



Central Texas Swimming Holes

Greater Austin
& San Antonio
Areas

and the Texas Gulf Coast



Independence Title

www.IndependenceTitle.com

Austin AREA

Barton Creek

Barton Creek is part of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and the most beautiful urban natural area in the U.S. Access points to the creek are at Zilker Park, Loop 360 east of Loop 1, Barton Skyway at Spyglass, Gus Fruth Park on Barton Hills Drive, Camp Craft Road at the end of Westbank Drive, and Loop 1 south of Loop 360. Greenbelt and parks are alcohol-free areas. There are several popular spots on the creek, but these are the most popular.

Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park

www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-pool

This gorgeous swimming hole is one of the top 10 tourist attractions in Austin. The spring-fed water is a consistent 68 degrees year-round. Showers, restrooms, a snack bar, playground, picnic tables, and canoe rental are available. Fee.

Blanco State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/blanco

Blanco State Park is 104.6 acres located along the Blanco River in Blanco County. The land was deeded by private owners in 1933 before the park was opened in 1934. Activities include camping, swimming, picnicking, hiking, nature study, boating (electric motors only), and fishing. Tube, canoe and kayak rentals are available at the park. The park is at the corner of U.S. 281 and the Blanco River, four blocks south of the town square on the right. Entrance Fees.

Bull Creek District Park

www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=223

Bull Creek Foundation has 32 square miles of ecologically unique terrain to tend and protect. Bull Creek watershed includes limestone seeps, springs, and waterways; scenic cliffs and waterfalls; interesting archaeological and cultural features and more. An alcohol-free park. Access to the creek is from a hike and bike trail that follows much of its winding course. The park is between FM2222 and Spicewood Springs Road along Loop 360, and the main entrance is off FM2222 at the end of Lakewood Drive.

Camp Ben McCulloch Park

www.campbenmcculloch.com

Purchased by the United Confederate Veterans in 1904 as a reunion campground, the camp is located 22 miles from Austin near Driftwood. Take TX290 south to FM1826. It's a beautiful, shaded park, but inconsiderate users have made litter a real problem. Camping is allowed in unmarked sites along Onion Creek. The Salt Lick Barbecue is across the road from the park entrance.

Campbell's Hole

About a mile upstream from Barton Springs Pool on Barton Creek Greenbelt. Also accessible from Spyglass Road. It's a wonderful location with a deep pool that has water most of the year and small rapids upstream when the creek is running. It used to give visitors the illusion of being lost in the country, but now the cliffs are capped with condos.

Emma Long Metropolitan Park

www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=247

Emma Long Metropolitan Park is located 6.2 miles off FM 2222 on City Park Road. The park is on the shores of Lake Austin, and consists of a total of 1150 acres, 70 of which are developed. It's a great place, but crowded every weekend during swimming season. The park features camping, restrooms, cold showers, a playground, hike and bike trails, and boat ramp. Three miles of winding shoreline make it a popular place for fast boats. Fee.

Fritz Hughes Park

<https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/find-a-park/fritz-hughes>

Just below Mansfield Dam, take Low Water Crossing Road off FM 620 and go left at the "Y" in the road on Fritz Hughes Park Road. Fritz Hughes has a playground and nice picnic area, but not a great swimming area. If you go straight at the "Y" you get to the old low water crossing where the water is usually running pretty swift, and is more popular with fishermen than swimmers. Sunrise to civil twilight (dark). Travis County Park.

Gus Fruth Park

www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=687

One of the best parks and swimming holes on the Barton Creek Greenbelt, it has white water around big boulders and deep pools. It's accessible by a rough, steep climb from Barton Hills Drive or a long walk on the greenbelt hike and bike path.

Lake Austin

Constant level lake with colder than usual water. The 1,830-acre Lower Colorado River Authority lake flows 20 miles up the Colorado River from Austin and Tom Miller Dam.

Mary Quinlan Park

<https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/find-a-park/mary-quinlan>

Take FM620 to Quinlan Park Road. This small, moderately visited park offers 5.8 acres of rolling hills with 200 feet of shoreline access, including the only public boat ramp for several miles. Day use.

McKinney Falls State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/mckinney-falls

If you live in Austin, you should visit this park at least once a year. The park has camping, hiking trails, and summer cabins for rent. From Ben White Boulevard (TX71) go east of IH-35 take Burleson Road south to McKinney Falls Parkway. Fee.

Milton Reimers Ranch Park

<https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/find-a-park/reimers-ranch>

Eleven miles from TX71 at 23610 Hamilton Pool Rd. and a mile before you get to Hamilton Pool Preserve. Closed Mon. & Tues., open Wed.-Sun., 7am-dark. Beautiful private park with shallow rapids and deep pools, favored by fishermen. Fee.

Pedernales Falls State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/pedernales-falls

About 30 miles south of Austin off TX290. Pedernales contains white water over a gradual slope and deep, slow-moving pools at the bottom of the "falls." Access to the river from the parking lot is a rugged, steep climb. The park offers camping, showers, restrooms, hook-ups, and hiking trails. 830/868-7304. Fee.

