



# OUTDOOR *Adventures*

GUIDE

PRESENTED BY VICTORY MEDICAL



BENEFITING MARATHON KIDS



# hello!

Everyone knows that the best of Austin can be found outdoors, year-round. No matter what kind of adventure you are seeking, you can find it right here in the best city in the world!

We have rounded up some of the best outdoor activities Austin has to offer—including my family’s favorites—so you can reference them all year long. Be sure to bookmark the page, because you’re going to want this info at your fingertips the next time you find yourself with a free weekend.

In this guide, you will find fun for all ages and interests, including hiking, camping, day-tripping, swimming, exploring with visitors, and more. These lists were compiled using recommendations from hundreds of locals, all distilled down to the best of the best. You’ll never run out of things to do when you have our awesome guide with you!

I hope you have as much reading this guide as I did researching and writing it for you!



*Addie Gross*

Austin Active Kids

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# 17 FAMILY FRIENDLY HIKES WITH

# water

One of the most popular questions we get from parents is where to find family-friendly hiking spots with water. Here are 17 of our favorites! In this list, you will find hikes for all ages and skill levels. Be sure to wear your best water hiking shoes so you can go in the water! Also, keep in mind that while these places usually have water, some of them may be dry depending on recent rainfall. Always check the water quality before you go—stagnant water can be dangerous to swim in, but clear, running water is usually safe. Additionally, it's always best to avoid swimming in creeks 48 hours after a heavy rain, as bacteria levels can increase due to runoff. Make sure to use caution when swimming. Never swallow creek water and try to avoid getting any open cuts or wounds wet. Don't forget to bring water to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and have fun!

**TURKEY CREEK TRAIL** 1600 City Park Rd., Austin. This is a popular off-leash dog area, so bring your pups! This looped trail crosses the creek in several spots, which will appeal to both kids and dogs. The trail is well shaded which makes it perfect for a summer hike! You could spend the whole day here if you continue your journey over to Emma Long Park for some beachy fun playtime.

**ST. EDWARD'S TRAIL** 7301 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin. This beautiful hike is a favorite among Austinites. You can usually find enough water here to splash and play in. Wear some good water/hiking shoes and swimsuits or bring a change of clothes and a towel. Make sure you take your valuables out of your car and mostly keep to the trail. Watch out for bugs—we have definitely gotten a few chigger and mosquito bites here before!

**GREAT HILLS TRAIL** 10704 Floral Park Dr, Austin. If you start at this entry point, you can make it your goal to hike all the way to the playground. Make sure to pay attention to the safety signs. Big kids can make it just fine, but this hike may be a little bit difficult for toddlers and may require you to carry them some of the way. If there has been rain recently, there should be some water at the beginning of the hike. Kids love to climb the giant boulder and the big hill just past the bridge.

**RIVER PLACE NATURE TRAIL** 8820 Big View Dr, Austin. Admission is \$10 per adult and \$10 per dog on weekends and holidays. However, weekdays are free! We love this hike because of how challenging it is. The hike follows right along the water, which will usually be flowing well after a big rain. It starts off easy and kid-friendly, but you can turn around once it gets too difficult for the kids to do all the steps and steep inclines. Please keep your dogs leashed on this hike!



**BULL CREEK** There are three main access points to this park/greenbelt, and each one has so much to offer! Bull Creek District Park: 6701 Lakewood Dr, Austin. Lower Bull Creek Greenbelt: 5343 Old Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin. Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt: 6958 Old Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin. The first address is the main one, with a parking lot and access to the "water slide" area. This is the most popular spot, so there will likely be other people gathering here. Definitely wear your water hiking shoes when you come here, but use caution if you decide to swim, as the water quality isn't always safe. Dogs are welcome here (signs say they should be leashed but many are not).

**MILTON REIMERS RANCH PARK** 23610 Hamilton Road, Dripping Springs. \$5 per adult, cash only. Start off doing the Climbers Canyon trail and then cool down by taking a dip in the Pedernales River at the beach area of this park. Don't forget your towels and sand toys!

