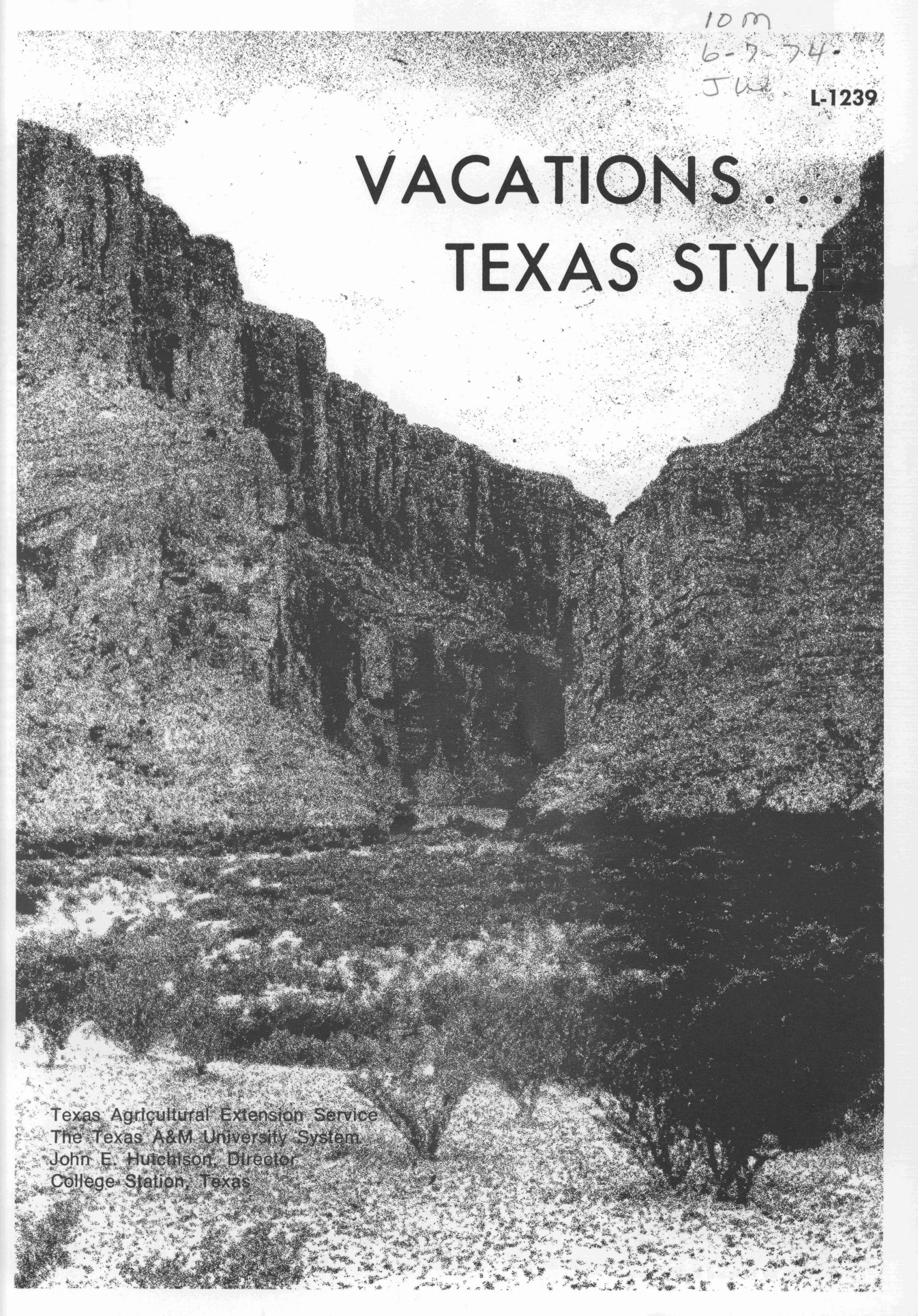


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# VACATIONS . . . TEXAS STYLE



Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
The Texas A&M University System  
John E. Hutchison, Director  
College Station, Texas

# VACATIONS . . . TEXAS STYLE

Michael E. Berger and Dan Kamp\*

In their hurry to enjoy what they believe are wilder and more scenic out-of-state areas, many people leave behind the great natural beauties of Texas. At a time when conserving fuel and energy is so important, it is necessary to remind Texans of the vacation opportunities that abound throughout our state. As Governor Dolph Briscoe pointed out, "Texans can visit mountains, Gulf beaches, forests, lakes, deserts and a tropical valley without leaving the boundaries of our state."