Percy Pennybacker Bridge

(Loop 360 Bridge or Bull Creek Park) Located just under the Percy Pennybacker Bridge, there is a three-acre grassy area where picnicking is allowed. The boat ramp and park are for day use only, and rest rooms are available.

Selma Hughes Park

<https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/find-a-park/selma-hughes>

Take FM620 to Quinlan Park Road below Mansfield Dam. Selma Hughes Park has restrooms and picnic tables. It's a small park, but scenic, with a nice, sandy lake bottom and plenty of shade trees. Day use only. Travis County Park. Open sunrise to civil twilight (dark).

Westlake Beach

www.westlakebeach.com

This privately owned park has a shaded picnic area, marina, concession stand, diving platform, playground, showers, and beach and water volleyball. Great place for family reunions or birthday parties. Day use only. Fee. 2509 Westlake Dr. 512/327-9004.

Twin Falls

Two small waterfalls empty into a small pool. It's a better place to people watch than to swim. Accessible from the entrance off the access road of Loop 1 just south of Loop 360.

BASTROP AREA

Built by the LCRA in 1965 as a 900-acre power plant cooling pond, the lake is popular for fishing and camping. Swimming is not bad, but most of the banks are muddy and the water is not really cold.

Bastrop State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/bastrop

From Austin take TX71 east to Bastrop and TX21 to park entrance east of town. Nestled among the "lost pines" of Texas, the park has a swimming pool, hiking trails, camping, and a golf course, and is a great place to camp or rent a cabin. The ponds in Bastrop and Buescher state parks are not open for swimming. Fee.



Austin Area Hamilton Pool Preserve

One of the most beautiful public parks in the county. Acquired by Travis County in 1985, the site has been a popular spring-fed swimming hole since the early 1900s. The property was once owned by the brother of the 10th governor of Texas. The pool is in a box canyon fed by a 45-foot waterfall with a sandy beach and giant boulders. A nature trail follows Hamilton Creek about a mile to the Pedernales River. Open 9am-6pm every day, no one admitted into the park after 5:30pm (hiking trails are open year-round); admission is limited to 100 people. Water quality is carefully monitored. From TX71 West turn left at Hamilton Pool Rd. (FM3238) and go 13 miles to the park. No glass, fishing, cooking, or pets are allowed in the park. It is best to call ahead before making the trip, 512/264-2740. Fee.

North Shore Park

www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/northshore.html

North Shore Park on 900-acre Lake Bastrop has features to appeal to campers, anglers and nature lovers. A boat ramp with a boat dock and fishing pier provide fishing and access for water-based recreation. There are also picnic areas that include tables, grills, a sand volleyball court, tetherball courts and a play area. Rest rooms and showers are available for park visitors. The North Cove Group Area provides a partially shaded site for groups of up to 50. This group area includes a large grill, picnic tables, and a large serving table. During the peak seasons of spring and fall, and for all holidays, facilities book out early. Fee.

South Shore Park

www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/southshore.html

This park in the lost pines was remodeled in 1998. There is a nice beach in the day use area with a playground, boat ramp, volleyball court, and hiking trail. Camping sites are semi-secluded, many on the water's edge. Take TX71 east to Bastrop and Loop 150 to TX21; the park is a mile past the state park. LCRA. Fee.

Canyon Lake

This 8,240-acre Corps of Engineers-maintained lake northwest of New Braunfels offers seven parks on the lake. Parks on the lake are generally well-maintained and offer showers, water, restrooms, picnicking, a marina, camping, hook-ups, boat ramps, and other amenities furnished by local concessionaires. About an hour from Austin and 15 minutes from New Braunfels. www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/canyon/

Parks on the north side of the lake, accessible from FM306:

Canyon Park

www.wildtexas.com/texas-parks/canyon-park-canyon-lake

There is a swimming beach at the entrance open 9am-7pm during summer months. The park also has camping, a marina with a restaurant, a boat ramp, and a dump station. Fee

Jacob's Creek Park

This day use park is open 7am to 9pm. The park has a large swimming beach and good water access from the rest of the park, restrooms, a boat ramp, tables, and a sailing area. There is another swimming area near the boat ramp at the end of Old Hancock Road, the first right off the park road from FM306. Fee.

North Park

Located at the north end of the dam. Campers only, no day use facilities. The swimming off of the banks is not bad. No pets allowed on the beaches. Fee.

Potter's Creek Park

www.wildtexas.com/texas-parks/potters-creek-park-canyon-lake

This is a small swimming beach on a small peninsula with covered picnic tables. The park also has camping and a boat ramp. Potter's Creek Store is at the park entrance off of FM306 at Canyon Lake (the town). This is one of the nicest parks on the lake. Fee.

Parks on the south side of the lake, accessible from FM2673:

Comal Park

www.wildtexas.com/texas-parks/comal-park-canyon-lake

This very nice day use park has a beach, boat ramps, a playground, and restrooms. No pets in the beach area. Three miles off FM2673 at Startzville. Fee.