**PEDERNALES FALLS** 2585 Park Road 6026, Johnson City. This park is currently requiring reservations, so make sure you check in ahead of time. When you first arrive, you'll want to check out the falls, but you can not swim at them. To get to the swimming area, you drive over and then hike down (not stroller-friendly; definitely bring a baby carrier). There are places along the river to float/tube, swim, or wade. Please be careful when the current is strong! You can mountain bike, fish, and camp here as well. Don't forget to bring water and sunscreen, and maybe a picnic if you are taking a full-day trip. The cost is \$6 per adult. Make sure to check ahead of time to ensure the falls are open, as they are periodically closed for weather or other circumstances.

**WALNUT CREEK METRO PARK** 12138 N Lamar Blvd, Austin. This park usually has some amount of water, unless there hasn't been rain in a long time. Dogs are welcome off-leash here, and they love to share the splashing areas! Please be mindful of those sharing the trail, as there are many mountain bikers who are trying to pass by.

**BARTON CREEK GREENBELT** Check website for different access points. There are so many spots to enter or hike to along the expansive greenbelt. Some of our favorites include Gus Fruh, Twin Falls, Sculpture Falls, Lost Creek, and The Flats. This place can get crowded as it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Austin and there is almost always some gathering and partying happening here. Use caution and adhere to all social distancing protocols that are still in place. Dogs are welcome here!

**MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK** 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin. You must make a reservation to hike here and adults are \$6. There's a big debate amongst locals over which is better: the upper or lower falls. Come and hike and splash in the Onion Creek to decide for yourself!

**CROCKETT GARDENS AND FALLS.** Parking at: 2100 Cedar Breaks Rd, Georgetown. Although there isn't creek water to splash in while you hike to the falls, there are spots to take a dip along the way! This is definitely a moderate-to-hard hike. We would not recommend bringing a toddler on this hike without some sort of carrier. Even my experienced 8- and 10-year-old boys were tired after doing this! It's definitely a workout, but the end result (the falls) is so worth it! Park at Cedar Breaks Park and look for the San Gabriel River Trail sign. You do not have to pay for just hiking here, but camping here requires a fee. The trail to the falls is about 2.5 miles long and is rocky and hilly. About halfway to the falls, you can climb down to the spot where people jump into Lake Georgetown to cool off. Pro tip: You can cut out about a mile of the hike by jumping down about a five-foot wall that will lead you to the falls faster. At the falls themselves, there isn't anywhere to swim unless you venture out into the lake, but you can stand underneath them to cool off and get some great pictures. The parking lot was full when we arrived in the morning, but empty when we left at around 12:30 p.m., so I'd say go later in the day if you'd like to avoid the crowds, or get there at the break of dawn to get a parking spot!

**CHALK RIDGE FALLS** 5600 FM1670, Belton. There is a beautiful trail along the Lampasas River which feels so peaceful and serene when it's not crowded. The most popular spot on this hike is definitely the waterfall, which can also be a mini swimming hole if you bring your suits and take a dip! If you would like to leave your mark at this location, there is a giant stick teepee a bit further down the trail where you can add sticks and keep the project going!

**TEJAS CAMP** 4560 Co Rd 258, Liberty Hill. This is the best-kept secret in town! Part of Lake Georgetown, this watering hole sits along the North San Gabriel River. There are campsites along the hiking trail, just up from the water. You can go just to hike and splash if you just want to spend the day there, or camp if you would like to make it an overnight trip. We saw people with canoes, people setting up chairs and fishing, and people like us who were just hiking and swimming and splashing around. With plenty of space to swim and play, you can ensure that you are safe and away from big crowds! There is some shade on the trail itself, but zero shade if you go into the water. Make sure to sunscreen and wear your hats!

