



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARKS

2016

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT
TEXAS STATE PARKS



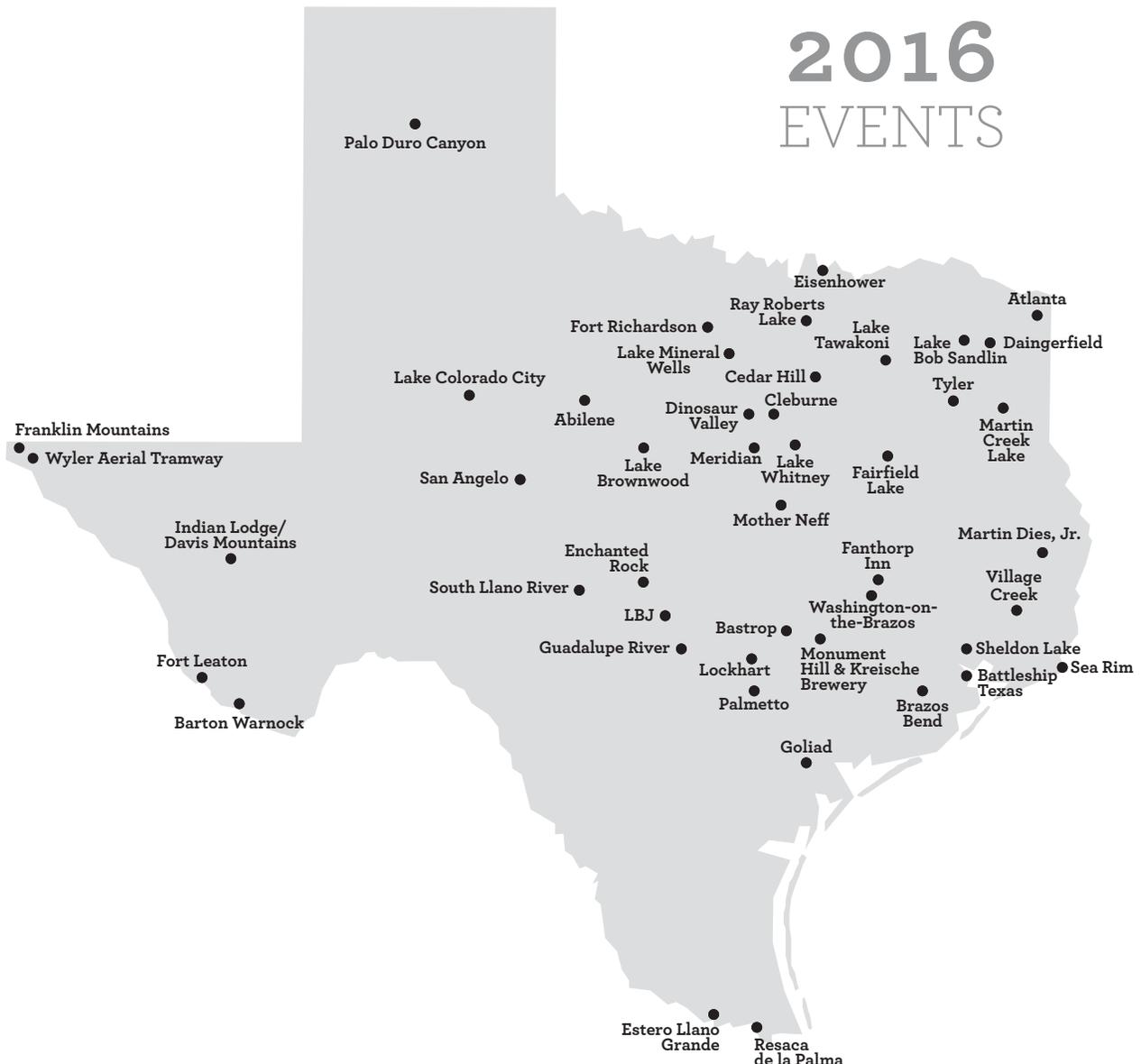
Life's better outside.®



MONUMENT HILL AND
KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

Christmas is a great time to get out and visit a Texas state park or historic site. Whether it's a festive event with family and friends, or a solitary nature walk on a crisp evening, there's something for just about everyone this time of year in a state park. Before attending any event, please check with the park to confirm applicable fees and charges, availability, and to ensure the event is still taking place. Visit www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays for the most up-to-date information on State Park holiday events and promotions.

To find information about parks, visit TexasStateParks.org or call (800) 792-1112 and press option 3.





BATTLESHIP TEXAS SHS

Abilene State Park

Fa La La in the Forest

Dec. 10 6-8 p.m.

