

Deep East Texas

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DEEP EAST TEXAS
ADVENTURE lives HERE

Attractions in Deep East Texas

A road trip through Deep East Texas is one of the easiest to plan across the entire state. There are clear landmarks all across the region that each hold their own unique fascination. In one town, you can board a working steam railroad. In another, you'll come across the remains of a 1,000-year-old civilization. Not too far from there, you can stand beneath a 67-foot monument to Sam Houston that's among the tallest of its kind in the entire country. With so many interesting attractions, we put together this list separated by town, so you can easily plan your next weekend adventure.

Crockett

The Ritz Theater

There's something about movie theaters from the 1930s that modern theaters just can't compete with. We could build new theaters in the old style or we could renovate the existing ones to brand-spanking-new condition. Crockett took the latter route with the Ritz Theater, which is back in operation after first opening over 80 years ago. It's once again playing films and hosting live performance, all in a theater that makes it feel like you've stepped back in time.

620 E Houston Ave
Crockett, TX 75835
(936) 544-7099

Davy Crockett National Forest

A legend as big at Davy Crockett's deserves a national forest just as big. At 160,000 acres, it's safe to say the Davy Crockett National Forest lives up to its namesake. Given how much Crockett himself loved to hunt and fish, it's fitting that the forest is a prime today for fishing, camping, and wildlife viewing. Mr. Crockett would be proud, we think, to have his name on the forest. As a matter of fact, the forest was proclaimed a National Forest by President Roosevelt back in 1936.

18551 Texas 7
Kennard, TX 75847
(936) 655-2299

Henderson

Depot Museum

There are few technologies more integral to both America and Texas than the railroad. The Depot Museum in Henderson is itself part of the history, as it's housed in a restored 1901 Missouri Pacific railway depot. On the grounds, you'll find twelve historic structures that include a blacksmith shop, carousel, cotton gin, and even a real outhouse. The museum is also where one of the region's biggest events takes place, the Heritage Syrup Festival. The festival happens to make use of another historic structure at the museum, the syrup mill, to make old-school syrup ribbons.

514 N. High St
Henderson, TX 75652
(903) 657-4303

Huntsville

Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library

At the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library, you'll find more than just stories and belongings from Houston's life; you'll find two of the actual homes in which he lived. The exhibits follow his trajectory from soldier to statesman to president of the Republic of Texas. A little tip: check the museum's website for upcoming events. They often host historical demonstrations like kick wheel pottery or spinning.

1836 Sam Houston Avenue
Huntsville, Texas 77340
(936) 294-1832

Sam Houston Statue and Gravesite

Most know it as the Sam Houston Statue, but it actually has a different name: "A Tribute to Courage." Sam Houston, at 67 feet tall, stands amongst the pines with his hand on his hip, peering out into the landscape with what appears to be an expression of pure determination. Visiting the statue is a rite of passage for all Texans, and a great way for visiting non-Texans to get a sense of where the state's maverick character originates. Just a few minutes away at Oakwood Cemetery, you can pay respects at Houston's grave. On his grave momument is a quote from President Andrew Jackson: "The world will take care of Houston's fame."

7600 TX-75
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-9726

Huntsville State Park

It doesn't get much better than being surrounded by pine trees and wildflowers on a cool fall day in Texas. Make it happen at Huntsville State Park, which boasts some of the finest views in the Piney Woods. Go hiking, camping, picnicing, or just take that new Sony camera for a spin. On the 210-acre, Lake Raven, you can fish, swim, or rent a kayak from the nearby lodge. Camping overnight is made easy with screened shelters available for rent and 160 campsites.

565 Park Road 40 W
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 295-5644

Jasper

Lake Sam Rayburn

Lake Sam Rayburn happens to be just outside Jasper and the second-biggest lake in all of Texas. That's right, it's about six-times larger than Lake Travis. Aside from its sheer size, the lake is most well known for its active fishing community. In fact, fishing tournaments happen at the lake all year-round. If you're not one for fishing, bring the jet ski, bring the canoe, or bring the wakeboard. If you can think of a water sport, the size of Lake Sam Rayburn probably makes it one of the best places in Texas to do it in. A great golf course is nearby, too, so bring your clubs if so inclined!

Lufkin

Ellen Trout Zoo