TEJAS CAMP

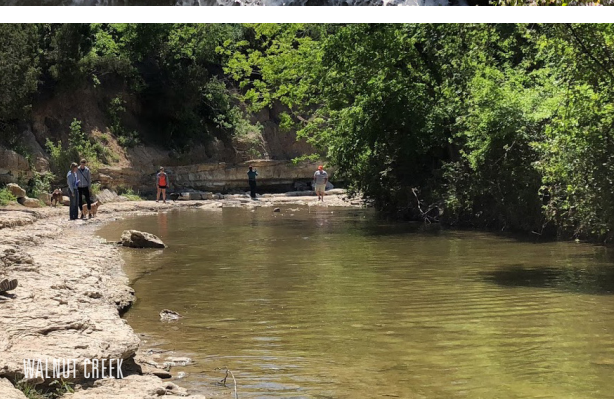
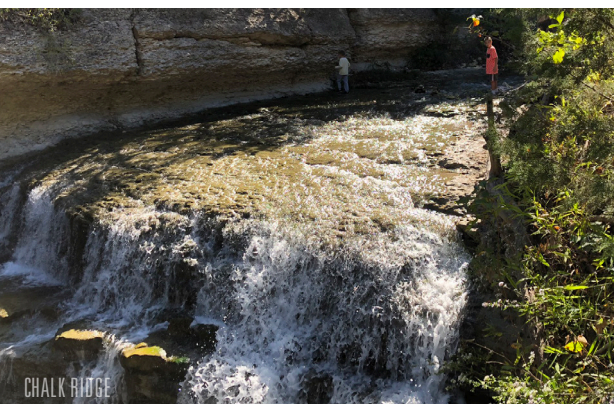


**DINO TRACKS** in Leander These can be found in the south fork of the San Gabriel River. Park near where the San Gabriel River crosses the 183, just north of Leander. If you need to plug in an actual address, you can try 601 S. Gabriel Dr. Leander. Find parking in a small grassy lot in front of a fenced-off area, or park along the median just south of the river. Then, head towards the river and hike west down the riverbed for about a half-mile. You will definitely get wet here if there has been a recent rain! The tracks are a way down, in the riverbed. You can't miss them as they have been filled in with white plaster. There aren't any signs, so if you think you're lost, the exact GPS coordinates are N 30°37.016' W 097°52.098'.

**BRUSHY CREEK TRAIL** 2310 Brushy Creek Rd, Cedar Park. This expansive trail has creek access if you start over by the Brushy Creek Sports Park. Park near the basketball courts and head down the path toward the bridge. You can stay and splash right there near the bridge, or head up a little way on the trail until you find access to the creek.

**SHOAL CREEK TRAIL** 1100 Kingsbury St, Austin (Pease Park entrance). This is a simple trail that does pass along a creek. If you're not in the mood for a swim, you can simply hike along the creek bed and still have lots of fun. My boys love this creek for a little wading and searching for critters, but we don't really swim here. We like to start the trail at Pease Park, which has a fun little splash pad if you'd like to add that to your water adventure!

**SPICEWOOD VALLEY TRAIL** 8043-8585 Scotland Well Dr, Austin. The trailhead here is difficult to spot! The best way to find it is to park at Mountain View Park, head down the sidewalk through the park toward Callanish Park Drive. Once you cross the street, the trail begins alongside one of the houses. The trail itself is very well shaded, and you will find creek access at several points along the way. The trail is mostly flat, but getting down to it does require going down a steep and rocky stairway.





# 7 AWESOME AUSTIN-AREA WATERING HOLES

## Watering Holes!

**KRAUSE SPRINGS** 424 County Rd 404, Spicewood. Take a road trip out to Spicewood to experience this magical place! There's a waterfall, a small cave, and a rope swing. Or, you can just float around on the water and watch others jump in (bring your tubes and floats)! If swimming in nature and having your foot graze a mystery substance at the bottom of the water isn't your thing, they also have a man-made pool, fed by the chilly spring water. Something for everyone! Be sure to call ahead for updates on how full they are and if they are going to close. Once the first parking lot is full, they will not allow any more visitors to enter (the overflow lot is closed). They do not take reservations. Also, if you want to bring your tube or float deflated, they have an air pump you can use onsite. Just ask at the gate! Also, be sure to use caution going down the slippery steps to get to the swimming hole. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and watch little ones as this is an easy place to slip and fall.

**BLUE HOLE IN WIMBERLEY** 100 Blue Hole Lane, Wimberley. This place was a big hit with my kids! You have to make reservations in advance (\$10 per person), so keep that in mind when planning your visit. Bring a tube and float around in the river—the water here is very calm and clear! After you've worked up some courage, try one of the two rope swings. Everyone will cheer for you! End your visit with a nice picnic on the lawn.