The 68 State Parks of Texas are grouped into four major categories: recreation parks (35); scenic parks (11); historic parks (12); and historic sites (10). The recreation and scenic parks generally provide opportunities for fishing, swimming and nature walks. Some are equipped with boat ramps and allow water skiing. The historic parks and sites generally feature museums and historic exhibits. Although a few historic areas do allow overnight camping, most are restricted to day use. But many offer beautiful picnicking areas.

Three areas in Texas are under the supervision of the National Park Service, and their unique nature makes them outstanding attractions. Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountain National Parks are areas of rugged, mountainous beauty, while Padre Island National Seashore is one of the last entirely natural seashores in the nation. This area is noted for its primitive camping, swimming beaches and shifting sand dunes.

If camping is your favorite vacation activity you are in luck. There are 44 state parks where camping is allowed. Water and electricity hook-ups for trailer campers or motor homes are provided in 34 parks, and 21 of these have trailer sewer facilities.

If you prefer to stay indoors or semi-indoors, 19 state parks have screened shelters and 7 have cabins for rent. But be sure to make reservations for these well in advance of your visit.

Anywhere you find water you have a variety of recreational opportunities, and Texas is blessed with many attractive rivers and lakes, in addition to the popular Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast alone provides over 600 miles of uncluttered surf and sand, available for camping, swimming, sunbathing, surfing, beachcombing and fishing.

Inland, Texas boasts more than 160 major reservoirs existing or under construction, with over 29 million acre-feet of water storage capacity. Many of the larger reservoirs in the state were developed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, who maintain recreation areas at 21 of them. These inland lakes provide areas for modern and primitive camping, boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, water skiing and hunting. Most are equipped with restrooms, showers, grills, drinking water, marinas and boat-launching ramps. A few have beautifully developed nature trails.

Other lakes in Texas, if not sites of state parks or federal recreation areas, are provided with recreational facilities by private individuals or groups. And many lakes are the sites of parks or recreation areas under the supervision of city or county agencies. Marinas, boat ramps, campsites and motels are generally available at or near these areas.

If you feel more at home on rivers than lakes, you may wish to take a

canoe or kayak down one of many scenic rivers. Try a stretch along the Rio Grande, Devils, Guadalupe or Frio River.

If forest areas appeal to you, there are 20 recreation areas in the 4 national forests in Texas. Located along lake shorelines or deep in virgin forests, these developed recreation areas offer 850 camping and picnic units, as well as opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating and hiking.

Perhaps you prefer historic or cultural events to outdoor activities. Texas is blessed with an abundance of special events throughout the summer months. A brief listing would include antique sales, folk festivals, fiestas, art shows, rodeos, musicals, professional sports, armadillo races, the beer can smash and the great mud-pie pat! In Texas there is truly something for everyone.

By car you can explore part or all of Texas' 10 scenic travel trails. At least one trail begins or ends in your part of the state, and all the trails are designed to give you the most vacation opportunities for the mileage. These trails vary from the historic Independence Trail, to the dramatic Mountain Trail to the Lakes Trail, which features many recreational areas.

Wherever you go this summer, remember the excellent private recreational facilities throughout the state. Theme parks, amusement parks, campgrounds, dude ranches, historic homes and fine restaurants are just a few types of private facilities available for your pleasure.

All of this is Texas. And much of it is within a single tank of gas from home. So why not plan to take less of a trip and more of a vacation by enjoying Texas this summer?