Campers will be asked to adorn their campsites, screen shelters, or yurts with lights and decorations. Campsite fees will be waived for the day of the event for anyone who decorates their site. The public will be invited to tour the park for \$3 per carload that will be donated to the Friends of Abilene State Park. Cookies, hot chocolate, and other refreshments will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. and Santa is expected to make an appearance. Anyone interested in decorating a campsite should contact the park in advance. (325) 572-3204

Atlanta State Park

Christmas in the Park

Dec. 16-17 Sunset - 9 p.m.

Decorate your campsite and join in bringing Christmas cheer to visitors as they enjoy a free drive through the park. Visitors will also get the chance to see Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and Smokey the Bear. Refreshments and treats will be served. Fees waived for those campers who participate in the festivities by decorating your campsite! (903) 796-6476

Barton Warnock Visitor Center

Christmas on the Border

Dec. 14 6:30 p.m.

Join staff and volunteers in celebrating the holiday season in West Texas border fashion. A variety of community performers will provide entertainment. Refreshments and treats will be served while Santa Claus visits with the children. (432) 424-3327

Bastrop State Park

Christmas with the CCC

Dec. 10 9 a.m. - Noon

Escape the hoopla of holiday shopping and join us for a morning of cookies, hot chocolate, coffee and cheer! Come on over to the Refectory at Bastrop State Park for decorating (and eating) cookies, taking a selfie on our parade float, making a holiday craft, going on an optional guided hike on the trails led by a Master Naturalist, as well as a Civilian Conservation Corps tour. Don't be shy! Even Santa is stopping by to admire the handiwork of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Park will be collecting non-perishable donations for local food bank in accordance

with CCC tradition. Drop your donation off at the Refectory. Entry fees waived for the event. (512) 321-2101

Battleship Texas

Yuletide Texas

Dec. 1-31 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Free for Texas State Parks Pass holders. Visitors 12-64 years old: \$12; 65 years and older: \$6; Children 5-11 years old: \$3; Children 4 years and under: Free; Military (Active and Retired): Free.

Missing family and friends, the crew of *Texas* did their best to make the ship feel more like home during the holidays. Come share the sights and sounds of the season as the ship is adorned with lights and ornaments, reminiscent of the crew's traditional decorations. Wheelchair accessibility on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

A Sailor's Christmas

Dec. 10 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Free for Texas State Parks Pass holders. Visitors 12-64 years old: \$12; 65 years and older: \$6; Children 5-11 years old: \$3; Children 4 years and under: Free; Military (Active and Retired): Free.

Join us for a truly unique Christmas experience! Step back in time with the *Battleship Texas* for some holiday fun! Drawing on the ship's history, the crew will recreate some of the Christmas moments shared by the ship's crew. Send a Morse code message to the North Pole, make your very own ornaments, listen to the sounds of the season with live performances by area bands and choirs, and take a picture with Santa. While onboard, tickle your sweet tooth with hot cider and cookies (while supplies last). Wheelchair accessibility on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

Brazos Bend State Park

A Simple Christmas at Brazos Bend State Park

Dec. 3 3-7 p.m.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the season and enjoy the simple life: making s'mores, Dutch oven cooking, children's crafts and Victorian-era games, hayrides and more, plus a visit from a "Southern Santa." Cap off the evening with "The Brazos River Pickers" old-time, bluegrass band. Refreshments available. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy while you listen to the performance at the outdoor amphitheater. Accessible for the mobility impaired. For more information, visit www.brazosbend.org. (979) 553-5101

Cedar Hill State Park

Caroling at Penn Farm

Dec. 17 6 - 8 p.m.

Take a lantern-lit tour of Penn Farm. As we explore this historic farm, you will hear stories of the Penn family and their pioneering spirit. Learn what life on the farm was like for this family as they farmed and raised livestock for over a century. The tour will wrap up with a Christmas carol sing-a-long around the campfire while enjoying hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and other holiday treats. (972) 291-3900

Cleburne State Park

Dutch Oven Christmas

Dec. 19 9 a.m. - noon

Are you interested in learning the art of Dutch oven cooking? Join the Dutch Oven Society in making a variety of Christmas dishes as they provide a "Dutch Oven 101" course. Afterwards you'll be ready to try your hand at making your own tasty treats the next time you go camping. For those looking to get crafty, there will also be ornament making. (817) 641-6024



DAINGERFIELD SP

Daingerfield State Park

4th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 16 & 17 6-9 p.m.