**BLUE HOLE IN GEORGETOWN** 100 Blue Hole Park, Georgetown. The other Blue Hole. We love having a good splash here and the nice thing about this place is how convenient it is to get to. You could spend the whole day here, or just pop over for an hour! It doesn't hurt that it's also right next to a Hat Creek Burger Company location, either. Nothing goes better with a day spent at a watering hole than some burgers and shakes! Please keep group sizes to five people, and check the website for updates.

**TEJAS CAMP** 4560 Co Rd 258, Liberty Hill. This might just be the best-kept secret in town! Part of Lake Georgetown, this watering hole sits along the North San Gabriel River. There are campsites along the hiking trail, just up from the water. You can go just to hike and splash and not camp if you just want to spend the day there. We saw people with canoes, people setting up chairs and fishing, and people like us who were just hiking and swimming and splashing around. With plenty of space to splash and swim, it's a safe bet to keep socially distant from others. Keep in mind that there isn't any shade, so slather on that sunscreen and wear a hat while out on the water!

**CYPRESS FALLS** 50 Marina Cir, Wimberley. This swimming hole is part of The Lodge at Cypress Falls and sits along the Cypress Creek. You have to pay to come here (\$6-8) and they do not accept reservations. Bring your own chairs and blankets as seating is limited. Pets are allowed on leashes. They have tubes, canoes, kayaks, and SUP for rent. Catch and release fishing is allowed here as well.

**JACOB'S WELL** You must make reservations and admission is \$5-9. Make sure you bring plenty of water as there is none available for the public. Bring snacks and food and coolers as there is no food available here for the public. The hike to the well is slippery and about 15 minutes from the parking lot, so make sure you wear good hiking shoes and leave strollers in the car. There is limited space at the well, so please leave large inflatable floats at home. There are no lifeguards on duty and no life jackets available, so make sure you keep an eye on your little swimmers!

**HAMILTON POOL** 24300 Hamilton Road, Dripping Springs. This is the most beautiful spot on our list, you won't believe you're still in Texas anymore, but somewhere tropical and dreamy. Be aware that they will not allow swimming if bacteria levels are too high. Pets are prohibited.



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# 12 EASY HIKES FOR TODDLERS

It can be daunting to get out and explore with toddlers in tow, so we've rounded up some easier hikes for you that all ages would enjoy! Please check the rules for each place before you go.

**1. MAYFIELD PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE** 3505 W 35th St, Austin. This is a lovely hike for all ages, but especially for toddlers. There is a little creek you can cross to get to the big hill, and my toddler loves to stop and throw rocks into the water there. There is a big kid-made stick teepee next to the big hill which is fun for toddlers to crawl inside! And perhaps the best part of all is seeing the peacocks at the end of your hike!

**2. BRUSHY CREEK TRAIL** The trail has so many starting points and is huge so there isn't really just one address to share. The part of the trail that is perhaps the best for toddlers specifically is at the corner of Brushy Creek Road and Great Oaks Drive at the **Shirley McDonald Park/Duck Pond** (4390 Brushy Creek Rd, Round Rock). Toddlers can check out the turtles and ducks that live here, and you can continue along the trail to some of the other parks if you'd like. If you start at **Olson Meadows Park** (4200 Brushy Creek Rd, Austin) you can follow the creek there through to the back of the park and beyond for another hike! Or, start at the **Brushy Creek Sports Park** (2310 Brushy Creek Rd, Cedar Park) where there is a lovely little hike through the woods behind the skate park there (basically where people play disc golf).

**3. BALCONES DISTRICT PARK** 12017 Amherst Dr. We usually start at the playground for a bit, then head off on our hiking adventure! There have been many times where we didn't even make it past the big meadow area that's just past the trailhead (because, toddlers), but it's definitely worth it to keep going and hike the loop back to the playground/pool area. There is usually some water on this hike, so toddlers get a thrill out of searching for tadpoles or minnows or frogs.