Cranes Mill Park

This is a primitive camping park at the end of FM2673 with an adjacent marina and fishing pier, and good swimming spots from the low bank. Fee.

Guadalupe River State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river

Opened in 1983, the 4,232-acre park was purchased for canoeists after a legislative delegation's cars were towed from a low water crossing while they were canoeing the upper Guadalupe River. With just over a mile of river frontage, the park is not only a great place to swim, canoe, and tube, but is also uncommonly beautiful even for this scenic area of the Hill Country. Off TX46, 37 miles west of New Braunfels, the park has three camping areas, trails, and a day use area with great swimming. The park includes the Honey Creek Natural Area which is open only for guided tours on Saturdays at 9am.

For camping reservations, call 830/438-2656.

Canyon Lake Overlook Park

www.wildtexas.com/texas-parks/overlook-park-canyon-lake

Off the South Access Road from Sattler at the south end of the dam; there is a great view of the dam. Access to the water is by rough trails, but a nice swimming area is at the end of the dam. There is a walking path across the top of the dam. Day use only.

Lake Marble Falls

Lake Marble Falls is a reservoir on the Colorado River in the Texas Hill Country in the United States. The lake inundated the falls that gave the city its name. Popular for fishing and boating, most of the shoreline has steep cliffs and is inaccessible.

Marble Falls City Parks

www.ci.marble-falls.tx.us/parks_recreation.html

The city operates three parks next to each other on the north shore of the lake west of US281. Lake Side Park has a swimming pool and picnic tables, but a steep bank into the water. Johnson Park has a playground, ball fields, an amphitheater, a horseshoe pitching club, and a picnic area with swimming near the boat ramp. Falls Creek Park is mainly a picnic park, but swimming is allowed in the creek next to the boat ramp.

Max Starke Dam

Just below the dam are flat rocks and a steady flow of water popular with fishermen, but not a bad swimming hole. Watch out for a sudden increase of release from the dam. Very steep climb down to the water. No facilities. Follow the signs to the dam off of US281 south of town.

Inks Lake

One of the smallest of the Highland Lakes, Inks Lake is three miles long and covers 803 acres. The lake offers excellent year-round fishing.

Inks Lake State Park

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/inks/

"Devil's Hole," at the northeast corner of the lake where a creek empties into it, is one of the most scenic swimming holes in the state. The creek cascades over stair step levels to the lake where it empties into a small canyon walled in by pink granite cliffs. Don't overlook the other coves on the lake with more gentle, sloping, granite banks. West of Burnet off TX29, the park has shelters, camping, showers, restrooms, boat rental, a grocery store (seasonal), a boat ramp, and fishing piers. 512/389-8900. Fee.

Robinson Park

www.llanotx.com

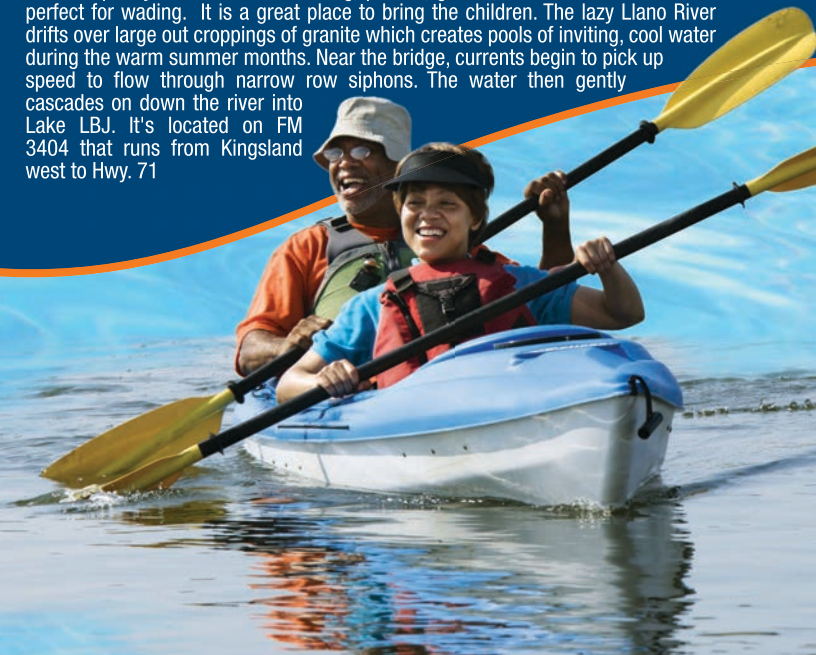
Llano's city park is on the riverbank with lots of shade and swimming spots. A low dam crosses the river, making for a great play area. The park also has fishing, a playground, a golf course, restrooms, showers, a swimming pool, and 100 RV spots. Use is free if you don't use electric hook-ups. Take the road on the north side of the courthouse west to the park.

Rock-A-Way Park

21 RV sites on tranquil Inks Lake. All waterfront sites have 30/50 amp. Laundry facilities, bathroom/showers. Rental facility for family reunions or special events available onsite also. It has a dock and boat ramp. A large cliff shades the campground from the afternoon sun and it is possible to tie up a boat at the bank. Next door to Catfish Barge, a great cafe. Fee. 254/793-2314.