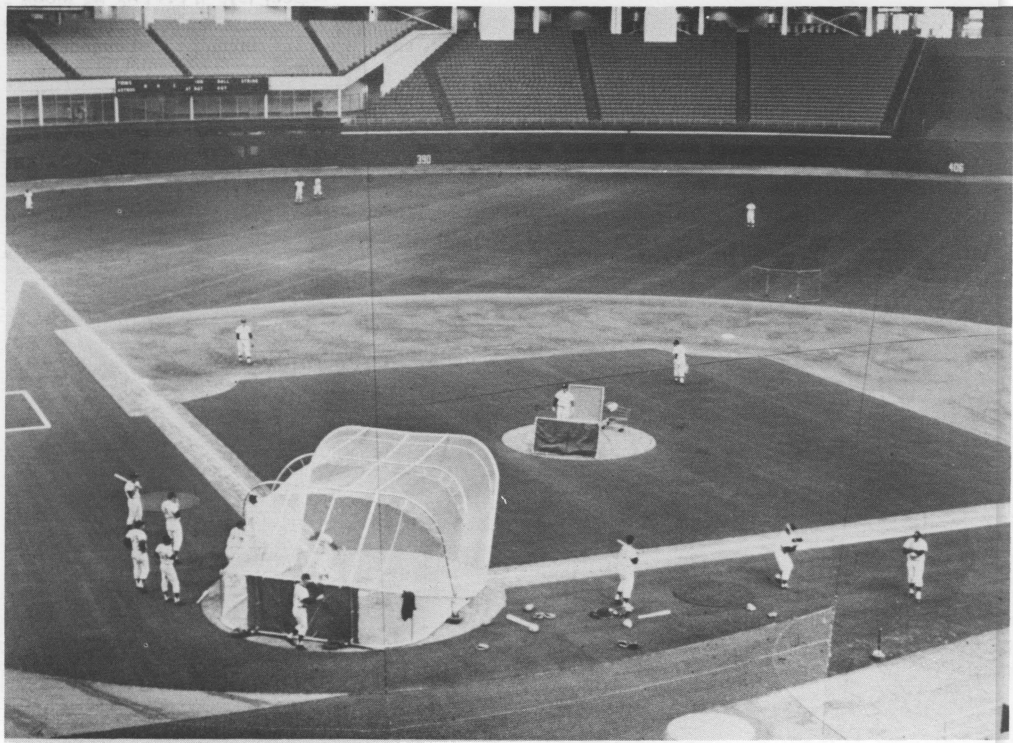
For more information or copies of the following publications concerning specific opportunities in Texas, write the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Recreation and Parks Building, The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas 77843.

## PUBLICATIONS HELPFUL IN PLANNING TEXAS VACATIONS

1. *Parks Information*. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, John H. Reagan Building, Austin, Texas.
2. *National Forests in Texas*. U. S. Forest Service, Box 969, Lufkin, Texas.
3. *Lakeside Recreation in The Southwest*. U. S. Army Engineer District, P. O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas.
4. Publications available from the Texas Highway Department, Travel and Information Division, Austin, Texas:
  - "Texas Public Campground Guide"
  - "Calendar of Texas Events"
  - "Ride the Texas Plains Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Mountain Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Pecos Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Hill Country Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Forts Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Lakes Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Forest Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Brazos Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Independence Trail"
  - "Ride the Texas Tropical Trail"

\* Extension recreation and parks specialists, The Texas A&M University System.





The Astrodome in Houston is the scene of exciting professional sports events throughout the year.



Mission San Jose in San Antonio is one of the oldest historical sites in Texas.



The unique and unexpected Monahans Sandhills cover a vast 175,000 acres in West Texas.



Lakeside or forest camping offers a perfect opportunity to "get away from it all."

**TEXAS TRAVEL TRAILS**

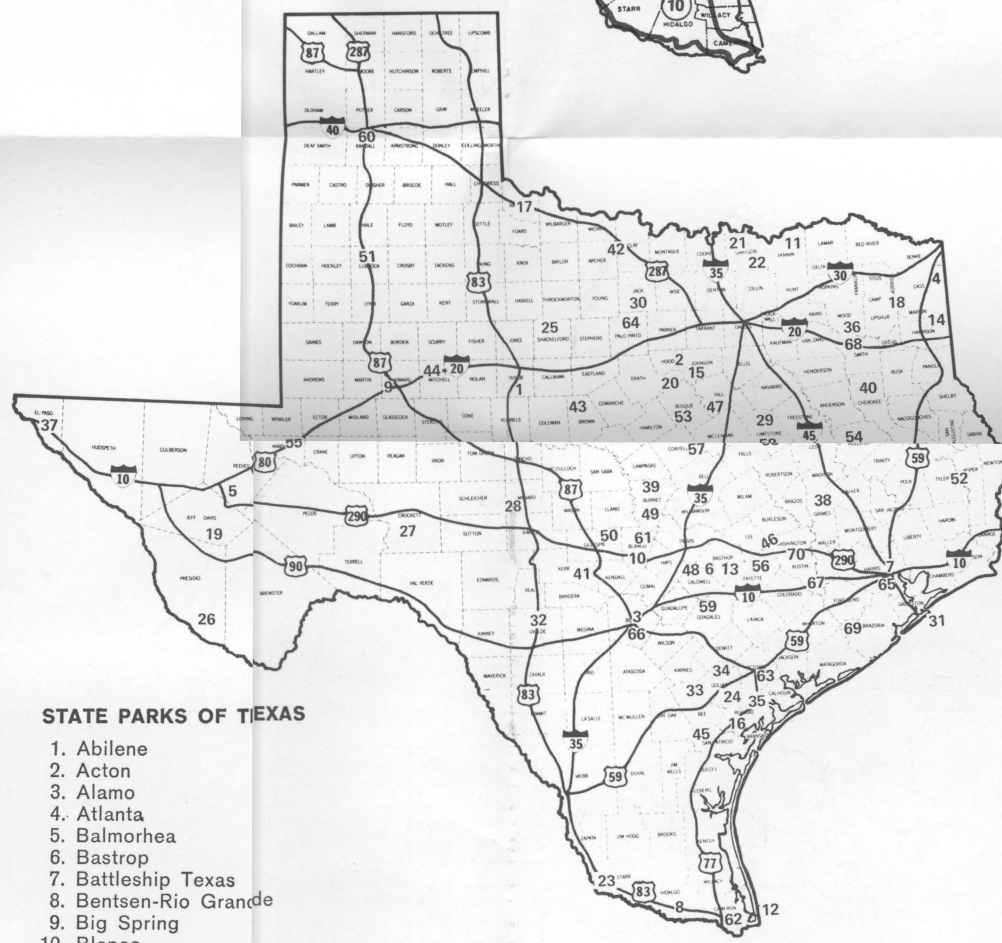
1. Plains Trail
2. Mountain Trail
3. Pecos Trail
4. Hill Country Trail
5. Forts Trail
6. Lakes Trail
7. Forest Trail
8. Brazos Trail
9. Independence Trail
10. Tropical Trail



