

OVER 1,000 SIGHTS TO SEE/THINGS TO DO NEARBY IN TEXAS

The following ideas have been offered to stimulate members to think about the various types of things each of us can do reasonably close by. It is by NO MEANS a complete list of all the places you can visit but should make you think about possibilities. Each of us can start close by and then move further afield as we feel more comfortable. A great resource is the Texas State Travel Guide which can be downloaded at www.Traveltexas.org. Another resource is www.TheDayTripper.com which offers clips and notes from the show. Note: Due to COVID issues as well as seasonal changes, please check destinations before planning a visit to determine when/if sites are open.

KINDS OF DESTINATIONS – AROUND TEXAS

Museums – Art, Science, Children's, Historical, Presidential libraries (3 in Texas!), Specialty, etc. See list of some of the top museums around the state sorted by Region and City

Gardens – Botanical gardens are around the state such as in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi. See individual cities below.

Wildlife Centers - Wikipedia notes over 60 locations around the state. We've posted some of the closer ones by region and Location on our website. They can also be found at Wikipedia under List of Nature Centers in Texas. Check out other areas at www.Texas.wildflowersightings.org

State Parks – There are over 90 state parks. Some are noted below . Check them out at www.TexasStateParks.org/app or <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/nearby/all-parks>

Driving Tours – There are lots of scenic drives around the state which are noted in the Texas State Travel Guide including some in Hill Country which are noted below:

- **A BLUEBONNET TRAIL** – Loop via Hwy 16 from Kerrville North to Llano (61mi), then turn right on Hwy 29 (30mi) to Burnet. Turn right again, going south on Hwy 281 (37mi) to Johnson City where you can go West on US Hwy 290 back to Fredericksburg.
- **DEVIL'S BACKBONE** - Ranch-to-Market Road 32 from US 281 just south of Blanco toward San Marcos follows a ridge called the Devil's Backbone. The drive offers great Hill Country views.
- **BRACKETTVILLE** -Take RM 674 north to Rocksprings or RM 334 northeast to State High-way 55. The two roads lead into scenic landscapes along the West Nueces River winding among steep cliffs and hills.
- **BURNET** - Take SH 29 west and RM 2341 northwest to Spider Mountain, which according to legend, was a Native American burial ground. Below the landmark is Bee Bluff, a noted fishing spot. RM 2342 offers excellent views, especially at a turn-out near the confluence of the Llano and Colorado rivers.
- **CONCAN/LEAKEY** -Take US 83 north to Leakey, then west on RM 337 and south on SH 55; or at Leakey, east on RM 337 to Vanderpool (near Lost Maples SNA), and south on RM 187 to Sabinal. This is some of the most spectacular scenery in the Texas Hill Country. SH 39 east along the Guadalupe River also is picturesque.
- **JUNCTION** - Follow US 377 southwest as it travels along the South Llano River. An exceptional overlook is about 22 miles south.
- **LAGO VISTA** - RM 1431 offers breathtaking scenery over winding curves and hills, with frequent glimpses of the Highland Lakes. Spring is exceptionally beautiful.

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- **MARBLE FALLS** - Both RM 2147 (not shown on most maps), along the western shore of Lake Marble Falls, and SH 71 through the Hill Country are memorable routes.
- **NEW BRAUNFELS** - The River Road to Sattler along the Guadalupe River displays true Hill Country beauty.

Festivals/Events – Texas Highways offers lists of events www.texashighways.com/events

Breweries and Distilleries – For Texas wine trails visit www.gotexan.org/experiencegotexan/texaswine; for breweries, check local areas or get the Texas State Travel Guide for the list of Breweries and Distilleries in Texas

Georgetown and Nearby – Some things to do and see really nearby

- **Georgetown** – Georgetown Square, Mural tour, sculpture tour, courthouse tours, Inner Space Cavern, Southwestern University, Georgetown Art Center, Lake Georgetown
- **Round Rock** – Bats (McNeil Road underpass), Historic Downtown District, Round Rock Artspace, Outlet Mall
- **Cedar Park** – Austin Steam Train Association, Texas Museum of Science and Technology

Fun Daytrips and/or Short-Term Stays – There are lots of things to do within easy driving range of Sun City. For example:

Hill Country - offers lots of wonderful experiences and destinations such as

- **Bandera** – cowboys, rodeos, Frontier Times Museum, Town Mountain Miniature Museum, and nearby Vanderpool's Lone Star Motorcycle Museum
- **Blanco** – Buggy Barn Museum, Historic downtown
- **Concan** – Garner State Park
- **Dripping Springs** – Dr Pound Historical Farmstead Museum, Hamilton Pool Nature Preserve, Reimers Ranch Park, Westcave Preserve
- **Fredericksburg** – National Museum of Pacific War, Fort Martin Scott, Old Tunnel State Park (w/3 MM bats), Wildseed Farms (largest working wildflower farm in the nation), Hill Country Elephant Preserve, Pioneer Museum, lots of wineries, downtown/shopping, a driving trail with 12 historic country schools, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (17 miles)
- **Johnson City** – LBJ State Park and Historical Site, LBJ National Historical Park, Sauer-Beckmann farmstead, Pedernales Falls State Park
- **Kerrville** – Downtown, James Avery Visitor Center, Arts & Cultural Center, Museum of Western Art, River Trail, Riverside Nature Center, Schreiner Mansion, Hill Country Museum, YO Ranch, River Trail, nearby: The Coming King (80' cross) and Stonehenge in the Hills
- **Lampasas** – Hancock Springs Pool, Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden
- **Llano** - Historic Railyard District, Leland County Museum, Fine Arts Guild
- **Marble Falls** – Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, Cypress Valley Canopy Tours (including zip line), Krause Springs, M Beven Eckert Memorial Library (Old Yeller statue), Falls on Colorado Museum, Highland Arts Gallery with nearby Sweet Berry Farm, Buchanan Dam, Canyon of the Eagles, Fort Croghan Museum, Highland Lakes CAF Air Museum, Longhorn Cavern State Park, Dead Man's Hold, Inks Lake State Park, scenic drive (TX 29 west and RM 2341 NW to Spider Mountain which was a Native American burial ground)
- **Wimberley** – Blue Hole Regional Park, Emilyann Theatre and Gardens, Wimberley Glassworks

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South of Georgetown – Great things to do south of us including

- **Austin**
 - **Museums:** LBJ Presidential Library Museum, Bullock State History Museum, Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, Texas Memorial Museum, Elizabeth Ney Museum, Contemporary Art Museums (2 locations), Blanton Museum of Art, O’Henry Museum, Neill-Cochran House, Asian American Resource Center, Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, George Washington Carver Museum, Mexic-Arte Museum, Texas Military Forces Museum, Harry Ransom Center
 - **Historical** – State Capital, Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial, Texas State Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Governor’s Mansion, Austin City Limits Live Tour
 - **Nature/Gardens:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and State Botanical Garden, Zilker Park, Wild Basin Preserve, Austin Nature and Science Center, Austin Zoo,
 - **Other** - Congress Bridge (Bats: March – October), Mount Bonnell (for views), Downtown Walking tours
- **San Marcos**
 - **Museums** – Dick’s classic garage car museum, LBJ Museum of San Marcos, Commemorative Air Force - Central Texas Wing, Wittliff collections
 - **Other** – Meadows Center boat tours, San Marcos River walkway, Wonder World (cave), Float trips
 - **Shopping** - 2 large Outlet Malls
- **New Braunfels**
 - **Museums** – Buckhorn Barbershop Museum, Sophienburg Museum
 - **Nature** – Animal World and Snake Farm Zoo
 - **Historical** – Conservation Plaza, Haelbig Music Studio, Lindheimer House, Gruene Historic District, Gruene Hall
 - **Other** – Schlitterbahn, Float trips
- **San Antonio**
 - **Museums** – Witte Museum, Briscoe Western Art, San Antonio Museum of Art, Buckhorn Museum and Texas Ranger Museum, Guinness World Records Museum, McNay Art Museum, San Angel Folk Art, San Antonio Fire Museum, Texas Transportation Museum, Guenther House
 - **Historical** – The Alamo, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, Missions (Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan Capistrano, San Francisco de la Espada,) San Fernando Cathedral, Steve’s Homestead, King William District, La Villita, Spanish Governor’s Palace, Vietnam and Korean Veteran’s Memorials
 - **Nature** – Brackenridge Park, Friedrich Wilderness Park, Government Canyon State Natural Area, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, San Antonio Botanical Garden, San Antonio Zoo
 - **Fun Places** – The Amazing Mirror Maze and Vault Laser Challenge, Natural Bridge Caverns, SeaWorld, Splashtown, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, River Cruise, Lake Braunig, Lake Calaveras
 - **Shopping** – Market Square, River Walk, SAS Factory/Store
 - **Walking** – River Walk, Texas Star Trail (w/80 historic sites)