The Llano Slab

"The Slab" is a popular gathering point on the Llano River just upstream from Kingsland. There is plenty of sand for sunbathing, picnics, games, etc. The water is shallow and perfect for wading. It is a great place to bring the children. The lazy Llano River drifts over large outcroppings of granite which creates pools of inviting, cool water during the warm summer months. Near the bridge, currents begin to pick up speed to flow through narrow row siphons. The water then gently cascades on down the river into Lake LBJ. It's located on FM 3404 that runs from Kingsland west to Hwy. 71



Lake Georgetown

On North Fork of the San Gabriel River, four miles west of I-35 at Georgetown via FM2338. The 1,310-acre lake is well-stocked with channel cat and smallmouth bass (record 5.88 lbs.). The Good Water Trail goes around the upper three-quarters of the lake. Annual passes are available from the park headquarters.

Cedar Breaks Park

Cedar Breaks Park sits on the south side of Georgetown Lake in the Hill Country of Texas, about 25 miles north of Austin. Boating is the most popular way to enjoy the lake, and a boat ramp is provided for guests. Cedar Breaks Park has 59 reservable campsites, and convenient amenities. Two groups picnic shelters are also available, allowing for large parties, cookouts and family trips.

Jim Hogg Park

Jim Hogg Park sits on the north side of Georgetown Lake in the Hill Country of Texas, about 25 miles north of Austin. The park was named for former Texas Governor Jim Hogg. Visitors enjoy camping, fishing, boating, picnicking, and all nature has to share. Jim Hogg Park offers 148 campsites with water and 30amp/20 amp electrical hookups. The entrance to the park is off FM2338 west of Georgetown.

Lake Granger

Opened in 1981, the 4,400-acre Corps of Engineers' lake, on the San Gabriel River north of Taylor, is primarily a fishing lake. Willis Creek Park offers camping and picnicking areas. Taylor Park has areas for camping and picnicking, as well as a hiking trail. Swimming is allowed, but not encouraged at either park.

Friendship Park

On the northeast end of the lake. From Granger and TX95, take FM971 east. The small day use park has picnic tables and a swimming beach.

Wilson H. Fox Park

On the south side of the lake. From Centerville and TX95, take FM1331 east. Fox allows camping and has fishing docks, a picnic area, and a swimming beach.

Lake LBJ

Most of the shoreline is privately owned, making access to this pristine and narrow lake difficult. Originally called Granite Shoals Lake, the 6,375-acre, 22-mile-long lake is rated excellent for fishing.

Cottonwood Resource Area

At Wirtz Dam, this is mainly a boat ramp and observation area. It is the only public boat ramp on the southeast side of lake. Access to the swimming and fishing area below the dam should be allowed later this summer after they complete work on the dam. From US281 at the south end of the bridge over Lake Marble Falls, take FM2147 to Wirtz Dam Road. LCRA.

Lake Travis

The most popular of the Highland Lakes that stair-step up the Colorado River from Austin. The lake winds through steep, scenic hills for 65 miles with 270 miles of shoreline. At its widest point it is 4.5 miles across and 190 feet at its deepest at Mansfield Dam. The lake is formed by Mansfield Dam on FM620. Built in 1941, the dam took 1.75 million cubic yards of concrete to build it up to 266 feet tall and more than a mile long with 24 floodgates, making it one of the largest masonry structures in the world. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has eight primitive recreation areas on the upper end of Lake Travis. When the land along the river was purchased from landowners, they quite often sold full parcels rather than small sections of river frontage. This gave the public large areas of former pasture land that has now been opened as parks. Four of the primitive parks require daily permits per day per vehicle and can be purchased at the honor boxes at the park entrance. Annual passes may be purchased at the LCRA, 3701 Lake Austin Blvd., or through the mail. For information on the LCRA parks, go to www.lcra.org. LCRA day use parks are open from mid-September thru mid-April from sunrise to sunset.

Arkansas Bend Park

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/arkansas-bend>

One of the most isolated and untouched parks in Travis County, this peaceful 323-acre park lies on the north shore of Lake Travis near the community of Lago Vista and combines many of the best qualities of other Lake Travis parks. The parks' two miles of shoreline offer opportunities for hiking, fishing, camping, picnicking and lake access via an excellent boat ramp. Several inviting, shaded picnic and camping areas are situated along a bluff above a gently sloping, rocky waterfront. Fee.

Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/bob-wentz>

Located in the basin area of Lake Travis in the scenic Hill Country of central Texas, Bob Wentz Park is a favorite location for water sports. The park's facilities and close proximity to Austin make it attractive for picnicking, swimming, windsurfing, sailing, and scuba diving. The shoreline areas (including a sandy peninsula known as "The Point") are heavily used, while an adjacent 150-acre tract is maintained as a natural area. The park includes two sand volleyball courts, a shoreline walking path, a boat ramp, and a pavilion available for rent.

