

Can't Miss Texas Forest Trail Region Experiences

1. **Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens** — Visit the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to watch divers feed fish in huge aquariums.
2. **Atlanta State Park, Atlanta** — Atlanta State Park situated on Lake Wright Patman Dam, a popular recreational area where Smithsonian Institute archaeologists have uncovered evidence of early Caddo Indians. Also in Atlanta, the new visitor's center features a Bessie Wright Coleman (African-American Aviator) exhibit.
3. **The Fire Museum of Texas, Beaumont** — This museum features the historic 1927 Beaumont Fire Department Headquarters and “the world’s largest fire hydrant.”
4. **Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum and Visitor Center, Beaumont** — For an overview of all the area’s tourist attractions — and to learn about the pioneering golfer who earned the title “the greatest woman athlete of the first half of the twentieth century” — go to the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum and Visitor Center.
5. **Shelby County Courthouse, Center** — Called the “Irish Courthouse,” it reflects the Irish heritage of its architect J. J. E. Gibson, and features a trap door where judges could make a hasty retreat if necessary.
6. **Crichton Theatre, Conroe** — The 1934 Crichton Theatre, originally built for vaudeville productions, then converted to a movie theater, stages live local and touring productions.
7. **Yamboree, Gilmer** — Originating in 1935, the East Texas Yamboree attracts about 100,000 people each October. The Yamboree is one of Texas’ oldest continuous festivals.
8. **Rusk County Depot Museum Complex, Henderson** — Includes a hands on Children’s Discovery Center inside a 1901 Missouri-Pacific Depot building, the 1841 T.J. Walling cabin, the 1884 Beall-Ross dogtrot-style house and the Victorian-style Arnold Outhouse, the first outhouse in Texas to be awarded a state historical marker. This museum also offers a series of folk art classes, including spinning, wheat weaving, making brooms, and making rope.
9. **Texas Prison Museum, Huntsville** — Exhibits include prisoners’ art and crafts, confiscated prison-made weapons and the electric chair nicknamed “Old Sparky.”
10. **Martin Dies Jr. State Park, Jasper** — Located on B.A. Steinhagen Lake, the park is filled with natural wonders and lies on the edge of the Big Thicket

National Preserve. A trail in Boykin Springs National Forest leads to the unrestored ruins of the Old Aldridge Sawmill and Ghost Town.

11. "The Atalanta", Jefferson — This 1888 private railroad car owned by railroad tycoon Jay Gould, was found and restored after serving as a family's home during the 1930's oil boom.

12. Rangerette Showcase, Kilgore — This showcase honors the world-famous precision drill and dance team, with memorabilia dating back to 1940.

13. The Texas Forestry Museum, Lufkin — Outdoor exhibits and an indoor interpretive center illustrate the establishment and expansion of the East Texas timber industry. **New Permanent Exhibit-Paper Mill Room**

14. Marshall, Texas--The Capital of Missouri

No, the mapmakers were not confused. That is just one of the roles this deep East Texas city has played. Marshall was settled in 1839 and became the seat of Harrison County in 1842. When Texas seceded from the Union in 1861, Marshall was one of the biggest and wealthiest cities in the state. Missouri, a border state whose populace favored secession, elected a secessionist government and prepared to join the Confederacy. Federal troops were sent in to forcibly keep that strategically located state under Union control. The Confederate government of Missouri fled the state and set up its capital in exile in Marshall. Marshall's factories produced saddles, harnesses, clothing, powder, and ammunition for the South's war effort. After the siege and fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Marshall became the seat of all civil authority west of the Mississippi River. It also served as the headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate Postal Service.

Michelson Museum of Art, Marshall — It displays the lifelong work of Russian-American impressionist Leo Michelson (1887-1978), whose art reflects the several countries on which he lived. This museum also features the impressive art collection of Jay and Ramona Ward. Jay Ward created the Rocky and Bullwinkle characters.

15. T.C. Lindsey & Co. gen. store, Waskom

16. Sterne-Hoya House, Nacogdoches — Built by Adolphus Sterne around 1830, Cherokee Chief Bowles signed a treaty there, and it is said Sam Houston was baptized there to satisfy Mexican law requiring landholders to be Catholic.

17. Depot Museum, Pittsburg — Exhibits include a full-sized replica of the Ezekial Airship, a curious flying machine inspired by a Biblical verse and built before the Wright Brothers' historic flight. Ironically, a train accident destroyed the original airship.

- 18. Texas State Railroad State Historic Site, Rusk** — Authentic steam engines, Victorian depots and magnificent scenery draw both tourists and Hollywood filmmakers.
- 19. Draughton-Moore Ace of Clubs House, Texarkana** — Just outside the cultural district is the unique Draughton-Moore Ace of Clubs house. Its cloverleaf shape was inspired by a lucky card drawn in a poker game. Inside, its rooms provide a glimpse of Texarkana high society between 1880 and 1940.
- 20. Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and Museum, Tyler** — “The Rose Capital of America” and since 1933, site of the Texas Rose Festival each October. At the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and Museum, more than 450 varieties of rose bushes, including antique varieties, bloom in the garden. Glamorous gowns worn by Texas Rose Festival Queens, as well as history of the rose industry, are showcased in the museum.
- 21. Weches** — The town is the entry to Mission Tejas State Historic Site where Spanish missionaries set up their first mission around 1690 in the wilderness. A replica of Mission San Francisco de Los Tejas stands in the park that is part of the Davy Crockett National Forest. NECHES BLUFF OVERLOOK....
- 22. Autumn Trails and Americana Music Festival** in Winnsboro.
- 21. The Lennox House, Clarksville.** (This home rivals the great homes in Texarkana and Beaumont. Not to be missed) OLD CHURCH THEATER
- 22. Texas Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum, Carthage** - This museum is housed in a brand new building. Details the life and career of country music legend Tex Ritter.
- 23. New London Museum, New London-** A small museum with an impressive exhibit, this museum details the tragedy of the New London School Explosion.
- 24. The Gaston Museum, Joinerville-** This museum depicts life in the East Texas Oilfield. Includes a real "tent house" and early filling station.

Places to Eat in the Forest Trail Region

- The Pig Stand, Beaumont
- The Homestead Restaurant - Huntsville
- Sartin's - Beaumont
- Esther's- Bridge City
- Ray's Drive In- Lufkin

- Sadler's- Jacksonville
- Dye's - Melrose
- Bistro Pizza - Nacogdoches
- Aubrey's- Nacogdoches
- The Busy Bee Bakery- Gladewater
- The Bakery- Winnsboro
- Eilenburger's- Palestine
- Kitchen's- Mineola

Terrific Downtown Shopping

- Jefferson
- Gladewater
- Hemphill (now has a tea room and a neat lingerie shop)
- Mt. Vernon
- Pittsburg
- Henderson
- Nacogdoches