





TEXAS

Wild & Wonderful



Spend two weeks immersed in the rugged beauty of west Texas. Start your journey in Historic Grapevine, Texas before heading west through Lubbock to El Paso. From El Paso, travel to Big Bend National Park for scenic vistas and incredible stargazing. As you return to Grapevine, you'll stop to visit more unique Texas towns.



GRAPEVINE

Welcome to Grapevine, Texas. Located on the shores of Lake Grapevine and home to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, Grapevine is the perfect place to begin and end your Texas adventure. With 20+ hotels, including boutique, luxury and select-service options, you'll find a comfortable place to stay.

Explore Grapevine's **Urban Wine Trail**, with multiple winery tasting rooms all within walking distance along **Historic Main Street**. Grapevine is a vibrant urban wine destination where Texas wineries, like Messina Hof and Landon proudly showcase their varietals in tasting rooms. Enjoy unique experiences such as champagne sabering or crafting your own charcuterie board. As you stroll along the Urban Wine Trail, discover local art galleries and meet working artisans, including glassblowers who create colorful masterpieces using 2,000-degree heat.

Along Historic Main Street, you can indulge in wine tastings and tours while exploring more than 40 boutiques, chocolatiers and dining at international chef-driven cafés and bistros. Savor a wide range of cuisines, from BBQ and Tex-Mex to Italian and Southern comfort food. For a breathtaking view of the entire DFW metroplex, head to the 150-foot-high **Grapevine Observation Tower**.

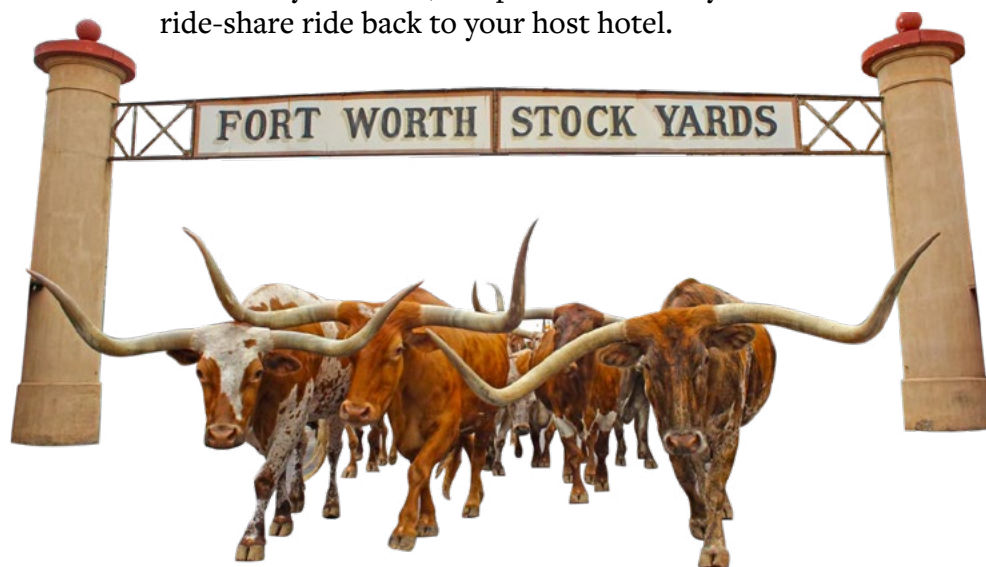
Want to enjoy a beautiful Texas day outdoors? **Historic Nash Farm** offers a taste of what life was like on the Grape Vine Prairie for the early settlers. **Grapevine's Botanical Gardens** is within easy walking distance and free for visitors to enjoy. Nearby **Lake Grapevine** also offers both lake experiences and rentals as well as hiking and biking trails.

As the sun goes down, pop into one of the Historic Main Street restaurants or winery tasting rooms, where you can find live music seven nights a week and enjoy live entertainment with the **Texas Star Dinner Theater** or the **Historic Palace Theatre**.