Camp Chautauqua

A former recreation area for Air Force personnel at Bergstrom. The entrance to Pace Bend Park is now leased to nonprofit groups by the county as a campground. It still has lots of recreation facilities, a boat ramp, fishing pier, and meeting shelters. Swimming is available from the rocky shore. Fee. 512/264-1752.

Camp Creek Primitive Area

This park is 600 acres off of FM1431 at the end of County Road 343 on the north side of the lake. It covers a small area, but has good swimming spots. It also has a creek running through the campground. The park features a hiking trail, boat ramp, tables, grills, and restrooms.

Cypress Creek Park

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/cypress-creek>

Located on Lake Travis in the scenic Hill Country of central Texas. This small, easy-to-reach park is a favorite spot for boating, picnicking, and fishing. The main body of the park has a gently sloping waterfront. The boat ramp and cove provide easy access to the popular basin area of Lake Travis and other Travis County Parks on Lake Travis. Fee.

Dink Pearson Park

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/dink-pearson>

3011 Lohmans Ford Road off of FM1431 in Lago Vista. A great place to swim, but often crowded, especially on weekends and holidays. The park has picnic tables, a boat ramp, and restrooms. Last few miles of winding road to park offers panoramic view of the lake, but it's no place to be if you've been drinking too much or you're in a hurry. Sunrise to civil twilight (dark). Travis County Park.

Lake
Georgetown

Russell
Park

www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/georgetown/

Russell Park has the best beach of the three parks on the Corps of Engineers' lake, west of Georgetown. Day use only. It has restrooms, showers, a boat ramp, and drinking water. No pets in beach area. Fee. From FM2338, take FM3405 and then County Road 262 to park.



Gloster Bend Primitive Area

Off FM1431 at the end of Singleton Road on the north side of Lake Travis, about six miles west of Lago Vista, this LCRA recreation area is limited to daytime hours and vehicles must stay on designated roads and parking areas. Nice swimming areas, but you have to carry everything from the parking lot to the water. Boat ramp is open 24 hours. Fee.

Grelle Primitive Area

A hiking trail winds around this 400-acre park. The park is on the south side of the lake; from TX71 take Spur 191 into Spicewood, make a right on County Road 412, and follow it about a mile past Krause Springs. The park has a nice, low shoreline with lots of open spaces, shaded camping spots, and restrooms. Fee.

Hippie Hollow (McGregor Park)

www.hippiehollow.com

This is the only clothing-optional beach in the state. Its rock ledges are great places to sunbathe and picnic, and it has restrooms and hiking trails. Take FM620 to Comanche Trail and follow around to the park. Travis County Park. Must be 18 years old or older to enter. Day use only. Pets are not allowed. Fee.

Krause Springs

www.krausesprings.net

A beautiful private park chosen as one of the best swimming holes in Texas by Texas Monthly. Krause Springs has many natural sites to explore. There are 32 springs on the property, and several feed the manmade pool and the natural pool which flows into Lake Travis. It's a refreshing treat to swim in the Springs during the hot summers of Texas! If camping is in your plans, there is primitive tent camping as well as 24 RV sites with water and electricity available. Fee.

Mansfield Dam

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/mansfield-dam>

On the south or west end of the dam off FM620 (depending on how you look at it). The water tends to be a little colder here because it is deepest near the dam. This area is popular with scuba divers. The park allows camping and has restrooms, picnic tables, drinking water, a boat ramp, and nature trails. Walk across the dam from the observation area. Travis County Park. Day use is 8am to civil twilight (dark). Boat Ramp is Sunrise to civil twilight (dark). Fee.

Muleshoe Bend Primitive Area

In a bend in the river that looks like a muleshoe, this is the largest of the primitive parks. From TX71, turn on Paleface Ranch Road, then take FM404, turn at FM414 (at the sign for Country Music Miniature Donkeys). The park has lots of low shoreline and shaded camping areas, but it seems like a lot of the trash in the lake washes up here. It has restrooms. Fee.

Narrows Primitive Area

This LCRA natural area is open for day use only, on the south side of Lake Travis. Vehicles are required to stay on designated roads and parking areas. Off TX71, follow FM410/411 through Spicewood. Has a boat ramp that is open 24 hours.

Pace Bend Park (Paleface Park)

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/pace-bend>

Located in far western Travis County in the Hill Country of central Texas. With more than nine miles of shoreline along scenic Lake Travis, Pace Bend is one of the most popular areas in the Highland Lakes region, offering visitors a wide range of recreational opportunities. The west side of the park features high, limestone cliffs and numerous rocky coves with some of the most impressive views available of Lake Travis, especially at sunset. Boating is one of the most popular activities at Pace Bend. With two boat ramps in the park, boaters rarely have to wait long to launch. Fee.

Sandy Creek Park

www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/sandy_creek.asp

Sandy Creek Park is located on one of the quieter coves of Lake Travis, in the scenic Hill Country of central Texas. This 25-acre park is an ideal spot for swimming, nature walks, birding, camping, and fishing. Boaters and overnight campers will appreciate the park's easy accessibility to the basin area of Lake Travis.