**4. GREAT HILLS TRAIL** 10704 Floral Park Dr, Austin. Such a great hike! If your goal is just to make it to the wooden bridge/giant boulder area, it isn't too far from the start of the trail and it's very easy for toddlers to handle. We usually try to encourage our kids to keep going to make it to the end (a playground), but you will probably need to carry the toddlers for at least half of the way there since it's pretty far for little legs. Bigger kids can generally handle it fine.

**5. ST. EDWARDS TRAIL** 7301 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin. This hike is very manageable for toddlers and you can usually find enough water here to splash and play in. Wear some good water hiking shoes and swimsuits or bring a change of clothes and a towel. Make sure to take all valuables out of your car and stay on the trail. We have gotten chigger bites from here before!

**6. WALNUT CREEK METRO PARK** 12138 N Lamar Blvd, Austin. We love coming to Walnut Creek! There is a playground at one end of the parking lot near the trail, or you can start at the other end and avoid it altogether. There will usually be water here, but you probably won't find any if it hasn't rained in a while. There are sections where the water is very shallow and just perfect for wading toddlers. Be aware that there are many off-leash dogs running around at this park. Please try to keep to the right side of the trail, as many cyclists will want to pass you. Don't let the little ones dart out in front of a bike!

**7. GAREY PARK** 6450 Ranch to Market Rd 2243, Georgetown. There are many different hiking trails at this expansive park. The most popular one is the one that leads to the San Gabriel River, but if you'd like to keep more socially distant, you can find others as well. If you'd like to take your toddler to the water, it is a very easy hike and the water is shallow and easy to wade in. Go past the gate (after paying the entry fee), all the way down past Garey House. Park near the restrooms. There is plenty of room to spread out and distance from others even if it is crowded. Make a note to return to check out the epic playground here.

**8. BERRY SPRINGS PARK** 1801 Co Rd 152, Georgetown. This has many paths for walking and all are very flat/easy for toddlers. They will also love the animals you can visit while you're here. Make sure you bring carrots or apples to feed the donkeys! There are little fishing ponds, trees to climb for the older kids, and lots of space to run around.

**9. MARY MOORE SEARIGHT PARK TRAIL** 907 W Slaughter Ln, Austin. There are many different trails here, but the outer loop covers just over two miles and features access to the creek for some easy splashing and tadpole watching. My boys love to bring nets to try and catch minnows and baby frogs. Although some shade may be found near the water, there isn't a lot on the trail itself, so make sure you slather on that sunscreen, wear hats, or go when it isn't very hot out yet.

**10. LOST CREEK TRAIL** Bend Of The River Dr, Lost Creek (just before the Lost Creek Country Club entrance). This is such a perfect hike for toddlers. It isn't far to walk, the trail is simple, and you can easily find shade here. The best part is the water! There are deeper parts and more shallow areas, with plenty of skipping/throwing pebbles on the banks to keep toddlers busy for hours. Park along the side street off to the right, just before you hit the Lost Creek Country Club. Then, head down under the bridge.

**11. JOE B FREEMAN PARK** 301 Forest Ridge Blvd, Round Rock. This hidden gem of a park can be found in east Round Rock and sits along the Brushy Creek Trail. There is also a space to play horseshoes, a little labyrinth, a pavilion, and a trailhead to the Brushy Creek Trail, marked by a Bigfoot sign. The woody area surrounding the trail leads you to believe that an actual Bigfoot could really live there!

**12. SPICEWOOD VALLEY TRAIL** 8043-8585 Scotland Well Dr, Austin. The trailhead here is difficult to spot! The best way to find it is to park at Mountain View Park, head down the sidewalk through the park toward Callanish Park Drive. Once you cross the street, the trail begins alongside one of the houses. The trail itself is very well shaded, and you will find creek access at several points along the way. There isn't really a good way for strollers to get down here, so bring a carrier if your toddler gets tired easily.





# 10 BEACHY SWIMS

Close to Austin

Beaches in Austin do exist if you know where to look! We know the beachiest spots that are so much fun, you won't even miss the ocean. Just don't forget your sand toys!



## EMMA LONG

1600 City Park Rd, Austin. This is a favorite park of locals and it's easy to see why. You can do it all here: hike, swim, boat, camp, picnic, fish, and more. The cost for day use is \$5-10 per vehicle, and you will need a reservation Thursday - Sunday. It's easy to spot the sandy beach, and kids love to jump the waves made by passing boats. Jumping off the pier is another favorite part of this beach. Watch out for the ants (they're everywhere!) and make sure you have plenty of water and sunscreen as there isn't any shade right along the beach.

