

▶ TRICKS, TREATS, & SCARES—FALL IS IN THE AIR ▶

# TEXAS



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THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS ★ OCTOBER 2016

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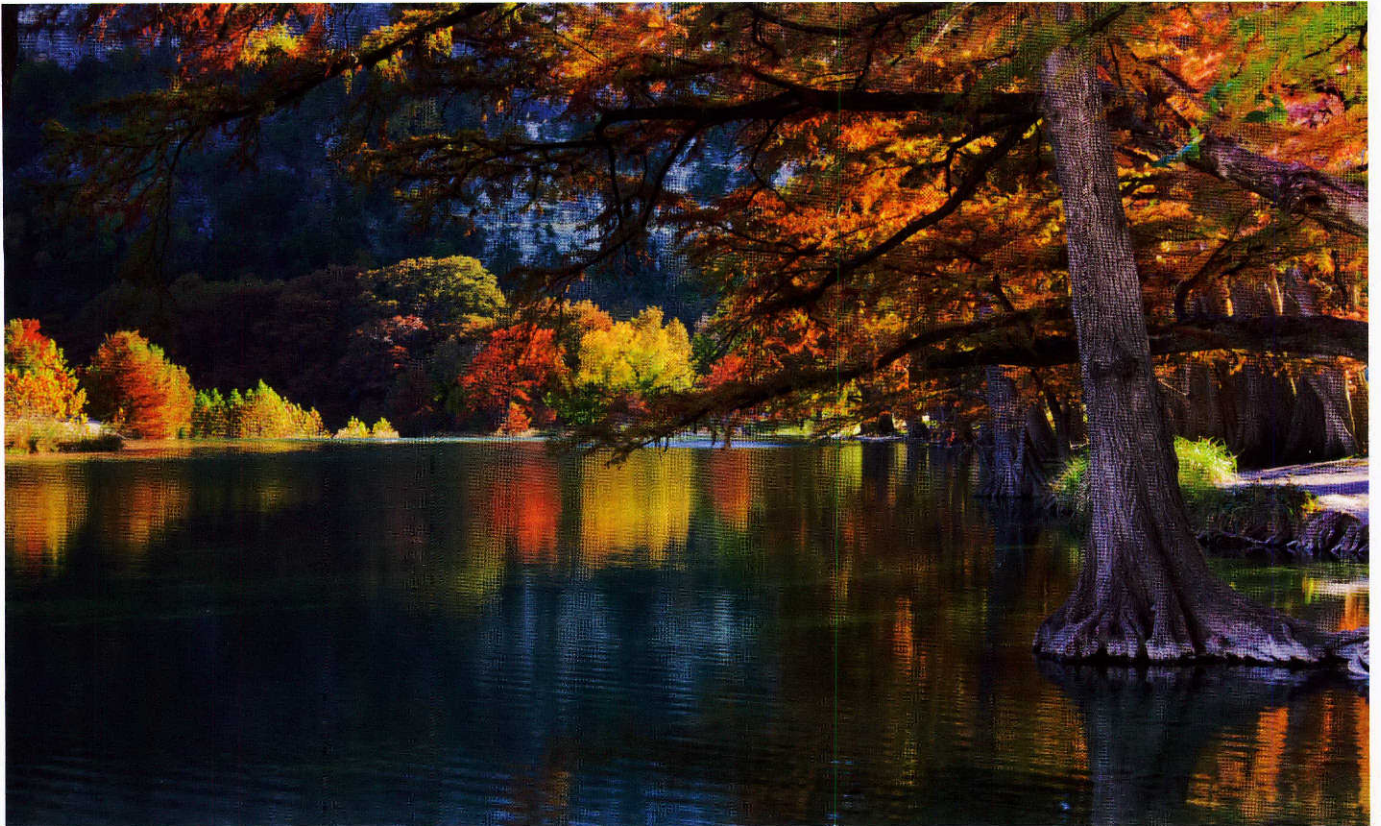
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## EDITOR'S NOTE



### Change is in the Air

**W**HILE FALL OFFICIALLY arrived on September 22, most of us in Texas start feeling the season's change in October, when shortening days seem to intensify the other classic hallmarks of autumn—the roar of a hometown football game, the promise of a bowl of chili on a crisp evening, beating the squirrels to fallen pecans, and reveling in Texas' sometimes-elusive fall color.

Fall color is a tricky thing in Texas. Dependent on a delicate balance of rainfall, sunlight, and temperature, the color transformation is primarily the result of a disappearance of chlorophyll, which reveals the leaves' other pigments. But more often than not, autumn puts on a subtle show in Texas; consider the photo above, which highlights the cypress trees lining the Frio River at Garner State Park. "Beginning in mid- to late October through early November," says Garner State Park Interpreter Cara Bierschwale, "you'll start to see the cypresses turning a rusty color. If

you're at a high enough vantage point, you can see a ribbon of rust following the flow of the river. It's not a pop of color; it's subtle."

With October being Texas Wine Month, it's worth noting that you can often witness changing colors at some of Texas' more than 380 wineries, which are celebrating the end of harvest. "Toward the end of October, you'll see the vines start to go dormant," says Pedernales Cellars' Julie Kuhlken. "For a very brief window just after the first few cold snaps, they turn a brilliant orangey yellow."

Read on for more ways to celebrate the season. Whether you want to hike the Guadalupe Mountains, search out ghosts, spend an evening at the theater, or meander along a Hill Country beer trail, we aim to please.

*Lori Moffatt*

**LORI MOFFATT**, *Interim Editor*

Cypress trees reveal their fall colors along the Frio River at Garner State Park.

# THIS IS WINE COUNTRY

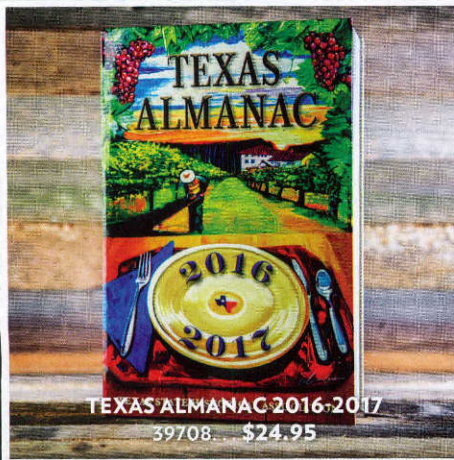


80% of Texas wine grapes are grown right here on the South Plains. Chat with a nationally renowned winemaker, and pour a glass at one of our five award-winning wineries. A visit to Lubbock is a getaway with taste.

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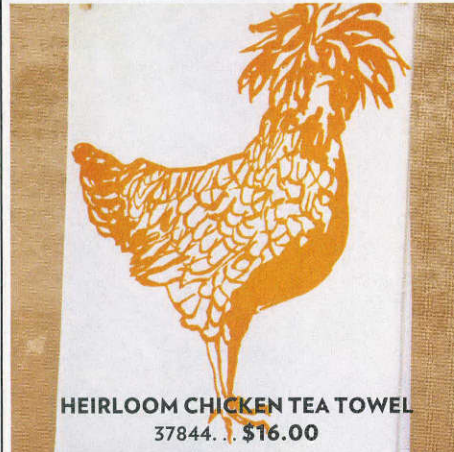
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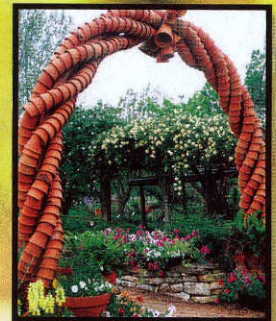
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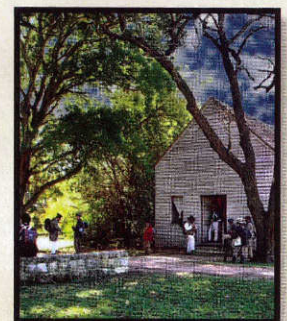
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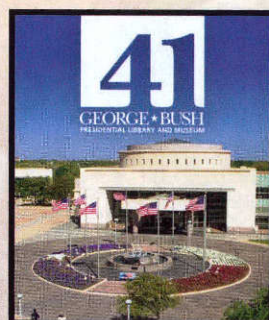
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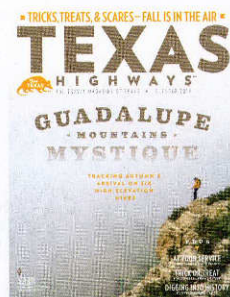
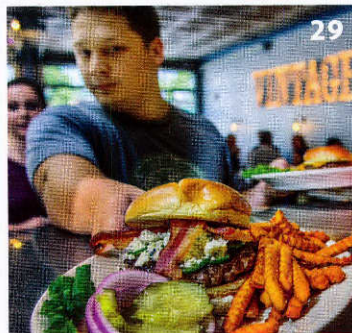
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**COVER**  
At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, a hiker on the Bowl Trail overlooks Pine Springs Canyon from Hunter Peak. Photo © Laurence Parent

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EXCLUSIVE  
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CONTENT

**OCTOBER**

**Finding Fall Color**

**VIEW THESE SEASONAL HUES**

Like Texas weather, fall color can be unpredictable, but we share 10 spots most likely to put on a show.

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(Re)Discover El Paso, where thoughtful planning is helping to develop the city's cultural, artistic, and communal spaces.

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While Graham's heritage provides worthy attractions, the North Texas town also has a modern mindset. See what it has to offer.

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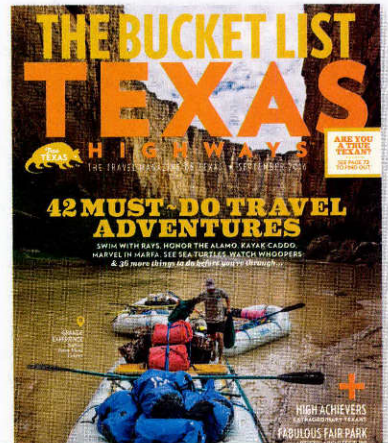






*Scenery, experiences, quirks, nature, people, food, history, Texana, music—your September issue covered it all. The Texas Bucket List has inspired me to travel our Texas highways to new adventures.*

CAROL BARLOW, PLANO



A True Texan is an independent cuss who does as he likes, but will step up in a heartbeat to help out neighbors and strangers alike in times of need.  
**PETE SOMMERS, BASTROP**



I'm beyond honored to be part of of @TexasHighways Extraordinary Texans list. Lucy the dog is too.  
**DALE BLASINGAME, @daleblasingame**



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### Texas IQ Points

We're Oregonians now, but as native New Mexicans, my wife and I loved your "Are You A True Texan?" quiz [September]. We actually didn't have to get a rope. The one that caught our eyes was No. 25: Married in Texas? We added 10 points for being married in a county courthouse by a county judge (Jeff Davis County Courthouse in 1969 by Judge Barry Scobee).

**Barclay & Jan Gibson, Lake Oswego, Oregon**

When you didn't include Quitaque in the pronunciation question, you were letting them off easy.

**Dan Campbell, Foot Wuth**

*Quitaque's town sign welcomes visitors with pronunciation guidance. Panhandle locals say "Kitty-quay."*

### Lockhart Pizza

I loved the September story about Lockhart and the upswing in businesses opening on the downtown square. We at Loop and Lil's Pizza opened in June 2015 at 107 N.Main St. The four

of us quit our jobs in Austin, signed a lease on our downtown building, and prayed that we would have enough money to buy a pizza oven. We made the first leap into the unknown, and our friends followed. We're very proud of all of their successes. We hope that you guys visit us the next time you're in Lockhart.

**Layne Tanner**

### Outstanding Texan

Jo Ann Andera was an outstanding young lady when I first met her in 1972. As a UT-San Antonio employee, I worked at the Texas Folklife Festival and from the start it was obvious that she had tal-

ents far beyond her age. Her drive and dedication have made the festival the success it is.

**Bill Stern, Weatherford**

### Fair Park Roots

In 1936 the Marine Corps sent a military honor guard from Washington, D.C., to Dallas for the opening of the Texas Centennial. My father was a member of the detachment, and while there, he met my future mother. They married after his discharge in 1938. After my mom's passing, I found a trove of Centennial memorabilia and photos in an old suitcase. Very interesting stuff.

**Jack Taylor, Ovilla**



### Delighted by Darci's

*Darci's Deli has the most appetizing menu of any deli I have ever visited. We visit Marble Falls frequently and never miss a chance to dine there. They make their own bread (which is amazing) and all their sandwiches, salads, and gourmet meals are deliciously homemade. I believe it to be the best-kept secret in Texas dining.*

**JEAN SELF, Lubbock**

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## SCENIC ROUTE

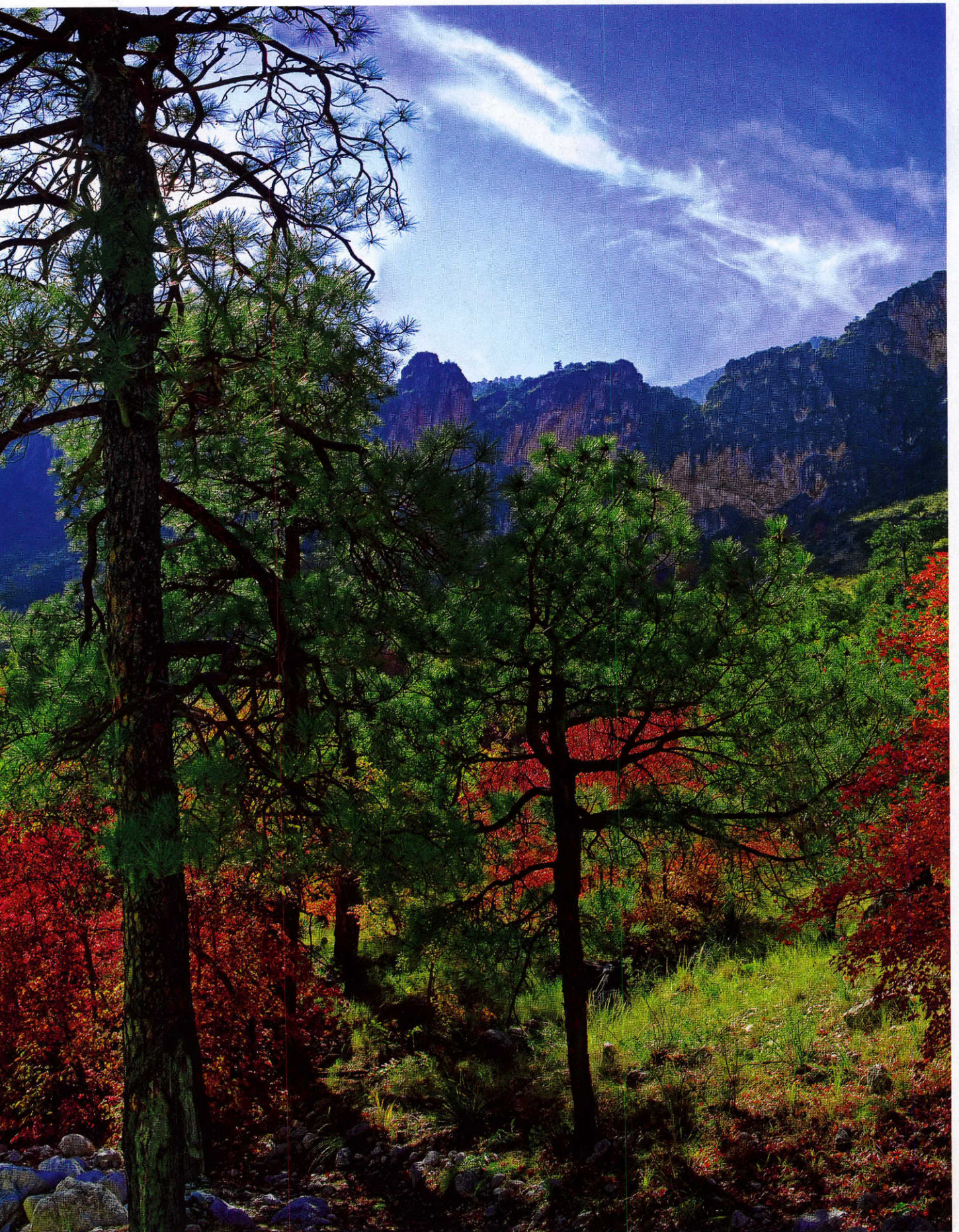
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# DRIVE

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## Lost— and Found

The sugar skulls of  
*Día de los Muertos*

text by Cynthia J. Drake



**W**HEN MY FAMILY MOVED TO Texas from Michigan in the summer of 2014, I was still reeling from the loss of my mother, gone suddenly from my life at age 64, just six months earlier.

Our move to Austin seemed like a way to start fresh and heal the pain with a heavy dose of sunshine and good music. Instead, without my mother's love as my compass, I often felt lost in a strange new place with two young children of my own.

Perhaps in search of emotional distraction, I found myself increasingly drawn to the Mexican cultural traditions characteristic of my new home. I spent numerous mornings lingering at the Mexic-Arte Museum, a showcase for Mexican art and culture in downtown Austin, and seeking out ballet folklórico performances. And then I discovered the Day of the Dead.

I had heard of *Día de los Muertos* but had never observed the tradition or attended one of the November celebrations. In so much of America, the funeral marks the end of our connection to our loved ones.

**Decorative sugar skulls known as calaveras represent *Día de los Muertos* and the dichotomy of life and death.**

The idea of an annual celebration to honor their continued presence in our lives spoke to me.

"In the Mexican culture more than any other culture, images of death are more integrated," says Olivia Tamzarian, the Mexic-Arte Museum's education coordinator. "I see Day of the Dead as a celebration of life and death. There's always that constant dichotomy."

In preparation for my first Day of the Dead in Texas, I purchased a plastic sugar-skull mold from the Mexic-Arte's gift shop and set to work creating a makeshift *ofrenda*, or altar, in my home. My first surprise was how easy it was to involve my children in Day of the Dead. With their playful love of mystery, the kids were enchanted by the smiling sugar skulls and dancing skeletons on *papel picado* (colorful tissue paper punched out with festive images).

As we mixed meringue powder with sugar and water and packed it into the four-inch-tall skull mold, I talked to my son August, then four years old, about what kinds of things we should put on our altar to remem-

ber his grandmother, Bubbie.

The *calavera*, or sugar skull, is a natural entry point for kids to learn about *Día de los Muertos*, says Tamzarian, who spends much of her time at the museum guiding groups of school-aged youngsters through the rotating exhibits of contemporary and classic artworks.

"You eat it and you think about your own death, and it's supposed to be fun. If you can laugh at something, if you can create something sweet that reminds us of death, then you've changed your association," she says, noting the rich tradition of Mexican artists poking fun at mortality. Among the most famous was José Guadalupe Posada, a late 19th-Century printmaker who used skeletons as vehicles for political satire and humor.

Tamzarian says that something interesting happens when traditions like Day of the Dead move across the border and mix with elements of American culture. In Texas, grocery chains like H-E-B stock supplies for making sugar skulls, while in Mexico, the character Jack Skellington (from Tim

Writer Cynthia Drake, left, and Olivia Tamzarian, education coordinator at the Mexic-Arte Museum, decorate *calaveras* for *Día de los Muertos*.

Burton's 1993 animated film *Nightmare Before Christmas*) appears on altars.

*Ofrendas* traditionally include photographs, mementos, and treats, ranging from dancing shoes to cigarettes. In Mexico, communities organize shared altars and everyone is encouraged to contribute. "It's supposed to be an active space that families have built together, allowing the memories of their loved ones to shape the space," says Tamzarian.

To our home *ofrenda* we added the books that Bubbie used to read to August, a few photos, and rum—she was famous for her piña colada recipe—plus our sugar skulls. Over the next few days, I added photos of other loved ones who had passed away, among them our grandparents and even some beloved pets. Putting the altar in the middle of our house provided my family an opportunity to talk about our memories more than we normally would. Though the

tears still came regularly, I also found myself smiling a lot more.

Our first *Día de los Muertos* celebration was in Round Rock, hosted by local civic and cultural groups. We arrived at the Prete Main Street Plaza just as the sun was setting. Young girls were strolling through the square wearing traditional white blouses and brightly colored skirts, with their faces painted like skulls. Community *ofrendas* provided a place to write loved ones' names, and vendors were selling *calaveras* and *retablos*, small painted altars venerating saints and icons such as Frida Kahlo.

As the evening wore on, elegantly dressed skeletons danced to the music of horns and drums while others with lighted rib cages and hearts paraded down the dark city street. For someone who grew up a long way from Mexico, it was a striking scene.

According to *Día de los Muertos*

tradition, between November 1 and 2, the door linking the worlds of the living and the dead opens, and we can invite the spirits of our loved ones into our homes through our memories and our *ofrendas*. We can keep each other company once more.

In the darkness, among the crowd of strangers, I was grateful that I could hide my tears as I wished my mother could have seen such a sight. She had an adventurous soul and inspired my love for experiencing new cultures. Then again, the thought resonated that maybe she had been here all along. 🐾



**MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM,**

at 419 Congress Ave. in Austin, opens daily. The museum's Day of the Dead celebration is October 29. Call **512/480-9373**; [www.mexic-artemuseum.org](http://www.mexic-artemuseum.org).

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**Changing Seasons, Changing Birds**

When it comes to birds, there's always something new to see. While waterfowl (ducks, geese) here year round, the complete list of species found here changes with the seasons. How many species of birds have been documented at LLELA. As you walk, members of staff and volunteers will help you identify the species of birds you see. How many different birds can you see? How many different species do you see?

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Chickadees from up all over the country, blue jays, crows, and other birds are also seen here.

## Nature by Day ... or Night

Guided night hikes at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

text by **Paul McDonnold**

**T**HE SUN IS LOW AND THE GATE GUARDED AS WE arrive at the south shore of Lewisville Lake, some 30 miles north of downtown Dallas. Officially, the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area is closed for the day. But my traveling companion and I are here for one of the guided night hikes. So the volunteer manning the gate checks our names and waves us through.

As we drive along the gravel road, a steep, grassy slope towers on our left. On the far side of this earthen dam, the lake presses like a huge, three-toed dinosaur footprint into the path of the Trinity River's Elm Fork. To our right stretches the 2,685 acres of protected prairie, forest, and wetlands that make up the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA).

**Steigman likens the area to a “biological ark” for preserving native flora and fauna amid regional development.**

In 1955, when the Lewisville Dam was finished, this land was designated for flood control. It wasn't until the 1990s that a consortium including the city of Lewisville and the University of North Texas joined together to create LLELA to protect the property and restore it to its “pre-settlement” state.

Director Kenneth Steigman, a research scientist, likens the area to a “biological ark” for preserving native flora and fauna amid the flood of development spreading across north-central

A nighttime hike offers visitors the chance to see—or hear—nocturnal creatures such as great horned owls.



Texas. "The long-term plan is preserving the property ... for the biodiversity that's here, for the opportunity for education, for research, and also recreation for the general public," he says.

Arriving at the preserve's pavilion, we find a group of about 30 people waiting for the night hike to start. Diane Wetherbee, a LLELA environmental educator, explains that the area is an ecological crossroads bisected by the verdant bottomlands of the Trinity River's Elm Fork. To the east and south is the Blackland Prairie that Dallas was built atop. To the north and west is a wooded region known as the Eastern Cross Timbers. Within the confluence, LLELA maintains public trails and waterways and organizes activities like kayak tours, birdwatching, fishing, primitive camping, and the "Stars on the Prairie" stargazing program.

For the hike, Diane divides us into three groups and says we'll be listening

and looking for night creatures such as armadillos, owls, and opossums. Larger mammals like bobcats and coyotes, while present, will probably stay well clear of groups our size, she notes.

The sun sets as our group hikes into the preserve along Cottonwood Trail. Cedar trees, spectral in the twilight, grow on one side. Opposite is a marshy area. Visibility is not a problem, even without flashlights, due to ambient light from the surrounding city. Soon our group stops as those in front point and whisper excitedly. They have spotted a great horned owl near the trail. By the time I see it, the bird is flapping off into the sky.

Our guide, LLELA volunteer Mike Petrick, leads us to a small waterfall. The park is draining from recent heavy rains, and the air smells like damp earth. Mike uses his phone to play the call of a screech owl. We wait expectantly, but nothing answers.

Back on the trail, we encounter members of another group, who excitedly report a beaver spotting at a nearby pond. They continue on their way, and we approach the pond cautiously. We file into a bird blind, trying to be quiet. But the beaver makes no curtain call, so we continue on.

The trail twists around, and soon the trees open into a clearing and a rustic pioneer homestead. The centerpiece is an 1870 log cabin originally constructed nearby in an area now known as Highland Village. The city of Lewisville moved the cabin to the preserve and restored it in 2005. Though it's too dark to make out details, Mike points out the basic elements of the scene, including a crude dugout where the family would have lived while the cabin was being built, a small smokehouse for curing meat, and the cabin's half dove-tailed corners and wooden shingles.



In Abilene, the "Official Storybook Capital of Texas" the storytelling adventure at Frontier Texas! is told by life-size holograms of real men & women who lived & died on the Texas frontier. Spend a few days scouting this legendary area where western heritage is both a birthright & a pastime. Adventure begins at [abilenevisitors.com](http://abilenevisitors.com).