Shaffer Bend Primitive Area

Off of FM1431, on north side of the lake, take County Road 343A to the end of the road and make a hard right. The park has a scenic view of the river valley, lots of waterfront acreage with a low, gradual shoreline, and allows camping.

Tom Hughes Park

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/tom-hughes>

Turn off FM620 on Marshall Ford Road to Park Road, which winds to the park on the south end of Mansfield Dam. There is a steep climb to the water. Restrooms are available. Travis County Park. Day use only. Pets are not allowed. Fee.

Turkey Bend (East)

www.lcra.org/parks/recreation_areas/turkey_bend.html

Primitive Area an equestrian/hiking trail winds over 400 acres, and it has restrooms and fire rings. At the Burnet/Travis County line on the north side of the lake off of FM1431 at the end of Shaw Drive (a beautiful drive in itself). Fee.

Windy Point Park

www.windypointpark.com

Windy Point Park is one of the top diving "hot spots" in the Central Texas area. Tent camping is primitive style, but there are restrooms & showers. Fee.

New Braunfels

An old German town 48 miles south of Austin on I-35, New Braunfels was settled at the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe rivers. The Corps of Engineers added Canyon Lake west of town, and the area became the water sports capital of Central Texas. The Comal River is completely contained within the city limits and is on record as the 2nd shortest river in the world. North and east of town, the Guadalupe River has become one of the greatest water recreation areas in the state, second only to the Texas Coast.

Cypress Bend Park

On the Guadalupe River at the end of Peace Avenue, a few blocks off Common Street across from the fair grounds and behind the cemetery. This is a nice, shaded park with picnicking, swimming areas, and playgrounds. Day use only.

Hinman Island

Hinman Island Park is located on Hinman Island Drive, between Landa Park and Prince Solms Park. A beautiful, tree-shaded place to enjoy the Comal River! Perfect for scuba, snorkeling, swimming, tubing and fishing! Facilities include a playground, restrooms, picnic tables and easy river access.

Landa Falls

www.landafalls.com

Landa Falls is New Braunfels premier Comal River access area, offering the longest float on the Comal River. They have everything from tube rentals to ample picnic facilities, all nestled in a beautiful river front setting. Fee.

Prince Solms Park

This is the city's main swimming spot, named for the town's founding father, is a popular destination for people looking to take a water ride on the Comal River, as this park features the City Tube Chute. Also on the grounds are picnic areas, tube rental facilities, showers and other recreational areas.

River Road

This 20-mile stretch of scenic, winding country road following the Guadalupe River is probably the most popular tubing and canoeing area in the state. There are ample free places to launch tubes, canoes, or just swim, but parking is at a premium and beware of private property. Concessionaires along the river will rent or sell almost anything and is worth paying for the shuttle or guide service. From I-35, take Loop 337 (TX46) west to the second stoplight after you cross the Guadalupe River and follow the road around to the river.

Lake Travis

Shore Club Volente Beach

www.shoreclubtx.com

Located on the shores of Lake Travis and is the perfect getaway for children and adults alike on a hot summer day. They have pools for children and an adult only pool with a swim up tiki bar. SCVB also has their own sandy beachfront and 3 volleyball courts (2 lighted, 1 not). Although SCVB offers an upscale casual restaurant specializing in hand-cut steaks, fresh seafood and a beach bar & grill with the best burgers on the lake, picnics are permitted. So load up the cooler and on out (*No alcohol, no glass & no uncooked food are permitted*). They have plenty of food options for the kids as well. Boat and wave runner rentals are also available. Park Fees.



San Antonio AREA

Medina Lake

www.edwardsaquifer.net/medina.html

Medina Lake is a popular retreat for fishing, boating, picnicking and water sports. Facilities include a boat ramp, swimming area and restrooms. There are a number of private guest cabins, guest ranches and private campgrounds in the vicinity of the lake. Take State Highway 16 east to Pipe Creek and then F.M. 1283 south. Public access to the lake is available from Bandera County Park on the north side of the lake at the end of Park Road 37 in Plum Creek Cove.

San Antonio Springs

www.edwardsaquifer.net/saspring.html

Historically the state's 6th largest spring, San Antonio Springs emerge on the campus of Incarnate Word College in downtown San Antonio and flow through Brackenridge Park.

San Pedro Springs

www.edwardsaquifer.net/spspring.html

San Pedro Park, also known as San Pedro Springs Park, the oldest park in Texas, is in San Antonio between San Pedro Avenue and Harp Street, facing the San Antonio College campus. Today the park comprises forty-six acres of land.

Woodlawn Lake Park

www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory_woodlawn_lake.aspx

Woodlawn Lake Park is a beautiful 62-acre facility located just north of downtown and west of Interstate 10 on Cincinnati Street. The lake is available for fishing and non-motorized boating. Rentals at the park include the party house, pavilion, gym and softball field.

