



TOP HIKING TRAILS IN CENTRAL TEXAS



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DIFFICULTY LEVEL: *Easy*

Downtown Austin Tour **601 N Lamar Blvd,** **Austin, TX 78703**

A perfect "get to know Austin" day hike for anyone who wants an easy tour of the great scenery, swimming holes, water activities, and outdoor green spaces that give downtown Austin its unique personality.



Lady Bird Lake **Ann and Roy Butler Hike and** **Bike Trail, Austin, TX 78701**

If you want to see Austin from a path, hit the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike trail around Lady Bird Lake. This trail takes you through the famous Zilker Park, past the Stevie Ray Vaughan statue, under the bat bridges, along the new boardwalk, all while surrounded by Austin's beautiful wildlife.



Lake Somerville Flag Pond and Trailway Loop **U.S. Operating Tracy #1,** **Somerville, TX 77879**

This route offers a great variety of landscapes in a relatively short distance. You'll get to see a number of creeks, marshy areas, some dense forests, and large meadows that are full of wildflowers in spring. The highlight is the full loop around Flag Pond which is a man-made migratory bird sanctuary, and it is packed with birds. There is limited shade on this hike.

Hamilton Pool Loop **Dripping Springs, Texas** **78620**

A short hike with a major payoff. Once at the pool, enjoy the lollipop loop around the pool. If you're lucky and it's been raining, the waterfall will be flowing. The land was once owned by ranchers and purchased by the country to restore this fragile ecosystem.

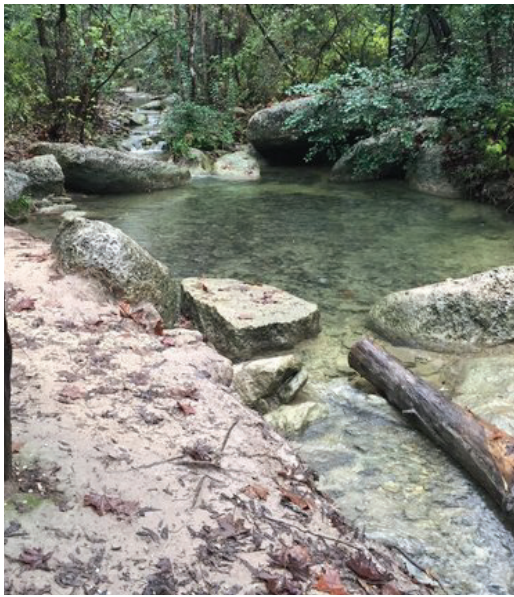


DIFFICULTY LEVEL: *Intermediate*

River Place Nature Trail **8820 Big View Dr,** **Austin, TX 78730**

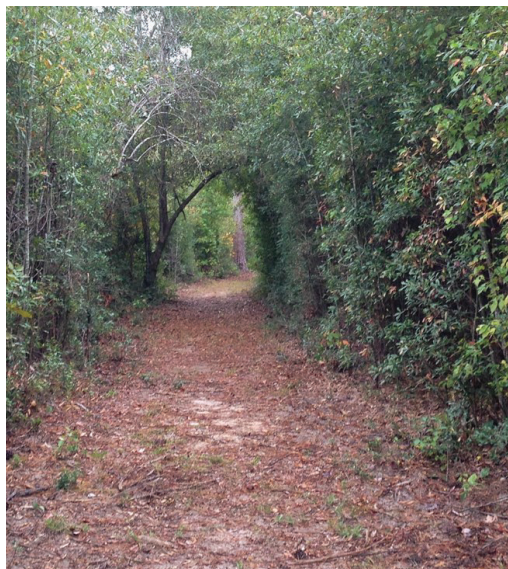
This beautiful gem invites visitors to quickly connect with nature. Locals love it for its beautiful scenery and enveloping tranquility. Although the trail isn't too technical, its steady climbs, rolling terrain, and countless stairs make it an endeavor.

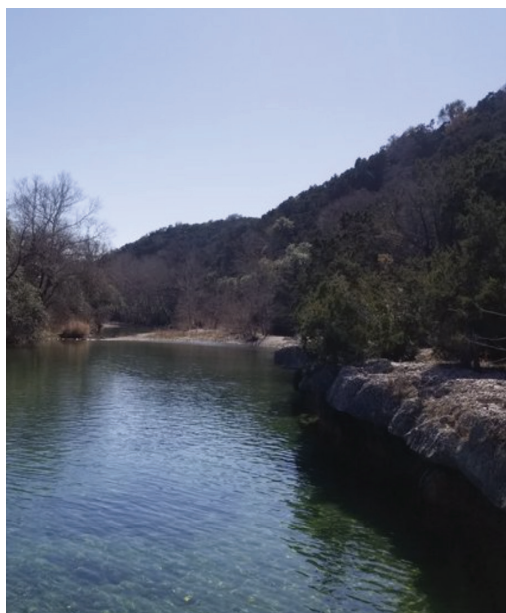
If your party isn't up to the full adventure, it's easy to head back at any point.