Mike notes several picnic tables, where school groups gather for presentations about pioneer life. A couple in our group then tells us about having come to one of LLELA's annual Homestead Christmas parties, complete with hot cider and fiddle music. Later, another guide recounts the tale of one such Christmas party on a bitter cold December night. Revelers

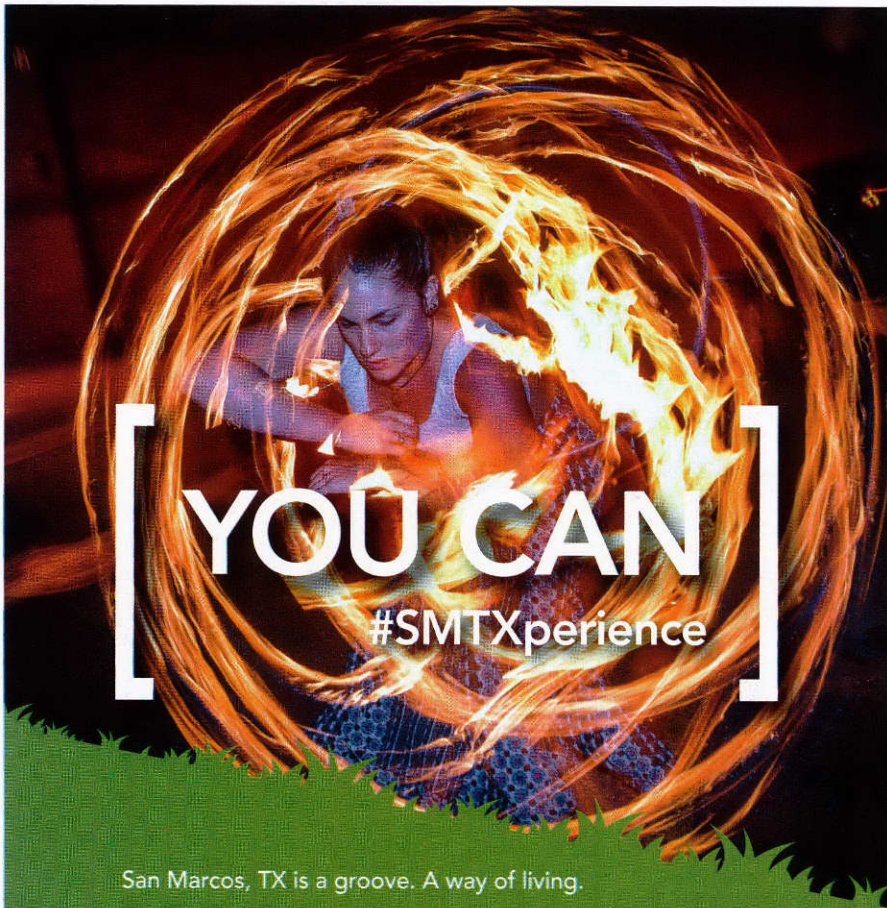
were huddled happily in the cabin with music and hot cider when someone knocked on the door. It turned out to be an adjacent landowner looking for a stray bison. Seeing the light and hearing the music, he must have felt he'd walked back in time. Such yarns make me realize there is something about being in the woods at night that inspires storytelling. This, as much

as the chance to see wildlife, is a highlight of the hike.

We leave the cabin and make our way to the Cicada Trail, entering a river-bottom forest where gnarled oak, elm, and pecan trees tower overhead. To our right is the muddy old Trinity riverbed, whose course was moved east when the dam was built. Mike estimates the age of one pecan tree at 200 years.

We haven't seen any animals in awhile, and as we proceed down the trail we hear a distinct call up ahead. Mike holds up a hand, stopping the group—a screech owl. It sounds again. Everyone moves slowly, quietly forward. Realizing something, Mike chuckles and shakes his head as he picks up the pace. We are back at the pavilion where we started. Diane's group has already arrived. She was playing the screech owl call on her phone.

With everyone back together, there are more stories. Each group has seen something unique. Ours is envied for the great horned owl, another for spotting some bats on the wing. Before the evening is done, LLELA volunteer Clyde Camp, who leads the Stars on the Prairie outings, takes out a laser pointer. The narrow beam seems to graze the stars as he outlines Orion the hunter squaring off against Taurus the bull, as well as other constellations. It is an appropriate finish to the evening, a night of stories wrapping up with some of the oldest stories of them all. 🦉



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## Hauntings and History

Seguin's old Magnolia Hotel

text by **Anthony Head**

**I**T'S A WARM EVENING, AND I'VE JOINED A GROUP of about 20 people gathering inside the breezeway of a two-story building a block or so from Seguin's town square. The structure has seen better days, a lot of them, and we're here to hear about some of those days. You could also say that we've come to hear about some of its *worst* days.

"Are you ready for the ghosts? I am." With that, co-owner Erin Wallace Ghedi pushes apart a set of sliding wooden doors and leads us into the Smoking Room, where she begins telling the story of the Magnolia Hotel.

"This is where a two-room log cabin was built, around 1840, by Texas Ranger and Seguin co-founder James Campbell," Erin says, as we gaze around a room filled with display cases of memorabilia and antique furnishings. In the ensuing 176 years,

she tells us, this and other parts of the building served as a stagecoach stop, a hotel called the Magnolia, an apartment building, and a private residence before spending two decades abandoned. Erin and her husband, Jim Ghedi, bought the building in 2013 and revived the name Magnolia Hotel to honor its glory days of the mid- to late-1800s. "Many considered it the finest hotel in Texas," she says.

Today, though not a hotel, the Magnolia once again welcomes guests—both to learn about its history and to perhaps experience its paranormal activity. "Just open your mind. Heighten your senses," Erin tells us, "and they will come forward."

Shortly after that, a woman across the room shudders slightly and looks down at her elbow and then over her shoulder. Surprised to find no one standing behind her, she says, "Something just touched me."

"Yes," Erin smiles. "They're going to touch you."

The couple never intended to own a haunted house. "We wanted a place to fix up on the weekends," Jim says. "When we bought it we had no idea it was such a historic building."

They also didn't know it was haunted. "We even asked the owner," says Erin. "She said she was born and raised here and never had any experiences. But on our first night here, after popping the champagne, we heard a door slam, and then a cold breeze passed by us and Jim said, 'So much for it not being haunted.'"

Unexplained sights, sounds, and even smells have regularly occurred since then, they say.

Erin, who has written books on the paranormal history of Seguin and New Braunfels, researched her new property and some of the people associated with it. Texas Ranger James Campbell, it turns out, was killed by Comanches a few years after building his cabin. Later, a woman was said to

**"On our first night here, after popping the champagne, we heard a door slam, and then a cold breeze passed by us."**

On October 29 this year, the Magnolia Hotel's Halloween Haunted House will include a "Thriller" flashmob dance.



have died of grief while waiting for her boyfriend to arrive at the stagecoach stop; one distraught man shot himself in front of the hotel. Erin says she understands why the spirits of those and many other people express themselves in the old hotel, because she actually grew up with similar hauntings. “My mother was an incredible psychic,” she says. “And I can sense and see spirits, but only when they choose to come forward.” It’s this openness to the experience, she believes, that encourages the spirits to manifest.

So far, she has counted at least 17 spirits that haunt nearly every room in the place. “The activity is so intense. They like to shake the doors and bang on the walls,” Erin says, quickly adding, “It doesn’t bother us in any way.” Instead, when that happens, she researches to find out who they were.

Others want to research the place, too. Ghost-hunters and paranormal investigators have shown great interest

#### Ghost-hunters in the Children’s Room.

in the Magnolia Hotel. It’s been featured in programs on the Discovery Channel, PBS, and the Travel Channel, to name a few.

Then, last October, Erin and Jim led their first Halloween haunted house tour. “We were expecting maybe a couple dozen people,” Erin says. “Three hundred showed up. It was a lot of fun.”

They’ve been giving regular ghost tours ever since.

From the Smoking Room, Erin leads us to the Ball Room, which is handsomely appointed with random family portraits and keepsakes rescued from the building’s attic. Although some objects have been linked to specific former residents, not everything has been documented. “We don’t even know who some of these people are,” Jim tells me while pointing out some of the photographs.

There are no fake cobwebs or spooky

lighting effects. No actors jump out for an easy scare, which suits our group, a mix of part-time haunting hobbyists and veteran paranormal sleuths who snap photos and check for apparitions in windows and unexplained reflections in mirrors. Some hold K2 meters, which typically register electromagnetic activity from phones, kitchen appliances, and electrical wiring, although tonight they're being used to gauge energy from manifesting spirits. The lights on their meters flicker frequently.

Erin continues with tales of suicidal cowboys, distraught traveling salesmen, fortune-tellers, and vengeful ladies of the evening. Past the old hotel saloon, the ongoing restoration has left rooms in various states of completion. It adds an authentic touch of disorientation to the ambiance, especially as the night gets darker and more people report feeling cold spots and other sensations.

Upstairs, where several cats roam in



## MAGNOLIA HOTEL

is at 203 S. Crockett St. in Seguin. For details about tour dates and times, see the hotel's Facebook page and [www.hauntedmagnoliahotel.com](http://www.hauntedmagnoliahotel.com).


and out of windows left open for ventilation, Erin shows photographs of paranormal activity and brings out dowsing rods that move about. Whenever she senses spirits coming forward for a particular individual in the group, she gives impromptu readings.

Inside the Children's Room, the focus is on a pinwheel and ball Erin has placed on the floor. Several children lived here in the 1870s, and Erin says their ghosts sometimes play in this room along with the ghost of 12-year-old Emma Voeckler, who in 1874 was murdered in nearby New Braunfels. Although the pinwheel remains still, the ball definitely moves after Irene the

cat darts across the creaky floorboards to break our heavy concentration.

One of the most anticipated stories comes near the tour's end, in a dark corner room where the murderer of Emma Voeckler, Wilhelm Faust, slept on the night of her death. It was one of New Braunfels' most notorious crimes, and the story—complete with deceit and a mistaken identity—leaves us unsettled.

As the group shares photos, I reflect on how Wallace's narrative, filled with frontier characters and small-town newsmakers, is also rich with local history—176 years' worth—albeit some of it unsavory.

"Ghosts are history," Jim had told me earlier, and who could disagree? For those who believe that the truth is out there—well, maybe it's in here, too, where people have been shot and stabbed and befallen various misfortunes. At the Magnolia Hotel, the end is really just the beginning of the story. 



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# Exploring Graham

From Food Trucks to Friezes

text by June Naylor

**T**RAVELING WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS DEVOTED to eating and exploring, I arrived in Graham on a sunny June day to attend the annual Food Truck Championship of Texas, which featured some four dozen trucks in heated competition. But it turns out we'd come to enjoy Graham—a town of some 9,000 people about an hour-and-a-half northwest of Fort Worth—for much more than a day of good eating.

Organizers orchestrate this gastronomy event at the center of town on the Young County Courthouse Square, using a delicious, trendy hook—food trucks—to bring in adventurers who might not otherwise think to give Graham a look. Like my merry band of food fans, festival-goers come for the flavors but wind up struck by the surroundings and year-round attractions.

Nearly everything worth exploring in Graham is in or around the downtown square, which claims to be the largest in

**Nearly everything worth exploring in Graham is in or around the downtown square, which claims to be the largest in the United States.**

the United States. That we learned by reading a massive sign painted on a wall downtown, one of many painted images and/or messages on the exteriors of several downtown buildings.

The “America’s largest downtown square” sign at Third and Oak streets faces a terrific mural of 7UP’s vintage yellow-and-green logo, painted on the side of what was originally Graham’s Masonic Lodge. That 1900-era building also once housed city hall.

In fact, any way we walked along Oak Street led us to another portal into Graham’s past. We chose to roam north, past the century-old National Theatre, a movie house still showing first-run films. As we wandered, we noted a steady stream of customers heading into Pam’s, an old-school health-food store whose non-vitamin attraction for young and old is frozen yogurt.

Our destination, however, was Pratt’s Books at 502 Oak Street. The 1890s building was originally the home of Doty’s Grocery Store, where customers once tied their horses to the long-gone hitching posts, and in subsequent years it has housed a soda fountain, a pharmacy, and a children’s clothing store. The bookstore’s founder, the late Rozella Pratt, was a local book-lover who created a place for like-minded folks in the early 1980s.

“My mother-in-law’s love of books proved to be contagious, and my husband took to collecting, as well as assuming the role of book buyer,” said Gayle Pratt, who owns and runs the store today with her husband, David.

Browsing, it struck me that some of these books must have come from nearby Booked Up, the famous bookstore owned by author Larry McMurtry in his native Archer City.

“Of course, you can’t find a book person who hasn’t shopped at the iconic Booked Up,” Gayle confirmed, noting that the Pratts brought home boxes of treasures from an auction McMurtry



Murals, antiques stores, bookstores, and history permeate Graham’s downtown square.



## GRAHAM GO-TO'S

Read more about Graham online at [texashighways.com/detour](http://texashighways.com/detour).

held a few years ago. Gayle told me that the store has acquired many of its titles in world history, Eastern philosophy, and contemporary literature through its work with famous auction houses like Sotheby's and Christie's. "Our inventory is a result of a passionate quest containing equal parts of scouting, happenstance, relationship, and reputation," she continued.

I found myself stuck in the Texana section, marveling at the abundance of titles covering the history of Young County and the region. Here were tomes full of John Graves' and Elmer Kelton's powerful prose, books documenting the history of all 254 Texas counties, and paperbacks and hardbacks alike about ranches and the Texas Rangers. Before I knew it, I'd spent an hour in a rocking chair, skimming the pages of a first-edition McMurtry book, which was out of my price range at more than \$100.

Reluctantly, we left Pratt's because we didn't want to miss our chance to explore more Graham history just a few steps away at the Old Post Office Museum and Art Center. Opened as a post office from 1936 until 1992, the building came to life again in 2002 as a center of heritage and culture.

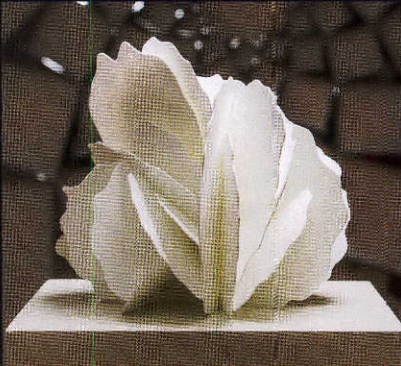
Inside, we were taken with one of the famous murals that came to decorate post offices across the nation during the Great Depression. Completed in 1939 by Alexandre Hogue, who was hired as part the government's WPA relief program, *The Oil Fields of Graham* features bold scenes of workers against a backdrop of equipment on the landscape. Interestingly, there's a stately looking, white-haired gentleman in a suit standing on the far left side of the mural.

"That's Colonel Graham," the museum's director, Marlene Edwards, explained with a wry smile. "When the

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townspeople first saw the mural, they felt like the town founder should be recognized. So he was painted in.”

In what was the post office lobby, there is now a museum gift shop and displays of local history. We admired a case full of ornate spurs, boots, and hats belonging to a Graham resident named Dean Smith, who spent his career as a Hollywood film stuntman.

The museum features changing exhibits throughout the year. In a hallway just behind the art exhibit areas, a display of more than 100 vintage Young County photos tells the story of a growing community. And on the museum’s lawn, sculptures include a beautiful copper kinetic piece by Lake Buchanan artist Ralph Moresco and a striking depiction of a cowboy by his campfire by Throckmorton artist Joe Barrington.

But my favorite art display awaited discovery across the street at the 1932 Young County Courthouse, which

offers a wealth of WPA-era friezes on its exterior. “The scenes tell the story of Young County,” said local historian Dorman Holub, who noted that a single artist was rarely credited for such work and that a team of carvers was likely hired for the task. “The two men you see riding and walking with the wagon train are the Graham brothers. The cattlemen overseeing his herd is Oliver Loving, the famous trail driver,” Holub explained.

Even minor elements deserve notice, such as smaller carvings of an Indian head and a buffalo head, as well as etched-glass sconces over the smaller doorways into the courthouse. Through the ornate bronze doors, the courthouse interior beguiles with its black marble details, oak paneling, and terrazzo and tiled floors.

Perhaps Graham’s greatest contribution to Texas history is pictured on a wall on Second Street. Here, the

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association mural pays homage to the association’s 1877 founding in Graham. Beginning with 40 stockmen devoted to fighting cattle theft, the association continues important work in the industry today.

Because it’s not easy to pack everything into a single day, the option to stay overnight won us over. We found a good night’s sleep just outside of town at the Wildcatter Ranch, a modern guest ranch with horseback riding, Jeep tours, hiking, and a steakhouse. Resting our heads inside cabins lavishly outfitted with Western décor, we dreamed about early Texas history and the folks who keep it ready for us to devour. 🌮



**GRAHAM**

For more details about Graham, call **866/549-0401**; [www.visitgrahamtexas.com](http://www.visitgrahamtexas.com).

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A large, vibrant platter of boiled seafood is the central focus of the image. It includes several ears of bright yellow corn, numerous bright red shrimp, several whole and halved potatoes, and a large, cooked crab at the bottom. The seafood is piled together on a light-colored surface, creating a rich, colorful composition.

# PLATES

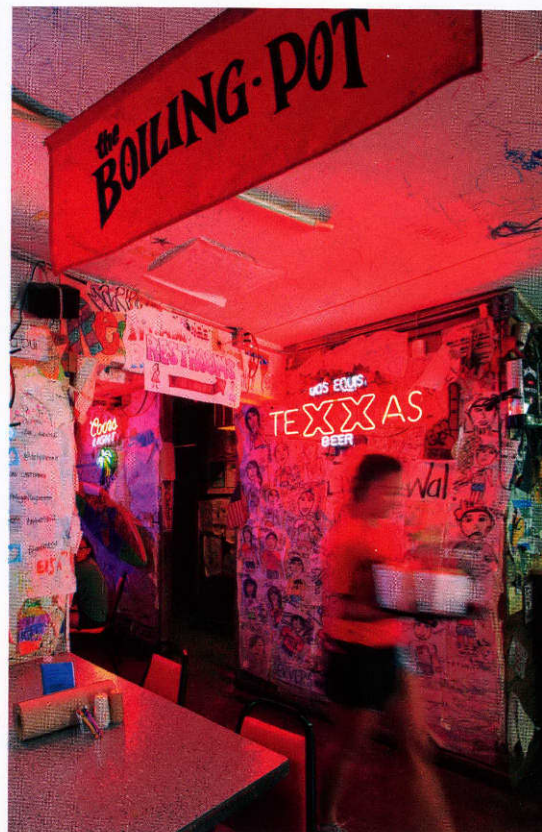
EAT + TRAVEL + DRINK

## Some Like It Hot

The Boiling Pot  
in Rockport

*text by* Sallie Lewis

**No fork and knife needed:** At the Boiling Pot in Rockport, waiters spill buckets of spicy seafood directly onto your table.



**F**EW PLACES EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF a city more convincingly than The Boiling Pot, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary in the coastal village of Rockport. Known for its fresh seafood, served boiled with Cajun spices, The Boiling Pot is arguably Rockport's most popular dining establishment. Over the years, the space has taken on its own character, drawing from both area history and local tradition while becoming a coastal institution in its own right.

Outside, the building is wrapped in corrugated metal, a facade punctuated by a weathered white sign bearing the restaurant's name and a black pot simmering over flames. Surrounding the parking lot, palm trees sway in the steady breezes rolling inland off of Aransas Bay.

Inside the restaurant, neon beer signs create a warm glow around tables of hungry diners. Butcher paper covers the tabletops, with handfuls of crayons at the ready, so patrons—young and old alike—often color and doodle as they wait for their feast to arrive. The resulting drawings—hundreds of them—have been stapled to the walls between

**Nobody seems overly concerned about a little mess; orange-tinted fingers and red lips are evidence of a good time.**

surfboards and other coastal memorabilia, layered one on top of the other, like the scales on a fish.

The late Dorothy "Dot" LeBlanc started The Boiling Pot in 1985 after recognizing that people were looking for a place in town where they could eat simple, well-prepared boiled shrimp—not fried shrimp, blackened filets, or other preparations common to the few surrounding local restaurants. Dot, who was then selling fresh shrimp, oysters, and other seafood at a small market in town, began to cook a few items on-site, and her customers loved it. Soon thereafter, Dot opened The Boiling Pot. Today, the restaurant is still known for its fresh, boiled-to-order seafood; everything on the menu—save for the gumbo and a few à la carte items—is boiled. Furthermore, The Boiling Pot's food is known for its zesty seasoning, a complex combination of salt, garlic, and a house-made blend of Cajun spices.

"It's Dot's special spice," said Manager Ramona LeBlanc, Dot's daughter-in-law. Ramona and her family have carried Dot's legacy forward since her passing in 2013. "I think my mother-in-law made it very special for so many people," says Ramona of the restaurant's enduring customer loyalty. "She

**Boats dock in Aransas Bay within a stone's throw of The Boiling Pot, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.**

was always here tending to customers and making sure they were happy. That was her big thing; making sure everybody was enjoying themselves.”

Today, The Boiling Pot continues to serve some of Rockport’s most famous food, prepared from recipes that haven’t changed in 30 years. Regular customers and newcomers alike find it hard to pass up the “Cajun Combo,” which includes a blue crab, a half-pound of shrimp, a half-pound of sausage, boiled new potatoes, and crunchy corn on the cob.

“The Super Duper” (a bucket full of boiled corn, potatoes, sliced sausage, crab, crawfish, and shrimp) is another fan favorite, and other popular menu items are the gumbo, the key lime tart, and of course, The Boiling Pot’s roster of more than 80 different beers and wines. On an average weekday, the restaurant will go through almost 60 pounds of shrimp alone, with



### THE BOILING POT

is at 201 South Fulton Beach Rd. in Rockport. Call **361/729-6972**. Hours: Mon-Thu 4 p.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sun 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Closing times sometimes extend later, depending on crowds.

surging numbers on the weekend.

The Boiling Pot is a high-volume, family-style dining experience where standard utensils aren’t required; depending on what you order, waiters will dump your feast directly onto the table. You’ll tackle crawfish, sausages, stone crabs, king crabs, boiled potatoes, and ears of corn piled into a mini mountain tinted fiery orange and red by cayenne and other Cajun spices. If you don’t know how to eat a crab, the waiters can show you; each diner receives a small wooden mallet to crack the shells. Diners who don’t want to go

home with splattered shirts tie plastic bibs around their necks to deflect the juices, and rolls of brown paper towels stand at the ready, too. But nobody seems overly concerned about a little mess; orange-tinted fingers and red lips are evidence of a good time.

For above all, The Boiling Pot offers friends old and new a casual spot to eat tasty boiled seafood, enjoy cold beer or a glass of wine, and join together in a decades-old coastal tradition. For some people, the appeal stems from the satisfying sound of a crab shell cracking beneath a mallet. For others, it’s the smooth, salty taste of the sea that lingers on the tongue after slurping down a Gulf oyster. And for others still, it’s the simple pleasure of being present in life, awakened to the flavors of Rockport’s charms. This is perhaps The Boiling Pot’s most endearing gift, and one that has shaped the experiences of all who come for a taste. **L**

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# What's Brewing in the Hill Country?

Follow the Texas Hill Country Beer Trail

text by **Melissa Gaskill**

**T**EXAS BOASTS A STRONG GERMAN HERITAGE, which naturally includes a long history of breweries and beer. Recently, 20 independent breweries in Central Texas created the Texas Hill Country Beer Trail, a meandering loop from Boerne to San Saba and Dripping Springs to Fredericksburg. Twenty is too many to visit in a day or even a weekend, but it's easy to break the list into a manageable trail of favorites. On a recent jaunt with my daughter (and designated driver), I explored Save the World Brewing in Marble Falls, Pecan Street Brewing in Johnson City, Real Ale Brewing Co. in Blanco, and Fredericksburg Brewing Company, which lie a reasonable distance from each other along a scenic loop.

**Early German immigrants brought many good things to Texas, including beer.**

## SAVE THE WORLD BREWING

Dave and Quynh Rathkamp met as medical residents in 1996 and worked as physicians in the Dallas area. He had brewed his own beer for years, and she aspired to work at a nonprofit. A few years ago, the couple decided to start a brewery and give all proceeds to charity. Ergo, Save The World Brewing.

The couple chose Marble Falls for its beautiful scenery and started brewing beer in 2014. On a tour, Dave told us how they make Belgian-style beers with malt from Europe, yeast from a Trappist monastery in Belgium, and Marble Falls water. Post-tour, I tasted a flight of six, including Agnus Dei (Latin for Lamb of God), a classic Belgian wheat beer brewed with orange peel, coriander, and an unnamed spice, and a medium-bodied traditional farmhouse ale called Fructum Bonum (Good Fruit), with sweet malt, zesty citrus, and peppery spice flavors.

The tasting room has bar stools and table seating, with cards and board games to encourage lingering. It filled up with several groups of trail-followers by the time I finished up my tasting. Outside, a dozen or so people claimed shaded picnic tables and enjoyed games of cornhole, big-block Jenga, washers, and ring toss with their brews. I've never had so much fun drinking beer for a good cause.

## PECAN STREET BREWING

The bar inside this restaurant and brewpub on the Johnson City courthouse square faces a bank of windows providing a view of the brewing operation. Fans of both live music and cold beer, owners Tim and Patty Elliott met while working at Austin's Armadillo



Visitors to the tasting room at Blanco's Real Ale Brewing Co. can sample flights of the brewery's many beers.

World Headquarters in the 1970s. They bought the old Blanco County Supply building in 2008 after running an export business in Houston for years.

“We saw this building sitting empty, which seemed a shame,” says Patty. “We just started brainstorming and decided to do something revolving around beer. Tim spent three years working on the building while our son Sean went to England for a brewing course.”

As Pecan Street’s brewmaster, Sean rotates about 50 recipes, many with names riffing on the nearby Courthouse, like County Jail Pale Ale, 25 to Life IPA and No You’re Out of Order! Porter. I ordered a tasting flight of four, and the bartender threw in a shot of a rich, delicious root beer that could qualify as dessert.

The restaurant serves lunch and dinner, including brick-oven pizzas, sandwiches, and burgers, and classics such as chicken-fried steak and meat loaf. Behind the restaurant, picnic tables line a spacious indoor area for live music.

