



Texas



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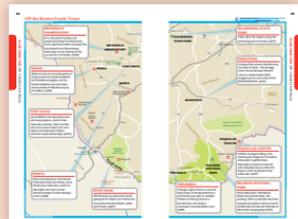
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Itineraries



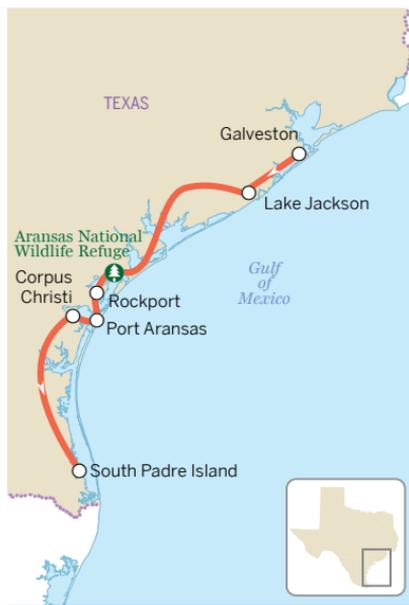
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WEEKS

Texas' Greatest Hits

So you want to do it all but are short on time? Start with three days in **Dallas**. See the JFK assassination sites downtown and eat in trendy Uptown, then the next day take a trip out to the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. Heading south out of town on day three, stop in cute little **Waxahachie** for a bite before spending two nights in **Austin** listening to live music and watching the bats fly.

Stop for a night in the Old West–era town of **Gruene** to dance at one of the state's oldest halls, then continue on to **San Antonio**. In two days there you can explore the Alamo and River Walk. From there **Corpus Christi** is just a three-hour drive south; it's a good base to kick back for a couple of nights and hit the beach at Padre Island National Shore or Port Aransas.

Afterwards it's time to turn north for three nights in **Houston**. NASA's Space Center Houston is a don't-miss attraction, as is the museum district. For a third day's excursion, hikers could trek out to Big Thicket National Preserve; history and sunshine lovers should see Galveston.

10
DAYS

Austin, Hill Country & San Antonio

Start your Hill Country adventure with two days in **Austin**. Don't miss the Texas State History Museum, a splash in Barton Springs Pool or eating along quirky South Congress Ave before club-hopping.

Next, head west to the countryside to spend one night in **Dripping Springs**, home of microbreweries, distilleries and cool Hamilton Pool. Then, continue west to the German town of **Fredericksburg**; area activities include a visit to the Texas wine country, a climb up Enchanted Rock or a musical pilgrimage to Luckenbach.

Enjoy the road, and wildflowers in spring, as you meander south. Skirt the Guadalupe River and lunch in **Kerrville** before over-nighting in the cowboy town of **Bandera**. A trail ride at a local dude ranch and a drink at the 11th Street Cowboy Bar are must-dos.

Take time to go antique hunting (or caving) in **Boerne** on your way to three nights in **San Antonio**. There you can follow the Mission Trail and eat Mexican food to your heart's content. One night make sure to catch a live local act outside of town at John T Floore's Country Store in Helotes or at Gruene Hall near New Braunfels – now that's country.

1
WEEK

Coastal Texas

Trade the cities for sunny beaches, small museums, historical towns and some of the state's best bird-watching. Begin in **Galveston**, spending two days admiring the turn-of-the-20th-century mansions, exploring the state park, and dining and shopping on the Strand.

Follow the coast south, stopping at the fun little Sea Center Texas aquarium and hatcheries in **Lake Jackson**. Then make your way down to **Aransas National Wildlife Refuge**, the best bird-watching site on the Texas coast. Stay a night nearby in the seaside town of **Rockport**; in season, boat tours depart from here for the endangered whooping crane's feeding grounds.

Spend a couple of nights at the coastal fishing town of **Port Aransas**, near the outlet to Corpus Christi Bay, and explore **Corpus Christi** or Padre Island National Seashore – or just laze on a local beach.

