



A photograph of a paved road curving through a hilly, green landscape. The sky is a warm, golden-orange at sunset, with a few wispy clouds. In the distance, dark mountains are visible against the horizon.

7 Road Trips Around Texas to Add to Your 2026 Bucket List





Round Top, Texas

Antiques, Festivals & Small-Town Charm

A tiny town with huge antique reputation — home of the Original Round Top Antiques Fair. The town draws thousands of designers, collectors, and casual browsers alike. During the famed events, miles of tents, restored barns, and open-air markets overflow with one-of-a-kind finds — from rustic Texas Americana and vintage furniture to European antiques, art, and global treasures.

Hunt for treasures at the seasonal antiques markets, enjoy countryside galleries, boutiques, and local eateries, and relax at unique lodging spots like The Frenchie.

Drive Time: ~4 hours from Dallas-Fort Worth.

Best Time to Go: Time it with Round Top Antiques Fair events in the Winter, Spring & Fall for full buzz.





Second-largest canyon in the U.S., Palo Duro Canyon's dramatic rock walls and deep vistas are a must see.

Hike Lighthouse Trail, go on scenic drives and horseback riding. Go camping with epic sunsets and stargazing.

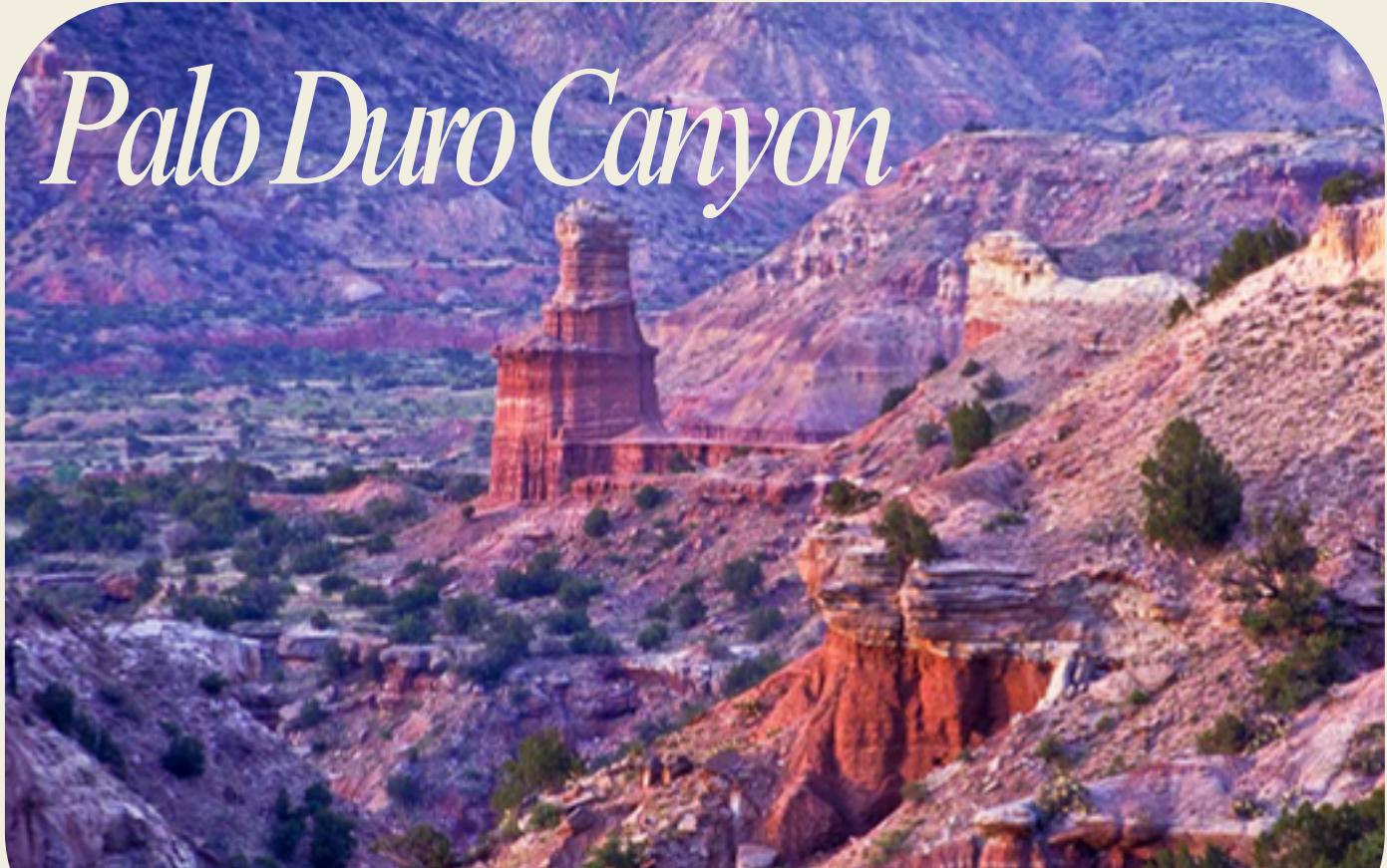
“Grand Canyon of Texas”