## SECRET BEACH

800 Grove Blvd, Austin. Park at the Montopolis Youth Sports Complex at Roy G. Guerrero Park and cross the street toward the walking trail. The secret is out, and this beach can get quite crowded, especially in the warmer months or nicer days. It's popular for a reason—this is a fantastic little beachy spot right here in Austin! Bring sand toys and maybe a little shady tent or umbrella. You'll be tempted to seek shade in the wooded area beyond the beach, but this should be avoided as poison ivy is often there. The hike to the beach is a good 10 minutes away from the parking lot. Swimming is not allowed here (though many people do), because the dam will release around noon and the water current can get pretty fast, making it somewhat dangerous. If you stay late enough to see this, make sure you move your stuff up away from the water beforehand so it doesn't get soaked, as the water can rise pretty high up the sand. You will also see many dogs off-leash here, so keep that in mind if that will make your child nervous.

## MILTON REIMERS RANCH PARK

23610 Hamilton Road, Dripping Springs. \$5 per adult, cash only. Start with the Climbers Canyon trail, then cool down with a dip in the Pedernales River at the beach area of this park. Don't forget your towels and sand toys!

## PEDERNALES FALLS

2585 Park Road 6026, Johnson City. When you first arrive, you'll want to check out the falls, but you can not swim at them. Instead, look for the sandy, beach-like area and swimming area. There are places along the river to float/tube, swim, or wade. Please be careful when the current is strong! You can mountain bike, fish, and camp here as well. Be sure to make a reservation before you go. Admission is \$6 per adult. Pedernales Falls is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice.

## PACE BEND PARK MUDD COVE BEACH

2011 Pace Bend Rd N, Spicewood. Admission is \$5 per adult (cash only; kids are free).

## LAKE PFLUGERVILLE

18216 Weiss Ln, Pflugerville. This sweet little beach is always a big hit with kids. The lake is warm enough to swim in and the pebble beach is just perfect for building pea gravel castles. This park does draw a crowd, so get there early to get a good spot. Bring floats or tubes to hang out in the water, or rent boats when you arrive.

## LAKEWAY CITY PARK

502 Hurst Creek Rd, Lakeway. This is a great place to swim, kayak, canoe, play sand volleyball, picnic, hike, ride bikes, fish, fly a kite, and more!

## RUSSELL PARK

2101 Co Rd 262, Georgetown. Many families enjoy camping at Russell Park, but you can also go for the day. Find a beach-like area here to swim and splash around in Lake Georgetown.

## JIM HOGG PARK

500 Jim Hogg Rd, Georgetown. This is more of a rocky beach, so be sure to wear hiking/water shoes and use caution with little ones swimming here. The lake gets deep quickly!

## BOB WENTZ PARK

7144 Comanche Trail, Austin. Admission is \$5 per person age 13 and up.



## AUSTIN RUNNERS CLUB DECKER CHALLENGE

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WHEN: December 20, 2020

WHERE: Circuit of the Americas

TIME: 7:00am

### Add a half marathon to your family's bucket list!

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5 Kid-Friendly  
**FARMS**  
Near Austin



**Farms can offer a beneficial and an enjoyable experience! By visiting a farm, kids can see firsthand where and how they get their favorite foods... to Visit a nearby farm to meet animal friends, pick fresh berries, and enjoy outdoor family fun!**

- **CROWE'S NEST FARM** - 10300 Taylor Ln, Manor. There is so much to see at Crowe's Nest Farm! Watch a cow being milked, meet some baby piglets, and take a hayride out to see bison and ostriches! And that's just the beginning of the tour. There are so many other animals to see as you wander the grounds and take in the beauty of the farm.
- **SWEET EATS FARM** - 14400 East State Highway 29, Georgetown. Pick your own fruit! Visit with the animals! Play one of their many outside games like the jump pad, obstacle course, duck races, gaga ball, and more! There is so much to do here that you could stay all day.
- **SWEET BARRY FARM** - 1801 FM1980, Marble Falls. They close for the summer, but in fall they reopen with a fall festival. In the spring, you can come back to pick your own strawberries. Don't forget to sample some of their homemade ice cream while you're visiting!
- **JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS** - 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr, Austin. Open Thursdays through Sundays, here you can experience what life was like for the pioneers.
- **BARTON HILL FARMS** - 1115 FM 969, Bastrop. This is one of the very best farms to check out in the fall. They have an impressive fall festival that includes a pumpkin patch, a hay maze, games, food, and more!

