

T E X A S
HUNTING
+ FISHING

2026 - 2027



Independence
Title

IndependenceTitle.com



2026-27 HUNTING SEASON

GAME ANIMALS

Javelina

General	North South	Oct. 1, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 Sept. 1, 2026 - Aug. 31, 2027
---------	----------------	---

Mule Deer

General	Panhandle Trans - Pecos	Nov. 21 - Dec. 6, 2026 Nov. 27 - Dec. 13, 2026
Archery	Panhandle Trans - Pecos	Oct. 3 - Nov. 20, 2026 Oct. 3 - Nov. 26, 2026

Pronghorn

General	Select Counties	Oct. 3 - 18, 2026
---------	-----------------	-------------------

Squirrel

General	East Texas All Other Counties	Oct. 1, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 May 1 - 31, 2027 Sept. 1, 2026 - Aug. 31, 2027
Youth Only	East Texas	Sept. 25 - 27, 2026

White-tailed Deer

General	North South	Nov. 7, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027 Nov. 7, 2026 - Jan. 17, 2027
Youth Only	Early Late South	Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026 Jan. 4 - 17, 2027 Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026
Special Late	North South	Jan. 4 - 17, 2027 Jan. 18 - 31, 2027
Archery	Select Counties	Oct. 3 - Nov. 6, 2026
Muzzleloader	Select Counties	Jan. 4 - 17, 2027

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Dove

Regular	North	Sept. 1 - Nov. 8, 2026 Dec. 18, 2026 - Jan. 7, 2027
	Central	Sept. 1 - Oct. 25, 2026 Dec. 11, 2026 - Jan. 14, 2027
	South	Sept. 1 - Oct. 25, 2026 Dec. 18, 2026 - Jan. 21, 2027

Duck

Regular	High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Oct. 24 - 25, 2026 Oct. 30, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027
	North	Nov. 14 - 29, 2026 Dec. 5, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027
	South	Nov. 7 - 29, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027
Youth/ Veterans	High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Oct. 17 - 18, 2026 Nov. 7 - 8, 2026
	North	Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2026
	South	

Goose

Early Canada Goose	East	Sept. 12 - 27, 2026
Dark Geese	West East	Nov. 7, 2026 - Feb. 7, 2027 Nov. 7, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027
Light Geese	West East	Nov. 7, 2026 - Feb. 7, 2027 Nov. 7, 2026 - Feb. 19, 2027

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens

Regular	Statewide	Sept. 19 - 27, 2026 Nov. 7, 2026 - Jan. 6, 2027
---------	-----------	--

Sandhill Cranes

Regular	Zone A Zone B Zone C	Oct. 31, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027 Nov. 27, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027 Dec. 12, 2026 - Jan. 17, 2027
---------	----------------------------	---

Snipe

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

Teal

September Teal Only	Statewide	Sept. 19 - 27, 2026
---------------------	-----------	---------------------

Woodcock

Regular	Statewide	Dec. 18, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027
---------	-----------	-------------------------------

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Chachalaca

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

Pheasant

Regular	Panhandle	Dec. 6 - Jan. 4
---------	-----------	-----------------

Quail

Regular	Statewide	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28
---------	-----------	------------------

Wild Turkey

Archery Only	All counties with an open fall season	Oct. 3 - Nov. 6, 2026
Fall	North South Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy Co. Archery - only	Nov. 1 - Jan. 4 Nov. 1 - Jan. 18 Nov. 1 - Feb. 22 Sept. 27 - Oct. 31
Fall Youth - Only	North	Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026 Jan. 4 - 17, 2027
Spring	South	Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026 Jan. 18 - 31, 2027
Spring Youth Only	North South East Texas	Mar. 28 - May 10 Mar. 14 - Apr. 26 Apr. 22 - May 14
	South	May 22 - 23, 2027 Mar. 27 - 28, 2027 May 8 - 9, 2027 Mar. 13 - 14, 2027

OTHER ANIMALS

Alligator

Regular	Core ANon-core	Sept. 10 - 30, 2026 Apr. 1 - June 30, 2027
---------	-------------------	---

Rabbits & Hairs

Regular	Statewide	No closed season
---------	-----------	------------------



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

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



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
- Axis Deer
- Cassowary
- Elk
- Emu
- Fallow Deer
- Nilgai Antelope
- Ostrich
- Red Deer
- Rhea
- Russian Boar
- 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

	<i>Bag Limit</i>	<i>Min/Max Length</i>
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")

FISHING LICENSES

A **resident fishing license** is required of any resident who fishes in the public waters of Texas.

A **non-resident fishing license** is required of all non-residents who fish in the public waters of Texas.

* Special restrictions apply.

Visit tpwd.texas.gov for more information.
Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
All information subject to change.

BAG & LENGTH LIMITS

SALTWATER

	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

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
Mullet		
All species, subspecies & hybrids	No Limit	12" max *
Sailfish	No Limit	84" min
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

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

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

Independence

Title

IndependenceTitle.com