FORT WORTH DAY TRIP

Fort Worth is just an easy train-ride from Grapevine's Historic Main Street. Depending on the day of the week, two options are available. Weekends offer the unique opportunity to ride Grapevine Vintage Railroad, outfitted with train coaches from the 1920s, an entertaining train staff and snacks and beverages on board. The ride is at a leisurely pace at two hours, and the experience is one-of-a-kind! A quicker option, available seven days a week is TEXRail, the light rail commuter train. This train runs every 30-minutes, and connects to the Historic Stockyards via a local shuttle, or runs straight into downtown Fort Worth, whichever you prefer.

In the Historic Stockyards, experience the western shops, BBQ joints, museums, attractions and saloons. Don't miss the live cattle drive at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Exchange Avenue and Friday & Saturday nights offers a live rodeo in the Stockyards Coliseum. A visit to Billy Bob's, the "World's Largest Honky-Tonk" is also a good time. When ready to return to your hotel, Grapevine is an easy train or ride-share ride back to your host hotel.



TEXAS WILD & WONDERFUL

DAY
3

DAY
4-6

LUBBOCK

Estimated 5-hour drive from Grapevine to Lubbock

Welcome to Lubbock, the heart of West Texas and a city bursting with music, culture and wide-open adventure. Known as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll legend Buddy Holly, Lubbock proudly showcases its musical soul at the **Buddy Holly Center** and **West Texas Walk of Fame**. With live music echoing from local stages almost every night, the city hums with a rhythm that travelers can feel as soon as they arrive.

The energy continues in **Lubbock's Cultural District**, where vibrant murals, galleries and the monthly **First Friday Art Trail** create an atmosphere that blends creativity with community. Step back in time at the **National Ranching Heritage Center**, where authentic historic structures bring the story of the American West to life. Explore the **Museum of Texas Tech University** with exhibits ranging from prehistoric fossils to world-class art. For a playful detour, don't miss a stop at **Prairie Dog Town** — one of Lubbock's most charming and quirky landmarks.

Surrounded by the vast High Plains, Lubbock also surprises visitors with its flourishing wine country. The region's award-winning wineries are nestled among endless skies, offering tastings of bold vintages grown in the Texas High Plains AVA, one of the nation's top grape-growing regions. As the day winds down, the horizon explodes with brilliant sunsets, and when night falls, the sky opens to reveal some of the clearest stargazing in Texas.

With its legendary music, dynamic arts scene, rich history and unforgettable landscapes, Lubbock delivers an experience that captures the true spirit of West Texas.

(Optional – add in a day to Carlsbad, New Mexico or Midland/Odessa, Texas)



EL PASO

Welcome to El Paso, Texas, a city where rich history, vibrant culture and breathtaking desert landscapes come together to create an unforgettable destination. Known as Sun City, El Paso offers something for every traveler, from historic landmarks and Sun City, El Paso offers something for every traveler, from historic landmarks and outdoor adventures to world-class art and lively entertainment.

After checking into your hotel, head downtown to begin your exploration. Take a stroll through **San Jacinto Plaza** and admire the colorful street art scattered throughout the city center. If time allows, step inside the historic **Plaza Theatre**, built in the 1930s, before making your way up to **Scenic Drive Overlook** to watch the sun set over El Paso and Juarez, Mexico. End the evening with dinner and live music downtown.

For your next day, start off with a hearty breakfast before setting out for **Franklin Mountains State Park**, where rugged desert trails and panoramic views provide the perfect introduction to El Paso's natural beauty. In the afternoon, follow the **Mission Trail** to explore the historic Spanish missions of Ysleta and Socorro, with the option to continue to **San Elizario** if time permits. Along the way, stop in local shops and galleries that showcase the region's creative spirit. As evening approaches, enjoy a ranch-style dinner with sweeping views before winding down for the night.