#### REAL ALE BREWING CO.

Started in a downtown Blanco basement in 1996, this brewery moved to new digs just outside town in 2007. Its tap room debuted in 2015 after state legislation allowed breweries to sell their product for on-site consumption. Real Ale doesn’t filter or pasteurize its beer and currently sells its beers only within Texas.

The spacious tap room offers a revolving cast of 14 regular beers, seasonal releases, and brewer’s cuts, which are new recipes the brewers are still tinkering with. I carried my four-beer tasting flight to an indoor picnic table near windows overlooking the production facility, where I played checkers with my daughter. Folks at other tables helped themselves to the board game selection as well, while several couples sampled flights at the long metal bar. A dog-friendly outdoor seating area offers views of the surrounding Hill Country.



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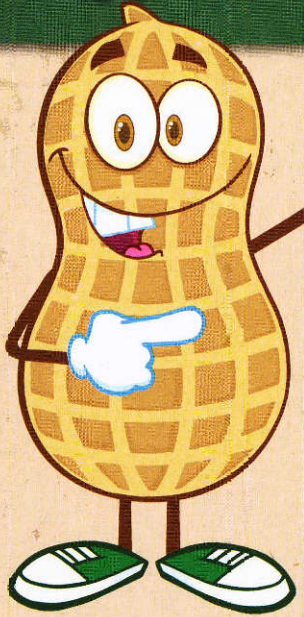
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October 13 - 15

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Real Ale offers free tours on Friday and Saturday and a food truck some Saturdays; you're welcome to bring a picnic anytime.

## FREDERICKSBURG BREWING COMPANY

This elder of the brew trail opened in 1994 in a restored 1890s building on Main Street.

A row of enormous tanks along one of the brewpub's limestone walls includes copper brewhouse tanks, shiny stainless cooling tanks, and pointy-bottomed fermenters. Doors, floors, and the base of the long bar feature long-leaf pine recycled from the original building. The bar serves a rotating selection of the brewery's ales, lagers, and tasting flights, which can be ordered from restaurant tables as well.

The food menu features beer-friendly items like soft pretzels, burgers, and pizza. If the bar fills up, head for the enclosed biergarten out back, or, since Fredericksburg laws allow it, take your beer with you on a stroll down Main Street. If you book one of 12 rooms in the "Bed and Brew" above the Brewing Company, you can simply head up the stairs when your evening ends.

Early Hill Country immigrants brought many good things to Texas—historic missions, Longhorn cattle, limestone architecture, pastries, the polka. And beer. Prost! 🍷



## TEXAS HILL COUNTRY BEER TRAIL

See [www.hillcountrycraftbeertrail.com](http://www.hillcountrycraftbeertrail.com) for details about the trail.

**Save the World Brewing** is in Marble Falls. Call 830/637-7654; [www.savetheworldbrewing.com](http://www.savetheworldbrewing.com).

**Pecan Street Brewing** is in Johnson City. Call 830/868-2500; [www.pecanstreetbrewing.com](http://www.pecanstreetbrewing.com).

**Real Ale Brewing Co.** is in Blanco. Call 830/833-2534; [www.realalebrewing.com](http://www.realalebrewing.com).

**Fredericksburg Brewing Company** is in Fredericksburg. Call 844/596-2303; [www.yourbrewery.com](http://www.yourbrewery.com).



## Wheels and Meals

Vintage Grill & Car Museum in Weatherford

text by **Celestina Blok**

**W**ITH 80-DEGREE WEATHER AND A CLEAR, sunny sky, it seems only appropriate to take my good friend's head-turning, canary-yellow Jeep Wrangler—with its rugged 35-inch tires and lifted body—for a leisurely Sunday drive to the Vintage Grill & Car Museum, a restaurant in downtown Weatherford that doubles as an automobile exhibit. Choosing our means of transportation was like picking out the perfect outfit to match a special occasion, and we didn't want to show up underdressed.

We cruise 30 miles west from our hometown of Fort Worth to

**The restaurant is a classic-car lover's dream for its nostalgic tribute to service stations of the past.**

the eatery, which opened in early 2015 thanks to Fort Worth oilman Tom Moncrief, an auto enthusiast who thought a diner would be a perfect place to showcase his classic-car collection. Located in a 1930s-era building that once housed a gas station and an Oldsmobile dealership, the Vintage Grill & Car Museum—"Vintage," for short—sits just off Weatherford's town square within viewing distance of the historic Parker County Courthouse. With fire-engine-red replicas of vintage Texaco gas pumps, double garage doors that open to an expansive street-side patio, and a covered drive-through lane once used for oil changes and fill-ups, the white-washed restaurant is a classic-car lover's dream for its nostalgic tribute to service stations of the past.

Inside, patrons can settle in for a meal or head straight to the adjacent car museum, where admission is free. Hungry and thirsty from our windy drive, we decide to eat first then explore the collection of vehicles—as most customers do, our hostess confirms.

The spacious main dining room, with its concrete floors and white, tin-pressed ceiling, provides views of Fort Worth Highway, a popular strip for motorcyclists out for Sunday drives. Butcher paper-covered tables, most of which are occupied by small families and couples young and old, dot the room, each set with a galvanized metal tray stocked with wrapped silverware, condiments, and a straw-filled mason jar. The walls are white and spartan, aside from a few industrial light fixtures and a large marquee that exclaims "VINTAGE."

Behind the open window to the kitchen, cooks hustle to turn out Sunday brunch orders while waiters traipse back and forth from the connecting restaurant bar, trays of chilled mimosas and salt-rimmed Bloody

Several dozen classic cars—and classic eats, too—attract visitors to the Vintage Grill & Car Museum.

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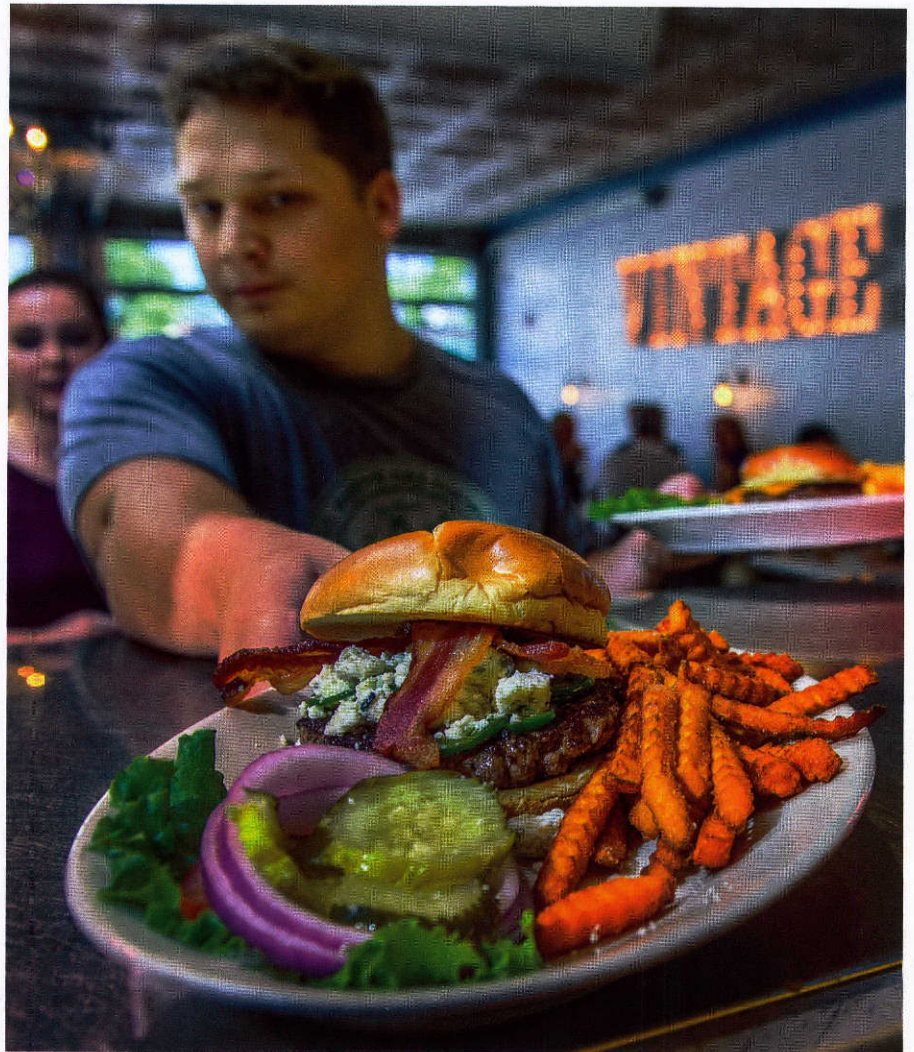
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Marys in hand. Classic rock tunes play via overhead speakers and the venue's inviting, lighthearted vibe encourages diners to stay awhile, so we do. On Saturdays and Sundays, Vintage serves brunch until 3 p.m.; the menu offers breakfast items like omelets and quiche Lorraine, plus savory entrées such as burgers made to order, spicy penne pasta, and a variety of salads. Our platter of fried green tomatoes, thinly sliced and drizzled with a spicy aioli, arrives promptly as an appetizer, along with a bowl of chunky, gooey, beer-battered cheddar cheese curds, flaked with bits of salty bacon and piquant jalapeño. The flavorful precursors to our meal quickly satiate our rumbling stomachs before our shared entrée arrives.

It's a close call between the pork stack and the Belgian waffle drizzled

with chipotle maple syrup, topped with fried chicken, but we choose the former—a square of crumbly cornbread hidden under a hefty pile of shredded, sweet-and-smoky pulled pork slathered with cream gravy spiked with fiery Sriracha sauce. Crowned with a sunny-side up egg, the decadent ensemble could easily induce a nap, so strolling around the museum is a welcome breather after our meal.

Connected to the restaurant in a showroom with high ceilings and a gleaming floor, the museum showcases a dozen vehicles diagonally parked in two neat rows. Closest to the entrance is Moncrief's pride and joy and the museum's main attraction: one of President Lyndon B. Johnson's cream-colored Lincoln Continental convertibles, this one dating to 1964. The museum's overhead fluorescent lights



reflect off the sleek ride's shiny exterior, and framed newspaper clippings touting the car's history sit on the floor, propped against the front bumper. Presented in its original condition, the vehicle boasts a 320-horsepower V8 engine and automatic transmission, per the informative sign situated by the hood.

**Closest to the entrance is the museum's main attraction: one of President Lyndon B. Johnson's cream-colored Lincoln Continental convertibles, this one dating to 1964.**

"I've always been interested in cars," Moncrief tells us. "Cars are works of art, and they show things about the history of their time." We linger to read the background information on each of Moncrief's prized possessions, including a black 1948 Studebaker sheriff's patrol car, a 1930 Buick Oldsmobile, and our favorite: a 1979 six-wheel drive Jeep CJ-7 with rainbow-colored pinstripes. The model mimics the boxy military Jeeps of decades past before they were supplanted by the iconic Wrangler in 1986. Moncrief seems fond of Jeeps, as his collection also includes a World War II-era military Jeep and a Jeep Grand Wagoneer-Dodge Durango hybrid from 1988.

Moncrief has recently expanded the museum to a 13,000-square-foot property due west so he can showcase more of his collection. As we depart for home in our own chariot, we wonder aloud if perhaps my friend's souped-up Jeep would one day be considered worthy to sit in someone's classic-car showroom. 🐾



**VINTAGE GRILL & CAR MUSEUM**

is at 202 Fort Worth Hwy. (US 180) in Weatherford. Call 817/594-3750. [www.vintagegrillandmuseum.com](http://www.vintagegrillandmuseum.com).

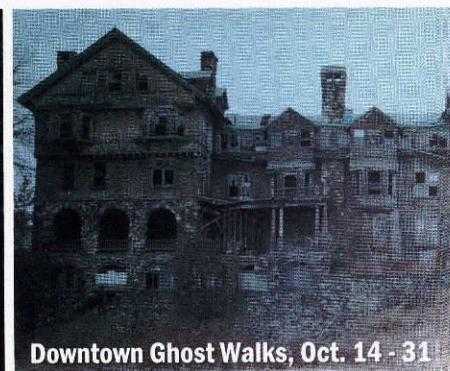


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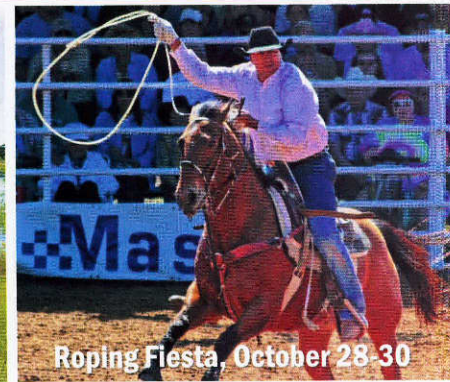
Downtown Ghost Walks, Oct. 14 - 31



For more information about other events go to [www.VisitSanAngelo.org](http://www.VisitSanAngelo.org)



En Plein Air, October 23-30



Roping Fiesta, October 28-30

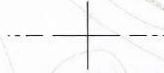




RETURN  
\* TO THE \*  
GUADALUPES

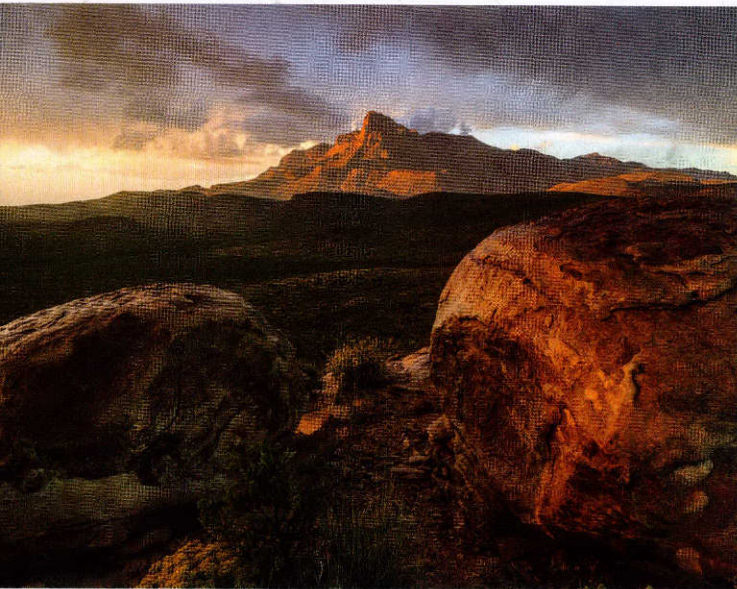
Photographing fall's arrival  
in the Guadalupe Mountains

*Text and Photographs by Laurence Parent*



# I GOT TO KNOW THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS

as a child in the 1970s, when my dad was a park ranger at nearby Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. I remember limping around with a broken leg and crutches when we attended the dedication of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in 1972, and later, scrambling up Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas,



with high school buddies on a foggy day before there was even much of a trail. On another memorable visit, I leapt from a boulder in McKittrick Canyon when an eight-inch centipede crawled up my arm.

So I was excited when Guadalupe Mountains National Park selected me to be an artist-in-residence last fall. Other than a few brief photo trips, I had not spent much time at this West Texas park in recent decades. The artist-in-residence program gives creatives like photographers, painters, musicians, and writers the chance to spend five weeks on site with free housing in a staff apartment or an RV site at Pine Springs Visitor Center. With both my parents now gone, returning to the Guadalupe Mountains was an amazing

opportunity for photography, if a little bittersweet.

Covering nearly 120 square miles, Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects a mountain range that formed about 265 million years ago as an underwater reef. Today's arid climate, sheer mountain cliffs, sand dunes, sheltered canyons, and spring-fed oases result from the regional intersection of the Chihuahuan Desert, the Great Plains, and the Rocky Mountains.

I arrived in the middle of October during a spell of frequent showers and storms. Bad weather can both make and break photos. Usually, I'd head out into the rain

**OPENING SPREAD:**  
South McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

**LEFT:**  
A view of El Capitan and Guadalupe Peak from the valley below.

**RIGHT:**  
Fall color and a creek in South McKittrick Canyon.



CHARACTERIZED BY ARID PEAKS,  
COLORFUL FORESTS, SHELTERED CANYONS,  
AND SAND DUNES, THE GUADALUPE  
MOUNTAINS RISE AT THE INTERSECTION  
OF THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT, THE  
GREAT PLAINS, AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.



and have nothing but gray skies until dark; but occasionally the sun would peep through the ominous clouds and briefly paint the land pink and gold. One time, adrenaline sent me running down a hill near Williams Ranch Road when a storm suddenly built overhead and threw down lightning bolts. I reached my truck as the skies opened up. I barely managed to get back to the highway before the dirt road started to flood.



I watched and photographed as the mostly green vegetation of late summer transitioned into the colors of fall. I hiked up to Devil's Hall in Pine Springs Canyon several times over the course of two weeks, as the foliage there appeared brighter and more consistent than in McKittrick Canyon early in my stay. On every hike, the trees would look different. The summer rainy season made the park's maple and ash trees turn brilliant gold, orange, and red, and the colors lasted longer than most years.

I hiked many of the park's 80 miles of trails during my five weeks there. Park officials also granted me access to the upper part of South McKittrick Canyon, which is closed to visitors, to take the first photographs of the area since it flooded in 2013 and 2014. While some outings brought back pleasant memories, I also found new adventures. Friends joined me for two backpacking trips into the high country. With the rains, the mountains were lush with tall grasses and healthy trees—oaks, junipers, Douglas firs, and ponderosa and white pines. During an October backpacking trip, we scrambled off-trail up a rough unnamed side canyon looking for a small grove of aspens. We found the trees, their leaves turning gold, but we also startled a black bear that quickly bolted out of sight.

I did my second backpacking trip in early November. A friend and I made the 100-mile drive from the Pine Springs Visitor Center around to Dog Canyon on the north side of the park.

Wind was forecast, but my time in the park was running out. We talked to the ranger at the ranger station and enjoyed the quiet of the little-visited area. Scattered alligator junipers, pines, oaks, and maples dotted the grassy valley. The small campground had only one occupant, even though it was still fall color season. We donned our heavy packs and started hiking up the Tejas Trail. The valley quickly narrowed into a canyon, its walls sheltering stands of flaming maples. We needed to get to camp, but I couldn't resist photographing the colorful trees.

**LEFT:**  
A view of Frijole Ridge from the Bowl Trail on Hunter Peak.

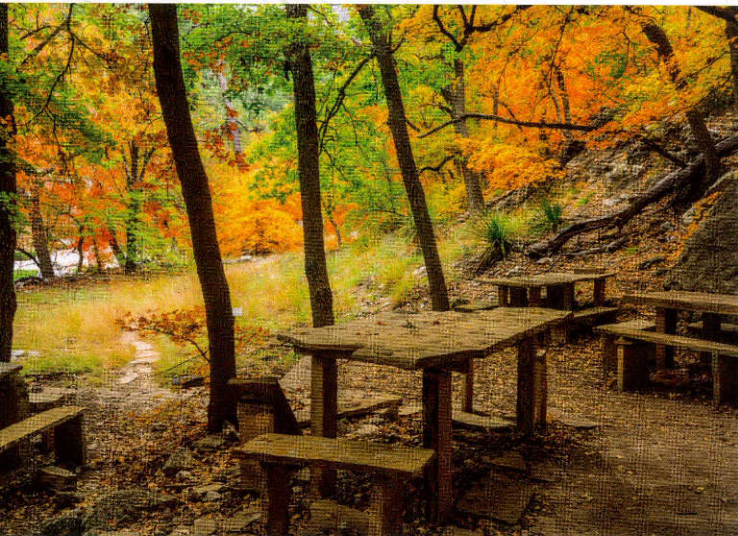
**RIGHT:**  
Bigtooth maples and ash trees color the Devil's Hall Trail through Pine Springs Canyon (top and lower left), and the Tejas Trail in Dog Canyon (lower right).

THE SUMMER RAINY SEASON MADE THE  
PARK'S MAPLE AND ASH TREES TURN  
BRILLIANT GOLD, ORANGE, AND RED, AND THE  
COLORS LASTED LONGER THAN MOST YEARS.



As we climbed out of the canyon, the wind battered us on the open ridge tops. Once we turned off the Tejas Trail, we followed the faint, little-used Blue Ridge Trail. After several hours of hard hiking, we reached our campsite on Blue Ridge at an elevation of more than 8,000 feet. Even though pines and Douglas firs sheltered our campsite, the wind whipped our tents around as we tried to set up camp.

From camp, we hiked a half-mile to the western escarpment of Blue Ridge in time for sunset photos. I had never been to that part of the park before and was amazed at the spectacular views and cliffs below us. After a windy, noisy night, we photographed the sunrise, packed our gear, and trekked back to Dog Canyon, taking more photos along the way.



Missing my family, I was grateful when my wife and two kids came out for a long weekend in the park. My children had never been to the Guadalupe Mountains, so we took them to the Grotto in South McKittrick Canyon to see the fall color. The next day my wife and I dragged them up Guadalupe Peak, the highest peak in Texas at 8,749 feet. There was a little justified whining on the long climb, but we all were impressed with the view. My family started down ahead of me, fixated on dinner, while I lingered for sunset photos and followed them down in the dark using a headlamp.

By mid-November, the leaves were falling and winter was approaching.

Cold fronts blew in the notorious winds for which the Guadalupe Mountains are known. One evening, with winds gusting as strong as 75 miles per hour, I braved the highway through Guadalupe Pass, trying to get photos in the eerie, dusty yellow light. To hold the camera steady enough, I huddled behind my truck and used fast shutter speeds and a high ISO setting to minimize camera blur.

All too soon I was packing up my belongings at the park apartment where I had been staying. I thanked the park staff for offering me the opportunity to photograph such a beautiful place and headed east toward home. As the Guadalupe Mountains shrank in my rearview mirror, I thought about how blessed I was to revisit one of the most scenic places in Texas.

**LEFT:**  
Picnic tables provide a respite at the Grotto in South McKittrick Canyon.

**RIGHT:**  
Sunset at the summit of Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas.

## GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

is located north of US 62/180, about 110 miles east of El Paso. The Pine Springs Visitor Center, the park's headquarters, opens year-round, 8-4:30. It houses a museum, bookstore, and ranger station for information and permits.

Call 915/828-3251; [www.nps.gov/gumo/](http://www.nps.gov/gumo/)





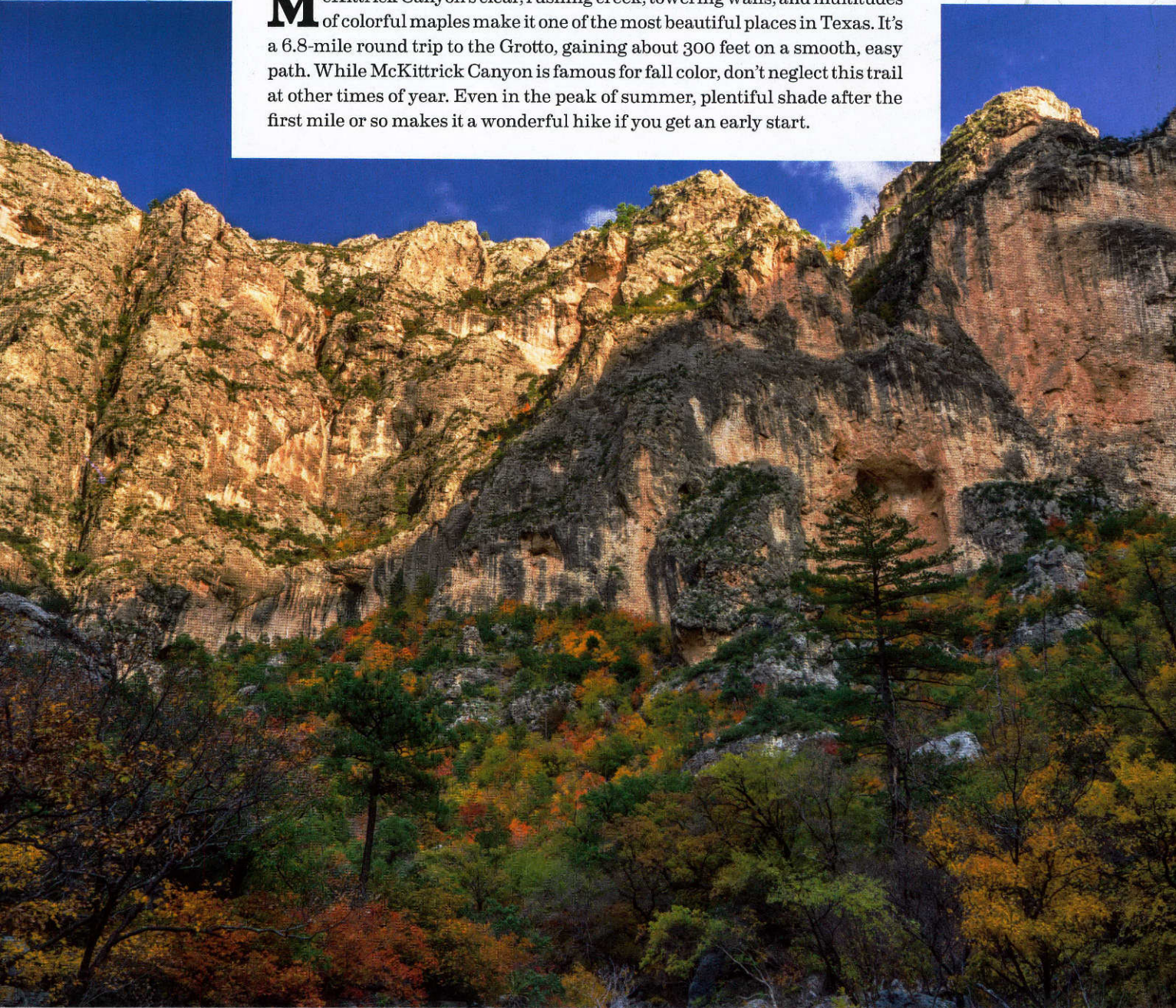
# FAVORITE HIKES

Here are some of Laurence Parent's favorite hikes in the Guadalupe Mountains, both from years ago and recent visits.

