

LONE STAR STATE

Stargazing



A night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. In the foreground, two cars are parked with their trunks open, silhouetted against the dark sky. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, capturing a moment of stargazing.

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Keep Your Eyes to the Sky!

These are some of the best places to stargaze in Texas

Big Bend National Park

Big Bend National Park is not only Texas's most famous park— it is also known as one of the most outstanding places in North America for star gazing. Thanks to the sparse human occupation of this region, it has the least light pollution of any other National Park unit in the lower 48 states. This can be a real surprise to visitors when they are outside in Big Bend at night and see the Milky Way in its full glory for perhaps the first time in their life. Needless to say, you can stargaze just about anywhere in Big Bend, but there are a few spots you might want to consider. If you're an admirer of astronomy, bring your telescope to the Marathon Sky Park. You can also see the stars from the stargazing platform atop Eve's Garden Bed and Breakfast in Marathon.

Brazos Bend State Park

Located an hour outside of Houston, Brazos Bend State Park is a great place for any astronomical enthusiast. Not only is it far removed from the light pollution of the Lone Star State's biggest city, it's home to the George Observatory, where visitors can view planetary objects up close and personal.

Caprock Canyons State Park

Home to the only wild bison herd in the state of Texas, Caprock Canyon State Park in the Texas panhandle has stunning views of constellations.

Copper Breaks State Park

In 2014, Copper Breaks State Park was designated an International Dark Sky Park. Located in the Texas Panhandle, Copper Breaks State Park is known for its absolutely stunning nighttime views.

Davis Mountains State Park

Settled high in the mountains of West Texas, the Davis Mountains State Park is home to the McDonald Observatory, which houses the largest telescope in Texas and hosts regular star parties. Fear not though, you don't need a telescope to see the stars in the Davis Mountains; the state park is plenty dark enough for you to see them with the naked eye.

Dripping Springs

Just west of Austin, surrounded by verdant Hill Country pastures, peach orchards and rolling hills, Dripping Springs is a little slice of Hill Country heaven. The word is out on the small town, though. Its growing population brings with it new property developments and dreaded light pollution. However, Dripping Springs resident Cindy Cassidy is leading an effort to combat this using "smart lighting" techniques that aim exterior business lighting at exactly what needs to be lit, and only that. Cassidy's efforts have earned Dripping Springs an International Dark Sky Community, even with its proximity to Austin.

Enchanted Rock

Not far outside of Austin, the Enchanted Rock State Park was recently named an International Dark Sky Park in recognition of its stunning stargazing quality. The Texas Parks and Wildlife maintains a website where you can check on celestial events and the park's darkness level on any given night.

Palo Duro Canyon

Located outside Amarillo in the panhandle, Palo Duro Canyon is a beautiful and remote place to see a meteor shower. Or take a telescope and check out some constellations.

Resaca de la Palma State Park

Located down south near Brownsville, Resaca de la Palma State Park is an ideal place for stargazing. The nearby Nompuewenu Observatory hosts occasional "Astronomy in the Park" events that are educational and fun for the whole family. This south Texas state park is also an incredible place to go bird watching, due to the many species of birds that reside in the park.

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