Texas is a fisherman's paradise, from the Gulf Coast to countless inland lakes and rivers.

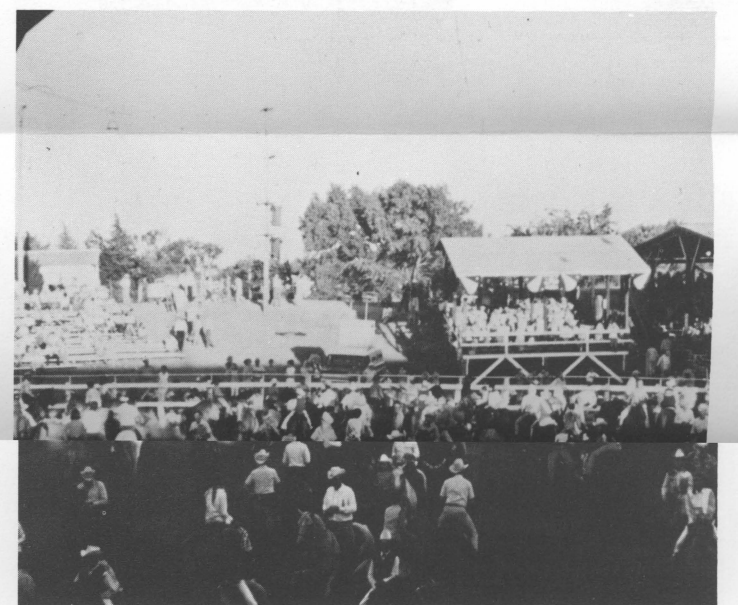


This Japanese setting is part of Fort Worth's exquisite botanic gardens.