Four more hours south finds you for the last two nights in **South Padre Island**. Be sure to stop at the Birding & Nature Center there, as well as trying beachfront horse-back riding or water sports.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK ©



KELLY VANDLLEN/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Top: Galleria megamall,
Dallas (p140)

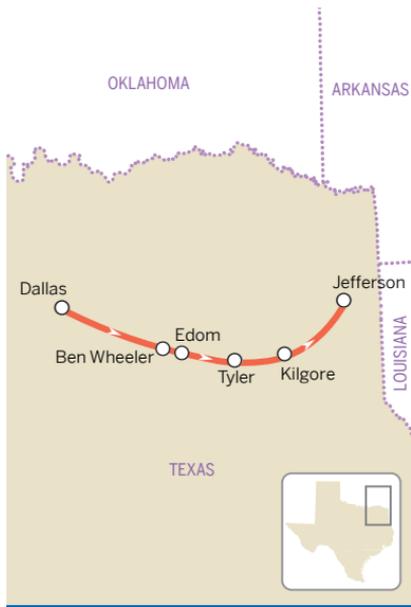
Bottom: Mission Espada
(p102), San Antonio

5
DAYS

Houston & East-Central Texas

Ah, big-city life. Spend three days immersed in culture and fine food around **Houston**. Check out some of the many arts and sciences exhibits in the Museum District, then prowl the eclectic Montrose neighborhood for your evening meal. While in town don't miss catching a show in the Theater District or have a night out clubbing on Washington Ave. After you've eaten, sipped and shopped yourself silly, escape to the country for a few days.

Book into a B&B and spend the next two nights in the small town of **Brenham**, home of Blue Bell ice cream (yes, you should tour the factory). From there you can explore the tiny towns of the region, stopping at famous Royer's Cafe in **Round Top** or checking out the lavender farm in **Chappell Hill**. To the north are the historical site and museums at **Washington-on-the-Brazos**, where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. While you're in the area, don't forget to eat some of the Czech-resident-inspired *kolaches* (sweet-bread pastries stuffed with savory or sweet filling).

1
WEEK

Dallas & Northeast Texas

Spend two days museum-hopping in **Dallas**. Be sure to take a break for shopping and dining in the Bishop Arts District, or for braving the huge Galleria megamall.

Then it's time to head east for small-town pleasures among the pine forests. Be sure to detour down FM 279: the 8-mile stretch of road from **Ben Wheeler** to **Edom** has a surprising number of cafes, artisan shops and live music in the evenings. You can spend the night in nearby **Tyler**, which is an especially good idea if it's spring and the azaleas are in bloom...or if you want to see a tiger sanctuary.

From there continue east, pausing for lunch and to see the Rangerette Showcase & Museum and the old oil derricks in the little town of **Kilgore**. Spending three nights in **Jefferson** allows you to peruse the historic town and take excursions. Choose from a canoe ride or a swamp-boat nature trip on sinuous Caddo Lake or a drive to Tex Ritter's hometown Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage.

Off the Beaten Track: Texas

MCDONALD OBSERVATORY

It's a star party! Tuesday and weekend evenings the observatory hosts nighttime outdoor viewings that use at least one of the amazing telescopes on-site. During the day you can tour the facility. (p305)

PRADA

Marfa is known for its avant-garde art at places like the Chinati foundation and the Ballroom gallery, but the Prada installation (an entire fake store) outside of Valentine may be the oddest. (p309)

FORT DAVIS

Up at 5000ft in the Davis Mountains you have gorgeous, scenic drives, trails and overlooks. Check out this one-horse town's historic fort, then sleep at the state park's Native American-styled adobe lodge. (p305)