Turkey Creek Trail **Emma Long Metro Park Turkey** **Creek Trail, Austin, TX 78730**

The Turkey Creek Trail offers visitors a great hike past a fern wall and viewpoint. This hike makes for a short, fun outing, especially in the heat of summer. Bring your pooch if you have one, as it will love to cool off in the creek on a hot summer day.





Upper Barton Creek Greenbelt

**1710 Camp Craft Rd,
Austin, TX 78746**

This hike starts off at the "Hill of Life" just off the crossing of Scottish Woods Trail road and Camp Craft road. If you have already done the downtown day hike around Lady Bird Lake Trail and the lower loop hike of the Barton Creek Greenbelt, then this challenging hike will round off the hat trick!

Enchanted Rock Tour **16710 Ranch Rd 965,** **Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

The 425-foot high granite Enchanted Rock is a very well known feature of Hill Country; however, there are a lot of other great features in the rather small State Natural Area containing it. This loop trail covers most of the park's highlights in a fun half-day.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: *Intermediate*

Pennybacker Bridge Overlook Trail Hidden Valley, Austin, TX 78730

The Austin 360 Bridge (which is also known as the Pennybacker Bridge) is an architecturally pleasant bridge on Austin's west side that allows Highway 360 and pedestrians to cross Lake Austin/the Colorado River. The bridge also has a wonderful overlook accessible by this trail that is well worth a quick stop if passing by.



East Trail Route 37221 RM 187, Vanderpool, TX 78885

Enjoy this 3 mile trail that is great for those looking for a quick trek through the beautiful maple trees of the park.

Occasional crossings for this trail occur at the Sabinal river and the rock "walkways" can be covered by a few inches of water especially if it has been raining so be sure to bring extra socks and shoes if you're not one for soggy feet!



Lakeway Canyonlands **187 Trophy Dr,** **Lakeway, TX 78734**

This is a beautiful scenic 5.8-mile route for taking in a bit of everything the Lakeway Canyonlands has to offer. You'll find a great variety of terrain and plenty of shade if you stick to the route. The Canyon Trail section is probably the most fun section of the whole trip, with bridged creek crossings, nice trail details, and a great waterfall to see in wet months.

Goodwater Loop Trail **Williamson County, Texas** **78628**

The trail passes through five Army Corps of Engineers operated parks. The trail passes by the Crockett Gardens Springs which flows in the lake. The area is covered with ferns and other greenery. There are also three primitive backcountry camping areas along the trail. The trail also passes over the dam.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: *Difficult*

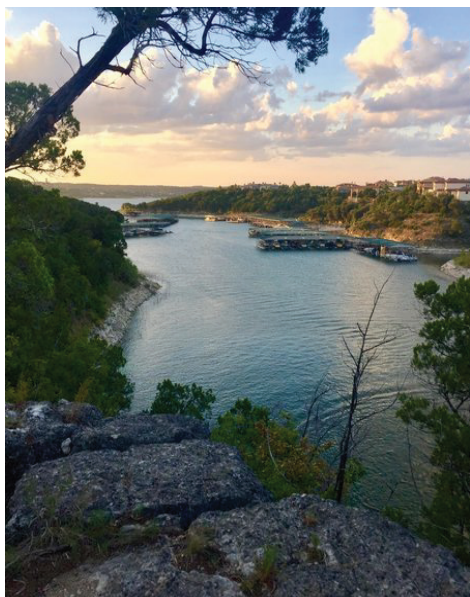
Hurst Hollow Trail **Hidden Valley,** **Austin, TX 78730**

This trail is distinctly more technical and requires more skill than the easier Hamilton Greenbelt I Trail & Hamilton Greenbelt II Trail that lead into the area. There's lots of deer in this area. Don't be surprised if you come on a few bucks along this trail.



Peninsula Pass Trail **Lake Travis Independent** **School District, Texas**

This is a gorgeous trail extending out to the Rough Hollow arm of Lake Travis with an offshoot to a spectacular cove. The last 50 yards of the trail as mapped here are a steep set of mini-switchbacks leading down to the water. The city has put in guidelines to help those who need them getting down (and up!).



Rough Hollow Cove 187 Trophy Dr, Lakeway, TX 78734

The trails along this hike are steep and challenging in several locations. However, the natural features of the area are exceptional and the opportunity to enjoy a day of uncrowded lakeside access makes it well worth the hike! This is a hiker's hike, so wear appropriate shoes, use your pack, and don't plan on carrying anything in by hand.



Deception Brushy Creek Greenbelt Regional Trail, Austin, TX 78717

Described as "it's packed in like a small intestine." Over 6 miles of rocky, tight and twisty turns with lots of switchbacks, and many rough sections that increase in numbers and difficulty the further you hike. Be aware that this trail is shared with mountain bikers and that you stay alert when hiking this trail.