1

## McKittrick Canyon Trail

**M**cKittrick Canyon's clear, rushing creek, towering walls, and multitudes of colorful maples make it one of the most beautiful places in Texas. It's a 6.8-mile round trip to the Grotto, gaining about 300 feet on a smooth, easy path. While McKittrick Canyon is famous for fall color, don't neglect this trail at other times of year. Even in the peak of summer, plentiful shade after the first mile or so makes it a wonderful hike if you get an early start.





### Smith Spring Trail

**S**mith Spring is an easy, 2.3-mile loop that gains about 400 feet in elevation. The trail starts at the historic Frijole Ranch house and spring, passes Manzanita Spring, and climbs to the oasis of Smith Spring. Water pours off small cascades into clear pools under a shady canopy of pines, madrones, oaks, and maples. The site offers great color in fall and a cool respite from the heat in summer.

2



3

### Devil's Hall Trail

**T**he 4.2-mile, round-trip Devil's Hall Trail departs from the Pine Springs Trailhead and climbs about 500 feet in elevation. The first part of the trail ascends gently into Pine Springs Canyon before dropping into the rocky canyon bottom. The route then follows the canyon upstream as it slowly narrows into a deep slot at Devil's Hall. Along the way, the trail passes by stands of maples, pines, and other trees. Fall color tends to appear earlier here than in McKittrick Canyon, probably because of the higher elevation. Like Smith Spring, it's a good hike in summer because of the shady areas.

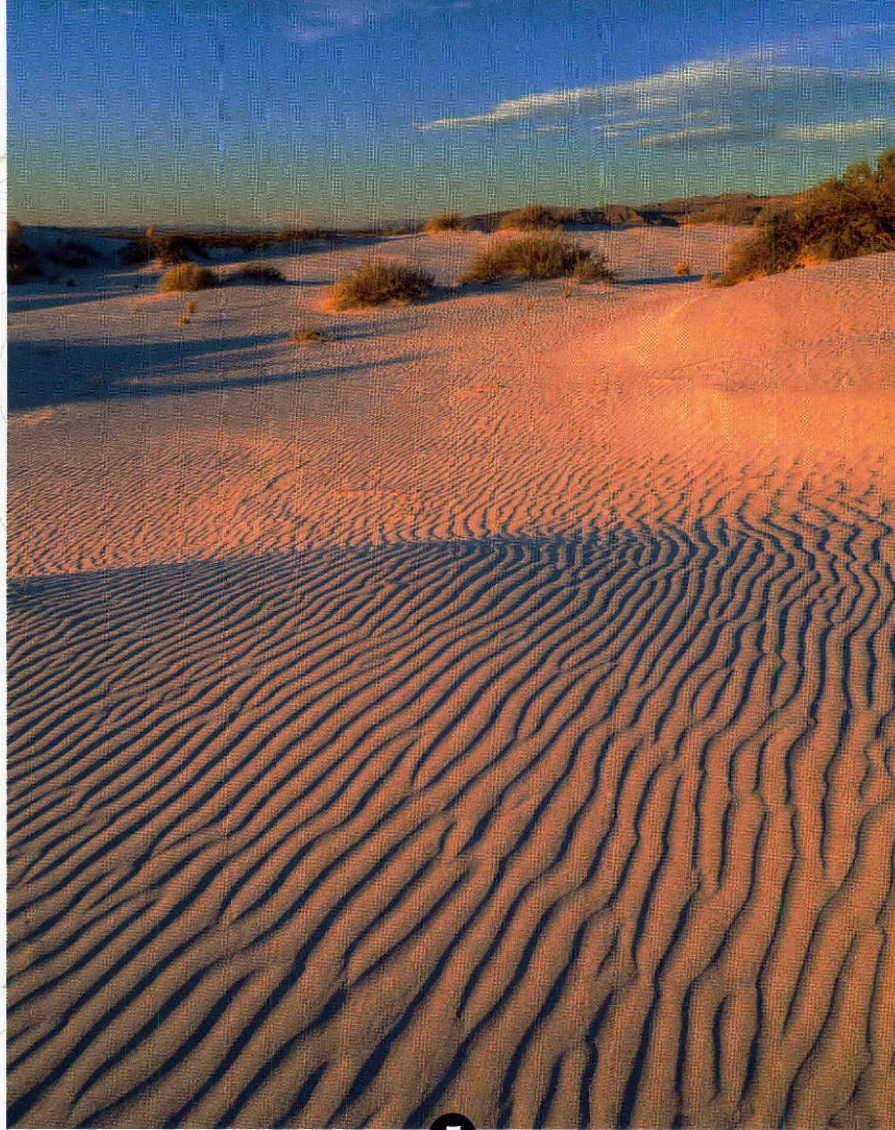
## The High Country

**F**or the ultimate in high country forest, consider a hike up to the Bowl, Bush Mountain, or Blue Ridge. Depending on the route, the hike will cover 10 to 17 miles. In addition to passing through forests of pine, oak, juniper, and Douglas fir—a setting more typical of higher-elevation mountains in New Mexico—the views from Hunter Peak, Bush Mountain, and Blue Ridge are almost as good as from Guadalupe Peak.

A 10.5-mile loop day hike or overnight trip that gains roughly 2,500 feet starts by climbing the Tejas Trail, cutting through the Bowl with a side trip to Hunter Peak for its views, and descending the steep Bear Canyon Trail. Another spectacular trip is a 17-mile loop up the Tejas Trail to Bush Mountain and Blue Ridge. This route offers heavy forest, endless views, and lots of solitude. A shorter but still strenuous route to Blue Ridge comes up from Dog Canyon. Some of this area burned in a forest fire in May 2016, so check with the park on trail conditions before setting out.

**BELOW:** The summit of Bush Mountain.





5

### Salt Basin Dunes

**L**ocated 48 miles from the Pine Springs Visitor Center, the white gypsum dunes on the west side of the park require some driving to reach, but the flat, two-mile, round-trip hike is easy. The dunes formed when an ancient Pleistocene lake dried up, leaving salt and gypsum deposits. Over time, west winds have picked up gypsum sand grains from the old lake bed and deposited them as dunes. The rippled dunes and the sheer west face of the mountains rising to the east create a beautiful sight, especially late in the day when the shadows lengthen. The lack of shade and low elevation make this a very hot place from April through September. Hike it only in the cooler months, and be sure to stay on the trail to avoid getting lost.

6

### Guadalupe Peak Trail

**G**uadalupe Peak is the highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet. Everyone should climb it, right? However, it's tough. The trail is well-built, but it requires 8.4 miles of hiking round-trip and gains almost 3,000 vertical feet. The views from the trail and summit may well be the best in Texas, stretching from Sierra Blanca Peak near Ruidoso, New Mexico, to the Davis Mountains. Looking down a vertical mile to the Salt Flats to the west seems more like the perspective from an airplane than a Texas mountain. Start early, take lots of water and snacks, and bring extra clothes to be prepared for bad weather or colder temperatures on the summit. 🐾



Magics  
Acts

LES CLEFS D'OR  
HOTEL CONCIERGES  
MAKE EXTRAORDINARY  
THINGS HAPPEN

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TEXT BY JUNE NAYLOR  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW JOHNSON



CONCIERGE JEFFREY MOON AT THE ST. ANTHONY HOTEL, SAN ANTONIO

# In any given day,

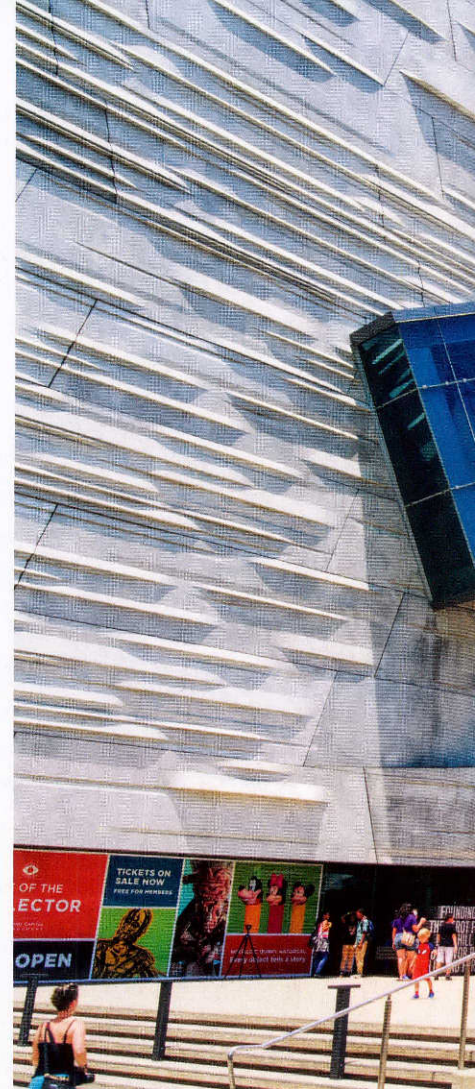
Mary Stamm performs minor (and not so minor) miracles in Dallas. Working as a concierge at the Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek, that's her job—and it's never dull. In her three decades at the Mansion, she has guided guests to restaurants, museums, and other points of interest in Dallas and beyond, and she has some special tales to tell, too—though she'll never name names. When a famous guest arrived from London late at night with a horrible toothache, Mary recruited a prominent local dentist to treat him at 2 a.m. so he could go on to his morning meeting in comfort. The king of a certain country requested—on Christmas eve—that the princess visiting the Mansion be greeted with a suite full of extravagant flower arrangements; Mary bought out a store's entire supply of flowers and summoned a designer to create exotic floral art for the princess and her entourage.

Mary, like many of her counterparts at fine hotels throughout the nation, lives by a motto: Never, ever say no. When a major TV celebrity requests a new wardrobe from an elite department store at 3 a.m.? Yes, of course, will do. And it's accomplished with expediency and a smile—and utter discretion. That's the attitude that leads Mary and her concierge colleagues across the United States to membership in a prestigious society called Les Clefs d'Or.

Based in San Diego, Les Clefs d'Or (pronounced "lay clay door") is the national organization of hotel lobby concierges. The French name translates as the golden keys, and you'll see that emblem pinned to the members' suit lapels. Members even attend annual meetings and educational conferences to exchange ideas and find new ways to better serve clientele. Les Clefs d'Or boasts a handful of members at upscale Texas hotels, where guests frequently arrive with extra or unusual requests. In addition to retrieving forgotten laptops from airplanes, traveling across the state to pick up a special rental car, arranging marriage proposals, and finding tickets to a sold-out concert, the successful concierge—whether a member of this prestigious organization or not—guides guests to the best restaurants, museums, and points of interest in his or her respective city.

## DALLAS

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, cocktails at Midnight Rambler, shopping at Forty Five Ten, *20 Elements* by Joel Shapiro (temporary exhibit) at the Nasher Sculpture Center, the pool at the Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek.



## Mary STAMM THE ROSEWOOD MANSION ON TURTLE CREEK, DALLAS

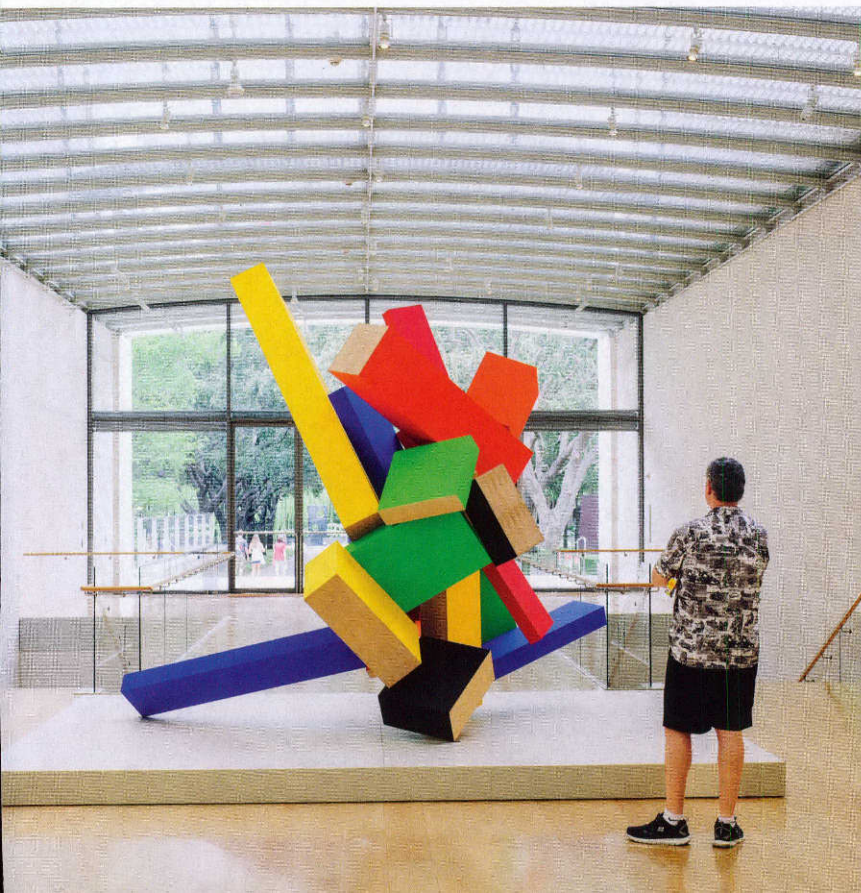
A fan of the local art scene, Mary suggests visiting the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and the outdoor spaces in Klyde Warren Park.

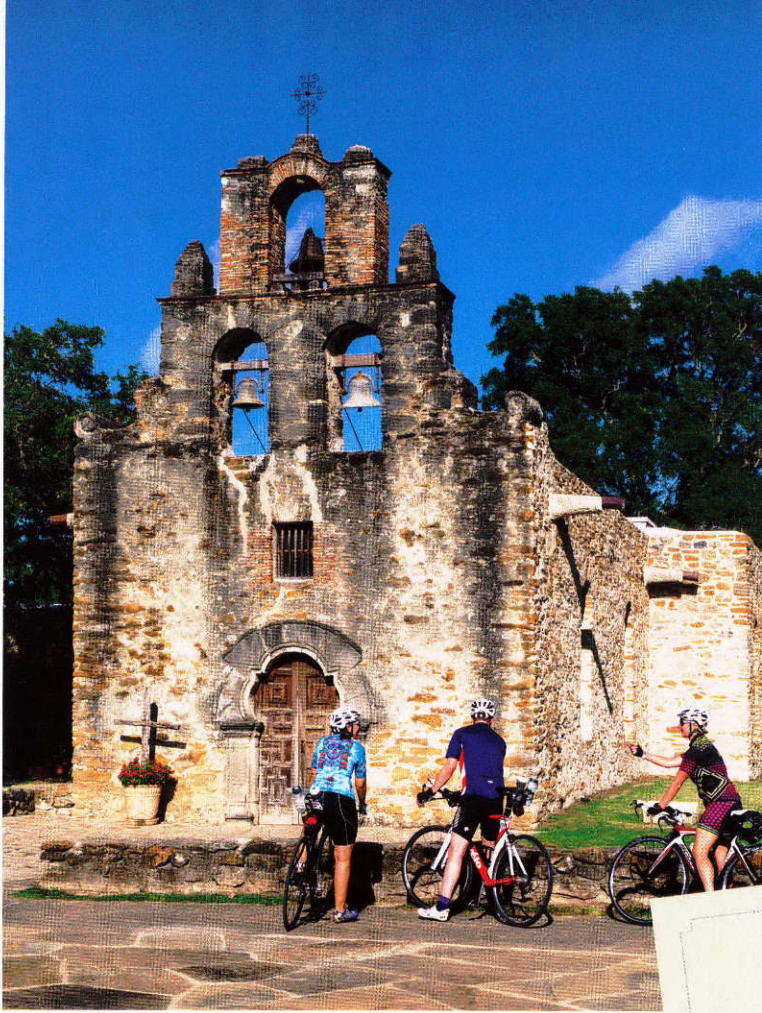




*Andrew* BOTTOMLEY  
THE JOULE, DALLAS

Andrew's favorite art attractions include artist Tony Tasset's 30-foot-tall *Eye* sculpture, which sits in a green space across the street from the hotel's main entrance, as well as the funky Dallas Contemporary gallery. For dinner, he recommends taking one of the Joule's house cars to Hibiscus and Victor Tangos, two restaurants in the nearby Knox-Henderson neighborhood; for after-dinner cocktails, he suggests the hotel's basement bar, *Midnight Rambler*.





*Jeffrey* MOON  
 THE ST. ANTHONY HOTEL, SAN ANTONIO

For art and culture, Jeffrey sends guests to the McNay Art Museum and to the San Antonio Museum of Art; he is inspired by all of the missions but particularly by Mission Espada. For guests who want a one-of-a-kind souvenir of San Antonio, he suggests they make a reservation to visit Garcia Art Glass, which can create custom artworks.

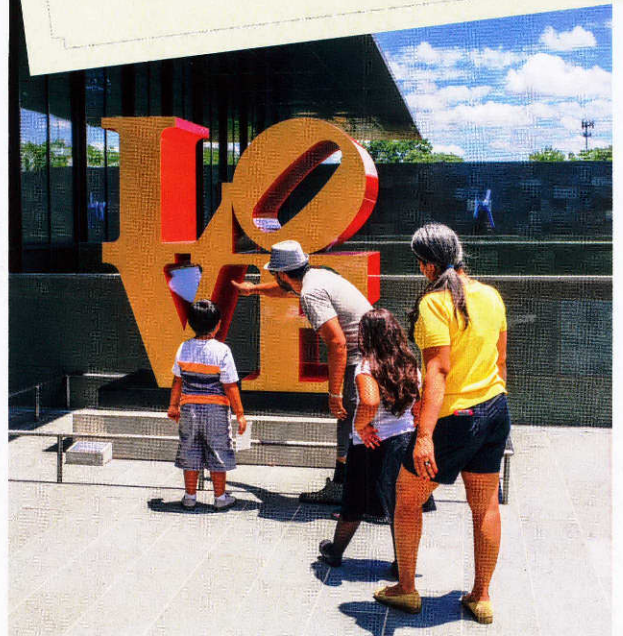
Of course, some guests ask more of their concierge than a dinner reservation at a city's hottest new restaurant.

Les Clefs d'Or member Osman Ikanovic has done small and extravagant favors for guests at the Four Seasons in Houston, where he first became a concierge, and at the Royal Sonesta Houston, where he's now employed. From Saudi kings and American presidents to the businessman needing a 3 a.m. helicopter ride, Osman has figured out how to answer almost every guest's request.

"When I helped a gentleman replace a lost engagement ring at 6 a.m. on the day of the proposal, it meant a lot to him. I would hear from him for years on his anniversary," says Osman, who arrived in Houston 15 years ago from Bosnia and learned English as he explored the sights and attractions in his new city. When a fellow concierge in Paris sent a guest to Osman's care in Houston, Osman felt comfortable recommending restaurants because he had personally visited each one.

Osman recalls the guest who asked the concierge to find someone to catalog his art collection for him. "It wasn't an easy task to organize, but he trusted me. Guests will come back again because of this level of service. They know me by name and know they can ask for my help."

Each seasoned concierge readily admits that in addition to being thoughtful and patient, resourcefulness is essential. Developing a treasure trove of helpful contacts within the city





## AUSTIN

A view from the Lamar Boulevard footbridge, the Texas State Capitol, Southern-style biscuits at Olamaie, and the billiard room at the Hotel Granduca Austin.



## Steven LEIGH HOTEL GRANDUCA AUSTIN

Steven recommends a 45-minute tour of the Texas State Capitol, and in the summer, watching the nightly bat exodus from the Congress Avenue Bridge. For food, he sends guests to Parkside for the oysters, to Launderette for the crab toasts, to Fixe for the biscuits, and to Olamaie for pretty much anything on the menu. He says that Wild About Music has great one-of-a-kind gifts, and the eclectic shops along South Congress let you take a bit of Austin home with you.

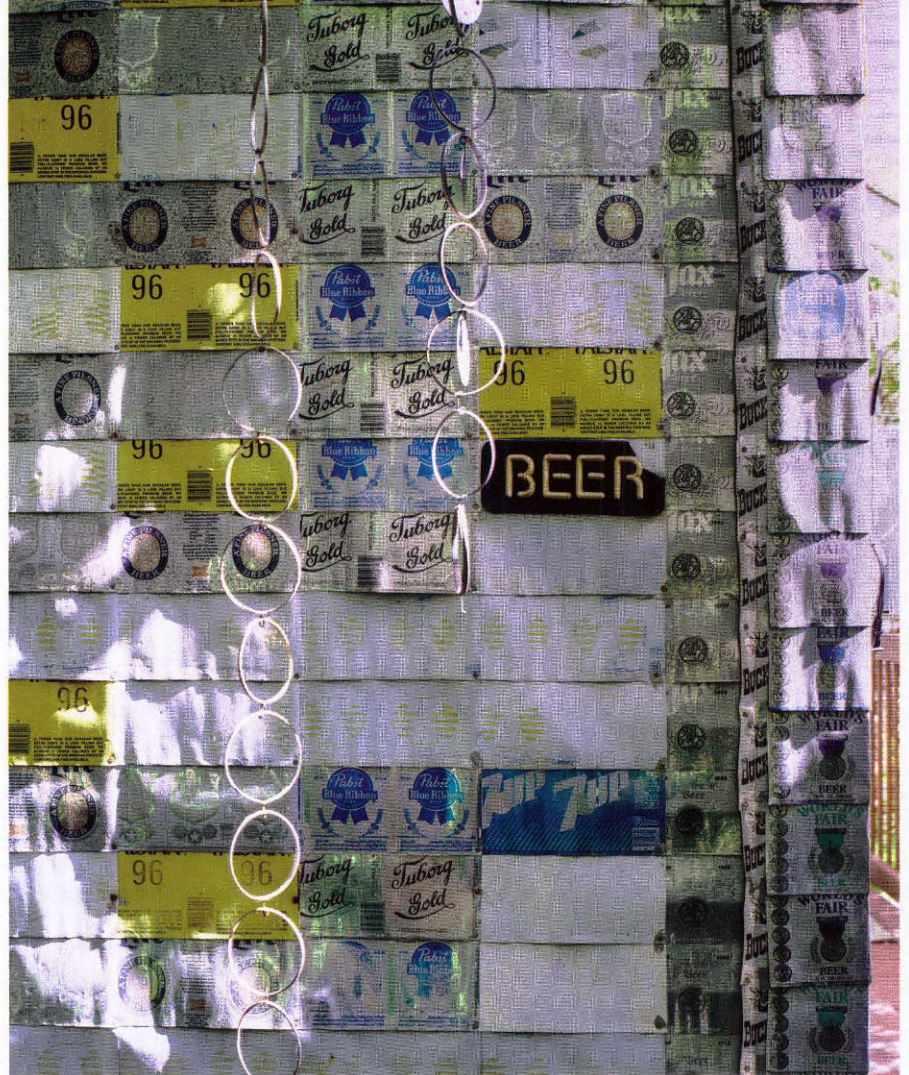


## SAN ANTONIO

Facing page: Mission Espada, a work at Garcia Art Glass, and a scene from the McNay Art Museum.

## HOUSTON

A view from the Rothko Chapel, a detail of the Beer Can House, concierges at the Royal Sonesta Houston, and a view of the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center.



*Osman* IKANOVIC

### THE ROYAL SONESTA HOUSTON

For culture, Osman says the Rothko Chapel offers tranquility in the hubbub of the nation's fourth-largest city; for a completely different art experience, he suggests a visit to the Beer Can House, a testament to folk art and ingenuity. He sends guests interested in nature to the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, and for food and drink, he likes Masraff's for its commitment to local nonprofits, and Karbach Brewing Co. for craft beer, tours, and tastings.



## Magical Stays

**The Joule** is at 1530 Main St. in Dallas.  
Call 214/748-1300; [www.thejouledallas.com](http://www.thejouledallas.com).

**The Royal Sonesta Houston** is at 2222  
W. Loop South in Houston. Call 713/627-7600;  
[www.sonesta.com/RoyalHouston](http://www.sonesta.com/RoyalHouston).

**Hotel Granduca Austin** is at  
320 S. Capital of Texas Hwy. in Austin.  
Call 512/306-6400; [www.granducaustin.com](http://www.granducaustin.com).

**The St. Anthony Hotel** is at 300 E. Travis St.  
in San Antonio. Call 210/227-4392;  
[www.thestanthonyhotel.com](http://www.thestanthonyhotel.com).

**The Rosewood Mansion at Turtle Creek**  
is at 2821 Turtle Creek Blvd. in Dallas.  
Call 214/559-2100; [www.rosewoodhotels.com](http://www.rosewoodhotels.com).

and region proves invaluable, too, for helping pull off those extraordinary and last-minute requests.

Les Clefs d'Or member Jeffrey Moon, a concierge at The St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, knew just who to call for a guest who wanted to pop the big question in an especially showy way. He arranged for an electronic "Will you marry me?" sign to light up the side of a downtown building at just the right moment when the couple passed it while enjoying a boat tour along the River Walk.

Every concierge discovers his or her own path to the job, but each typically works in the hospitality field en route to the concierge position. Most have done a good bit of traveling, and having the Les Clefs d'Or network helps, too, as each member can ask members in other cities for connections and solutions.

