

T E X A S
HUNTING
+ **FISHING**

2025 - 2026



Independence
Title

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HUNTING SEASON

GAME ANIMALS

Javelina

General	North	Oct. 1 - Feb. 22
	South	Sep. 1 - Aug. 31

Mule Deer

General	Panhandle Trans - Pecos	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8 Nov. 29 - Dec. 15
Archery	Panhandle Trans - Pecos	Sep. 27 - Nov. 21 Sep. 27 - Nov. 27

Pronghorn

General	Select Counties	Oct. 4 - 19
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Squirrel

General	East Texas Other Open Cos.	Oct. 1 - Feb. 22 & May 1 - 31 Sep. 1 - Aug. 31
Youth Only	East Texas	Sep. 26 - 28

White-tailed Deer

General	North	Nov. 1 - Jan. 4
	South	Nov. 1 - Jan. 18
Youth Only	Early Late	Oct. 24 - 26 Jan. 5 - 18
Special Late	North	Jan. 5 - 18
	South	Jan. 19 - Feb. 1
Archery	Select Counties	Sep. 27 - Oct. 31
Muzzleloader	Select Counties	Jan. 5-18

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Dove

Regular	North	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9 & Dec. 19 - Jan. 7
	Central	Sep. 1 - Oct. 26 & Dec. 12 - Jan. 14
	South	Sep. 14 - Oct. 26 & Dec. 12 - Jan. 22
Special White-Winged Dove Days	South	Sep. 5 - 7 & 12 - 13

Duck

Regular	High Plains Mallard Management Unit North	Oct. 18 - 19 & Oct. 24 - Jan. 25 Nov. 8 - 30 Dec. 6 - Jan. 25
	South	Nov. 1 - 30 Dec. 13 - Jan. 25
Youth/ Veterans	High Plains Mallard Management Unit North South	Oct. 11-12 Nov. 1 - 2 Oct. 25 - 26

Goose

Early Canada Goose	East	Sep. 13 - 28
Dark Geese	West East	Nov. 1 - Feb. 1 Nov. 1 - Jan. 25
Light Geese	West East	Nov. 1 - Feb. 1 Nov. 1 - Jan. 15



2025-26

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens

Regular	Statewide	Sep. 20 - 28 & Nov. 1 - Dec. 31
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Sandhill Cranes

Regular	Zone A	Oct. 25 - Jan. 25
	Zone B	Nov. 21 - Jan. 25
	Zone C	Dec. 13 - Jan. 18

Snipe

Regular	Statewide	Nov. 1, 2024 - Feb. 15
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Teal

September Teal Only	Statewide	Sep. 20 - 28
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Woodcock

Regular	Statewide	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31
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UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Chachalaca

Regular	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy Co.	Oct. 25 - Feb. 22
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Pheasant

Regular	Panhandle	Dec. 6 - Jan. 4
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Quail

Regular	Statewide	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28
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Wild Turkey

Fall	North	Nov. 1 - Jan. 4
	South	Nov. 1 - Jan. 18
	Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy Co.	Nov. 1 - Feb. 22
	Archery - only	Sep. 27 - Oct. 31
Fall Youth - Only	North	Oct. 24-26 & Jan. 5 -18
	South	Oct. 24-26 & Jan. 19 - Feb.1
Spring	North	Mar. 28 - May 10
	South	Mar. 14 - Apr. 26
	East Texas	Apr. 22 - May 14
	One-Turkey Cos.	Apr. 1 - 30
Spring Youth Only	North	Mar. 21 - 22 & May 16 -17
	South	Mar. 7 - 8 & May 2 - 3

OTHER ANIMALS

Alligator

Regular	22 Co. & Properties	Sep. 10-30
	All Other Counties	Apr. 1 - June 30

Rabbits & Hairs

Regular	Statewide	No closed season
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Texas Exotics

Texas' exotic animal species are as varied as its people. These animals can range from medium to large sizes and include various species of non-native mammals and birds (mostly flightless). The majority are kept in Central and South Texas, the former being home to the most confined animals, while the latter keeps the majority of free-range animals.

Hunting is one of the most common reasons for keeping exotics. Most exotic game species don't have a closed season or bag limit, so long as the owners of the animals and/or the lands they're kept on grant permission to hunters. The hunter must also possess a valid hunting license, must not hunt on private land, and may not possess the carcass of an exotic without the owner's permission. Some exotics are also kept for conservation efforts, as many species are threatened in their native habitats. They may even be reintroduced to their home after a time.

All regulations are subject to change. Check with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Texas Department of Health to verify current regulations and restrictions.



Exotic Species

Any animal or fowl that is not indigenous to Texas is considered an exotic. Species include, but are not limited to:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • Aoudad Sheep | • Emu | • Red Deer |
| • Axis Deer | • Fallow Deer | • Rhea |
| • Cassowary | • Nilgai Antelope | • Russian Boar |
| • Elk | • Ostrich | • Sika Deer |

Public Hunting

There are over 1 million acres of publicly accessible land located throughout Texas. Hunt areas include property owned by TPWD, acreage leased by the department from other state and federal agencies, forest products industries, and other cooperating private landowners. For more information, visit tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/public

Annual Public Hunting Permit

Nearly year-round hunting on more than 180 hunting areas, including wildlife management areas, state parks and approximately 120 dove and small game areas leased from private landowners.