Our Favorite Hiking Apps

1. PeakVisor

PeakVisor uses your phone's camera and state-of-the-art 3D technology to show you the names and elevations of 1,016,681 peaks around the world. You can also use this app to identify mountain huts and viewpoints, as well as hiking routes that can get you to some, but not all of, the peaks. You can input photos you've taken in years past to identify the peaks in your pictures, too. PeakVisor PRO, available for \$2.99 a month on the App Store and \$4.49 on Google Play, lets you experience the same features and functionality offline.



2. AllTrails

Users can sort routes by activity, suitability (think stroller friendly and wheelchair accessible) and popularity. You can further tailor your search of the app's 100,000-plus trails by length, difficulty, elevation gain, route type and amount of trail traffic. Once you select a path, you can read reviews from other recreationists, check the weather forecast, review a trail map and scroll through photos of the route. Once you're on the trail, there's a nifty feature for recording your mileage, so you can track your distance as you go.



3. Star Walk 2

With Star Walk 2, you can identify the constellations above you when you're on an evening hike or backpacking trip. You can discover celestial objects, see how they move across the sky and figure out where to look for any stars or planets you want to see. The

latest version of the app offers a real-time map of the sky, 3D models of constellations, augmented reality and even a section for astronomical news. If you have kiddos, or just want to gaze upward in wonderment, this is the app for you.



4. Seek by iNaturalist

With image recognition technology, Seek helps you identify the plants and animals you spot while you're out adventuring. It also shows you commonly recorded flora and fauna near you, based on millions of observations on iNaturalist, an initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the

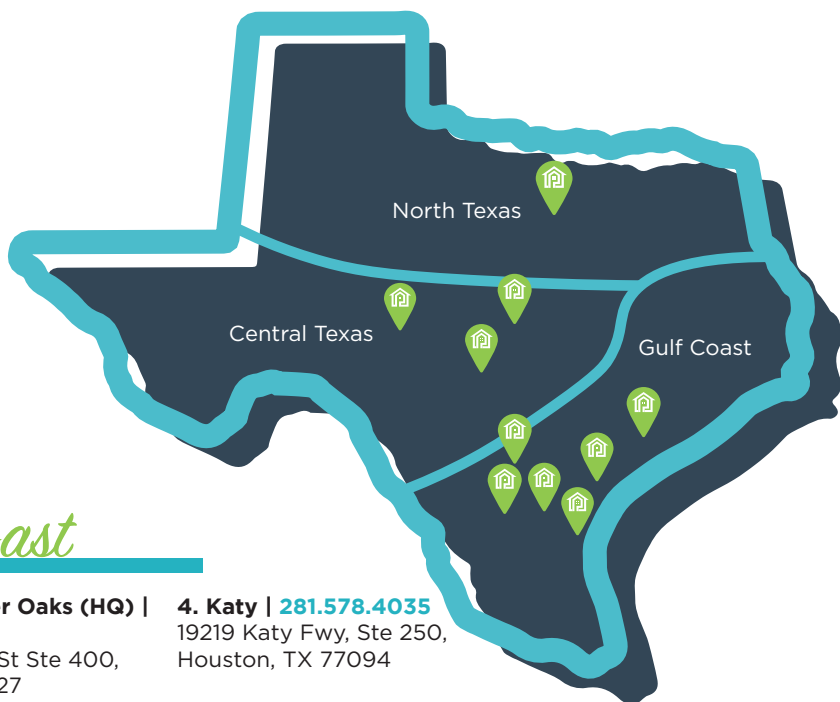


National Geographic Society. Building off the success of the iNaturalist app, the team partnered with Netflix's Our Planet and World Wide Fund to build monthly observation challenges you can take on directly in the app. The overhauled interface and ability to earn badges for finding different types of birds, amphibians, plants and fungi make this a serious upgrade.



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OUR REGIONAL LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU ACROSS TEXAS



Gulf Coast

1. Houston - River Oaks (HQ) | 713.621.5808

4265 San Felipe St Ste 400,
Houston, TX 77027

2. Cypress | 832.364.6900

12300 Dundee Ct, Ste 215,
Cypress, TX 77429

3. Kingwood | 832.564.4512

2815 W Lake Houston Pkwy,
Ste 106,
Kingwood, TX 77339

4. Katy | 281.578.4035

19219 Katy Fwy, Ste 250,
Houston, TX 77094

5. Sugar Land | 281.240.2049

1650 Highway 6, Ste 160,
Sugar Land, TX 77478

6. Memorial | 713.678.0464

820 Gessner Rd, Ste. 230,
Houston, TX 77024

Central Texas

1. Northwest Austin | 512.241.1818

9600 Great Hills Trail,
Ste 150 E,
Austin, TX 78759

2. West Austin | 512.607.5020

3801 N. Capital of TX Hwy,
Ste J-120,
Austin, TX 78746

3. Kingsland* | 512.521.0778

14757 West FM 1431,
Ste 204,
Kingsland, TX 78639

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Irving, TX 75062



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