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North of Georgetown – Going north offers many interesting and fun things to do including

- **Salado** – Gault Archaeological Site, Historic Inns (Baines House, Inn at Salado, Inn on the Creek, Stagecoach), Salado Glassworks, Salado Sculpture Garden
- **Waco**
 - **Museums** – Dr. Pepper Museum, McCulloch House Museum, Martin Museum of Art, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Texas Sports Hall of Fame
 - **Historical** – Waco Mammoth National Monument, Armstrong Browning Library (works/memorabilia of Robert/Elizabeth Browning)
 - **Shopping** – Magnolia Market, Harp Design, Spice Village, Homestead Craft Village
 - **Nature** – Cameron Park/Zoo, Hawaiian Falls Waterpark, Lake Waco Wetlands
 - **Other** – Silo District Trolley, Balcones Distilling, Collins Street Bakery, BSR Cable Park
- **Glen Rose** – Creation Evidence Museum, Dinosaur Valley State Park, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Dinosaur World
- **Granbury** – Granbury Boardwalk, Granbury Doll House Museum, Granbury State Historical Cemetery, Historical walking and driving tours, Lake Granbury
- **Fort Worth**
 - **Museums** – American Airlines C R Smith Museum, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Fort Worth Aviation Museum, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Kimball Art Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Sid Richardson Museum, Tandy Archaeological Museum, Tandy Leather Museum & Gallery, Texas Civil War Museum, Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, Vintage Flying Museum, Stockyards Museum
 - **Historical – Historic Homes** – Ball-Eddleman-McFarland, Stockyards National Historic District, Log Cabin Villa
 - **Nature** – Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Fort Worth Zoo, Water Gardens
 - **Other** – Breweries and Distilleries, Lakes (Benbrook, Eagle Mountain, Lake Worth,) Texas Motor Speedway, Sundance Square Entertainment District
- **Arlington**
 - **Sights** – AT&T Stadium, Globe Life Park, Six Flags, International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor
- **Dallas**
 - **Museums** – The Sixth Floor Museum, Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Nasher Sculpture Center, Meadows Museum, Crow Museum of Asian Art, Dallas Holocaust Museum, Dallas Museum of Art, Children's Aquarium, Frontiers of Flight Museum, George W Bush Presidential Library & Museum, Old Red Museum of Dallas Country History and Culture, Dallas Contemporary Museum, African American Museum
 - **Architecture +** - Reunion Tower, Thanks-giving Square (Philip Johnson), Fair Park (Art Deco Structures, sculpture, buildings), Morton Meyerson Symphony Center (I M Pei), Dallas Theater Center (F Lloyd Wright), Pioneer Plaza (largest bronze monument)
 - **Historical** – Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, Hall of State, Freedman's Cemetery Memorial, John F Kennedy Memorial, West End Historic District, Wilson Historic District
 - **Nature** – Cedar Ridge Preserve, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Dallas Zoo, Dallas World Aquarium, Texas Discovery Gardens, Klyde Warren Park

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- **Other** – Breweries, Deep Ellum Entertainment District, Knox-Henderson Entertainment District, Lakes (Ray Hubbard, Mountain Creek, White Rock,) Lower Greenville, McKinney Avenue Trolley, Trinity River Forest Adventure Park, Main Street Initiative, Bishop Arts District
- **Dallas Area**
 - Addison – Cavanaugh Flight Museum, Mary Kay Museum
 - Denton – Little Chapel in the Woods, UNT Art Path
 - Frisco - National Videogame Museum, Frisco Heritage Museum, IFLY, Museum of the American Railroad, Texas Sculpture Garden
 - Garland – Hawaiian Falls Garland Waterpark, Spring Creek Forest Preserve, Hat-co (Stetson plant)
 - Grand Prairie - Palace of Wax/Ripley's, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie, Traders Village, Grand Prairie Premium Outlets
 - Grapevine – Grapevine Glockenspiel, Legoland Discovery Center, Sea Life Grapevine Aquarium
 - Irving – Mustangs of Las Colinas & Museum (sculpture of 9 horses), Texas Musicians Museum
 - Plano – Crayola Experience, Downtown Plano Arts District, Interurban Railway Station Museum, Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve, Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventure, Southfork Ranch