EL PASO TO TERLINGUA

This morning depart El Paso and head southeast toward Prada Marfa, the quirky, world-famous roadside art installation near Valentine, TX. Snap your must-have photo before continuing to Marfa, where you can explore the art galleries, murals and small shops.

(Estimated 3-hour drive from El Paso to Marfa)

From Marfa, take the infamous River Road (FM 170) – one of the most beautiful drives in Texas – following the Rio Grande and the edge of Big Bend Ranch State Park. Expect sweeping desert views, river bends and dramatic mountain scenery.

This afternoon you'll arrive in Lajitas, which stands out as a luxurious gateway to the vast Big Bend Ranch State Park. Lajitas offers visitors access to the Barton Warnock Visitor Center, where you can learn about the region's natural and cultural history.

(Estimated 2-hour drive from Marfa to Lajitas)

Finally, settle into your unique lodging in Terlingua, where options include a historic mining-era mansion, luxury casitas, star-gazer domes, a luxury cave and charming hotels in the area. Explore the self-guided Ghost Town tour, visit the Terlingua Trading Post and walk through the historic Terlingua Cemetery. And before you head off to bed, step outside to enjoy world-class stargazing.

(Estimated 18-minute drive from Lajitas to Terlingua)

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK & MARATHON



Head into **Big Bend National Park** for a scenic drive and/or a hike of your choice – options include the **Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive** to **Santa Elena Canyon** with a stop at **Sotol Vista Overlook**, hike **Grapevine Hills Trail** to the infamous **Balanced Rock** and check out **Boquillas Canyon**. Be sure to bring a packed lunch for a picnic in the park.

On your way out of the park toward Marathon, stop at the **Fossil Discovery Exhibit** to see prehistoric Big Bend come to life. Once in Marathon, plan a stroll through the lush **Gage Gardens** and visit the **Post Park Spring**, before capping your evening with a **Star Party** at the Marathon Motel.

(Estimated 40-minute drive from Big Bend National Park to Marathon)



MARATHON TO SAN ANGELO



Depart Marathon and drive to Alpine to visit the **Museum of the Big Bend** and explore the shops and galleries downtown.

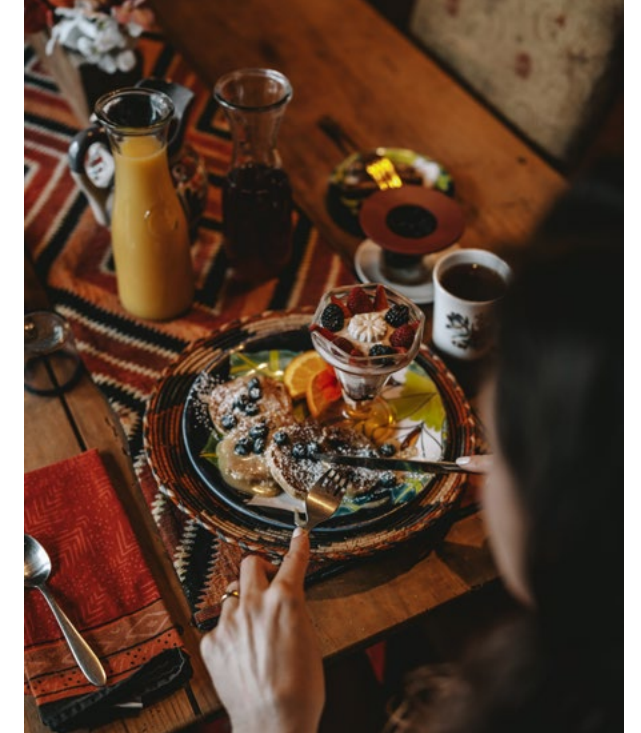
(Estimated 30-minute drive from Marathon to Alpine)

From Alpine, drive through beautiful **Fort Davis** on to Balmorhea, Texas and the **Balmorhea State Park**. Here you can admire the crystal-clear water of the **world's largest spring-fed swimming pool** or just relax under the trees at this historic park.