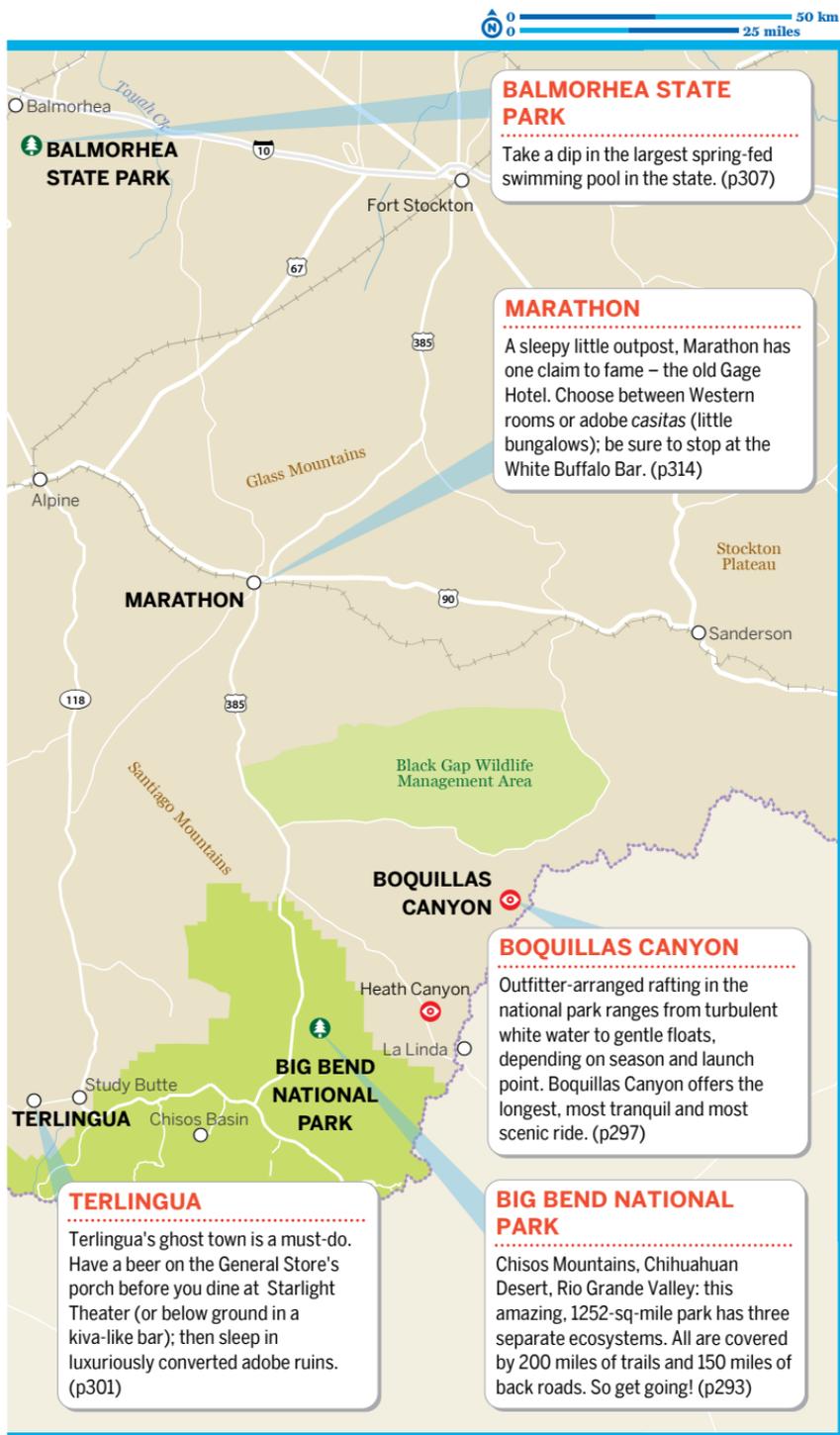
MARFA

What a fun little town. Visit the old hotel where *Giant* was filmed, eat at foodie-fave restaurants, watch for alien lights and stay in an old Airstream trailer or other boutique motel. (p308)

RIVER ROAD

FM 170 winds up, down and around geological formations as it follows the sinuous Rio Grande between Lajitas and Presidio. (p305)





Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Amy C Balfour

Amy practiced law in Virginia before moving to Los Angeles to try to break in as a screenwriter. After a stint as a writer's assistant on *Law & Order*, she jumped into freelance writing, focusing on travel, food and the outdoors. Amy has hiked, biked and paddled across the United States. She recently crisscrossed Texas in search of the region's best barbecue and outdoor attractions. Books authored or coauthored include *USA, Eastern USA, New Orleans, Florida & the South's*

Best Trips, New England's Best Trips, Arizona, Hawaii, Los Angeles Encounter and California. Her stories have appeared in *Backpacker, Sierra, Southern Living* and *Women's Health*.



Stephen Lioy

Stephen Lioy is a photographer, writer, hiker and travel blogger based in Central Asia. A 'once in a lifetime' Eurotrip and post-university move to China set the stage for what would eventually become a seminomadic lifestyle based on sharing his experiences with would-be travelers and helping provide that initial push out of comfort zones and into all that the planet has to offer. Follow Stephen's travels at www.monkboughtlunch.com or see his photography at www.stephenlioy.com.



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Ryan has written more than 110 guidebooks for Lonely Planet. He grew up in Santa Cruz, California, which he left at age 17 for college in the Midwest, where he first discovered snow. All joy of this novelty soon wore off. Since then he has been traveling the world, both for pleasure and for work – which are often indistinguishable. He has covered everything from wars to bars. He definitely prefers the latter. Ryan calls New York City home.

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