South & East of Georgetown -Traveling towards the coast offers sites like

- **Houston**
 - **Museums/Art Installations** – 1940 Air Terminal Museum, Art Car Museum, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Dunham Bible Museum, Houston Fire Museum, Lone Star Flight Museum & TX Hall of Fame, Byzantine Fresco Chapel (art installations), Children's Museum of Houston, Contemporary Arts Museum, Czech Center Museum, The Health Museum, Holocaust Museum, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Museum of Fine Arts, Rothko Chapel, Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts, Museum of Southern History, National Museum of Funeral History, The Printing Museum, St Arnold Brewing Co Mural
 - **Historical** – Space Center Houston (20 miles SE of downtown)
 - **Nature** – Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, Lake Houston Wilderness Park, Houston Zoo, Japanese Garden, McGovern Centennial Gardens, Tranquility Park, Cactus King
 - **Shopping** – Traders Village
 - **Other** – Downtown Aquarium, Lake Houston,
- **Bryan/College Station**
 - **Museums** – Brazos Valley African American Museum, Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley, George Bush Presidential Library/Museum
 - **Historical** – Carnegie Library (oldest in TX)
 - **Other** – Lakes (Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Lake Bryan), Texas A&M University, Crockett Street Entertainment District, Full Moon Dinners (w/farm tour)

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- **Beaumont –**
 - **Museums** - Art Museum of SE TX, Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum, Clifton Steamboat Museum, Dishman Art Museum, Edison Museum, Fire Museum, Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum, TX Energy Museum,
 - **Nature** – Tyrrell Park, High Island Boy Scout Woods and Smith Oaks Nature Sanctuaries, Cattail Marsh
 - **Other** - Gator Country Adventure Park, Neches River Adventures
- **Galveston**
 - **Museums** – The Bryan Museum, Galveston Railroad Museum, Moody Mansion and Museum, Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum, Rosenberg Library, Texas Seaport Museum
 - **Historical** – The Great Storm, Historic Homes and Buildings and churches (including Garten Verein, Fort Crockett, Grand 1894 Opera House,) The Strand (National Historic Landmark district), Texas Heroes Monument
 - **Nature** – Beaches – 5 public beaches, 32 miles of sand, Galveston Island State Park, Moody Gardens, Bolivar Peninsula (birding area)
 - **Other** – Colonel, Excursion Boat, Ferry Rides, Fishing Piers, Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, Pelican Island, Pirates! Legends of the Gulf Coast, Port of Galveston, Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark, Galveston Tree Sculptures, Tours including Harbour and Duck tours
- **Port Arthur**
 - **Museums** – Museum of the Gulf Coast, Texas Artists Museum
 - **Historical** – Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site
 - **Nature** – Buu Mon Buddhist Temple and Lotus Gardens, Lake Sabine, National Wildlife Refuges, Sea Rim State Park
 - **Other** – Pleasure Island
- **Houston Area**
 - **Baytown** – Baytown Nature Center, Calypso Cove Water Park, Eddie V Gray Wetlands Center, Lynchburg Ferry, Pirate’s Bay Water Park, Republic of Texas Plaza, Thompson’s Fish Camp
 - **Friendswood** – Frank J Brown Heritage Museum and Barn
 - **Humble** – Mercer Botanic Gardens
 - **Katy** – Blessington Farms,
 - **Kemah** – Kemah Boardwalk
 - **Kountze** – Big Thicket Preserve
 - **LaPorte** – Battleship TX State Historic Site, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site,
 - **League City** – Ned and Fay Dudley Clear Creek Nature Center, West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
 - **Pasadena** – Armand Bayou Nature Center
 - **Pearland** – Sri Meenakshi Temple
 - **Spring** - Wet ‘N Wild Splashtown
 - **Tomball** – Tomball Museum Center