To succeed, the concierge requires a keen willingness to go above and beyond. Steven Leigh, head concierge at Hotel Granduca in Austin, says that the job requires diligent research on the local restaurants, museums, and cocktail scenes. Problem-solving ranks high among tasks, he notes. When a meeting group requested a last-minute mariachi band to play during a Mexican-themed business lunch, he found one. When a guest lost his ID on Sixth Street, Steven helped find it. When a guest needed a miniature donkey shipped from Austin to her farm in California, Steven spent the better part of a day making sure it was accomplished. "There are no odd requests," Steven asserts.

The concierge must also possess compassion and understanding, perhaps tempered with a good sense of humor. Andrew Bottomley, head concierge at the Joule hotel in Dallas, has done everything from travel across the state to assist a client with a rental car issue to tie the bow ties of 14 groomsmen in a wedding party. But one of his favorite stories concerns a guest traveling with a special companion.

"Recently we had a guest who was seeing a specialist here in Dallas regarding a medical procedure. This guest was also traveling with James, one of the cutest little service dogs I had ever seen. The stay was clearly an emotional one, especially when the guest realized he was going to be required to stay the evening away from the hotel, and James would not have his caretaker," Andrew says.

Andrew stepped up and volunteered to make sure James the dog would be taken care of. "So James and I watched *Bad Boys*, followed by *Bad Boys II*, followed by an evening of intermittent short walks and even shorter naps. When James' owner returned the following day, everything was fine. That's why I say this career chooses you to follow its path, because there's such joy and reward when the guest leaves you with the words, 'We cannot wait to come back.'"

These Texas concierges can't imagine doing any other work. The passion for pleasing guests trumps everything else.

"We create magic, and it is an honor to do that. It is truly amazing," says Mary Stamm. ■



**SMILE...**

**MELLO CREME  
PUMPKINS**

A man with a white unicorn mask and a long, shaggy pink wig is singing into a microphone and playing a harmonica. He is wearing a green, sleeveless, frayed shirt and blue jeans. In the background, another person in a yellow and black costume is partially visible.

# FOR FALL FROLICS

A white silhouette of a goblin with large, pointed ears and a mischievous expression, positioned in the lower-left foreground.

**FROM GOBLINS TO  
GOBLIN': HALLOWEEN,  
TEXAS-STYLE**

TEXT BY HELEN ANDERS



## PLETHORA OF PUMPKINS

### Dallas Arboretum, Dallas

Fall lures families by the thousands to the always-blooming Dallas Arboretum, which creates a fantasyland of pumpkins during its Autumn at the Arboretum celebration from mid-September until Thanksgiving.

About 90,000 pumpkins will grace the 66-acre grounds this year, many of them stacked by the hundreds into whimsical houses festooned with vines, corn husks, and multicolored gourds. They're big enough to go inside, and kids run in and out of these Pumpkin Village houses, navigate a hay-bale maze, and try their hands at identifying types of pumpkins, from green ones that look like super-sized cucumbers to spiny-rinded ones that resemble lemons and oranges.

Special events include concerts, petting zoos, and face painting. Beds of mums, zinnias, impatiens, and other fall flora add to the beauty. For more details, see [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

## WATERY GRAVES

### Haunted Harbor Tour, Galveston

Ghostly Galveston offers numerous spirit-stalking opportunities, but this hour-long tour aboard the 50-foot vessel *Seagull II* (Oct. 21-22 and Oct. 28-29) offers glimpses of spookiness you'd have trouble spotting from land. See places like Pelican Island, across the harbor from Galveston's main island, where it's said that the ghost of Jean Lafitte guards buried treasure.

You'll learn about the fierce Karankawa tribe that long ago plied these waters in canoes as you glide past shrimp boats, cruise ships, and other crafts operating in this busy harbor.

The final ghost stop might keep you awake at night. On the north side of a University of Texas Medical Branch building, a stain easily recognizable as the face of man—possibly an angry former landowner—appears very clearly. The university has tried everything from pressure-spraying to sandblasting to remove the visage, but it keeps reappearing. For more details, see [www.galveston.com/harbertours](http://www.galveston.com/harbertours).

## ZOMBIES, ZOMBIES, ZOMBIES

### Zombie Walk, San Antonio

No need to wait for the zombie apocalypse. You can join San Antonio's merry band of more than a thousand zombies in celebration

Happy Halloween, boys and ghouls of all ages! The season of jack-o-lanterns, field mazes, spooky houses, trick-or-treating, and other fall frolics has returned. Texas offers a trove of terror, as well as family-friendly fun to celebrate the season.

## HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

of Halloween. Just watch the website [www.sanantoniozombiewalk.com](http://www.sanantoniozombiewalk.com) to find the date and time and be ready to shamble to the Alamo.

Since 2007, this Zombie Walk has assembled every type of zombie: big zombies, little zombies, red zombies, green zombies, zombies playing mariachi music.

This is a highly informal affair, so you don't have to sign up, pay an entry fee, or plan anything in advance except your outfit. Just show up and BYOB—bring your own brains. For more details, see [www.sanantoniozombiewalk.com](http://www.sanantoniozombiewalk.com).

## PIONEER SPIRITS

### Haunted Buffalo Gap Historic Village Ghost Tours, Buffalo Gap

This family-friendly event near Abilene combines frontier heritage with ghost stories shared within buildings constructed between 1875 and 1925. By the light of a lantern, a guide details historical hauntings.

The hour-long trek, happening this year on October 15, October 22, and October 29, includes stories in the two most haunted buildings, the original Taylor County Courthouse and the Hill House, both of which have been investigated by paranormal investigators.

Hill House's ghosts show up most often to Buffalo Gap employees, we're told. Belle, a daughter of a family who lived in the house, is said to haunt male staffers, leaving buttons behind on tools and in a guide's pocket. A paranormal investigator who spent a night in the house with a recording device says he detected a male voice speaking—possibly Tom Hill, Abilene's first city marshal, who built the home for his family in the 1800s. For more details, see [www.tfhcc.com](http://www.tfhcc.com).

## WALKING WITH SPIRITS

### Night Watchman Tour and Hallow-Wine Trail, Grapevine

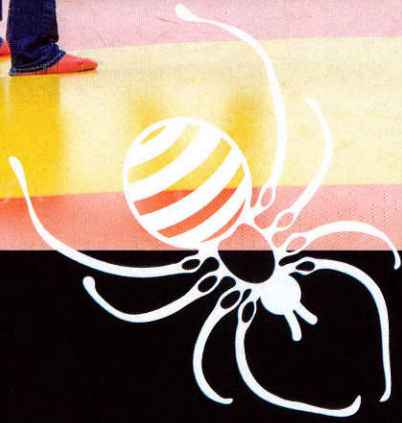
It's Grapevine, so naturally your ghost tour will be infused with a little wine. Find out all about Grapevine's ghosts with the Night Watchman Tour, which winds up with a glass of wine at Grapevine Springs Winery, one of 10 tasting rooms downtown.

But first, a 60-minute trek around the Main Street area introduces the city's resident spirits: a librarian who haunts a bookstore, occasionally throwing books on the floor; a girl in a red dress who appears at a

FROM TOP, LEFT  
Autumn at the  
Arboretum, Dallas;  
Haunted Harbor  
Tour, Galveston;  
Zombie Walk,  
San Antonio









funeral home; a woman who ran over her husband at a garage that's now Wilhoite's restaurant.

You'll learn other Grapevine lore, as well, including the legend that Bonnie and Clyde visited Grapevine (though they never robbed a bank there), and the story of train robbers who had a falling out in 1890 and wound up dueling. Both robbers' bullets missed, and nobody ever saw either of them again.

Perhaps scariest: the story of the Victorian-style house built in 1896 at 224 E. College St., now occupied by Renata Salon & Day Spa. The resident ghost has been known to splatter red nail polish on the floor overnight. One former tenant says he once found a toy soldier in the attic and took it downstairs, only to find it back in the attic the next day.

Want an even more wine-infused journey downtown? The Hallow-Wine Trail includes three wine and food samplings at any of the spots on the Grapevine Winery Trail. There's nothing about ghosts on this tour, but it's highly spirited. For more details, see [www.grapevinespringswinery.com](http://www.grapevinespringswinery.com) and [www.grapevinewinerytrail.com](http://www.grapevinewinerytrail.com).

## A-MAIZING HALLOWEEN

### South Texas Maize, Hondo

It's easy to get lost in Halloween at this family-friendly attraction in Hondo, west of San Antonio. For 15 years, farmer Ken Graff has carved out a maze within seven acres of hay-grazer sorghum. Grown for cattle feed, sorghum resembles corn, but it's taller and denser, making for a better maze. If you visit at night, buy a glow stick in the gift shop to help guide the way. Pick up a list of clues before you enter the maze to help you decide which way to go.

When you're through exploring the maze, hop on a tractor-pulled, covered hayride. Then head down a man-made slide, watch pig races, pet goats, go for a pony ride, or fire an apple cannon at a target. If kids have any energy left, they can burn it off by bouncing on large jumping pillows.

You'll want food after all the activities, and there's plenty. Various barns on the property offer sausage wraps, burgers, brisket tacos, pizza, kettle corn, lemonade, turkey legs, funnel cakes, and fresh corn-on-the-cob. For more details, see [www.southtexasmaize.com](http://www.southtexasmaize.com).

## CAMPIEST HALLOWEEN

### Camp Brewhaha Halloween, Marble Falls

Scary movie fans, this one's tailor-made for you. Austin's Alamo Drafthouse and Do512 have put together a weekend that combines frightful films with the perfect setting: a weekend camping experience at Camp Champions in Marble Falls.

The key feature of Camp Brewhaha Halloween is, of course, scary movies, including all-night marathons of horror movies on Friday and Saturday night. You'll also enjoy a Halloween dance party with a costume contest and other Halloween events. The price of a ticket includes your cabin, meals, activities, concerts, and films, along with an open bar, plus camp activities such as swimming, volleyball, arts and crafts, archery, canoeing, kayaking, and bonfires. And, naturally, since this is an Austin-organized Halloween event, you'll hear live music. It's an adult weekend, for sure. Park the kids.

For more details, see [www.camp-brewhaha.com](http://www.camp-brewhaha.com).

## HALLOWEEN ON THE RIVER

### Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze at Barton Hill Farms, Bastrop

On the banks of the Colorado River between Austin and Bastrop, you'll find the "Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze at Barton Hill Farms," a fall weekend attraction that beckons you to stay all day to enjoy its broad variety of activities for both adults and children.

Six acres of drought-resistant corn are mowed into two mazes that change design every year to challenge your sense of direction. The mazes also offer clues for navigation, and there are easy-to-find exits when you want to move on to other fun.

Kids will revel in the pirate-ship-shaped sandbox, then head for the 6,000-square-foot jumping pillow to bounce to their hearts' content. Don't forget the train, with cars crafted from 55-gallon drums and painted to look like cows. A barnyard offers the chance to feed sheep, goats, and pigs. Hungry? Chow down on offerings from some of Austin's most famed food trucks. Adults can enjoy beer and wine, as well as live music. For more details, see [www.bartonhillfarms.com](http://www.bartonhillfarms.com).

## VARIETY IS THE SPICE . . .

### THEME PARKS

Thrill your family by visiting one of Texas' theme parks during the Halloween season. Arlington's Six Flags Over Texas hosts Fright Fest, with activities for all ages, including a street party with ghouls and zombies, a kids' costume party, and trick-or-treating with Looney Tunes characters.

At night, visit the 3-D Cirkus Berzerkus and the Cadaver Hall-Asylum – a frightful circus and nightmare doctor's office. Of course, zombies are all over the place, and they often break into song and dance. Feel like doing the same? Scary-Oke allows you to frighten your fellow visitors with karaoke.

Meanwhile, in San Antonio, SeaWorld sets up a Howl-O-Scream haunted house. During the day, enjoy family-friendly Halloween

FROM TOP LEFT  
South Texas  
Maize, Hondo;  
Buffalo Gap  
Historic Village;  
Camp Brewhaha,  
Marble Falls





“Spooktacular” fun, with skits featuring rescued dogs and cats, along with Sesame Street characters. There’s also a Halloween train ride and breakfast with Count von Count. For more details, see [www.sixflags.com/overtexas](http://www.sixflags.com/overtexas) and [www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/howloscream/](http://www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/howloscream/).

## HAUNTED HOUSES

For adults and teens, there’s nothing like slowly inching your way through a haunted house, wondering when something—or someone—will suddenly scare your socks off.

Austin’s House of Torment grows frightfully bigger this year with a new location in a 40,000-square-foot warehouse on Ridgepoint Drive, two miles from its former Highland Mall venue. A year-round escape room (you’re locked in and have to figure out how to get out) and a Scare Store gift shop will join the animatronic monsters and more than 100 frightening actors who’ll make you feel like you’re in your own scary movie. Last year’s House of Torment included Laughterhouse (clowns take over a slaughterhouse, strengthened by your screams), and an island of witches led by a pumpkin demon.

Houston’s *Screamworld* offers experiences such as a maniacal maze, a high-tech swamp, and a morgue, along with zombies, and, of course, pitch-darkness. Expect scary touches like chainsaws, snakes, and alligators.

And don’t forget the year-round Haunted Mayfield Manor in Galveston, 12 spine-tingling rooms that make the most of darkness, things that go bump in the night, and scary sounds like ... a haunted vacuum cleaner? Oh, yes. For more details, see [www.houseoftorment.com](http://www.houseoftorment.com), [www.screamworld.com](http://www.screamworld.com), and [www.hauntedmayfieldmanor.com](http://www.hauntedmayfieldmanor.com).

## HALLOWEEN CANDY

Let’s take a break from tricks and delve into the great treats you can find in some of Texas’ retro candy stores, whether you’re looking for goodies to toss into little goblins’ bags or something for yourself.

Blooms Candy in Carrollton goes big on Halloween, even sponsoring a movie night in the town square. The store itself, right on the square, specializes at Halloween in varieties of candy corn (bestseller: chocolate-covered candy corn). You’ll also find pumpkin pie-flavored soda, zombie puppets, zombie blood drinks in both green and red, and *Día de Los Muertos* cookie kits.

In Denton, hunt down Atomic Candy, where you’ll score Blood Pops, Zombie Pops, Chocolate Eyeballs, and candy shaped like hands, feet, and brains. Also look for pumpkin pie pretzels, caramel apple pretzels, and seasonal saltwater taffy flavors such as

pumpkin spice, caramel apple, candy corn, and s’mores.

If you’re Halloween-ing in Galveston, check out La King’s Confectionery for lollipops shaped like eyeballs, pumpkins, and candy corn. La King’s also offers cookies decorated with skulls and pumpkins, as well as festive bags decorated with pumpkins and ghosts, filled with seasonal saltwater taffy, including pumpkin-flavored.

In Austin, stop by Big Top Candy Shop on South Congress Avenue to pick up huge pumpkin lollipops, ghost Peeps, pumpkin pie saltwater taffy, and the ever-popular sour bats. For more details, see [www.candycarrollton.com](http://www.candycarrollton.com), [www.atomic-candy.com](http://www.atomic-candy.com), [www.lakingsconfectionery.com](http://www.lakingsconfectionery.com), and [www.bigtopcandyshop.tumblr.com](http://www.bigtopcandyshop.tumblr.com).

## BOO! IT’S THE ZOO

Animals can join in the Halloween fun, too, as Texas zoos present their seasonal events. In Fort Worth, Boo at the Zoo includes trick-or-treating, a pumpkin-decorating contest, a live animal stage show, a pumpkin patch, and chats with zookeepers.

At The Amarillo Zoo’s Boo at the Zoo event, you’ll find costumed animals (two-legged ones; the real animals get to wear their fur) handing out candy. Enjoy eye-popping sights such as a skeleton of the world’s largest frog (the size of a dinner plate) and art created by giant cockroaches and rats. Get your picture taken with Sasquatch, join the costume contest, and try a game of Pumpkin Putt Putt Golf or Batty Bat Toss.

Zoo Boo at the Houston Zoo offers trick-or-treating, music, animal-themed candy stations, and a costume contest. Pick up a small pumpkin to decorate, learn to dance like a zombie, and help create a monster mural. For more details, see [www.fortworthzoo.org](http://www.fortworthzoo.org), [zoo.amarillo.gov](http://zoo.amarillo.gov), and [www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org).

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Some of Texas’ small towns turn out to be extra ghostly. In East Texas, the Jefferson Ghost Walk, a two-hour-long walking tour, happens Fridays and Saturdays year-round. You’ll visit such wonderful haunts as the Jefferson Hotel, opened in the late 1800s as the Grigsby Hotel, where for many years guests have heard strange noises, experienced cold spots, and reported apparitions of people dressed in 1800s attire.

If that’s a shade too intense for your family, head out to the Hill Country for the town of Comfort’s annual Scarecrow Invasion. Erected by both individuals and businesses, dozens of scarecrows pop up all over town, making for a great afternoon’s driving tour. For more details, see [www.jeffersonghostwalk.com](http://www.jeffersonghostwalk.com) and [www.comfortchamber.com](http://www.comfortchamber.com). 🦋

FROM TOP  
House of  
Torment, Austin;  
Boo At the Zoo,  
Amarillo;  
Big Top Candy  
Shop, Austin

# WEST TEXAS ROAD TRIP



©Jennifer Boomer

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**Oct-Nov** - Fiddlesticks Farms Cornfield Maze & Pumpkin Patch

**Oct 15** - Fall Gathering Ranch Story Telling

**O** **ODESSA**—Known for breathtaking sunsets, wide-open spaces and warm West Texas hospitality; you'll enjoy shopping, dining, unique cultural attractions and events. Odessa: your gateway to the Big Bend. [odessacvb.com](http://odessacvb.com)

**Oct 18-20** - Permian Basin International Oil Show

**Oct 21** - West Texas Fest

**ALPINE**—Natural beauty, unique nightlife and shopping, and a grand array of hotels and guest lodging make this the perfect staging grounds for your West Texas adventure. [visitalpinetx.com](http://visitalpinetx.com)

**Nov 11-12** - Center for Big Bend Studies Annual Conference

**Nov 18-19** - ARTWALK

**A**

**FS** **FORT STOCKTON**—Lodging, Dining, Entertainment and History. Experience our Visitor Center, Historic Sites, Museum, Fort Grounds, Golf Course, and Unique Shopping, West Texas style. [historicfortstocktontx.com](http://historicfortstocktontx.com)

**Sep 30-Oct 2** - Fall Festival

**Oct 15** - Living History Days

**FORT DAVIS**—Experience the mile-high climate in the Texas mountains! Award-winning State and National Parks offer excellent nature activities and star gazing under the "Darkest Skies in North America!" [fortdavis.com](http://fortdavis.com)

**Dec 10** - Frontier Christmas

**FD**

**MR** **MARATHON**—Small town friendliness under one the of the darkest and starriest skies in the country, with Big Bend National Park just 40 miles down the road. [marthontexas.com](http://marthontexas.com)

**Oct 22** - M2M (Marathon 2 Marathon)

**Dec 3** - Fiesta del Noche Buena: Shops open 5-8pm for downtown party

**MARFA**—It defies easy explanation, yet any google search yields thousands of opinions. Marfa is tough to get to—tougher still to explain. But once you arrive, you get it. [visitmarfa.com](http://visitmarfa.com)

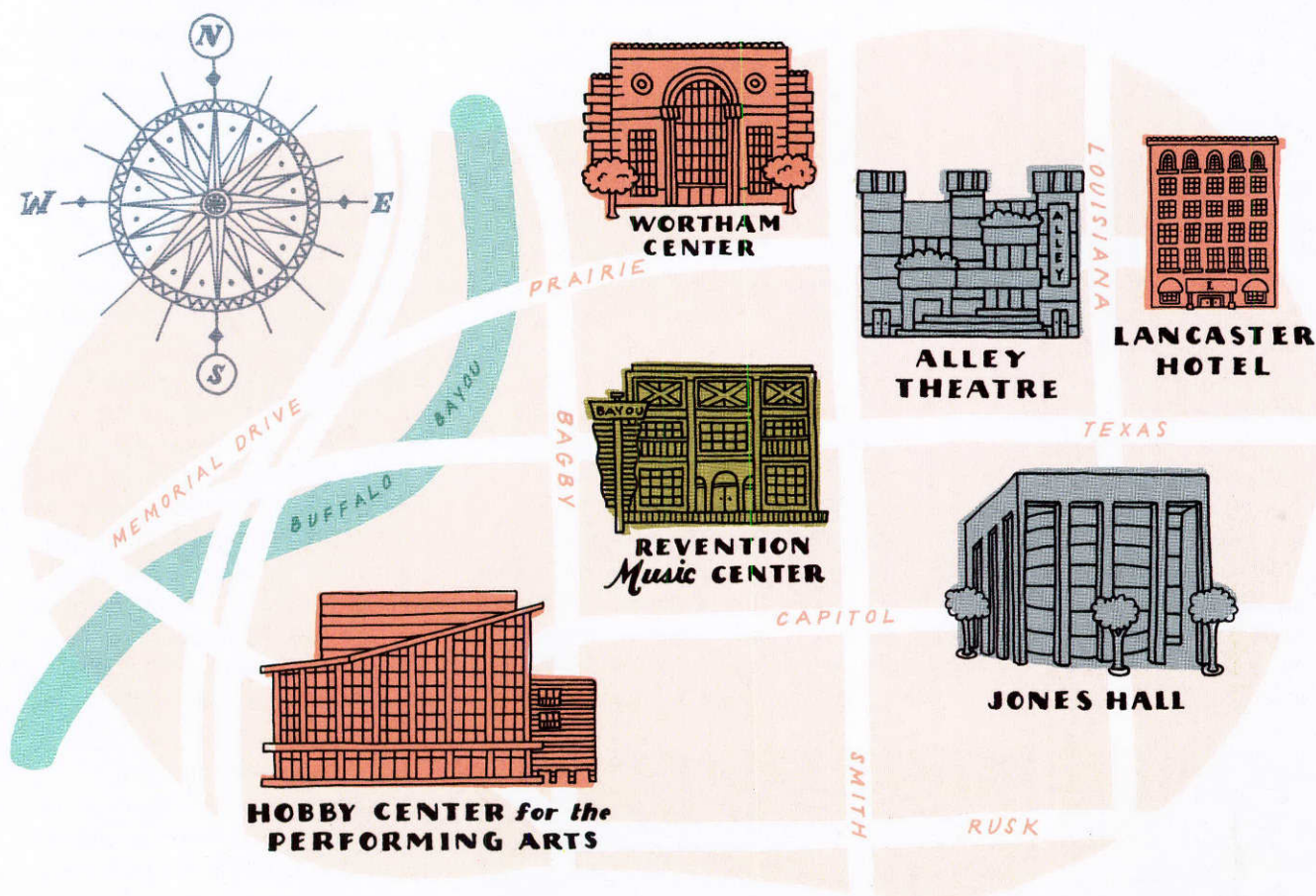
**Oct 7-9** - Chinati Weekend

**Nov 11-12** - *The Marfa Triptych: Pancho Villa from a Safe Distance* © Ballroom

**MF**

# HIT THE ROAD

CAN'T-MISS GETAWAYS



➔ DESTINATION: HOUSTON ←

## Performance Aplenty

Theater-hopping in the Houston Theater District

text by Heather Brand

**H** OUSTON'S HISTORY AS A THEATER TOWN dates to the early years after the Texas Revolution. By 1838, even before the first church had been built, the city already had two competing theater companies. As Houston grew, so did its entertainment offerings. Today, Houston boasts the second-highest number of theater seats (about 13,000) in a concentrated geographic area in the United States—trailing only New York City.

In the midst of this city known for its sprawl, the Houston Theater District, spanning 17 blocks in the heart of downtown, offers five major venues within walking distance of one another: The Alley



- **Dallas**  
3.75 hours
- **El Paso**  
11 hours
- **Amarillo**  
9.5 hours
- **Tyler**  
3.5 hours
- **San Antonio**  
3.25 hours

Theatre, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, the Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, the Wortham Theater Center, and Revention Music Center. Here, within a small radius, visitors can experience productions by professional resident companies in all of the various performing arts disciplines—dance, opera, music, and theater.

Having spent the better part of my life in Houston, I tend to take this cultural abundance for granted. So one weekend I dragged my beau out to the Theater District to make up for lost time. We checked into the city's oldest continuously operating hotel, conveniently located in the midst of

the district—the historic Lancaster Hotel. Built in 1926 and family-owned ever since, this 12-story establishment was originally called the Auditorium Hotel, as it was constructed directly across Texas Avenue from the City Auditorium. That venue had opened with great fanfare in 1910, touted as “the largest fireproof auditorium in the South.” In its early days, it hosted the budding Houston Symphony and eventually attracted stars like Anna Pavlova and Elvis Presley.

Many of these headliners stayed at the Lancaster while in Houston, and in the 1940s, some, including the singing cowboy Gene Autry and his horse Champion, made appearances in its bygone basement nightclub, the Stage Canteen. Recently renovated with décor that combines classic and updated design, the Lancaster pays homage to its past with art on its walls showing

panoramic views of the city’s skyline from former days, and many of the rooms feature framed posters promoting past shows at the nearby venues. Our suite included recent posters from the Alley Theatre and Society for the Performing Arts, not to mention a plush sofa in the sitting area and a bed with a cloudlike mattress so sumptuous that some guests purchase one just like it directly from the hotel. From our windows, we could see all five of the venues that the Theater District has to offer.

Although the hotel still stands, the building for which it was originally named shuttered in 1963, to be replaced in 1966 by Jones Hall. Today, Jones Hall is home to the Houston Society for the Performing Arts, which presents artists of international renown in all disciplines, and also the Houston Symphony—our destination for the evening.

After grabbing a bite in the hotel’s

on-site Bistro Lancaster (I enjoyed a kale salad loaded with tender chicken, offset by a rich bread pudding), we crossed the street to Jones Hall and gazed up at its facade of white Italian marble, fronted by massive eight-story-tall columns. Inside, we wandered about the tiered lobby terraces before taking our seats under the hall’s soaring ceiling. Here, we sat enraptured as the sounds of strings enveloped us.