San Marcos AREA

The San Marcos River, selected by river guides as one of the most beautiful rivers in the state, originates in San Marcos at Aquarena Springs and joins the Blanco River east of town. Tubing on the river in town is often crowded, but exciting. Out of town, a canoe is recommended because of the distance between access points, which are limited to two public sites and where the Farm-to-Market roads cross the river. The narrow river channel is often obstructed with small dams and old mills. The banks are generally steep, muddy, and heavily vegetated. An annual canoe race, the Texas Water Safari, starting from San Marcos to the coast is held in June and is touted as "the toughest canoe race in the world."

Cheatham Street Dam

The opposite bank from the dam in Rio Vista Park. There is an unloading zone at the curb; park across the street or in Rio Vista Park. This is a great place to watch the Texas Water Safari canoes go over the dam, or to shoot it yourself in a tube. From I-35 take Hopkins to a left (south) on Cheatham, and follow to the river. Day use only.

The Falls

Swimming is permitted in the small park below Joe's Crab Shack, but parking can be a real problem. At Aquarena Springs Drive and Sessom Drive Day use only.

Five Mile Dam

North of San Marcos on the Blanco River. Take the Yarrington Road exit from I-35 just south of Kyle. Follow access road to the "Y" in the road and take a right at (FM2779). The park is at the first left. Boating is available above the dam. Show only your best friends this spot. Day use only. Hays County Park.

Leisure Resort on the San Marcos River

www.leisureresort.net

A private camp southeast of San Marcos off of I-35 on TX80 in the village of Fentress. On the San Marcos River in an old pecan grove, the campground has fishing, RV hook-ups, camping, a playground, restrooms, showers, and a small store that stocks essentials. It also has a meeting room with a kitchen and group pavilion. Reservations recommended during the summer months. Fee. 512/213-0112

McAllister Park

Site of an old Girl Scout Camp. West of I-35 and off C.M. Allen Parkway. McAllister has a nice wooded area with the river winding through it, picnic areas, and muddy banks. Park behind the ballfields at I-35 and C.M. Allen, in the parking lot across from the Cheatham Street Dam or under I-35 from the access road. Day use only.

Rio Vista Park

www.toursanmarcos.com/attractions/outdoors/rio-vista-park.html

Rio Vista Park is a great place to put your kayak in and paddle upstream or just swim in the deep watering hole. It's not uncommon to see recreationist surfing the rapids, sunbathers along the river banks and families barbecuing. The amenities include Restrooms, Tennis Courts, 1/2 Basketball Court, Picnic Tables, BBQ Grills, Benches, a Pavilion, City Swimming Pool, Hike/Bike Trails and Trash Cans. Day use only.

San Marcos City Park

Take the Aquarena Springs Drive exit from I-35 west to the light at the left turn before Strahan Coliseum, take a right before the railroad tracks, and then follow the signs behind the coliseum. Great place to start a tube trip on the San Marcos River. Has tube rental and shuttle service. Day use only.

San Marcos River

www.sanmarcosriver.org/RiverInfo.html

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Sewell Park

www.campusrecreation.txstate.edu

Sewell Park is one of the most inviting and relaxing spaces on the Texas State Campus. The spring fed crystal clear San Marcos River runs through the park and remains 72 degrees year round. You can relax outdoors while taking advantage of two sand volleyball courts, open spaces for frisbee, an outdoor basketball court, and grills and picnic tables great for cookouts. The park also offers ample open space for Frisbee, sunbathing, and picnicking. You'll also find the Outdoor Center here, nestled under the trees. Sewell Park is available for reservation by Texas State University organizations only.

Shady Grove Campgrounds & Spencer's Canoe Livery

www.spencercanoes.net

Take I-35 to TX80, then east to a right on to FM1979 at Martindale. Amenities include riverfront camping, canoe and tube rental, showers, restrooms, and store. Also the sponsors of the annual Texas Water Safari canoe race from San Marcos to the coast. Fee.



Galveston, New Braunfels & South Padre Island Schlitterbahn

www.schlitterbahn.net

New Braunfels: Voted the Number #1 Park in the World. This water amusement park is fed by the Comal River with two areas and includes tube chutes, hot tubs, refreshments, and swimming pools. This is the river ride without nature. Bring picnic baskets and ice chests; Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

Galveston: Experience daring slides, endless rivers, kid-friendly play pools and a giant surfing wave. Your family will be thrilled!

South Padre Island: Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark on beautiful South Padre Island is the tropical destination for family fun! This park has interconnecting water rides and slides, a huge 5-story tall Sandcastle, thrilling uphill water coasters, a man-made surfing wave, and direct access to the Gulf of Mexico!

Seguin

Lake Dunlap

Located on the northwest border of Guadalupe County near New Braunfels, within an hour's drive of both Austin and San Antonio. This 410-acre lake has a storage capacity of 5,900 acre-feet. Maximum depth near the dam is 40 feet. Free public access boat ramp under IH-35 in New Braunfels. Boating, water skiing, jet skiing and fishing.

Lake McQueeney

Located in Guadalupe County approximately two miles west of Seguin. The pond area is 400 acres with a storage capacity of 5,050 acre-feet. The lake's prominent feature is Treasure Island, a residential area reached by a connecting bridge. Boating, water skiing, jet skiing and fishing. Lake McQueeney is home to the "Ski-Bees" ski club and is used heavily year-round by water skiers. No public access.