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## LOOKING FOR A GOOD HIKE OUTSIDE AUSTIN?

*These day trips will be worth the drive!*



### ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

16710 Ranch Rd. 965 Fredericksburg. Chances are if you haven't already been to Enchanted Rock, it's high up on your list of places to check out! Hike up to the top for spectacular views, or try one of the many hiking trails in the surrounding area. There should be plenty of room to maintain social distancing. They do require reservations and adults are \$8 (kids are free). Pets are not allowed on the trails. It can get very hot here, so make sure you bring plenty of water and sunscreen or go on a cooler day.

### GORMAN FALLS AT COLORADO BEND STATE PARK

2236 Park Hill Dr, Bend. It won't be hard to imagine you're in Hawaii when you experience this stunning waterfall! This hike can be challenging for small hikers. Make sure you wear sturdy hiking shoes as the terrain can be rocky and slippery.

### BLANCO STATE PARK

101 Park Rd 23, Blanco. This park is on the smaller side, but it's still worth taking the drive out to the charming town of Blanco. After hiking the Caswell Nature Trail, relax with a picnic near the lake and then go for a dip in the water! Bring your floats or rent a kayak if you want to stay more socially distant. You can also take your chances with the crowds at the swimming pool area, attached to the lake itself.

### CANYONLANDS TRAIL/JONES BROTHERS PARK

10801 Crestview Dr. Jonesville; 10301 Lakeside Dr, Jonestown. This is a two-part road trip destination. First stop: Fireman's Park, where you can find the Canyonlands Trail. Then, make your way over to Jones Brothers Park for a swim in the lake!

### CHALK RIDGE FALLS/ STILLHOUSE HOLLOW LAKE

5600 FM1670, Belton; 4050 Simmons Rd, Belton. Another two-part road trip idea! First, hike to the waterfall at Chalk Ridge Falls. Then to make the most of your time out in Belton, drive over to swim at Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Here, you will find a beachy lake to swim and relax. Don't forget your water shoes for this one as the lake bottom is very rocky. The lake is great for fishing or boating here as well. Note that this lake park is closed from October to March 1.



ENCHANTED ROCK



CHALK RIDGE FALLS

# 25

YEARS RUNNING  
**MARATHON KIDS**

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# 10

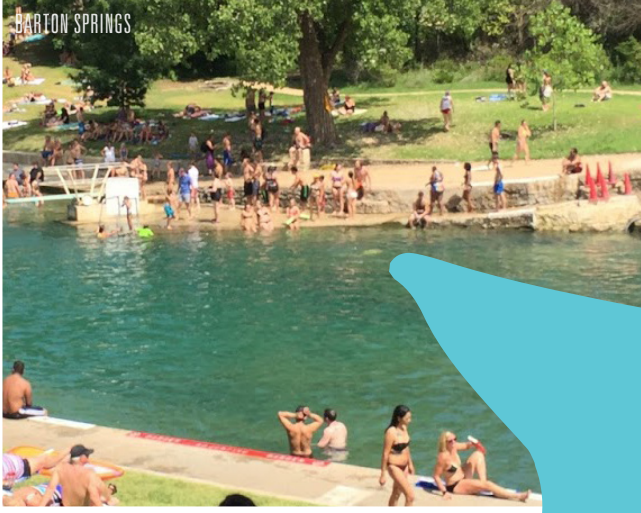
## EXCITING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

# for visitors

Share the best of Austin with your friends and visitors!