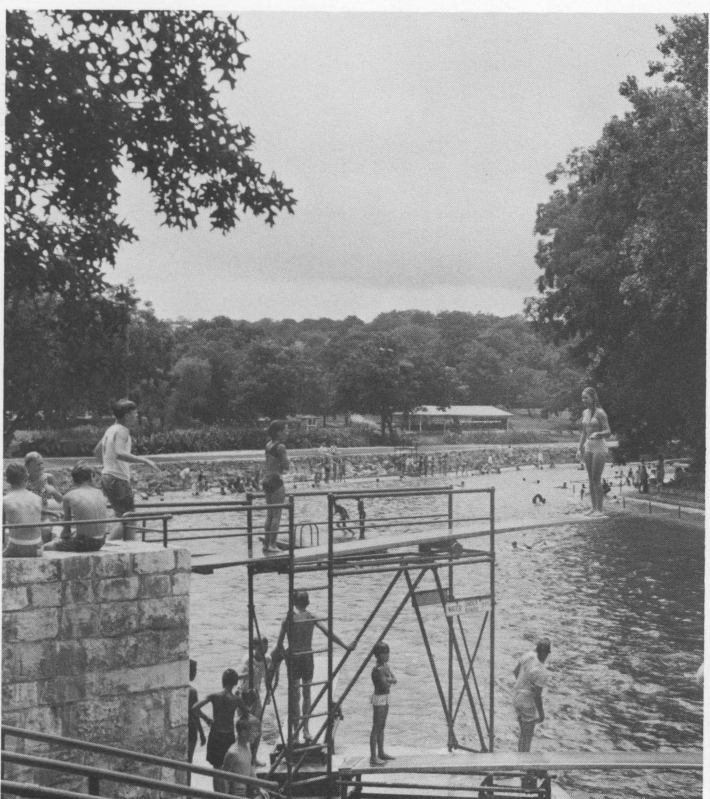


**STATE PARKS OF TEXAS**

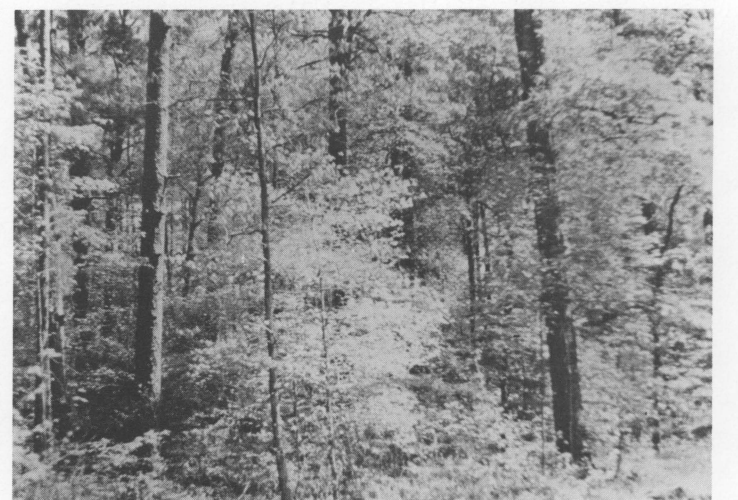
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|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Abilene                | 31. Galveston Island     | 51. Mackenzie                |
| 2. Acton                  | 32. Garner               | 52. Martin Dies, Jr.         |
| 3. Alamo                  | 33. General Zaragoza     | 53. Meridian                 |
| 4. Atlanta                | 34. Goliad               | 54. Mission Tejas            |
| 5. Balmorhea              | 35. Goose Island         | 55. Monahans Sandhills       |
| 6. Bastrop                | 36. Governor Hogg Shrine | 56. Monument Hill            |
| 7. Battleship Texas       | 37. Hueco Tanks          | 57. Mother Neff              |
| 8. Bentsen-Rio Grande     | 38. Huntsville           | 58. Old Fort Parker          |
| 9. Big Spring             | 39. Inks Lake            | 59. Palmetto                 |
| 10. Blanco                | 40. Jim Hogg             | 60. Palo Duro Canyon         |
| 11. Bonham                | 41. Kerrville            | 61. Pedernales Falls         |
| 12. Brazos Island         | 42. Lake Arrowhead       | 62. Port Isabel Lighthouse   |
| 13. Buescher              | 43. Lake Brownwood       | 63. Port Lavaca Causeway     |
| 14. Caddo Lake            | 44. Lake Colorado City   | 64. Possum Kingdom           |
| 15. Cleburne              | 45. Lake Corpus Christi  | 65. San Jacinto Battleground |
| 16. Copano Bay            | 46. Lake Somerville      | 66. San Jose Mission         |
| 17. Copper Breaks         | 47. Lake Whitney         | 67. Stephen F. Austin        |
| 18. Dainingerfield        | 48. Lockhart             | 68. Tyler                    |
| 19. Davis Mountains       | 49. Longhorn Cavern      | 69. Varner-Hogg Plantation   |
| 20. Dinosaur Valley       | 50. Lyndon B. Johnson    | 70. Washington-on-the-Brazos |
| 21. Eisenhower            |                          |                              |
| 22. Eisenhower Birthplace |                          |                              |
| 23. Falcon                |                          |                              |
| 24. Fannin Battleground   |                          |                              |
| 25. Fort Griffin          |                          |                              |
| 26. Fort Leaton           |                          |                              |
| 27. Fort Lancaster        |                          |                              |
| 28. Fort McKavett         |                          |                              |
| 29. Fort Parker           |                          |                              |
| 30. Fort Richardson       |                          |                              |



The Stamford Stampede, held annually during the Fourth of July holiday, is the largest amateur rodeo in the world.



Swimmers enjoy the largest outdoor pool in the Southwest at Landa Park in New Braunfels.



Texas boasts many unspoiled forest areas.



Sand and surf meet dramatically along Padre Island National Seashore.



Theme and amusement parks throughout the state offer a variety of family entertainment.



*Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.*

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