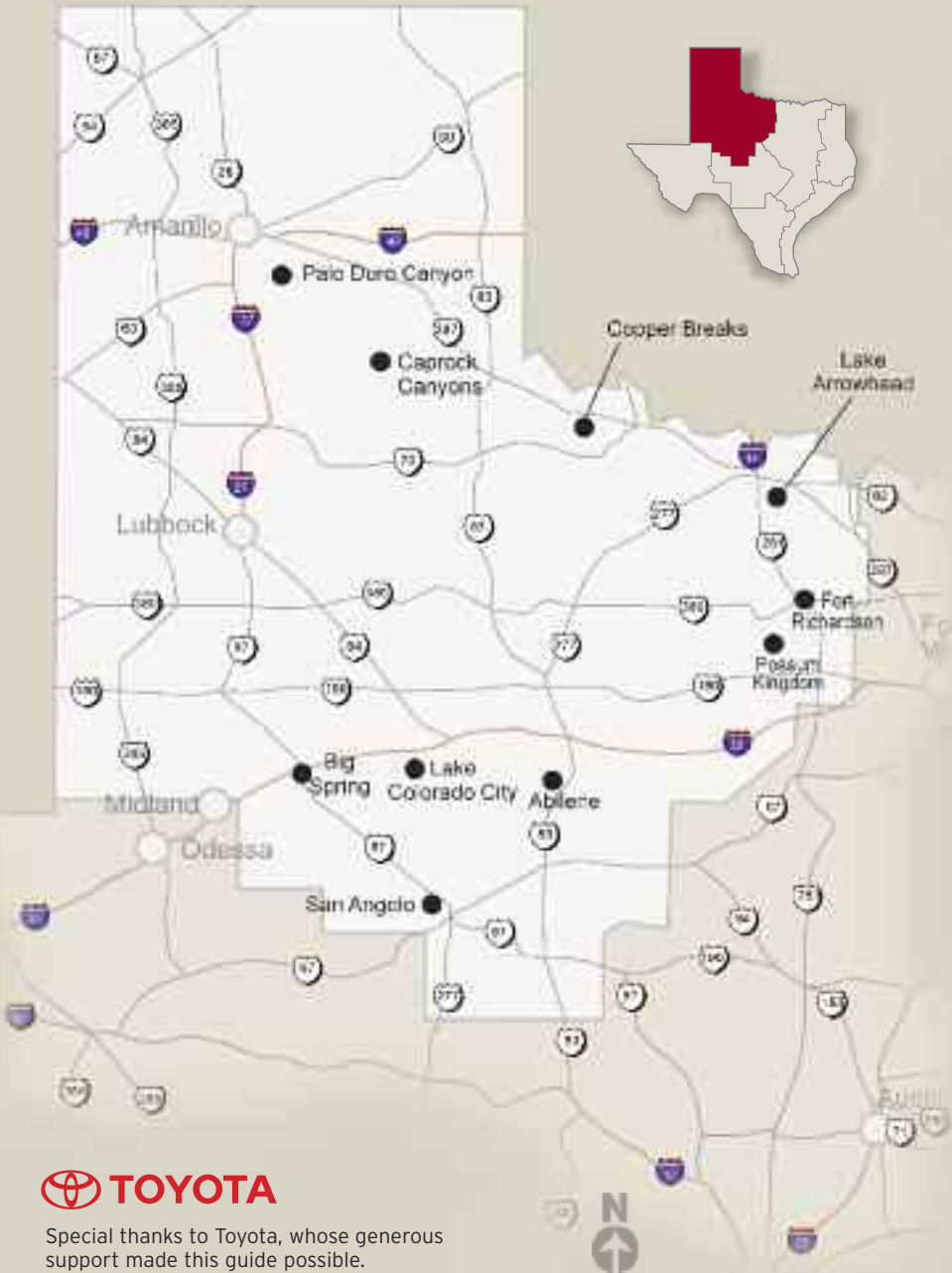


PANHANDLE PLAINS REGION



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

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



Awake to find 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, 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. Abilene State Park was opened and dedicated on May 10, 1934.

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 group pavilion.

Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway

P.O. Box 204, 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 pastured and protected here. 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 for 64 miles of natural beauty through these rolling plains.

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

**Operations
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changed at
this park.**

[texasstateparks.org/
access](http://texasstateparks.org/access)



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. Contact the park to request a schedule of events.

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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

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



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.

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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 fish and waterfowl and attracts anglers, birdwatchers, waterskiers and even small sailboats in the West Texas wind. The newly 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

makes a front porch, sheltering the picnic table from the sun, and affords guests outdoor meals with a view.

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 adventuresome to be explored. A daylong horseback ride or challenging hike will take you to this home of the famous Lighthouse rock formation. Or drive to the top of the canyon and take in the breathtaking view from the top of the overlook. The full-service park offers primitive and developed campsites as well as newly renovated 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.