### HERE ARE 10 EXCITING PLACES TO STAY ACTIVE AND HAVE FUN OUTDOORS.

- **ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDENS** - 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin. Kids of all ages will love to explore the lush grounds at Austin's own botanical garden. Feel like a caveman wandering through the prehistoric garden, or search for tiny mythical creatures in the Woodland Faerie Trail exhibit. Make reservations online before you go (\$3-8).
- **LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER** - 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin. This place is enormous! You can bring food in and spend the entire day here. Plenty of space to spread out, let the kids run around and explore. It's a perfect spot for bluebonnet photos in early spring. Make a reservation online before you visit (\$6-12).
- **BARTON SPRINGS** - 2131 William Barton Dr, Austin. No tourist guide would be complete without mentioning Barton Springs. Check the website to see if you need a reservation and secure a spot. This refreshing, spring-fed pool is located within Zilker Park, so you could spend the day here playing, picnicking, or visiting the park's other attractions.
- Canoe, kayak, or SUP on **LADY BIRD LAKE**. This is a favorite spot for visitors and locals alike. The views! The people-watching! You can't beat a day out on the water of Lady Bird Lake. There are several companies that rent canoes, kayaks, or SUP, including Rowing Dock and Zilker Park Boat Rentals.
- **CEDAR ROCK RAILROAD** - 390 Borho Dr, Round Rock. Train-loving kids will love a ride through Southwest Williamson County Park. Stay and play on the playground after your ride, or cool off at the nearby Quarry Splashpad.
- **MOUNT BONNELL** - 3800 Mount Bonnell Road, Austin. Climb the steps to the top, take in the views of the water and the city skyline, then enjoy a leisurely stroll back down. This is pretty easy for all hiking skill levels; the hardest part will be the stairs at the beginning!
- **WESTCAVE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER** - 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd, Round Mountain. Be sure to make a reservation to explore this beautiful destination. A hike to the grotto makes you feel like you are in a different time and place!



- **DINOSAUR PARK** - 893 Union Chapel Rd, Cedar Creek. If your visiting friends have kids that love dinosaurs, you must take them to this one-of-a-kind park! It's always a huge hit for kids big and small. Wander the grounds and see life-size dinosaurs, follow the clues from the scavenger hunt, and learn all about what life was like in prehistoric times.
- **WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE** - 805 N Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin. This beautiful hike should not be missed! Hiking is free, but donations are welcomed and go toward conservation efforts. There are different hikes depending on your skill level, peaceful views, and a waterfall!
- **AUSTIN NATURE + SCIENCE CENTER** - 2389 Stratford Dr, Austin. This is a popular field trip spot because there is so much to learn about and explore here! Most kids want to dig for bones and fossils in the dino sandpit, but there's so much more to discover while you're here!



# 20 EASY PLACES TO CAMP WITH KIDS

*near Austin*

Want to try camping with your kids but feeling overwhelmed? There are so many places near Austin that are just perfect for first-time campers, kids, and families. Please check the website links before you go to see if you need an advance reservation.

**Inks Lake** 3630 Park Road 4 West, Burnet

**Pace Bend** 2805 Pacebend Road North, Spicewood

**Guadalupe River State Park** 3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch

**Russell Park** 2101 Co Rd 262, Georgetown

**Krause Springs** 424 Co Rd 404, Spicewood

**Blanco State Park** 101 Park Rd 23, Blanco

**Emma Long** 1600 City Park Rd, Austin

**Mulshoe Bend Recreation Area** 2820 Co Rd 414, Spicewood

**Palmetto State Park** 78 Park Rd 11 S, Gonzales

**Somerville State Park** 14222 Park Rd 57, Somerville

**Longs Fish and Dig** 822 C R 321, Kingsland (325) 388-6131

**Tejas Camp** 4560 Co Rd 258, Liberty Hill

**Jim Hogg** 500 Jim Hogg Rd, Georgetown

**Pedernales Falls** 2585 Park Rd 6026, Johnson City

**McKinney Falls** 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin

**Cedar Breaks Park** 2100 Cedar Breaks Rd, Georgetown

**Bastrop State Park** 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop

**Berry Springs** 1801 Co Rd 152, Georgetown

**Arkansas Bend** 16900 Cherry Ln, Lago Vista.  
Great place to camp and swim on Lake Travis!

**Garner State Park** 234 RR 1050, Concan