Afterward, we wandered a couple of blocks west to see the Hobby Center lit up at night and swarming with theatergoers. As the front of the building features plate-glass windows from floor to ceiling, we could see people inside congregating in the illuminated lobby and enjoying a nightcap in the swanky upstairs restaurant, Artista.

Although the Hobby Center was built in 2002, the site on which it sits has a long history as an entertainment



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:**

The Alley Theatre’s foyer features a view of the sky; inside the Alley Theatre; British sculptor Tony Cragg’s cast-bronze *In Minds* at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts; the Hobby Center lobby; and the Alley Theatre patio, with Jones Hall in the background.





## DISCOVER HOUSTON TOURS

offers an "All the World's a Stage" tour of the Theater District via Metro-Rail by appointment. Call **713/222-9255**; [www.discoverhoustontours.com](http://www.discoverhoustontours.com).

destination. Here, in 1928, Sam Houston Hall, a wooden structure with a staggering seating capacity of 20,000, was constructed in just 64 working days to host the Democratic National Convention. The arena then hosted the rodeo and other attractions before it was replaced in 1937 with two sturdier structures, the Sam Houston Coliseum and the adjacent Houston Music Hall. Until their demise in 1998, the Coliseum and Music Hall brought countless high-caliber entertainers to Houston, including the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix.

Today, the Hobby Center continues the tradition of bringing great artists to Houston while also highlighting local talent, with two theaters tailored to different purposes. The larger of the two, Sarofim Hall, is designed for touring Broadway productions and musical-theater performances by Theatre Under the Stars, a local production company. Zilkha Hall, by contrast, provides a home for small and mid-sized performing-arts groups, including the Uniquely Houston series and its lineup of local nonprofit groups like Musika (a contemporary music ensemble), NobleMotion (a contemporary dance company), and Ars Lyrica (performing 17th- and 18th-century music on period instruments).

Alas, we did not have time to see it all. However, our hometown getaway did coincide with a Houston Ballet matinee performance at the Wortham Theater Center the following day. This colossal brick building, built along the banks of Buffalo Bayou in 1987, spans two city blocks straddling Prairie Avenue. Visitors enter through its 90-foot-tall arched entryway filled with glass panes to ride a long escalator up to the

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\*Restrictions apply. See [bestwesternTexas.com/highways16](http://bestwesternTexas.com/highways16) for program terms and conditions.

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THEATER-HOPPING

**The Houston Theater District** covers 17 blocks in downtown Houston. Here is information on lodging and shows on the bill in the coming months.

✦ The **Lancaster Hotel** is at 701 Texas Ave. Call **800/231-0336**; [www.thelancaster.com](http://www.thelancaster.com).

✦ The **Alley Theatre** is at 615 Texas Ave. Upcoming shows: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Oct. 7-Nov. 5 and *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas* Nov. 19-Dec. 29 in the Hubbard Theatre; *The Santaland Diaries* Dec. 1-31 in the Neuhaus Theatre. Call **713/220-5700**; [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

✦ **Hobby Center for the Performing Arts** is at 800 Bagby St. Upcoming shows: Ars Lyrica presents Handel's *Jeptha* Oct. 15-16; Theatre Under the Stars presents *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* Oct. 25-Nov. 6; Broadway at the Hobby Center presents *Mamma Mia* Oct. 6, 7, and 9 and *Jersey Boys* Nov. 15-20. Call **713/315-2400**; [www.thehobbycenter.org](http://www.thehobbycenter.org).

✦ The **Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing**

**Arts** is at 615 Louisiana St. Upcoming shows: Society for the Performing Arts presents *Smokey Robinson* Oct. 7; Houston Symphony presents *Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel* Oct. 14-16 and *Kavakos Plays & Conducts* Oct. 28-30. Call **832/487-7050**; [www.houstonfirsttheaters.com](http://www.houstonfirsttheaters.com).

✦ **Revention Music Center** is at 520 Texas Ave. Upcoming shows: *Celtic Thunder* Oct. 22 and *II Divo—Amor & Passion* Oct. 29. Call **713/230-1600**; [www.reventionmusiccenter.com](http://www.reventionmusiccenter.com).

✦ The **Wortham Theater Center** is at 501 Texas Ave. Upcoming shows: Houston Ballet presents *Madame Butterfly* Oct. 1-2; Da Camera presents Jason Moran performing *In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall, 1959*, Oct. 7; Mercury performs Brahms' *First Symphony* Oct. 8; Houston Grand Opera presents *Faust* Oct. 28-Nov. 11. Call **832/487-7000**; [www.houstonfirsttheaters.com](http://www.houstonfirsttheaters.com).

expansive grand foyer, which leads to two theaters. The center's Cullen Theater is geared toward smaller dance and music productions, such as chamber music and jazz by Da Camera and Baroque music from Mercury (both resident music companies); the Brown Theater is more spacious, in order to accommodate larger-scale performances by the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet. From the orchestra seats, I could see the dancers' subtlest gestures and facial expressions. Behind me, three banks of red, scalloped balconies were packed with fellow patrons.

In the evening, we ventured next door to the Alley Theatre, which houses one of the oldest resident theaters in the United States. The troupe got its start in 1947, but its current building, made of cast concrete, was not constructed until 1968. Its austere Brutalist architecture resembles a simplified castle or elevated bunker, but inside, a sleek lobby opens up onto a broad, red-carpeted stairwell, curving upward beneath a triangular skylight. The building, which underwent a \$46.5-million renovation in 2014-15, contains two stages: the larger Hubbard Theatre and the more intimate Neuhaus Theatre.

By the end of the weekend, we still hadn't seen everything that we wanted to see. Across from the Wortham Theater Center, the Revention Music Center, which opened in 1997 in the Bayou Place dining and entertainment complex, beckoned to us with posters advertising upcoming big-name musical touring acts.

In the last hundred years, as Houston has grown and evolved, the city's performing arts have burgeoned, and its venues have multiplied. Today, the sheer number of shows offered in the Theater District may be overwhelming, but their proximity is convenient. With so many destinations close at hand, the district makes it easy to enjoy a small taste of the Big Apple close to home. And the fact that it's impossible to see it all in one weekend just gives us another reason to return. **L**

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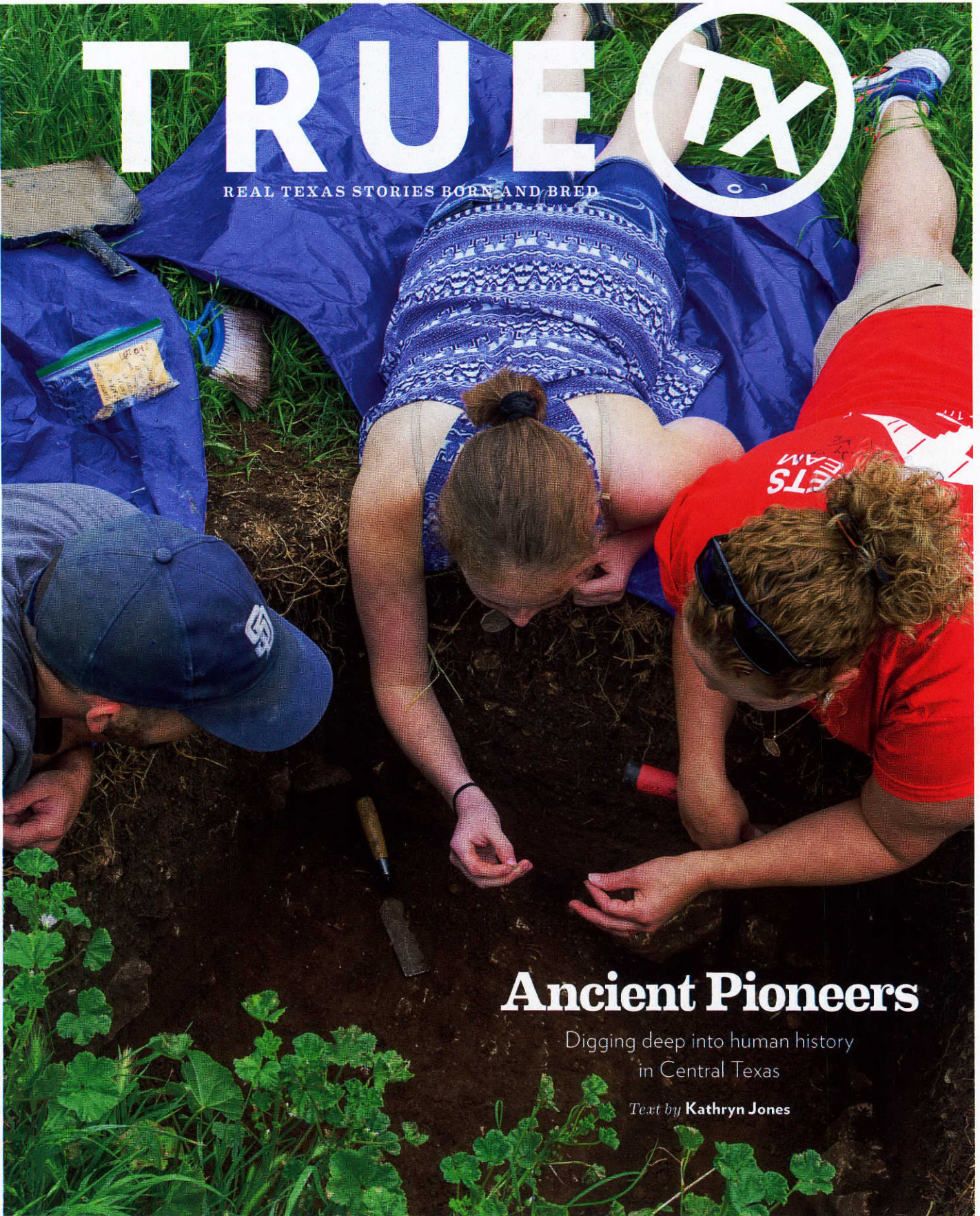
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# TRUE TX

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## Ancient Pioneers

Digging deep into human history  
in Central Texas

Text by Kathryn Jones

By studying stone points and other artifacts found at the Gault Site and other regional sites, archaeologists hope to learn more about the people of the Clovis culture in Central Texas.



**I**N A GRASSY CATTLE PASTURE NEAR FLORENCE, a rounded metal-frame structure covered with sturdy white canvas stands along Buttermilk Creek, pecan trees towering overhead. The Quonset hut-like structure protects a 48-square-meter hole that descends in terraced levels, each layer of soil going farther back in time.

This is what 14,000 years of exposed Texas history looks like, or rather, Texas prehistory—thousands of years before the state existed and when some of its earliest inhabitants, the people of the Clovis culture, called this land home.

My husband Dan and I had driven for three hours from our home near Glen Rose to this archeological treasure, known as the Gault Site, tucked off a farm-to-market road near the border of Bell and Williamson counties. Named for Henry Gault, who had a farm on the property in the 1920s, the site is well-known by archeologists and anthropologists worldwide.

The Gault Site is “by any measure, unusual,” says our guide, Clark Wernecke, an archeologist and director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research at Texas State University. “It probably was a gathering place for groups for a long period of time. People really liked this spot and kept coming back.”

Modern-day visitors have been coming, too. The Bell County Museum in Belton and The Williamson Museum

**Kenneth Smith displays a collection of points found on his property near Evant. Expanding on its study of the Gault Site, the Gault School of Archaeological Research is leading digs in the region in search of Clovis artifacts.**

in Georgetown offer monthly guided tours, and the Gault School offers group tours by appointment. Visitors can also explore the site’s significance at the Bell County Museum’s *Gault Site: A Wealth of New Archaeological Information*, a permanent exhibit that explains how this and other archeological sites are “re-shaping what scientists know about the past and who the first people in the Americas were.”

The people of the Clovis culture who lived in what is now Central Texas were *Homo sapiens*—anatomically “modern human beings, just like us,” Wernecke says. An abundance of springs and food sources—plants and animals like mammoths, bison, and turtles—drew people to this area, as did the large amounts of chert found in the Edwards Plateau. People of the Clovis culture harvested and worked this sedimentary rock to make their stone points with flutes, or concave grooves for fastening to a spear.

“The Edwards Plateau is the largest source of chert in the Americas, and chert is the finest thing you can make tools out of,” says Wernecke, tanned from years of working outside and dressed in knee-high rubber boots, jeans, and a blue work shirt. “It’s stronger than steel, razor sharp, and breaks in a predictable fashion.”

Only about three percent of the Gault Site has been excavated, but the digs have yielded about 2.6 million artifacts, many of them Clovis “bifaces,” or chunks of chert that the Clovis people chipped on both sides to make transporting the rock easier, Wernecke says. “You find them up to about dinner-plate size.”

Clovis bifaces, points, and other artifacts recovered from the site are stored at the Gault School’s lab in San Marcos, waiting for analysis. By looking at the point edges under high-power microscopes, researchers can tell whether the tools were used for hunting, harvesting plants, scraping hides, butchering, or eating meat.

“If it’s got a serrated edge, it’s a steak knife,” Wernecke says. “They

haven't changed in 45,000 years."

Excavation at the Gault Site has ended for now since researchers have so much material to study. Scientists have scanned the excavated areas with a laser, enabling them to examine 3-D images of the site back at the lab. But the tours will continue; the Gault School plans to add new signage and a visitor kiosk in the next year.

The Smithsonian Institution describes Clovis as "the oldest American culture we know much about." Archeologists once thought indigenous people came to North America only 5,000 years ago. That belief changed in the 1920s and 1930s.

"Researchers started finding stone projectile points associated with the fossils of mammoths and giant bison—animals that went extinct 10,000 years ago," the Smithsonian noted in an article on its website.

One of those researchers was J.E. Pearce, the first anthropologist at the University of Texas. Pearce and a crew dug on Henry Gault's property for eight weeks in 1929. They recovered more than 3,000 artifacts, most of them dating to the past 9,000 years, but three were from the Clovis era, Wernecke says.

The property changed hands a few times over the ensuing decades, with some owners allowing collectors to dig for a fee; looters raided on occasion as well. While archeologists remained interested in a formal excavation, it wasn't until 1998 that a new landowner contacted UT paleontologist Ernie Lundelius and archeologist Michael Collins, now chairman of the Gault School. At the site, the scientists identified the lower jaw of a juvenile mammoth. They also found ancient horse bones and a trove of Clovis artifacts.

UT reached a three-year lease with the landowner, and from 1999 to 2002, archeologists recovered more than 1.4 million artifacts, about half of them dating to the Clovis culture. The artifacts included engraved stones with geometric designs such as grids, spirals, and paired zigzags—among the "earliest

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art in the Americas,” Wernecke notes.

Archeologists also found the remains of a house, indicated by a stone pavement floor. “The artifacts on and around it are at least of Clovis age,” Wernecke says. “We are waiting on additional dating, and it is possible it is even older.”

In 2007, the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit that owns and preserves archeological sites on private land, acquired 60 acres of the 80-acre Gault Site. Meanwhile, the Gault School moved to its new home at Texas State University in 2010. Texas State doesn’t have the facilities to display the Clovis artifacts, but visitors can schedule tours of the lab and view the ancient tools, Wernecke says.

The search for more Clovis evidence is moving forward at other sites in the region. Not long ago, Dan and I visited a dig site east of Evant in Hamilton County, where a rancher had contacted the school after discovering Clovis points and other artifacts. Volunteers, including parents with children, dig with wooden utensils—metal might scratch the stone artifacts—and sift the soil through screens to catch any bit of evidence.

Steven Howard, who’s in charge of field expeditions for the Gault School, says more than 20 private properties are on the school’s “to dig” list, offering volunteers more opportunities to sift through history.

At the Gault Site, a field house currently serves as a makeshift visitor center, displaying bifaces and other finds. Wernecke shows us a plastic bucket full

of “debitage,” the debris leftover from making tools. The excavators sifted everything through metal screens, finding animal bone fragments, bits of turtle shells, and—most importantly—flakes from the chipping process.

“Every good detective story hinges on artifacts removed or placed at the scene,” Wernecke says. “These tell us more than the tools themselves. We’re interested in human behavior in the past. This tells us how people are making decisions,” such as which tools to use and how point-makers taught their chert-knapping skills to others in their group.

Archeologists such as Wernecke keep looking for new data that could help explain how people arrived in the Americas, whether it was by crossing a landmass from Asia or by boat to one of the coasts. For now, the origin of the Clovis culture of Central Texas remains a mystery, one that has intrigued Wernecke for the past 16 years he’s worked at the Gault Site. “They were really early, and that’s one of the things we’re still trying to work out,” he says.

However these people of prehistory eventually made it to Central Texas, Wernecke hopes that the Gault Site will remind Texans that history began long before Texas came about in the last 200 years. What lies beneath the Texas soil offers clues to how an entire continent became populated and how ancient people lived. “People don’t realize what’s in their own backyard sometimes,” Wernecke says. **L**



### CLOVIS HISTORY IN TEXAS

The **Bell County Museum** in Belton and **The Williamson Museum** in Georgetown offer alternating monthly guided tours of the Gault Site, year-round. The tours start 9 a.m. and cost \$10 per person; children 10 and younger are free. Upcoming tours are scheduled for Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10. [www.gaultschool.org/about-us/event](http://www.gaultschool.org/about-us/event).

The **Gault School of Archaeological Research** offers group tours (10 or more participants) of the Gault Site and its lab in San Marcos by appointment. The school also welcomes volunteers interested in doing excavation work in the field or processing work in the lab. [www.gaultschool.org](http://www.gaultschool.org).

The Bell County Museum’s permanent exhibit, *Gault Site: A Wealth of New Archaeological Information*, explores the history of the site and the Clovis culture with murals, artifacts, and a film. Hours: Tue-Fri 12-5, Sat 10-5. [www.bellcountymuseum.org](http://www.bellcountymuseum.org).

# EVENTS



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## OCTOBER'S TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT:

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PRAIRIES AND LAKES > Dallas

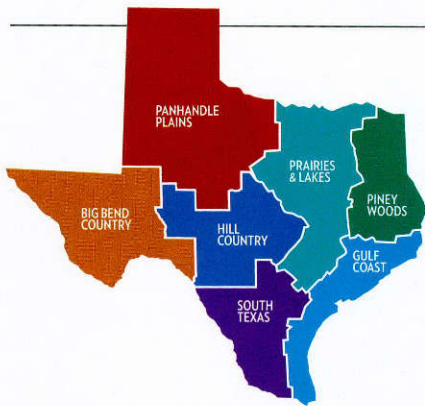
### **Pumpkin Party**

**T**HERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE SIGHT OF PUMPKINS to signal the arrival of fall. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden welcomes this most lovely of Texas seasons with Autumn at the Arboretum and its marquee Pumpkin Village display. The Arboretum trucks in more than 90,000 pumpkins, squash, and gourds from

Floydada to build the village's artful pumpkin houses and colorful, natural displays, which also incorporate hay bales and cornstalks. Along with myriad photo opportunities, the Arboretum offers pumpkins for sale at the Tom Thumb Pumpkin Patch, a hay-bale maze, and various seasonal floral displays and activities. [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

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Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).



## BIG BEND COUNTRY

**ALPINE:** *A Feeling of Humanity: Western Art from the Ken Ratner Collection* September 17-March 26. [www.museumofthebigbend.com](http://www.museumofthebigbend.com) 432/837-8143

**EL PASO:** Chopin Music Festival October 1, 15. [www.elpaso-chopin.com](http://www.elpaso-chopin.com) 915/533-0348

**FORT STOCKTON:** Fort Stockton Fall Festival September 30-October 2. [www.historicfortstockton.com](http://www.historicfortstockton.com) 432/339-2264

**FORT STOCKTON:** Old Fort Days October 15. [www.annieriggsmuseum.org](http://www.annieriggsmuseum.org) 432/336-2400

**FORT STOCKTON/MARATHON:** Marathon 2 Marathon October 22. [www.marathon2marathon.net](http://www.marathon2marathon.net) 432/336-2264

**MIDLAND:** Gun & Blade Show October 29-30. [www.silverspurtradeshows.com](http://www.silverspurtradeshows.com) 806/253-1322

**MONAHANS:** Painting in the Desert October 8-11. [www.monahans.org](http://www.monahans.org) 432/943-2187

**ODESSA:** Briar Patch Trade Days October 1-2. [www.briarpatchodessa.com](http://www.briarpatchodessa.com) 432/272-1177

**ODESSA:** Fall Festival October 22. McKinney Park. 432/368-3548

## GULF COAST

**BEAUMONT:** Lace, Grace & Gears Motorcycle Rally September 30-October 2. [www.lacegracegears.com](http://www.lacegracegears.com)

**BEAUMONT:** Dogtober Fest October 8. [www.dogtoberfestbeaumont.com](http://www.dogtoberfestbeaumont.com) 409/838-2202

**BEAUMONT:** Pumpkin Walk and Haunted Halloween Tour October 15. [www.beaumontheritage.org](http://www.beaumontheritage.org) 409/832-4010

**BEAUMONT:** Heritage Happy Hour & Haunted

Halloween Tour October 20. [www.beaumontheritage.org](http://www.beaumontheritage.org)

**BEAUMONT:** Spindletop Spookfest October 27. [www.spindletop.org](http://www.spindletop.org) 409/880-1750

**BEAUMONT:** Dinosaur Day October 29. [www.texasenergymuseum.org](http://www.texasenergymuseum.org) 409/833-5100

**BROWNSVILLE:** Brownsville Beerfest October 1. [www.brownsvillebeerfest.com](http://www.brownsvillebeerfest.com)

**BROWNSVILLE:** Zoofari 2016 October 7. [www.gpz.org](http://www.gpz.org) 956/546-7187

**BROWNSVILLE:** Historic Brownsville International Half Marathon & Relay October 9. [www.brownsville131.com](http://www.brownsville131.com) 956/621-7567

**BROWNSVILLE:** Boo at the Zoo October 30-31. [www.gpz.org](http://www.gpz.org) 956/546-7187

**CLUTE:** Mammoth Lake Triathlon October 23. [www.mammothlaketriathlon.com](http://www.mammothlaketriathlon.com) 832/520-4975

**CLUTE:** Harvest Fun Fest October 27. [www.ci.clute.tx.us](http://www.ci.clute.tx.us) 979/265-8392

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Saving the Monarch and Milkweeds October 1. [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org) 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Moonlight in the Gardens October 14. [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org) 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** A La Mano October 28. [www.facebook.com/corpuschristi](http://www.facebook.com/corpuschristi) visitorinformationcenter 361/561-2000 ext. 201

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Dia de los Muertos Festival October 29. [www.diadelosmuertoscc.com](http://www.diadelosmuertoscc.com) 361/887-6834

**EL CAMPO:** Prairie Days Festival October 1. [www.elcampoprairiedays.com](http://www.elcampoprairiedays.com) 979/543-2713

**FREEPORT:** Fall Festival October 27. [www.freeport.tx.us](http://www.freeport.tx.us) 979/233-6061

**FULSHEAR:** Scarecrow Festival October 15. [www.crosscreektx.com](http://www.crosscreektx.com)

**GALVESTON:** Hotel Galvez Ghost Tour Dinners October 4-28. [www.hotelgalvez.com](http://www.hotelgalvez.com) 409/765-7721

**GALVESTON:** ARToberFEST October 15-16. [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com) 409/765-1894

**GALVESTON:** Broadway Cemetery Tours with Kathleen Macca October 15. [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org) 409/765-7834

**GALVESTON:** Haunted Harbor Tours Onboard the *Seagull II* October 21-22, 27-30. [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org)

**GALVESTON:** Island Oktoberfest October 21-22. [www.galvestonoktoberfest.com](http://www.galvestonoktoberfest.com)

**GALVESTON:** Ghostly Gardens October 30. [www.moodygardens.org](http://www.moodygardens.org) 409/797-5152

**GALVESTON:** Menard House Trick or Treating October 31. [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org) 409/797-5152

**HOUSTON:** Houston Art Fair September 29-October 2. Silver Street Studios. [www.houstonartfair.com](http://www.houstonartfair.com)

**HOUSTON:** *Julian Onderdonk and Texas Silver* Foundation 2-January 22. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org) 713/639-7300

**HOUSTON:** Bayou City Art Festival Downtown October 8-9. [www.artcolonyassociation.org](http://www.artcolonyassociation.org)

**HOUSTON:** Festa Italiana October 13-16. [www.houstonitalianfestival.com](http://www.houstonitalianfestival.com)

**HOUSTON:** *Degas: A New Vision* October 16-January 8. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org) 713/639-7300

**HOUSTON:** *LEGO Kids Fest Texas* October 21-23. NRG Center. [www.visitthoustonexas.com](http://www.visitthoustonexas.com)

**HOUSTON:** Untapped Music & Beer Festival October 22. [www.untapped-festival.com](http://www.untapped-festival.com)/houston

**HOUSTON:** Wings Over Houston Airshow October 22-23. [www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)

**HOUSTON:** Houston Egyptian Festival October 29. [www.visitthoustonexas.com](http://www.visitthoustonexas.com)

**HUMBLE:** Kingwood Women's Club Holiday Market Place October 24-25. [www.kingwoodwomensclub.org](http://www.kingwoodwomensclub.org)

**INGLESIDE:** Bob Richardson Fire Expo October 15. [www.inglesidetx.gov](http://www.inglesidetx.gov) 361/776-7422

**LAKE JACKSON:** Bird Banding October 15. [www.gcbco.org](http://www.gcbco.org) 979/480-0999

**LAKE JACKSON:** Halloween Spooktacular October 30. [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)/seacenter 979/292-0100