(Estimated 1-hour drive from Alpine to Balmorhea State Park)

From Balmorhea, continue on to your final destination of the day, San Angelo, Texas

(Estimated 3 ½ hour drive)



SAN ANGELO TO GRAPEVINE



Arrive in San Angelo for an evening stroll through historic downtown along **Concho Avenue**, where brick-lined streets are filled with boutique shops, local restaurants and a welcoming small-town charm. Take a leisurely walk along the **Concho River Walk**, a beautifully landscaped trail featuring gardens, art installations and a lighted pathway that makes for a peaceful end to the day. Enjoy dinner at a local steakhouse or Tex-Mex spot before settling in for the night.

The next morning, explore **Fort Concho National Historic Landmark**, a well-preserved frontier army post dating back to the 1860s and stop in the **San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts** to view regional and Western art before continuing on the road back to Grapevine.

(Estimated 4 ½ hour drive)



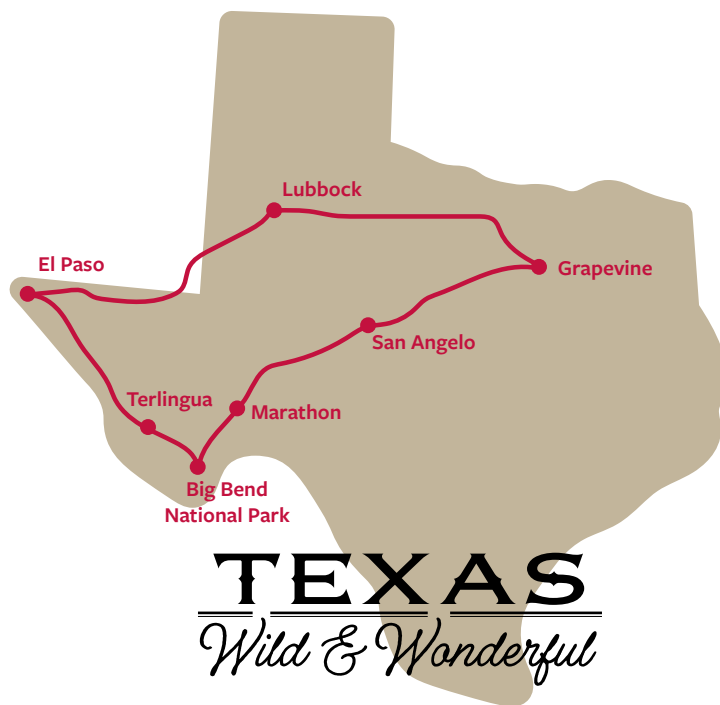
GRAPEVINE & DALLAS



Dallas is a 25-minute commute from Grapevine, should you want to venture out for the day and explore. Visit the **Sixth Floor Museum**, **Klyde Warren Park**, the arts and cultural district and more.

Upon returning to Grapevine, plan one last visit to **Grapevine Mills**, the largest outlet mall in North Texas to wrap-up your shopping. Note, Texas has tax-free shopping for International visitors! Look for the **TaxFree Shopping** kiosk at Grapevine Mills. While here, be sure to also plan a visit to **Meow Wolf – The Real Unreal**, where art, storytelling and imagination collide in one of the area's most exciting experiences.

Day 13 — Departure from Grapevine, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport



➡ **HEATHER EGAN**
Grapevine, Texas
HEgan@GrapevineTexasUSA.com

➡ **CERISSA OLSON**
Lubbock, Texas
Cerissa@VisitLubbock.org

➡ **LUCILA GUERRA**
El Paso, Texas
LGuerra@DestinationElPaso.com

➡ **AARON GARZA**
Visit Big Bend
AaronG@VisitBigBend.com