

10 PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS

By Dale Blasingame

Of the 95 state parks in the state of Texas, there are many that showcase the beautiful areas around them. Here are ten of the best landscape vistas you can find.






PHOTO BY TPWD


ATLANTA STATE PARK

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


Pack a lunch and park your car along the shore of Wright Patman Lake, enjoying how the waves gently roll in against the trees. The drive into the park is just as pretty, with miles of towering trees shading parts of the road.


 [Map and directions](#)

 927 Park Road 42
Atlanta, TX 75551

 Latitude: 33.230735
Longitude: -94.249683

 [Online reservations](#)

 (903) 796-6476

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$3 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO © DALEY SMITH


BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK


PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS

Whether you choose to stick to the paved roads of FM 170 or venture onto the unpaved roads in the interior of the park, you can't go wrong with these views. Make sure to check out the views from FM 170's Big Hill and the rock formations along the Rio Grande.


Map and directions

 1900 Saucedo Ranch Rd
Presidio, TX 79845

 Latitude: 29.418054
Longitude: -103.989751

 Phone reservations
(512) 389-8919

 (432) 358-4444

 Entrance Fees
Adult (Peak): \$5 Daily
Adult (Non-peak) : \$3 Daily
Child 12 and Under : Free

 Visit park website




PHOTO BY CHASE FOUNTAIN / TPWD


CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


If you're lucky, you'll get to witness the beautiful scenery of the Caprock with a special guest, a bison. Caprock Canyons is the home of the state bison herd, which adds to the majesty of this park. A favorite spot to stop and breathe in the view is just before the Wild Horse Camping Area.


 [Map and directions](#)

 P.O. Box 204
Quitaque, TX 79255

 Latitude: 34.439742
Longitude: -101.051622

 [Online reservations](#)

 (830) 232-6132

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$4 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO BY TPWD


DAVIS MOUNTAINS STATE PARK

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


The hike or drive along Skyline Drive leads you to the best views of the town of Fort Davis and the park itself, including the beautiful Indian Lodge. The state park is also only 12 miles away from the McDonald Observatory, where star parties provide views of a more celestial nature.


 [Map and directions](#)

 PO Box 1707
Fort Davis, TX 79734

 Latitude: 30.599926
Longitude: -103.925934

 [Online reservations](#)

 (432) 426-3337

 Entrance Fees
Adult (Day Use Only): \$6 Daily
Adult (Overnight) : \$5 Daily
Child 12 and Under : Free

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO © ERIC W POHL


ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS

Perhaps the most popular view in all of Texas is from the top of Enchanted Rock, in the granite Llano Uplift near Fredericksburg. The climb to the top, three-quarters of a mile, is challenging, but the view is worth it. Make sure to get there early during peak season to beat the crowds.


 [Map and directions](#)

 16710 Ranch Rd. 965
Fredericksburg, TX
78624

 Latitude: 30.505381
Longitude: -98.819844

 [Online reservations](#)

 (830) 685-3636

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$7 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO © ERIC W POHL


GARNER STATE PARK

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


The view from the Old Baldy summit is a special one, especially after the leaves change color in the fall. There's no better spot to catch the cypress-lined Frio River and the miles of land around it. Likewise, the view of Old Baldy from the Painted Rock area is also worth your time.


 [Map and directions](#)

 234 RR 1050
Concan, TX 78838

 Latitude: 29.590745
Longitude: -99.739754

 [Online reservations](#)

 (830) 232-6132

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$7 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)



PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM / TPWD


LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


For a look at leaves changing color, hiking in Lost Maples during the fall is a must-do for any Texan. The best view in the park is at the scenic overlook along the East Trail, where you get a bird's-eye view of the spectacular maple trees.


 [Map and directions](#)

 37221 F.M. 187
Vanderpool, TX 78885

 Latitude: 29.826021
Longitude: -99.586952

 [Online reservations](#)

 (830) 966-3413

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$6 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)



PHOTO BY TPWD


MONUMENT HILL STATE HISTORIC SITE


PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS

Monument Hill is home to perhaps the most underrated view in all of Texas. The trail from the visitors center features two fantastic overlooks: one looking down on the ruins of the old Kreische Brewery and the other over the Colorado River, with views of the rail bridge headed into La Grange.

 [Map and directions](#)

 414 State Loop 92
La Grange, TX 78945

 Latitude: 29.888953
Longitude: -96.875351

 (979) 968-5658

 Entrance Fees
None

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO © LAURENCE PARENT


PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK

PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


No view in Texas beats the scene from the Lighthouse at the end of a 3-mile hike. No worries, though, if you're not into strenuous activity. You can check out Palo Duro's beauty from an overlook at the visitors center parking lot.


 [Map and directions](#)

 11450 Park Road 5
Canyon, TX 79015

 Latitude: 34.984677
Longitude: -101.7018083

 [Online reservations](#)

 (806) 488-2227

 Entrance Fees
Adult Day Use: \$5 Daily
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)




PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM / TPWD


WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY


PARKS WITH STUNNING VIEWS


If you're impressed by the Franklin Mountains, why not go to the top? Gondolas and a really sturdy cable will take you on a 2,600-foot ride up the east side of the mountains to Ranger Peak, where you will have a 360-degree view of three states and two countries.


 [Map and directions](#)

 1700 McKinley
El Paso, TX 79930

 Latitude: 31.812314
Longitude: -106.483857

 **Hours**
Friday/Saturday Noon - 7pm
Sunday/Holidays 10am - 5pm
Closed Monday - Thursday

 (915) 566-6622

 **Tram Ride Fees**
Adults: \$8 / 12 & under \$4

 [Visit website](#)

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