



Palo Duro Canyon State Park

HOODOO



TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

The Devil's Tombstone hoodoo is a famous landmark on the lighthouse trail.



HOODOO

A hoodoo is a soil column carved by water and capped by a sandstone rock. Hoodoos range in size from 2-3 feet to 30 feet. Palo Duro Canyon has four geologic layers known as the Quartermaster (bottom layer), Tecovas (commonly known as the Spanish Skirts), Trujillo (sandstone layer) and the Ogallala (top layer).

Hoodoos are formed when rainwater running down the canyon walls cause rocks in the Trujillo layer to slide down onto the softer Tecovas layer. The rocks become capstones that look like hats and rest on the softer soil. With the capstone protecting the soil underneath it, water erodes around it, forming columns that eventually become tower-like. The capstone usually sits at a slant and can stay there for many years. Eventually erosion causes the column to become weaker until it falls down.