**LAMAR:** Lamar Market Days October 28-29. 361/729-5003

**NEEDVILLE:** Astronomy Day October 8. George Observatory. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org)

**NEEDVILLE:** Needville Harvest Festival October 14-15. [www.needvillefest.com](http://www.needvillefest.com) 979/793-4030

**ORANGE:** Preserving the Past Through January 14. [www.starkculturalvenues.org](http://www.starkculturalvenues.org) 409/883-0871

**ORANGE:** Scarecrow Festival October 11-November 5. [www.starkculturalvenues.org](http://www.starkculturalvenues.org) 409/670-9113

**PALACIOS:** Chamber Foundation BBQ Cook-off and Arts/Crafts Booths October 7-8. [www.palacioschamber.com](http://www.palacioschamber.com) 361/972-2615

**PALACIOS:** Monstrous 5K Run Bash by the Sea October 29. [www.palacioskids.org](http://www.palacioskids.org) 361/972-2642

**PALACIOS:** Pedal Palacios Bike Ride October 29. [www.pedalpalacios.org](http://www.pedalpalacios.org) 361/972-2615

**PEARLAND:** Art and Crafts on the Pavilion October 1-2. [www.visitpearland.com](http://www.visitpearland.com)/todo 713/436-5595

**PORT ARANSAS:** Old Town Festival October 8. [www.portaransasmuseum.org](http://www.portaransasmuseum.org) 361/749-3800

**PORT ARANSAS:** Harvest Moon Regatta October 13-16. [www.harvestmoonregatta.com](http://www.harvestmoonregatta.com) 281/474-2511

**PORT ARANSAS:** Port A ArtAbout October 15. [www.portaransasartcenter.org](http://www.portaransasartcenter.org) 361/749-7334

**PORT ARANSAS:** Songwriter's Showcase October 17. Tarpon Inn Courtyard. 361/749-7334

**PORT ARTHUR:** Mistletoe Market October 1-2. [www.unitedwaysjc.org](http://www.unitedwaysjc.org) 409/729-4040

**PORT ARTHUR:** CavOILcade Parade October 8. [www.visitportarthurtx.com](http://www.visitportarthurtx.com) 409/293-7846

**RICHMOND:** Texian Market Days October 22. [www.texianmarketdays.com](http://www.texianmarketdays.com) 281/343-0218

**RICHMOND:** An All Hallow's Day October 29. [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org) 281/343-0218

**ROCKPORT:** Seafair October 6-9. [www.rockportseafair.com](http://www.rockportseafair.com) 361/729-6445

**SAN BENITO:** NMCAC Conjunto Festival October 21-23. Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center. 956/244-0373

**SANTA FE:** Heritage Festival October 29. [www.santafetexaschamber.com](http://www.santafetexaschamber.com) 409/925-8558

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND:** Sand Castle Days October 6-9. [www.sandcastledays.com](http://www.sandcastledays.com) 956/455-8436

**SPRING:** Pet Fest October 15-16. [www.petfestoldtownspring.com](http://www.petfestoldtownspring.com) 281/353-9310

**SPRING:** Islamic Arts Festival October 29-30. [www.islamicartsociety.com](http://www.islamicartsociety.com) 832/457-0740

**SUGAR LAND:** Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta October 8-9. [www.texasdragonboat.com](http://www.texasdragonboat.com)

**SUGAR LAND:** Houston Disc Dogs Take on Town Square October 8. [www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com)

**SUGAR LAND:** *Serious Wheels: Corvette Owners Club of Houston Open Car Show* October 15. [www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com)

**SUGAR LAND:** *Tricks, Treats & T-Rex-Haunted House Sugar Land* October 21, 28. The Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org) 281/313-2277

**SUGAR LAND:** Diwali Festival October 22. [www.sugarlandsketeers.com](http://www.sugarlandsketeers.com)

**SUGAR LAND:** *Tricks, Treats & T-Rex-Children's Butterfly Garden Maze*

October 29. The Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org) 281/313-2277

**SUGAR LAND:** City of Sugar Land's Halloween Town October 30. [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) 281/275-2885

**VICTORIA:** Bootfest September 30-October 1. [www.bootfest.org](http://www.bootfest.org) 361/485-3116

**VICTORIA:** South Texas Farm & Ranch Show October 19-20. [www.southtexasfarmandranchshow.com](http://www.southtexasfarmandranchshow.com) 361/575-4581

**VICTORIA:** Cemetery Tour October 21-22. Evergreen Cemetery. [www.vpitr.org](http://www.vpitr.org) 361/573-1878

**VICTORIA:** Haunted Zoo October 27-30. [www.texaszoo.org](http://www.texaszoo.org) 361/573-7681

**VICTORIA:** Victoria Christmas Faire October 29-30. [www.texasmarketguide.com](http://www.texasmarketguide.com) 888/225-3427

## HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN:** 2016 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix/Taylor Swift Concert October 21-23. [www.circuitoftheamericas.com](http://www.circuitoftheamericas.com)

**AUSTIN:** Gem Capers 2016 October 21-23. [www.austingemandmineral.org](http://www.austingemandmineral.org)

**AUSTIN:** Austin City Limits Music Festival September 30-October 2, October 7-9. [www.aclfestival.com](http://www.aclfestival.com)

**BANDERA:** Bandera Market Days October 1. [www.banderaatexasbusiness.com](http://www.banderaatexasbusiness.com) 830/796-4447

**BANDERA:** Oktoberfest October 8. [www.banderacowboycapital.com](http://www.banderacowboycapital.com) 830/796-1363

**BANDERA:** Frontier Times Museum Cowboy Camp October 9. [www.frontiertimesmuseum.org](http://www.frontiertimesmuseum.org) 830/796-3864

**BANDERA:** Ranch Heritage Day October 15. Hill Country State Natural Area. [www.texasstateparks.org](http://www.texasstateparks.org) 830/796-4413

**BOERNE:** The Key to the Hills Rod Run October 7-9. Main Street. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org)

**BOERNE:** Boerne Market Days October 8-9. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org)

**BOERNE:** *The Texas Hill Country Invitational Art Show*



October 14-16. [www.boerneprofessionalartists.com](http://www.boerneprofessionalartists.com)

**BOERNE:** Boerne Oktoberfest October 15-16. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org) 830/331-2152

**BOERNE:** The All-British Car Day October 22. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org) 830/884-3036

**BOERNE:** Boerne Boo Celebration October 29. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org) 830/249-1503

**BOERNE:** Boerne Handmade Market October 29. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org) 210/663-9046

**BULVERDE:** Chamber Fall Market Day October 1. [www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com](http://www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com) 830/438-4285

**BULVERDE:** Tejas Rodeo October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. [www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org) 830/980-2226

**BURNET:** Fort Croghan Day October 8. [www.fortcroghan.org](http://www.fortcroghan.org) 512/756-8281

**CANYON LAKE:** Cruisin' Canyon Lake Weekend October 7-9. [www.cruisincanyonlake.com](http://www.cruisincanyonlake.com) 713/823-7242

**CEDAR PARK:** Murder on the Rails October 8. Austin Steam Train Association. [www.penfoldtheatre.org](http://www.penfoldtheatre.org) 512/850-4849

**CEDAR PARK:** Cedar Park Festival October 22. [www.cedarparktexas.gov](http://www.cedarparktexas.gov) 512/401-5500

**COMFORT:** Scarecrow Invasion October 1-31. [www.comfort-texas.com](http://www.comfort-texas.com) 830/995-3131

**COMFORT:** Fall Antique Show October 15-16. [www.comfort-texas.com](http://www.comfort-texas.com) 830/995-3131

**DRIPPING SPRINGS:** Hill Country Ranch: Art and Craft Faire October 8-9. [www.texasmarketguide.com](http://www.texasmarketguide.com) 888/225-3427

**DRIPPING SPRINGS:** Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival October 14-16. [www.drippingsspringsongwritersfestival.com](http://www.drippingsspringsongwritersfestival.com) 512/659-1576

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Oktoberfest September 30-October 3. [www.oktoberfestinfbg.com](http://www.oktoberfestinfbg.com) 830/997-4810

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Texas Wine Month Trail October 1-31. [www.texaswinetrail.com](http://www.texaswinetrail.com) 512/914-5561

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Texas Mesquite Art Festival October 7-9. [www.texasmesquiteartfestivals.com](http://www.texasmesquiteartfestivals.com) 830/997-8515

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Fredericksburg Trade Days October 14-16. On U.S. 290 across from Wildseed Farms. [www.fbgtradedays.com](http://www.fbgtradedays.com) 830/990-4900

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Knights of Columbus Bestfest October 15. [www.kcbestfest.com](http://www.kcbestfest.com) 830/456-6279

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest October 22. [www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com](http://www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com) 830/997-8515

**GRUENE:** Gruene Music and Wine Festival October 6-9. [www.gruene musicandwinefest.org](http://www.gruene musicandwinefest.org)

**GRUENE:** Old Gruene Market Days October 15-16. [www.gruenemarketdays.com](http://www.gruenemarketdays.com) 830/832-1721

**GRUENE:** Texas Clay Festival October 22-23. [www.texasclayfestival.com](http://www.texasclayfestival.com) 830/629-7975

**HONDO:** South Texas Maize September 17-November 20. [www.southtexasmaize.com](http://www.southtexasmaize.com) 830/741-3968

**JOHNSON CITY:** Pig Roast October 7-9. [www.jcpigroast.org](http://www.jcpigroast.org) 830/868-7684

**JOHNSON CITY:** Market Days October 22-23. [www.lbjcountry.com](http://www.lbjcountry.com) 830/868-7684

**JOHNSON CITY:** Art Walk October 29. [www.texcetera.net](http://www.texcetera.net) 830/868-7684

**JUNCTION:** Oktoberfisch Fly Fishing Tourney October 14-16. [www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org](http://www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org) 830/997-8881

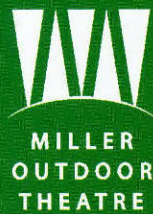
**JUNCTION:** Trappers & Fur Rendezvous October 15-16. [www.junctiontexas.com](http://www.junctiontexas.com) 512/756-4609

**KERRVILLE:** Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival October 1. [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org) 830/257-4837

**KERRVILLE:** Kerr County Celtic Festival and Hill Country Highland Games October 8-9. [www.kerrcountyceltic.com](http://www.kerrcountyceltic.com) 830/370-9492

**KERRVILLE:** Kerr County Market Days October 8. [www.kerrmarketdays.org](http://www.kerrmarketdays.org) 830/895-7524

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[f/UncorkedWineFestival](https://www.facebook.com/UncorkedWineFestival)

## EVENTS

**KERRVILLE:** Kerrville Chalk Festival October 15-16. [www.kerrvillechalk.org](http://www.kerrvillechalk.org) 830/895-5222

**KERRVILLE:** Kerrville Traders Fest October 22-23. [www.kerrvilletradersfest.com](http://www.kerrvilletradersfest.com) 830/739-6700

**KERRVILLE:** Kerr County Fair Carnival October 27-30. [www.kerrcountyfair.com](http://www.kerrcountyfair.com) 830/257-6833

**KERRVILLE:** Texas Furniture Makers Show October 27-December 3. [www.kackcerville.com](http://www.kackcerville.com) 830/895-2911

**KERRVILLE:** Harvest Festival October 29. [www.kerrvillekroc.org](http://www.kerrvillekroc.org) 830/315-5762

**KERRVILLE:** Salvation Army Pumpkin Run 5K/10K October 29. [www.kerrvillekroc.org](http://www.kerrvillekroc.org) 830/315-5762

**KYLE:** Founders Parade October 15. [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com) 512/262-3939

**KYLE:** Kyle Market Days October 15. [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com) 512/262-3939

**LAGO VISTA:** Oktoberfest October 8. St. Mary Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. [www.stmaryourlady.org](http://www.stmaryourlady.org) 512/267-2644

**LAMPASAS:** Herb & Art Festival October 8. [www.lampasaschamber.org](http://www.lampasaschamber.org) 512/556-5172

**LAMPASAS:** Lampasas County Wine Tour October 22. [www.lampasaschamber.org](http://www.lampasaschamber.org) 512/556-5172

**LAMPASAS:** Lampasas Trade Days October 28-30. [www.lampasastradedays.com](http://www.lampasastradedays.com) 512/734-1294

**LEAKEY:** Oktoberfest on the Frio October 15. [www.friocanyonchamber.com](http://www.friocanyonchamber.com) 830/252-6294

**MARBLE FALLS:** Sculpture on Main October 14-15. [www.sculpturemftx.com](http://www.sculpturemftx.com) 830/693-2815

**MEDINA:** Great Hill Country Pumpkin Patch October 1-31. [www.lovcreekorcharchs.com](http://www.lovcreekorcharchs.com) 800/449-0882

**NEW BRAUNFELS:** Historic Modelers Society Train Show October 29-30. [www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org](http://www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org) 830/627-2447

**PIPE CREEK:** Bandera Derby Days October 1. [www.frontiertimesmuseum.org](http://www.frontiertimesmuseum.org) 830/796-3864

**SAN MARCOS:** Sacred Springs Powwow October 7-8. The Meadows Center. [www.indigenouseculture.org](http://www.indigenouseculture.org) 512/393-3310

**SAN MARCOS:** PetFest October 15. [www.preventalitter.com/pet-fest](http://www.preventalitter.com/pet-fest) 512/754-7257

**STONEWALL:** BBQ on the Pedernales October 22. LBJ National Park. [www.barbecueonthepedernales.com](http://www.barbecueonthepedernales.com) 830/868-7684

**TAYLOR:** Good Life Festival & 5K October 8. [www.goodlifefetaylor.com](http://www.goodlifefetaylor.com) 512/294-1972

**TAYLOR:** Main Street Car Show October 29. 512/352-3463

**TAYLOR:** Halloween Spooktacular October 31. [www.ci.taylor.tx.us](http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us) 512/352-3463

**UVALDE:** Uvalde County Star Gazing October 1. Historic Fort Inge. [www.visituvalde.com](http://www.visituvalde.com) 830/934-2732

**UVALDE:** SWTJC Rodeo October 6-8. [www.visituvalde.com](http://www.visituvalde.com) 830/591-9040

**UVALDE:** Historic Haunted Hayride October 22. Historic Fort Inge. [www.visituvalde.com](http://www.visituvalde.com) 830/278-4115

**WIMBERLEY:** Market Days October 1. [www.shopmarketdays.com](http://www.shopmarketdays.com) 512/847-2201

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**ABILENE:** Abilene Speedway Southern Challenge October 14-15. [www.abilenespeedway.com](http://www.abilenespeedway.com) 325/725-3849

**ABILENE:** Big Country Raceway Shootout October 21-23. [www.bigcountryraceway.com](http://www.bigcountryraceway.com) 325/721-2021

**ABILENE:** Boo at the Zoo October 22. [www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org) 325/437-4692

**ABILENE:** Haunted Abilene "CarnEVIL" October 28-29. [www.hauntedabilene.com](http://www.hauntedabilene.com) 325/676-3775

**ALBANY:** Cell Series: Dan Phillips September 17-February 11. [www.theojac.org](http://www.theojac.org) 325/762-2269

**AMARILLO:** America's Horse in Art Show and Sale Through October 15.

[www.aqha.com/museum](http://www.aqha.com/museum) 806/378-4718

**BIG SPRING:** Pioneer Pumpkin Patch October 1. [www.heritagebigspring.com](http://www.heritagebigspring.com) 432/267-8255

**CANYON:** Canyon Chamber Chow-Down & BBQ Cook-Off October 1. [www.canyonchamber.org](http://www.canyonchamber.org) 806/655-7815

**COLEMAN:** Fiesta de la Paloma October 1. [www.colemantexas.org](http://www.colemantexas.org) 325/625-2163

**COLEMAN:** Prickly Pear Food + Wine Festival October 22. [www.colemanpricklypear.com](http://www.colemanpricklypear.com) 830/433-5225

**CROSS PLAINS:** Trade Days in Cross Plains October 15. The Yard. 254/270-0568

**DALHART:** Fall Festival/Halloween Trunk or Treat October 31. [www.dalhart.org](http://www.dalhart.org) 806/244-5646

**EASTLAND:** RipFest 2016 October 1. [www.eastlandchamber.com](http://www.eastlandchamber.com) 254/629-2332

**GRAFORD:** Possum Fest Barbecue and Chili Cook-Off September 30-October 1. [www.possumkingdomlake.com](http://www.possumkingdomlake.com) 940/779-2424

**LUBBOCK:** Gun & Blade Show October 8-9. [www.silverspurtradeshows.com](http://www.silverspurtradeshows.com) 806/253-1322

**MEMPHIS:** Steak Cook-Off October 1. [www.memphistxchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.memphistxchamberofcommerce.com) 806/259-3144

**MINERAL WELLS:** Tommy Alverson's Family Gathering October 6-8. [www.tommyalverson.com](http://www.tommyalverson.com) 940/682-6694

**MINERAL WELLS:** Crazy Water Festival October 8. [www.crazywaterfestival.org](http://www.crazywaterfestival.org) 940/325-8870

**MINERAL WELLS:** Mineral Wells Crazy Kicker 100 October 15. [www.crazykicker100.com](http://www.crazykicker100.com) 940/328-6501

**MINERAL WELLS:** Mineral Wells Crazy Fossil Dig October 22. [www.mineralwellsfossilpark.com](http://www.mineralwellsfossilpark.com) 940/328-7803

**POST:** Post Crafters Day October 1. Main Street. 806/495-0888

**POST:** Tom Butler Memorial Bronc Ride October 15. [www.tombutlermemorial.com](http://www.tombutlermemorial.com) 806/596-4632

**QUANAH:** Texas Country Air Rally October 18-23. 940/839-8567

**SAN ANGELO:** En Plein Air Texas October 23-30. [www.samfa.org](http://www.samfa.org) 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** Halloween Tours and Program October 24-25. [www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com) 325/481-2646

**SAN ANGELO:** Dia De Los Muertos Celebration October 26. [www.samfa.org](http://www.samfa.org) 325/653-3333

**STANTON:** Old Sorehead Trade Days October 8-9. [www.stantontex.com](http://www.stantontex.com) 432/756-2006

**WYLIE:** Boo on Ballard October 27. [www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov) 972/516-6016

### PINEY WOODS

**CENTER:** East Texas Poultry Festival October 6-8. [www.shelbycountychamber.com](http://www.shelbycountychamber.com) 936/598-3682

**COLDSPRING:** Wolf Creek Car Show October 15-16. [www.coldspringtexas.org](http://www.coldspringtexas.org) 936/651-2184

**CROCKETT:** Piney Woods PolkaFest with Brave Combo October 15. [www.pwfaa.org](http://www.pwfaa.org) 936/544-4276

**CROCKETT:** World Championship Fiddlers Festival October 22. [www.worldchampionshipfiddlersfestival.com](http://www.worldchampionshipfiddlersfestival.com) 936/546-5174

**DIBOLL:** Diboll Day October 1. [www.dibollday.org](http://www.dibollday.org) 936/635-9595

**DIBOLL:** Kids' Costume Fun Run & Zombie Walk October 29. [www.cityofdiboll.com](http://www.cityofdiboll.com) 936/829-4888

**GLADEWATER:** Gladewater Black Rodeo October 1. [www.realcowboyassociation.com](http://www.realcowboyassociation.com) 903/753-3165

**GLADEWATER:** Main Street Halloween Boo Bash October 22. Downtown. 903/845-5753

**HENDERSON:** Rusk County Rodeo October 13-15. Rusk County Expo Center. 903/657-3699

**HUNTSVILLE:** Fair on the Square October 1. [www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us](http://www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us) 936/295-8113

**HUNTSVILLE:** Butterfly Festival and Fall Plant Sale October 22. [www.walkercountymastergardeners.org](http://www.walkercountymastergardeners.org) 936/435-2426

**HUNTSVILLE:** Sam Houston Statue Birthday Celebration October 22. [www.huntsvilletexas.com](http://www.huntsvilletexas.com) 936/291-9726

**HUNTSVILLE:** Scare on the Square October 29. [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) 936/291-9726

**JASPER:** Fall Festival October 1. [www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org) 409/384-2762

**JASPER:** SNIPS Dachshund Races Benefit Fundraiser October 1. [www.snipsjasper.org](http://www.snipsjasper.org) 409/384-8251

**JASPER:** Dam to Dam Bike Ride October 15. [www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org) 409/384-2762

**JEFFERSON:** Runaway Fright Train & Halloween Festival October 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-31. [www.jeffersonrailway.com](http://www.jeffersonrailway.com) 866/398-2038

**JEFFERSON:** Grilling on the Bayou Big Green Egg Fest October 8. [www.jeffersoneggfest.com](http://www.jeffersoneggfest.com) 903/665-8911

**JEFFERSON:** Original Texas Bigfoot Conference October 14-16. [www.cryptomundo.com](http://www.cryptomundo.com)

**JEFFERSON:** Taste of Jefferson October 16. [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com) 903/665-2672

**LIBERTY:** Trinity Valley Exposition Fair & Rodeo October 14-22. [www.tvfair.com](http://www.tvfair.com) 936/336-7455

**LIVINGSTON:** Country Market Days October 7-9. [www.facebook.com/ThomasMercantile](http://www.facebook.com/ThomasMercantile) 936/967-5333

**LUFKIN:** Angelina County AirFest October 8. Angelina County Airport. 936/633-0359

**LUMBERTON:** Village Creek Festival October 27-29. [www.lumbertoncoc.com](http://www.lumbertoncoc.com) 409/755-0554

**PALESTINE:** Haunted Little Jail—Locked in Fear October 1, 8, 15, 21-22, 28-29. [www.texasjailhouse.com](http://www.texasjailhouse.com) 903/373-8158

**PALESTINE:** Hot Pepper Festival and Parade October 22. Historic Main Street & Old Town. 903/723-3014

**TEXARKANA:** Dine on the Line October 1. [www.mainstreettexarkana.org](http://www.mainstreettexarkana.org) 903/792-7191

**TRINITY:** Trinity Community Fair/Youth Livestock Show/Auction September 30-October 1. [www.trinitycommunityfair.com](http://www.trinitycommunityfair.com) 936/662-5082

**TYLER:** East Texas State Fair September 23-October 2. [www.etstatefair.com](http://www.etstatefair.com) 903/597-2501

**TYLER:** Rose Festival October 13-16. [www.texasrosefestival.com](http://www.texasrosefestival.com) 903/592-6978

**WINNSBORO:** Autumn Trails October 1, 8, 14-16, 20-22. [www.winnsboroautumntrails.com](http://www.winnsboroautumntrails.com)

### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**ADDISON:** Dallas MK5K October 1. Mary Kay Headquarters. [www.support.marykayfoundation.org](http://www.support.marykayfoundation.org) 877/652-2737

**ADDISON:** Shakespeare In The Park October 6-9, 12-16. [www.shakespearedallas.org](http://www.shakespearedallas.org) 214/559-2778

**BELTON:** Tour of The Gault Site October 8. [www.bellcountymuseum.org](http://www.bellcountymuseum.org) 254/933-5243

**BELTON:** The President's Photographer October 29-January 28. [www.bellcountymuseum.org](http://www.bellcountymuseum.org) 254/933-5243

**BONHAM:** Fannin County Fair October 6-8. [www.visitbonham.com](http://www.visitbonham.com) 903/583-9830

**BONHAM:** Festival of Flight/Autumn in Bonham October 22. [www.visitbonham.com](http://www.visitbonham.com) 903/583-9830

**BONHAM:** Archeology Month Open House October 29. [www.samrayburnhouse.com](http://www.samrayburnhouse.com) 903/583-5558

**BONHAM:** Cemetery Walking Tour at Willow Wild Cemetery October 29. [www.samrayburnhouse.com](http://www.samrayburnhouse.com) 903/583-5558

**BRENHAM:** Texas Brew-Step October 15. [www.downtownbrenham.com](http://www.downtownbrenham.com) 888/273-6426

**BRIDGEPORT:** Coal Miner's Heritage Festival October 8. [www.bridgeportchamber.org](http://www.bridgeportchamber.org) 940/683-2076

**BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION:** Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo October 21-23.

www.brazosvalleyfair.com  
979/821-1450

**BURTON:** La Bahia  
Antiques Show and Sale  
September 23-October 1.  
La Bahia Turnverien.  
979/289-2684

**CHAPPELL HILL:** Chappell  
Hill Scarecrow Festival  
October 8-9. www.chappell  
hillhistoricalsociety.com  
979/836-6033

**CLIFTON:** Horn Shelter  
Exhibit October 9.  
www.bosquemuseum.org  
254/675-3845

**CLIFTON:** Texas  
Troubadour Songwriter  
Classic October 22.  
www.bosqueartscenter.org  
254/675-3724

**CLIFTON:** The Bosque 7  
Art Exhibition  
October 22-November 6.  
www.bosquemuseum.org  
254/675-3845

**COLLEGE STATION:**  
Tires, Tracks and Tents  
October 15.  
www.americangimuseum.org  
979/446-6888

**CRANFILLS GAP:**  
Bacon Bash Texas  
October 15.  
www.baconbashtexas.com  
325/356-3999

**CUERO:** Turkeyfest  
October 7-9.  
www.turkeyfest.org  
361/275-2112

**CUERO:** Market on Main  
October 22.  
www.cueromainstreet.com  
361/485-8008

**DALLAS:** AT&T Red River  
Showdown October 8.  
Cotton Bowl Stadium.  
www.fairpark.org

**DALLAS:** The Super Run  
5K-Dallas October 15.  
www.thesuperrun.com

**DALLAS:** Dallas Kosher  
BBQ Championship  
October 30.  
www.dallaskosherbbq.com

**DENISON:** Main Street  
Fall Festival  
October 1.  
www.denison.texas.us  
903/465-1551

**DENTON:** Guided Tour  
of the North Texas Horse  
Country October 1.  
www.horsecountrytours.com  
940/382-7895

**DENTON:** Industrial Street  
International Pop Festival  
(aka Geezerpalooza)  
October 22.  
www.facebook.com/  
geezerpalooza  
940/349-7732

