

Texas Hill Country Birding Tour

If you are interested in Birding the Texas Hill Country, come join us at Kaiyote Tours!

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On this tour we expect to see over 200 different species of birds as well as amazing wildlife, geology, and cultural sites. Springtime in Texas is full of wildflowers!

Details

- **Price:** \$3,750 per person for double occupancy. \$900 extra for solo traveler
- **Group size:** 4 travelers, plus guide
- **Trip Length:** 10-days
- **Included:** Lodging days 1 - 9, meals, transportation, entrance fees to state parks and museums.
- **Not included:** Airfare to San Antonio (SAT), hotel stays on day "0" and day 10, snacks in between meals, alcohol, and entrance fees into federal areas are not included. If you have a federal parks pass, please bring it along.

Lodging: Most of the hotel stays will be at medium class hotels such as Holiday Inns and Best Westerns.

Meals: Breakfast is a buffet that is included with hotel room. Lunch will be picnics along the way. Dinner at restaurants and diners. Any fine dining or expensive meals are not included. Snacks are not included.

Itinerary

Day 0, San Antonio: You will need to arrive in San Antonio (SAT) the night before the tour starts. You are responsible for booking and paying for your hotel at the San Antonio airport. You are free to book any hotel you like, but it needs to be at an airport hotel with a shuttle. Please contact us before you book your hotel.

Day 1, Boerne: We will pick you up at your hotel and head out for a full day of birding. Stops for the day include: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary, and the Panther Canyon Nature Trail. From San Antonio it is 65 miles (our birding route) to the city of Boerne where we will spend 2-nights. This short driving distance will give us plenty of time for birding.

Day 2, Boerne: Very close to our lodging is the Cibolo Nature Center, where we will visit for a morning bird walk. Also in the area is Boerne Lake where we will stop for a birding visit. In the afternoon we will head to Guadalupe River State Park. This state park has 13 miles of beautiful trails and paths for birding. The Ashe Juniper woodlands provides nesting habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. Over 240 bird species have been identified at the park.

Day 3, Leakey: From our lodging in Boerne, it is a 3-hour drive to our next lodging location in the town of Leakey, where we will stay at the Historic Leakey Inn for 3-nights. Stops along the way include: Government Canyon State Natural Area, Hill Country State Natural Area, and a few roadside stops. These areas are both excellent birding spots and full of wildflowers as well.

Day 4, Leakey: From our lodging in Leakey it is a 10-minute drive to Garner State Park and a 20-minute drive to Lost Maples State Natural Area. Both these areas offer excellent birding and a combined list of over 300 species of birds. There will also be a quick stop at Utopia Park and plenty of wildflowers to see as well.

Day 5, Leakey: A 45-minute drive south of Leakey is Cook's Slough Sanctuary located just outside of the town of Uvalde. This natural birding habitat is home to some of the best birding in the region. The park includes 25 acres of wetland, 2 wildlife-viewing stations and 5 shaded rest stations along the trails. Nearly 300 species of birds have been identified at this location. We will spend the day birding this region and a few other stops along the way. On our return to Leakey we will have time to visit Garner State Park again.

Day 6, Fredericksburg: In the morning we will visit Garner State Park and other areas along the Rio Frio Canyon. After we check out of our hotel, we will head to the town of Fredericksburg. It is a 2-hour drive and stops along the way include: Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Heart of the Hills Fisheries, and the Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. Our hotel for 2-nights is located just south of town.

Day 7, Fredericksburg: A morning bird walk at the Lady Bird Johnson Park and then we will head to Fort Martin Scott State Historic Site which is located along Barons Creek and adjacent to the Fredericksburg water treatment plant. Close to this area is Old Tunnel State Park. In the afternoon, birding Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. This park has 11 miles of trails, and the center piece is a 425-foot pink granite batholith formation.

Day 8, Austin-Buda: On this day we will head to an area just south of Austin called Buda, where we will stay for 2-nights. Our route, which follows the Pedernales River, is a 1.5 hour drive. Stops for the day include: Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, and Pedernales Falls State Park. These areas are all excellent birding locations and full of spring wildflowers as well.

Day 9, Austin-Buda: Early morning departure for the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, which has a bird list of over 350 different bird species. Other stops for the day include: McKinney Falls State Park, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Karst Preserve.

Day 10, Drop off at your hotel at the San Antonio airport*: On this day we head back to San Antonio, and there is still plenty to see. A 20-minute drive south of Buda is the city of San Marcos and the city's greenbelt area. These natural areas include: Ringtail Ridge, Spring Lake and Purgatory Creek. And then we will head to San Antonio where we will end our birding tour where we started: Crescent Bend Nature Park and Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

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