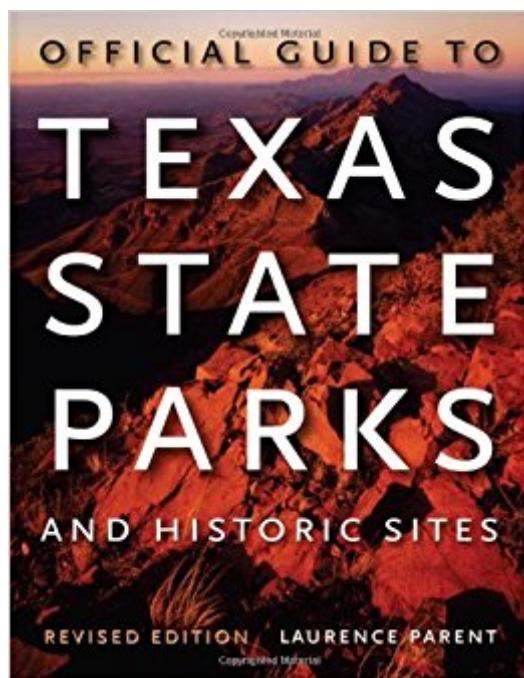


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# Official Guide To Texas State Parks And Historic Sites: Revised Edition



## Synopsis

Since it was first published in 1996, Official Guide to Texas State Parks and Historic Sites has become Texans' one-stop source for information on great places to view scenic landscapes, tour historical sites, camp, fish, hike, backpack, swim, ride horseback, go rock climbing, and enjoy almost any other outdoor recreation. This revised edition includes five new state parks and historical sites, completely updated information for every park, and many beautiful new photographs. The book is organized by geographical regions to help you plan your trips around the state. For every park, Laurence Parent provides all of the essential information: The natural or historical attractions of the park, Types of recreation offered, Camping and lodging facilities, Addresses and phone numbers, A locator map, Magnificent color photographs. So if you want to watch the sun set over Enchanted Rock, fish in the surf on the beach at Galveston, or listen for a ghostly bugle among the ruins of Fort Lancaster, let this book be your complete guide. Don't take a trip in Texas without it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

LAURENCE PARENT is a freelance photographer and writer specializing in landscape, nature, and travel subjects. His work has appeared in Texas Highways, Texas Monthly, Texas Parks and Wildlife, National Geographic Traveler, Sierra, Natural History, Outside, Backpacker, Men's Journal, Travel and Leisure, Newsweek, and the New York Times. Additionally, he has been the photographer and/or author of thirty-five books.

This guide is well done but lacks some practical tools. The guide is well organized. Texas is broken

down by region and color coded with a table of contents for each regional section. The index goes to six pages and you can find most sites through the index but the guide is so well laid out it is not necessary to consult the index for sites. The photography in the guide is all in color and spectacular in most cases but some of the photos seem like the ones you would leave out in selecting the ones to keep from a vacation trip. The essays that accompany each park and site are excellent. They cover a wide variety of interesting aspects regarding each site, touching on everything from geology to natural history. The more significant parks get special treatment in the essays. There is a small map square attached to each park page that locates the site with a star and the nearest small towns and state roads. The practical information regarding each park is presented at the end of each essay in a brief format. You have to read the user guide at the front of the book to get full benefit of these descriptions. Practically, you are still going to need a road atlas to locate any of these parks/sites unless you know Texas. There are no distance tables provided and no direction descriptions in the text. The information briefs regarding the parks are bare bones and cover only the most essential items. I wanted a little more from the guide in terms of general information on the park itself and perhaps some photos of the camping, hiking, river running areas. Most of the experiential information regarding the parks seemed like something you could get off the park web sites, which are excellent sources. It's a twenty dollar book and it seems lacking in terms of travel directions and any practical expanded park specific information. But the photos and essays are lovely. As one reviewer notes on the back cover of the book, it's a guide that works well as a coffee table book.

I bought this book together with a whole bunch of books on State Parks, figuring it would help me distinguish the \*real\* places I was looking for to escape the city and find some weekend rest where I could picnic and let my 1-year old toddler wander about. Most park books are printed in only a few colors or shades and to that extent, I found in this guide a much richer approach. Out of the approximately 5 books I purchased, this is one of the two I actually use to find myself around. A good complement to this is "Camper's Guide to Texas Parks, Lakes, and Forests"

Bought several books to prepare for moving to Texas and thus is our favorite, well organized, I like the regional maps so you can see which parks are close together.

Bought to replace copy I had worn out! Useful information!!

Not what I was expecting. Thought there would be more details about park layout. No maps, few pictures.

This is a must have for those wishing to visit Texas State Parks. It provides a list of all the parks along with a good narrative of the amenities available at the state parks. I am very happy with the purchase.

Fantastic reference for planning a Texas road trip!

We have found this book to be very useful, informative, and entertaining. Our love of things Texas has nothing but room to grow, and that includes traveling to some sites so well illustrated and described in this book, thanks.

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