Come experience a Pineywoods Christmas at Daingerfield State Park. Take a drive through the park to see the beautiful Christmas lights and decorated campsites. Afterwards, stop by the park store and visit with Santa who will be taking your last minute requests just in time for Christmas; don't forget your camera! (903) 645-2921

Dinosaur Valley State Park

Fall Hike along the Paluxy River

Nov. 26 9 a.m.

Discover the colors of a meandering river lined with red, orange, and yellow leafed trees. Take a nature walk with a park ranger as your guide. This is a great way to learn about nature and see local wildlife in their natural habitats. Wear water-proof hiking shoes; duration 2 hours. Meet at the Pavilion. (254) 897-4588

Fall Painting with a Ranger

Nov. 26 2 p.m.

Capture the beauty of Dinosaur Valley State Park in the fall with watercolors! Both artists and non-artists are welcome! All art materials will be provided. A hat is recommended. SPACE IS LIMITED! Participation and materials will be on first-come, first-served basis. Accessible for the mobility, visual and hearing impaired. Meet at the Amphitheater. (254) 897-4588

Christmas in the Valley

Dec. 17 1-4 p.m.

Paint your own Christmas card and wooden tree ornament, then enjoy seasonal cider and cookies in the park's pavilion on the river. Ranger guided hikes will start at 4 p.m. to see what beauty the park has to offer during the Christmas season. Accessible for the mobility, visual and hearing impaired. (254) 897-4588

Christmas Eve Hike

Dec. 24 9 a.m.

Take a nature walk up to our overlook with a park ranger as your guide. This is a great way to learn about nature and see local wildlife in their natural habitats. Wear water-proof hiking shoes; duration 2 hours. Meet at the Pavilion. (254) 897-4588

Eisenhower State Park

Thanksgiving Recovery Hike

Nov. 25 10-11:30 a.m.

Feeling heavy from all the feasting? Come lighten up with this guided fall hike through the park. (903) 465-1956

Trees in Winter

Dec 3 3-4 p.m.

Take a short walk to learn about identifying trees during this chilly season. We'll finish the tour by painting a decorative ornament made from cedar wood. (903) 465-1956

Holly Jolly Cache

Dec. 10 1-4 p.m.

Drop by anytime to use the park's GPS units and find geocaches with different craft materials. Then come inside to listen to holiday tunes, drink hot cider, and piece together your own unique snowman ornament. (903) 465-1956

Santa Hats Hike

Dec. 17 4-6 p.m.

A festive hike through the woods, ending with a campfire where we'll read Christmas stories and drink hot cocoa. Hikers are encouraged to wear Santa hats, reindeer antlers, elf shoes, or other holiday-themed gear!

(903) 465-1956

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

Christmas at "The Rock"

Dec. 10

Enjoy a Hill Country Christmas at legendary Enchanted Rock, where a variety of holiday-themed events will be happening throughout the day.

Start the day with an Enchanted "Jingle Bell Hike" at 9:30 a.m., where you'll join one of Santa's park elves for a hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock. At 4:30 p.m., join Santa and his elves for an old-fashioned hay ride through the park. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of Friends of Enchanted Rock. At 6 p.m., join park staff on an exhilarating hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock.

Once at the top, enjoy a reading of the classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Get in the spirit and wear a "Grinch Stocking Cap" or wear your own "Grinch-Gear."

(830) 685-3636

Estero Llano Grande State Park

Night Hike with Santa

Dec. 17 7-10 p.m.

Join us for a night adventure full of Christmas cheer and nature discovery as we embark on a 2-hour journey searching for nocturnal creatures with Santa. We will discover owls, scorpions, tarantulas, and more on our journey. Regular entrance fees apply.

(956) 565-3919

Fairfield Lake State Park

6th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 10 6-10 p.m.

Celebrate this joyous season with a variety of holiday-themed activities. Take a hay ride through the "Tour of Lights" in our Cooks Ferry Camping Loop. Gather around a toasty, country campfire and warm up while you listen to Christmas music and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa or delicious wassail and cookies to help put you in the Christmas spirit. Even Santa will join in the Christmas cheer and is expected to stop by for a visit from 7 to 9 p.m. Entrance fees will be waived, but visitors are encouraged to donate to help support Friends of Fairfield Lake. (903) 389-4514

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

Twilight Firelight

Nov. 26 4:30-7 p.m.

Take a journey back to the 1850s as the inn comes to life with lanterns, music and holiday traditions! Enjoy the ambiance of the candlelit inn, stagecoach rides, dancing, and a host of living history characters! Arrive in style, as you board a stagecoach at the Grimes County courthouse for a ride down Main Street on your way to the inn. There you will meet your hosts from 1850, Henry and Rachel Fanthorp, along with other travelers from the period. As the sound of a fiddle fills the air, they will entertain

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS SP



you with stories, poetry, period music, wassail and good cheer. No reservations are required as tickets are available near the courthouse parking from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Suggested ticket donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. (936) 878-2214

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

Posada at the Fort

Dec. 15 5 p.m.