Drawn Hunts

The Public Hunt Drawing System provides opportunities to apply for a wide variety of supervised, drawn hunts, including

special drawings for both adults and youth hunters. Additionally, TPWD offers E-Postcard selection hunts and special hunt package drawings for exotic wildlife and quality native animals on TPWD managed lands as well as specially leased private properties.

Regular (Daily) Permit Hunts

A Regular Permit is available for certain small game and waterfowl hunts. Regular permits are issued at the hunt area on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mentored Hunting Workshops

TPWD and partner organizations offer mentored hunting workshops to help introduce new hunters to the hunting experience and provide training on the skills needed to be successful in the field.





FISHING

FRESHWATER

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
Alligator Gar	1	None
Bass *		
Largemouth & smallmouth	5	14" min
Spotted, Guadalupe & Alabama	5	None
Striped & Hybrid Striped	5	18" min
White	25	10" min
Yellow	No Limit	None
Catfish		
Channel, blue, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	None
Flathead	5	18" min
Crappie		
White, black, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	10" min
Paddlefish		
	No harvest.	
Saugeye		
	5	(only 2 <16")
Shad		
Gizzard & threadfin *	No Limit	None
Sunfish		
Various species including Bluegill, Redear, Green, Warmouth & Longear	No Limit	None
Trout		
Rainbow & Brown	5 (any combo)	
Walleye	5	(only 2 <16")

Bag & Length Limits

SALT WATER

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
Alligator Gar	1	N
Amberjack, greater	1	38" min
Bass *		
Striped, its hybrids & subspecies	5 (any combo)	18" min
Catfish		
Channel, blue, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	Only 10 >20"
Flathead	5	18" min
Gafftopsail	No Limit	14" min
Cobia	1	40" min
Drum		
Black drum *	5	14"min, 30" max
Red drum *	3	20"min, 28" max
Flounder		
All species, subspecies & hybrids	5	15" min
Grouper		
Black grouper	4	24" min
Gag grouper	2	24" min
Goliath grouper	Catch & Release Only	
Nassau grouper	Catch & Release Only	
Mackerel		
King	3	27" min
Spanish	15	14" min
Marlin		
Blue marlin	No Limit	131" min
White marlin	No Limit	86" min
Mullet		
All species, subspecies & hybrids	No Limit	12" max *
Sailfish	No Limit	84" min

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
Sharks		
Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead	1	24" min
Hammerhead (Smooth, great, scalloped)	1	99" min
All other allowable species *	1	64" min
Sheepshead	5	15" min
Snapper		
Lane	No Limit	8" min
Red	4 *	15" min *
Vermilion	No Limit	10" min
Snook	1	24" - 28"
Tarpon	1	85" min
Seatrout		
Spotted	3*	15" min, 20" max
Triggerfish		
Grey	20	16" min
Tripletail	3	17" min

FISHING LICENSES

All-Water

All-Water Package	Resident	\$40
	Non Resident	\$68
One-Day License	Resident	\$11
	Non Resident	\$16
Senior Package	Resident (65+)	\$22
Special Resident (Legally Blind)	Resident	\$7
Year-From-Purchase	Resident	\$47

Freshwater

Freshwater Package	Resident	\$30
	Non Resident	\$58
Senior Package	Resident (65+)	\$12

Saltwater

Saltwater Package	Resident	\$35
	Non Resident	\$63
Senior Package	Resident (65yr+)	\$17

* Special restrictions apply. Visit tpwd.texas.gov for more information.

Information Source: tpwd.texas.gov | Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. All information subject to change.

Top Fishing Holes

Amistad Reservoir (Val Verde County)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Striped Bass, Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish

Caddo Lake (Harrison & Marion Counties)

Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish

Choke Canyon Reservoir (Live Oak & McMullen Counties)

Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Crappie

Devils River (Val Verde County)

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Catfish

Falcon International Reservoir (Starr & Zapata Counties)

Alligator Gar, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass

Lake Buchanan (Burnet & Llano Counties)

Striped Bass, White Bass, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish

Lake Conroe (Montgomery County)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Striped Bass, Bluegill

Lake Fork (Hopkins, Rains & Wood Counties)

Crappie, White Bass, Channel Catfish

Lake O' the Pines (Marion, Morris & Upshur Counties)

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish

Lake Palestine (Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson & Smith Co.)

Flathead Catfish, Spotted Bass, White Bass, Crappie

Lake Texoma (Grayson County)

Striped Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass

O.H. Ivie Lake (Coleman, Concho & Runnels Counties)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Catfish, Crappie

Sam Rayburn Reservoir (Jasper)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Catfish, Crappie

Toledo Bend Reservoir (Desoto, Newton, Sabine & Shelby Co.)

Striped Bass, White Bass, Crappie, Catfish, Bream



Locally Grown ♦ Texas Strong

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