Lake Placid

Located in Guadalupe County between Lake McQueeney and Meadow Lake. The pond area is 248 acres with a storage capacity of 2,624 acre-feet. Most of the lake is shallow with maximum depths of 30-35 feet near the dam. A public boat ramp is located at Exit 605 off IH-10 on the Seguin side of the river. Boating, water skiing, jet skiing and fishing.

Wave Pool

www.seguintexas.gov/parks_recreation/detail/wave_pool/

The Seguin city pool in Max Starcke Park generates artificial waves every 15 minutes, and has a wading pool. Located south of downtown on Austin Street. (Business TX123) Fee.

TEXAS Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast with more than 375 miles of coastline, this is the best swimming hole in the state.

Corpus Christi

www.visitcorpuschristitx.org

There are beaches downtown along Shoreline Boulevard, but if you've taken the time to drive this far, go all the way to Padre Island National Seashore.

Galveston

www.galveston.com

Go to the beaches, Stewart and Apffel, along Seawall Boulevard, for lots of company. For smaller crowds, head to the beaches south of town on FM3005 or take a ferry ride across the bay. There are also beaches and camping at Galveston Island State Park.

Matagorda Island

www.matagordaisland.com

Want a primitive and secluded beach experience? The only way to get to this island is by ferry from Pt. O'Connor. Administered by the state parks department, the island has no electricity, concessions, telephone, or drinking water.

Port Aransas

www.portaransas.org

At the northern tip of Mustang Island, there are 18 miles of beaches going south toward Padre Island. To avoid the crowds, try the undeveloped beaches across the harbor channel on St. Jo's Island. Catch the Jetty Boat ferries at Woody's Sports Center.

Rockport

www.cityofrockport.com

There is a shallow beach area in downtown. Rockport has better prices on hotels and food than most resort towns, but not as much to do. Don't let it fool you because it is more popular as a bird watching area than a swimmer spot; there's still fun to be found here.

Wimberley

The Blue Hole

Blue Hole is one of the best loved natural swimming holes in Texas. Located in Wimberley, it is surrounded by 126 acres of natural forests and native grass fields that have so far escaped the developers' touch. Because of its popularity and costs, the owners now charge a "membership" fee, plus an admission fee for day use and overnight camping. Northeast of Wimberley off FM3237 past the church and cemetery.

www.blueholeregionalpark.com or

www.visitwimberley.com/articles/blueHole.shtml

South Padre Island

www.sopadre.com

Life is a beach. What used to be a little resort town has become a huge resort town with high-rise hotels lining the beach. Still, it has 34 miles of some of the best beaches in the state.

Surfside Beach

www.surfsidetx.org

This tiny seaside community and its neighbor across the bay inlet, Quintana, used to be the resort destinations of the Gulf Coast. Now they're nearly forgotten seaports that retain the charm of less-crowded beaches. Check out the beaches and cottages on Follets Island or San Luis Pass County Park along FM3005 (the Blue Water Highway) toward Galveston.

Williamson COUNTY

The San Gabriel River crosses several county roads within the county and offers great secluded swimming holes, but beware of crossing private property and where you park your car.

Blue Hole Park

<https://parks.georgetown.org/blue-hole>

Not to be confused with Blue Hole near Wimberley. The north bank of the river is a sheer cliff; the south bank is a new park with picnic tables and port-a-potties. The city has really spruced up this scenic area, changing it from a makeshift hangout to a first-rate community park. The one-way road through the park offers a peek at the conditions and a small unloading zone. Parking is at the lot at Third and Rock Streets. No camping and no glass beverage bottles larger than a quart are allowed in the park. The small dam makes a great waterfall. From the courthouse, take Austin Avenue (US81) north, turn left on Third St., just before the South San Gabriel River bridge, and take a right on Rock Street.

Wimberley

The Blanco River cuts through this tiny hamlet 45 minutes south of Austin on FM12. The shops and art galleries are great destinations for a day trip through the Hill Country. Quaint restaurants offer German and American food. On the first weekend of the month a huge flea market is held west of town on FM2325.

Jacobs Well

www.jacobswellspring.org

Jacob's Well is one of the most significant natural geologic treasures in the Texas Hill Country. It is one of the longest underwater caves in Texas and an artesian spring. Jacob's Well has been integral to the cultural and historical character of the Wimberley Valley. The location has been a beloved swimming hole for generations.

Little Arkansas

A beautiful stretch of the Blanco River, the name refers to its "backwoods" setting. Little Arkansas is isolated by steep hills, canyon bluffs, and guarded by vertical canyon walls. From FM3237 east of Wimberley take Flight Acres Road (CR173) several miles through residential areas. Turn onto CR174 and cross the Blanco River and follow it several miles (even after it turns into a dirt road), crossing the river three times to the campground. Fee.

Old Hwy. 12 Bridge

A favorite of locals, it's the old bridge over the Blanco River, east of Wimberley on the first left past the river. Now closed to vehicular traffic, parking is at a premium in the area on weekends. Beware of private property.



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