Come celebrate Christmas with a traditional Mexican posada. Walk and sing with Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter. Follow the luminarias up to the front door, where you'll enjoy a Christmas carol concert performed by a local choir, a warm fire, and even a piñata or two. Refreshments will be served. Entrance and event fees waived for this event. Wheelchair accessible for most of the event. (432) 229-3613

Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site

Ghosts of Christmas Past

Dec. 17 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join us as we recreate Christmas in the 1870s. Once the sun sets, you'll find the historic buildings filled with soldiers and their families as they go about their evening celebrations and the routines of a nineteenth century U.S. military post. Visitors are invited to stroll through the buildings and catch a glimpse of the past. Refreshments will be served. (940) 567-3506

Franklin Mountains State Park

Turkey Trot Hike

Nov. 24 10 a.m.

Join us for a pre-feast hike up to West Cottonwood Springs. Length: 2-3 hours, 2 miles. Difficulty level: moderate to difficult. At the summit we'll cross a wooden bridge and encounter towering cottonwood trees, a continuously dripping spring and an ecosystem all its own!

(915) 566-6441

Howl-iday Hounds Hike

Dec. 9 10 a.m.

Come decked out in Santa hats and festive attire for both you and your pooch. Take a dog-friendly hike, beginning with a gradual incline over rubble, transitioning onto the Agave Loop which is comprised, in part, of old jeep road and smooth singletrack trail. This hike is considered moderate difficulty. Regular entrance fees apply. (915) 566-6441

Texas Outdoor Family – Home for the Holiday Style

Dec. 17–18 Sat. 10 a.m. – Sun 11 a.m.

Join us for a special, holiday edition of our Texas Outdoor Family workshop. This popular overnight training program teaches you and your family the ins-and-outs of how to camp. We provide the equipment, you bring food, bedding, and personal items. You'll leave with the knowledge and confidence to plan your next adventure. Talk about the perfect holiday gift! Visit www.texasstateparks.org/tof for more about this program. (915) 566-6441

Goliad State Park

History in Lights

Dec. 1–Dec. 31
Every evening, 6–10 p.m.

Come take an evening stroll at Mission Espíritu Santo and discover the history of the site. Flickering light and shadow tell the story of this remarkable site as visitors walk the same path taken by Native Americans and Spanish Franciscan Priests so long ago. Park entrance fees apply; please use self-pay station. (361) 645-3405

Christmas Concert

Dec. 3 6 p.m.

Experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season at Mission Espíritu Santo! Under the direction of Dr. James Lee, the Beeville Community Chorus will present a selection of

sacred and secular Christmas music inside the old mission chapel. Flickering candlelight, phenomenal acoustics, and voices raised in song create a visual and auditory Christmas experience like no other. The park store will be open to provide you with unique gifts for everyone on your list. Park entrance fees apply. (361) 645-3405

Los Pastores – A Shepherd's Play

Dec. 17 2 p.m.

Franciscan priests created shepherd's plays (which depict the shepherd's journey to see Baby Jesus) in the 16th century to share the Spanish culture and religion with Meso-American Indians. Familiar cultural tools such as music, dance, action, and costumes were used to communicate the meanings of the plays to non-Spanish speaking Native Americans. This Spanish language presentation will give attendees a firsthand perspective of what life was like for those living at the mission. (361) 645-3405

Guadalupe River State Park

T'was the Night at the Guad

Dec. 3 6–8 p.m.

An evening of holiday fun awaits at Guadalupe River State Park. We'll gather at the amphitheater, where Santa will start the night with a reading of *T'was the Night Before Christmas*. Afterwards, enjoy a Christmas-themed movie under the stars. Regular entrance fees apply. (830) 438-2656

Indian Lodge & Davis Mountains State Park

Thanksgiving Celebration

Nov. 24–27

On Thanksgiving, the Black Bear Restaurant at Indian Lodge will have a Thanksgiving buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday will be filled with a variety of activities including fireside chats in the lobby

and kids crafts in the interpretive center. Saturday we will hold the "Teeny Tiny Turkey Trot and 5K," a great way to kick the holiday season into high gear! (432) 426-3254

Festival of Lights

Dec. 17 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Begin the day by having breakfast with Santa at the Black Bear Restaurant from 8 to 11 a.m. Afterwards, experience seasonal displays, historic tree decorations, and a courtyard all aglow with lit trees and wreaths. Learn how to make edible tree ornaments for our feathered friends, sprays to decorate your home and much more at the Davis Mountain Interpretive Center. Take a stroll and sample homemade cookies and seasonal desserts as well as fresh mulled cider, hot cocoa and homemade eggnog. Entrance and activity fees waived for this event. (432) 426-3254



LAKE BOB SANDLIN SP

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

5th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 9 & 10 7–9 p.m.