**DENTON:** Denton Day  
of the Dead Festival  
October 29.

www.dentondayof  
thedeafestival.com

**DIME BOX:** Black Bridge  
Fest and Mini Marathon  
October 1.  
www.dimeboxlionsclub.com  
979/777-8682

**EDOM:** Edom Art Festival  
October 15-16.  
www.visitedom.com  
903/571-7631

**ELGIN:** Pearls Before  
Swine Art Show  
October 20. www.  
elginartsassociation.com

**ELGIN:** Elgin Hogeys  
Festival October 22.  
www.elgintx.com  
512/229-3213

**ENNIS:** AAA Texas  
NHRA Fall Nationals  
October 13-16.  
www.texasmotorplex.com  
800/668-6775

**ENNIS:** Autumn Days  
in Ennis Fall Festival  
October 15.  
www.visitennis.org  
972/878-4748

**FAIRFIELD:** Fairfield Fall  
ARTS Fest October 1. www.  
trinitystararts council.org  
903/388-4765

**FARMERS BRANCH:**  
Murder & Mayhem Tours  
October 27-28.  
www.fhhistoricalpark.com  
972/406-0184

**FLATONIA:** Czhlispiel  
October 28-30.  
www.flatoniachamber.com  
361/865-3920

**FORT WORTH:**  
Fort Worth Alliance Air Show  
October 15-16.  
www.allianceairshow.com  
800/318-9268

**FORT WORTH:**  
Oakwood Cemetery Tour  
October 28-30.  
www.stockyardsmuseum.org  
817/625-5082

**FORT WORTH:**  
Red Steagall Cowboy  
Gathering & Western  
Swing Festival  
October 28-30.  
www.redsteagallcowboy  
gathering.com  
817/444-5502

**FRISCO:** Annual Trick-or-  
Treat the Square  
October 30.  
www.friscosquare.com

**GAINESVILLE:** History  
Alive Weekend October 1.  
www.historyaliveweekend.  
com 940/736-7778

**GARLAND:** Urban Flea  
October 8. www.  
resurrecteddesigns.com

**GARLAND:** Fall Festival  
October 22. Firewheel Town  
Center. 972/675-1041

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## EVENTS

**GIDDINGS:** Halloween at the Depot October 22. [www.giddingstx.com](http://www.giddingstx.com) 979/542-3455

**GLEN ROSE:** *The Promise* Through October 29. [www.thepromiseplenrose.com](http://www.thepromiseplenrose.com) 254/897-3926

**GLEN ROSE:** Paluxy River Fall Bluegrass Festival September 28-October 8. 254/897-2321

**GLEN ROSE:** Paluxy Pedal (Bike Race) October 1. [www.paluxypedal.com](http://www.paluxypedal.com)

**GLEN ROSE:** *Fossilmania* October 28-30. Somervell County Expo Center. 817/279-3677

**GLEN ROSE:** CAC Spooktacular Halloween Extravaganza October 29. [www.fossilrim.org](http://www.fossilrim.org) 254/897-2960

**GONZALES:** Come and Take It Celebration September 30-October 2. [www.gonzalestexas.com](http://www.gonzalestexas.com) 888/672-1095

**GRANBURY:** Carnival Americana September 19-October 4. [www.granburysquare.com](http://www.granburysquare.com) 682/936-4550

**GRANBURY:** Granbury Paranormal Expo October 1. [www.granburyparanormalexpo.com](http://www.granburyparanormalexpo.com) 817/559-0849

**GRANBURY:** Oktoberfest October 7-9. [www.ketzlerschnitzelhaus.com](http://www.ketzlerschnitzelhaus.com) 682/936-2777

**GRANBURY:** Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts October 15-16. [www.granburysquare.com](http://www.granburysquare.com) 682/936-4550

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Kids' Fishing Day October 1. [www.grandfungp.com](http://www.grandfungp.com) 972/237-8110

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Oktoberfest October 1. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com) 972/647-2331

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Beer & Barbecue Festival October 8-9. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com) 972/647-2331

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Haunted Hallways October 30. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com) 972/647-2331

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Street N' Treat October 31. [www.grandfungp.com](http://www.grandfungp.com) 972/237-8115

**GRAPEVINE:** Fall Gallery Night October 1. [www.grapevineartdealers.com](http://www.grapevineartdealers.com) 817/410-3185

**GRAPEVINE:** Grapevine Market October 1, 6-8, 13-15. [www.grapevinetexasusa.com](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com) 817/410-3185

**GRAPEVINE:** Butterfly Flutterby October 15. [www.grapevinetexasusa.com](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com) 817/410-3185

**GRAPEVINE:** Fall Round-Up October 15. [www.nashfarm.org](http://www.nashfarm.org) 817/410-3185

**GRAPEVINE:** Bewitched by the Barn October 22. [www.nashfarm.org](http://www.nashfarm.org) 817/410-3185

**GREENVILLE:** Bob Wills Fiddle Festival and Contest October 6-9. [www.greenvillechamber.com](http://www.greenvillechamber.com) 903/457-3126

**GREENWOOD:** Greenwood Fall Festival October 8. 940/466-7597

**HALLETTVILLE:** Falling Leaves Gala October 8. [www.kchall.com](http://www.kchall.com) 361/798-2311

**LA GRANGE:** Oktoberfest October 1. [www.visitlagrangetx.com](http://www.visitlagrangetx.com) 979/968-3017

**LA GRANGE:** Heritage Fest & Muziky October 14-15. [www.czechtexas.org](http://www.czechtexas.org) 979/968-9399

**LA GRANGE:** Trick or Treat on the Square October 31. [www.visitlagrangetx.com](http://www.visitlagrangetx.com) 979/968-3017

**MCKINNEY:** Old Red Lumberyard Junk Market October 14-15. [www.visitmckinney.com](http://www.visitmckinney.com) 214/544-1407

**MCKINNEY:** Third Monday Trade Days October 14-16. [www.tmtdd.com](http://www.tmtdd.com) 972/562-5466

**MCKINNEY:** Halloween at the Heard October 15. [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org) 972/562-5566

**MCKINNEY:** Legends of McKinney Ghost Walk October 22-29. [www.chestnutssquare.org](http://www.chestnutssquare.org) 972/562-8790

**MCKINNEY:** Scare on the Square October 31. [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com) 972/547-2660

**MESQUITE:** *Texas Area Artists Art Exhibition* October 1-31. [www.mesquiteartscenter.org](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org) 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Mesquite Championship Rodeo Finals October 2. [www.mesquiterodeo.com](http://www.mesquiterodeo.com) 972/285-8777

**MESQUITE:** Devil's Bowl Speedway Auto Races October 14-15. [www.devilsbowl.com](http://www.devilsbowl.com) 972/222-2421

**MESQUITE:** Pumpkin Fest October 15. [www.cityofmesquite.com/pard](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/pard) 972/216-6260

**MESQUITE:** Amazing Technicolor 5K Color Run October 22. [www.mesquitefoundation.org](http://www.mesquitefoundation.org) 972/882-7513

**MESQUITE:** Cowboys of Color Finals Rodeo October 29. [www.cowboysofcolorrodeo.com](http://www.cowboysofcolorrodeo.com) 972/285-8777

**MOUNT VERNON:** Mount Vernon Food and Wine Festival October 21-22. Mount Vernon City Plaza. 903/537-4070

**MUENSTER:** Oktoberfest October 22-23.

[www.muensterchamber.com](http://www.muensterchamber.com) 940/759-2227

**NAVASOTA:** *Lanterns & Legends—Politics as Usual* October 27-29. [www.navasotatheatre.org/tickets](http://www.navasotatheatre.org/tickets) 936/825-3195

**NOCONA:** Nocona Nights Music Festival October 14-15. Veranda Inn Events Center. 940/825-3526

**PLANO:** Fall Plano Train Show October 1-2. Plano Centre. 972/400-5140

**PLANO:** Plano International Festival 2016 October 1. Haggard Park. [www.planointernationalfestival.org](http://www.planointernationalfestival.org) 214/495-7838

**PLANO:** Downtown Plano Art and Wine Walk October 13. [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com)

**PLANO:** Plano Haunt Jaunt Night Time 5K & Fun Run October 15. [www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov) 972/941-7250

**PLANO:** Steinfest 2016 October 23. Historic Downtown. [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com)

**PLANO:** BooBash October 27. [www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov) 972/769-4404

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[waxahachiecvb.com](http://waxahachiecvb.com) | 469-309-4040

**RHOME:** Rhome Fall Festival September 30-October 1.

www.cityofrhome.com  
817/636-2826

**ROUND TOP:** Round Top Fall Antique Show September 16-October 1.

www.roundtop.org  
979/249-4042

**ROUND TOP:** 4th Annual OktoBierFest October 29.

www.roundtoprifle.com  
281/788-3278

**ROWLETT:** Sacred Heart Parish MultiCultural Festival October 9.

www.sacredheartrowlett.org  
972/475-4405

**ROXTON:** Roxton Saturday Night October 15. Downtown.

903/346-2939

**SALADO:** Historical Cemetery Tour October 1.

www.salado.com  
254/947-5040

**SALADO:** Christmas in October Oct. 7-8.

www.salado.com  
254/947-5040

**SALADO:** Salado Yard and Garden Tour October 8.

www.keepsaladobeautiful.com  
254/760-1150

**SALADO:** Salado Fright Trail October 15, 22, 29.

www.salado.com  
254/947-5040

**SEGUIN:** Guadalupe County Fair and PRCA Rodeo October 6-9.

www.gcfair.org  
830/379-6477

**SEGUIN:** Pecan Fest October 29-30. Downtown.

www.visitseguin.com  
830/401-0810

**SHINER:** Shiner Music Fest October 15.

www.shinermusicfest.com

**STEPHENVILLE:** *Threads of Texas Quilt Show* October 7-8.

St. Mary's Catholic Church.  
254/646-2396

**TEMPLE:** Pumpkin Patch 2016 September 17-October 30.

www.therobinsonfamilyfarm.com  
254/931-9564

**TEMPLE:** Tri-City Gem and Mineral Show October 8-9.

Maybom Convention Center.  
254/774-9997

**TEMPLE:** Food Truck Frenzy October 22.

www.discovertemple.com  
254/298-5379

**TEMPLE:** Main Street Fright Fest October 31.

Community Pavilion.  
254/298-5900

**TODD MISSION:** Texas Renaissance Festival October 8-November 27.

www.texrenfest.com

**VAN:** Van Oil Pageant and Festival October 1, 8.

www.vantx.com  
903/963-5051

**WACO:** Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo October 6-15.

www.hotfair.com  
254/776-9050

**WACO:** Apple Tree Bazaar October 28-29.

www.mealsandwheelswaco.org  
254/752-0316

**WAXAHACHIE:** Screams Halloween Theme Park October 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29.

www.screamspark.com  
972/938-3247

**WAXAHACHIE:** Oddfest October 1.

downtownwaxahachie.com  
972/938-2062

**WAXAHACHIE:** Vintage Market Days October 7-9.

www.socentraltexas.vintagemarkdays.com  
918/606-2254

**WAXAHACHIE:** Texas Country Reporter Festival October 29.

www.waxahachiecvb.com  
972/938-3434

**WEATHERFORD:** Autumn Art Walk October 23.

www.chandorgardens.com  
817/613-1700

**WEATHERFORD:** Goblins in the Gardens October 30.

www.chandorgardens.com  
817/613-1700

**YORKTOWN:** Yorktown Western Days Festival October 21-23.

361/564-2661

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**ALICE:** Annual Rod Run October 1-2. Jim Wells County Fairgrounds.

www.alicetxchamber.org  
361/664-3454

**ALICE:** Jim Wells County Fair October 19-22. Jim Wells County Fairgrounds.

www.alicetxchamber.org  
361/664-3454

**EDINBURG:** *Los Muertos Bailan* Festival October 14-15.

www.edinburgarts.com  
956/383-6246

**SAN ANTONIO:** *National Geographic Presents Earth Explorers*

September 24-January 22.

www.wittmuseum.org  
210/357-1900

**SAN ANTONIO:** First Saturday at the Alamo October 1.

www.thealamo.org  
210/225-1391

**SAN ANTONIO:** MS Valero Alamo Bike Ride October 1-2.

Wheatley Heights Sports Complex.  
855/372-1331

**SAN ANTONIO:** Weston Wright Lighting the Way 5K Walk/Run

October 22.

www.salighthouse.org/events  
210/531-1533

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continued from page 80

from writing my own songs, I've covered some that I love by Lucinda Williams, Johnny Cash, and Patty Griffin.

**Q:** *Why is blues music still relevant and popular in the 21st Century?*

**A:** The blues is about everyday life. It's the people's story. For me, connecting with the blues came later, and I got deeper into it as my life changed with trials and triumphs. It's a deep well, and I continue to draw from it.

**Q:** *What are your plans for the coming year?*

**A:** I hope to have a new album out next year. It will probably be my most intimate one yet. Getting past that 50 mark, I've got a lot of miles in me, and I'm ready to put it all down. I'm having my say.

**Q:** *Where do you like to travel within Texas?*

**A:** I've gone out to Marfa, and there's something about that vastness that's intriguing to me. There is a timeless quality. I like the journey of a road trip, having some great music on the radio, stopping along the way and finding a little diner with only seven records in the jukebox.

**Q:** *Where do you go for food and entertainment close to home?*

I like my Tex-Mex. In Austin, there's Maudie's, and Guero's on Congress Avenue, which has a stage and is also

good for music. I'm always running into someone I know there. In San Marcos, Garcia's Mexican Restaurant has the best fresh-made tortilla chips and tortilla soup, and I'm looking forward to hearing some singer-songwriters at Cheatham Street Warehouse.

**Q:** *Where can people hear you play?*

**A:** I travel extensively on tour. One year I spent 250 days on the road. But once in awhile you'll find me at Strange Brew on Manchaca Road in south Austin. And I play at Antone's sometimes. I've played at Dosey Doe in The Woodlands.

**Q:** *Why do you choose to live in Texas, considering your extensive travel?*

**A:** I love Central Texas. The music lends itself to the place. The folks here are open and laid-back. I've lived on the West Coast, the East Coast, in New York, in Seattle. They are all beautiful, but I'm a Texas girl. The live oak trees, the mesquite wood for barbecue, catching catfish in the Brazos River—it's in my blood. I love coming home to Texas—there's a song in every corner. ♪

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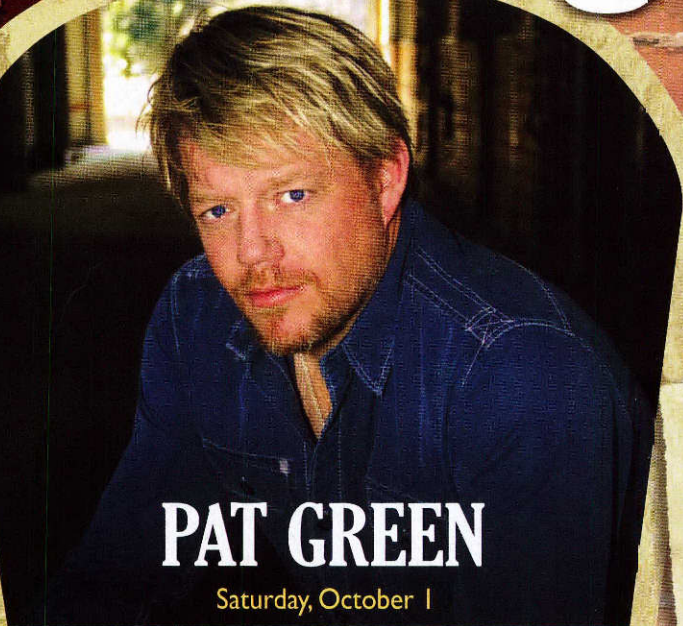
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- Jason Boland & the Stragglers

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Friday, September 30

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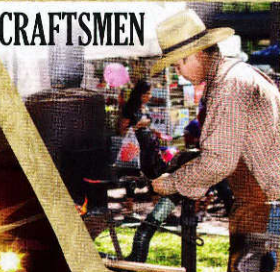
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# OCTOBER

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### Return to the Guadalupe

Come along as renowned photographer Laurence Parent explores autumn's arrival in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, a stunning West Texas landscape of peaks, canyons, forests, and dunes.

*Text and photographs by LAURENCE PARENT*

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### Magic Acts

We share insider tips and fascinating tales from luxury-hotel concierges across Texas. Experts in service and discretion, these pros will oblige any request with a smile. Well, *almost* any request.

*Text by JUNE NAYLOR*

*Photographs by MATTHEW JOHNSON*

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### Smile for Fall Frolics

The season of pumpkins, hauntings, and trick-or-treating has a firm grip on Texans' collective imagination, judging by the ghoulish gamut of fun and frightful Halloween happenings across the state.

*Text by HELEN ANDERS*

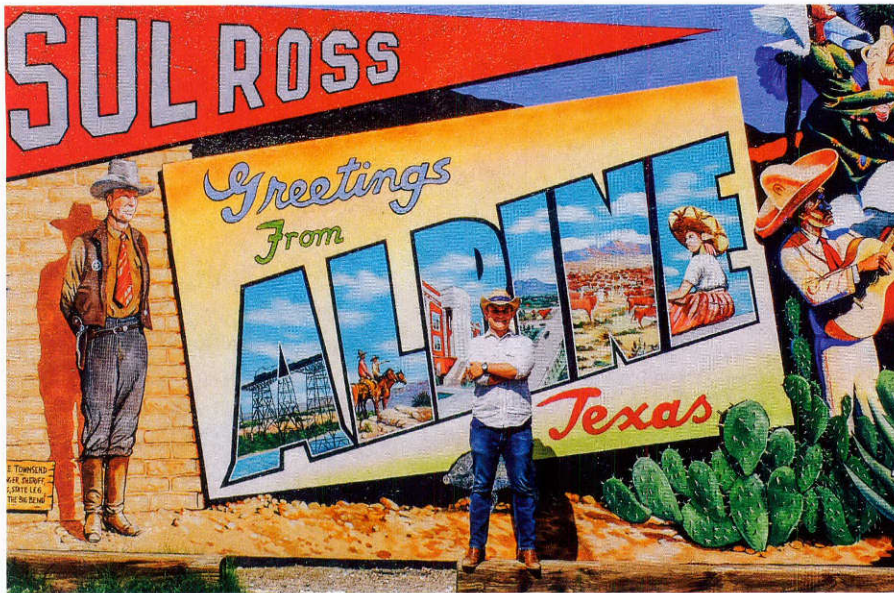


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# THE DAYTRIPPER

WITH CHET GARNER



## All in on Alpine

**W**HILE TEXAS MAY NOT HAVE any alpine skiing or alpine snowshoeing, it has alpine trippin', Texas-style. This West Texas town is unlike any other with an unusual mix of grit, funk, and class right in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert. All this and more makes this "hub of the Big Bend" well-worth the trip.

**9:00 A.M.** The day was new, so I headed to **PLAINE** for my morning joe. This local coffee shop is a meeting ground for locals from all walks of life. I joined ranchers, bankers, and artists as we caffeinated for the day. I also grabbed a donut for an extra sugar boost.

**10:00 A.M.** Before the sun got too hot, I headed to **Sul Ross State University** to hit the books and hike a mountain at the same time. And after lugging myself about a mile up the trail, I arrived at the top of **Hancock Hill** and found a metal desk overlooking a stunning vista. Students hauled this desk up the mountain in the 1980s, and it gives new meaning to the term "higher education."

**12:00 P.M.** I decided to explore campus and found a number of attractions hidden among its classic architecture. There was a cactus garden, and a statue of soldier and statesman Sul Ross himself, with countless coins left at his feet by students hoping for a little extra

exam luck. But best of all was the **Museum of the Big Bend**, which presents exhibits covering topics as diverse as flying reptiles and native tribes to the creation of Big Bend National Park. I left feeling even more inspired to travel every inch of this rugged land.

**1:30 P.M.** It was time to take my taste buds to a new frontier, so I headed

to **Cow Dog**, which serves up hot dogs that break the traditional flavor mold. The menu read like a combination of a dozen different restaurants, with flavors from India, Thailand, Mexico, and Texas. I ordered a "Hangover" with chili, cheese, and Fritos, along with an "El Pastor" with grilled pineapple and lime-spiked mayonnaise.

**2:30 P.M.** I set off on foot to cruise through downtown and take in the historic buildings, including the **Holland Hotel**, which feels as if cattle barons should still be hanging out in the lobby.

**Chet Garner** is the host of *The Daytripper*® travel show on PBS; [www.thedaytripper.com](http://www.thedaytripper.com).

There were also a number of colorful murals that mixed well with the local artwork at galleries and shops like **Front Street Books**.

**4:00 P.M.** Next up, I headed to **Murphy Street Raspa**, which makes Mexican-style snow cones inside an old general store. The bright colors and lack of air-conditioning made me feel like I'd truly crossed the border. So in the spirit of Mexico, I ordered a mango snow cone with *chamoy* sauce. *Ay, caramba*, it was good!

**5:30 P.M.** Feeling the call of the mountains, I headed west to see the **Paisano Pass Volcano**. I missed the actual eruption by 30 million years or so, but the surrounding mountains still have evidence of volcanic activity. Interpretive displays here explain its significance to the area's geology.

**7:00 P.M.** Hungry once again, I stepped into **Reata Restaurant**, which was named for the ranch in the 1956 movie *Giant*, filmed in nearby Marfa. This restaurant's mix of steaks, Southwestern cuisine, and comfort food blazes new trails in the category of upscale cowboy cooking. My pepper-crusted tenderloin was simply perfect, and the chocolate tamale made this meal one for the record books.

**9:00 P.M.** To close out the day like a local, it was time for **Railroad Blues**, a honky-tonk, bar, and self-proclaimed "tourist trap"—although I'm pretty sure I was the only outsider in the place. I ordered a **Big Bend Brewing Co.** beer and mingled with other patrons around the outdoor campfire.

As a local troubadour strummed a guitar, I didn't want the day to end. It was one that had taken me to the tops of mountains, to the frontiers of flavors, and into the rich legacies of the Big Bend. So whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **L**

Contact the Alpine Chamber of Commerce at 432/837-2326; [www.alpinetexas.com](http://www.alpinetexas.com).



## Fostering the Blues

Gause's own Ruthie Foster takes her blues music around the world

text by **Heather Brand**

**T**EXAS IS KNOWN FOR ITS LEGENDARY BLUES MUSICIANS, from Lightnin' Hopkins to T-Bone Walker, Mance Lipscomb, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Texas blueswoman Ruthie Foster, who now calls San Marcos home, not only follows in their footsteps but also treads new ground, blending blues with gospel, soul, rock, and folk. Many of these influences spring from her upbringing in Gause, the tiny Central Texas town where she got her start singing gospel in the church choir. After earning a music degree from McLennan Community College in Waco, Foster followed a peripatetic course, spending four years in the U.S. Navy and then three years in New York City. Family matters brought her back to her hometown, and she relocated to Austin two years later, in 1996, to pursue her musical career.

It was in Austin that Foster released her first album, *Full Circle*, in 1997, followed by eight more albums over the years. The three most

**Keep up** with Ruthie Foster's upcoming releases and touring schedule at [www.ruthiefoster.com](http://www.ruthiefoster.com).

recent, *The Truth According to Ruthie Foster* (2009), *Let It Burn* (2012), and *Promise of a Brand New Day* (2014), were each Grammy Award nominees for Best Blues Album. Known for her powerful, soulful voice and rhythmic guitar playing, she has been a perennial winner of the Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year at the Blues Music Awards in Memphis. Despite Foster's association with the blues, in many ways her music transcends strict categories. She takes a magpie approach, picking up bright threads from various genres and weaving them into her own distinctive sound. Her music has attracted similarly diverse audiences. She spent the summer performing in Italy, Germany, Spain, and the Canary Islands before returning for a stateside tour with shows from California to Maine. This November she will appear on stage in Denmark, and then in Cuba in December. But in many ways, Foster affirms, there is still no place like home.

**Q:** How did growing up in Gause affect your sound?

**A:** I had access to a lot of gospel music from my family and from being a musician in church. I came from a family of singers. I started playing piano and guitar when I was about 10 and 11. Growing up in a rural area, the radio stations were mostly country stations. On a clear night you could also pick up blues stations. Blues was a big deal in that region. In record stores, I started with the Americana bin and then blended in blues and gospel influences. I'm diverse in what I record. Aside > *continued on page 76*

**Foster takes a magpie approach, picking up bright threads from various genres and weaving them into her own distinctive sound.**



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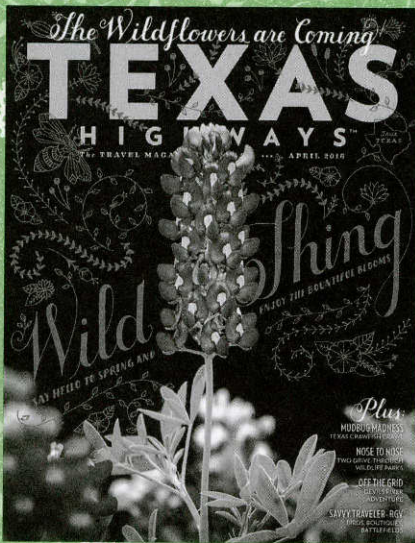
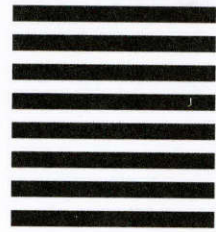
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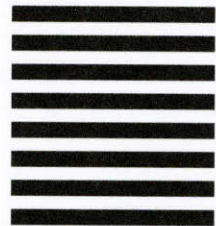
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