Drive Time: ~5–6 hours from Dallas-Fort Worth into the Panhandle.

Best Time to Go: Spring & late Fall to avoid summer heat.



Palo Duro Canyon





Fredericksburg, Texas

Hill Country Wine & History

One of Texas's most beloved Hill Country towns — famous for its German heritage, scenic vineyards, and boutique Main Street.

Go wine tasting at Becker, Pedernales Cellars, or Signor vineyards. Explore the local shops along Main Street. Hike or stargaze at nearby Enchanted Rock. Explore history at National Museum of the Pacific War. Drive down the road to Luckenbach to see what it's all about. Don't forget to try a juicy, sun-ripened peach at Jenschke Orchards or Das Peach Haus.

Drive Time: ~4 hours from Dallas—Fort Worth.

Best Time to Go: Spring for wildflowers & wine patios and Fall for mild weather & harvest events.





Texas Barbecue Capital

Drive Time: ~5 hours from Dallas-Fort Worth (via I-35/South Central).

Best Time to Go: Year-round, especially Fall/Winter for BBQ comfort eats.

Known as the Barbecue Capital of Texas — historic pits like Black's, Kreuz, and Smitty's draw meat lovers from everywhere.

Try legendary brisket and explore downtown Caldwell County Courthouse and craft spots.



Lockhart, Texas





Wimberley, Texas

Swimming Holes & Scenic Views

Drive Time: ~4–4½ hours from Dallas–Fort Worth.

Best Time to Go: Late Spring–Summer for peak swimming season.

A quintessential Hill Country escape — known for crystal-clear swimming holes, dramatic limestone landscapes, local art, and a laid-back, nature-first lifestyle



Blue Hole Regional Park and Jacob's Well are the area's most iconic swimming holes and natural preserves. Browse the Wimberley Square for local art galleries, antiques, and boutiques, and enjoy live music, wine tastings, and laid-back Hill Country dining.



The heart of classic Texas charm — best known as the home of Blue Bell Ice Cream, but also loved for its rolling countryside, wildflowers, and historic downtown.

Visit the Blue Bell Creamery Factory, where the iconic Texas ice cream has been made for over a century, and take photographs out in the bluebonnet country.

Blue Bell, Bluebonnets & Small-Town Charm

Drive Time: ~3 1/2–4 hours from Dallas–Fort Worth.

Best Time to Go: Spring for peak bluebonnet season and mild weather.



Brenham, Texas

Marfa, Texas



Art, Desert, & Mystery

Drive Time: ~7 1/2–8 hours from Dallas-Fort Worth.

Best Time to Go: Fall & Spring for comfortable temps and clearer skies.



A quirky, high-desert art hub with minimalist installations and a unique cultural vibe.

Walk the galleries downtown galleries and see the Prada Marfa art installation, watch for the mysterious Marfa Lights glowing orbs at night just off U.S. Route 67, visit the Chinati Foundation's large-scale contemporary art, and check out the historic El Paisano Hotel.