Visitors are invited to drive or stroll through the park and see campsites "dressed in holiday style." Saturday night stick around for kids crafts, games, a visit with Santa, hot chocolate, and even an ugly Christmas sweater contest after your tour of the lights. Entrance fees waived for participating visitors. Campers who agree to decorate their campsites will



LAKE BROWNWOOD SP

camp for free; cabin campers decorating will receive a discount. Site reservations for this weekend are available through the park only; call the park in advance to sign up for a site. Participating campers may begin arriving on Wednesday, Dec. 7, and must have displays ready by noon on Friday, Dec. 9. (903) 572-5531

Lake Brownwood State Park

Holiday at the Lake

Dec. 17

Celebrate the holidays with us! Activities will include historic toy making and a campfire talk with a park ranger. There will also be hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, and the chance to visit and take photos with Santa. Overnight visitors are encouraged to decorate their sites in celebration. (325) 784-5223

Lake Colorado City State Park

All Around the Campfire Christmas and Hayride

Dec. 10 5-8 p.m.

Bring out your family, friends, and your Christmas spirit as we celebrate this wonderful holiday season. There will be a hayride tours around the park as well as games and crafts in the rec hall; afterwards we'll carol

LAKE COLORADO CITY SP



around the campfire and listen to classic Christmas stories. Feel free to bring snacks, like marshmallows or hotdogs, to roast. Santa is a fan of campfires, so be sure to have your Christmas wish list ready. Regular entrance fees apply. (325) 728-3931

Lake Mineral Wells State Park

Cross Timbers Cowboy Christmas

Dec. 10 7 p.m.

Bring the whole family to the Lone Star Amphitheater and experience Christmas cowboy style. Join park ranger and cowboy poet, David Owens, cowboy singer, Steve Schick, around the campfire for an evening of cowboy culture through music, stories and poems. Accessible for the mobility impaired. The program is free with paid park entrance fee or a State Park Pass. (940) 328-1171



LAKE TAWAKONI SP

Lake Tawakoni State Park

Twinkle Tour

Dec. 10 5-8 p.m.

Come camp with us and decorate your campsite with your favorite Christmas decorations. Later in the evening you can drive through the park and enjoy all of the festive Christmas lights. Santa will be at the amphitheater to make note of your Christmas wishes so bring your cameras! Refreshments will be served. Event fee of \$5 per vehicle beginning at 5 p.m. (903) 560-7123

Lake Whitney State Park

3rd Annual Christmas at the Park

Dec. 9-10

You're invited to come out and show your holiday spirit! Campsite fees

will be waived for all visitors who decorate their sites on Friday and Saturday night. Visitor entry fees will be waived Saturday night from 7 to 10 p.m. for all visitors who would like drive or walk through the park and experience the decorated campgrounds. Don't miss the opportunity to pick up some unique Christmas gifts at the park headquarters! (254) 694-3793

Lockhart State Park

Holiday Dutch Oven Cooking

Dec 17 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In the chill of winter, there is nothing better than a hot meal being prepared over an open fire! In this exciting hands-on program, you will learn how to use a Dutch oven to create a delicious meal over an open flame, and of course, sample your handiwork!! You'll explore Dutch ovens, learn how to build a campfire, practice the best techniques for outdoor cooking, take home recipes, and more! Come hungry because free samples will be provided! (512) 398-3479

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions

Nov 26 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit and bring the entire family. Children can start out by decorating their own gingerbread ornament to take home and hang on the tree. Then walk down to the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm and have fun decorating cookies as it was done for a German Christmas tree in the 1900s. Enjoy participating in the German holiday traditions of cookie decorating, candle making and await the arrival of St. Nicholas. There will also be periodic demonstrations of holiday wreath making for families to enjoy. Plus the park store will be filled with unique holiday items and more that will help with anyone's gift shopping list this year. (830) 644-2252

47th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting

Dec. 18 6 p.m.

Join the Texas Hill Country community in this special tradition started 47 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson. Enjoy carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, the spectacular tree lighting and more. Then revisit the past at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm where you'll find special German cookies and cakes, glowing lanterns, and a traditional candlelit German Christmas tree. The park store will be open to help you find all your holiday gifts. (830) 644-2252

Martin Creek Lake State Park

Turkey Day Dog Hike

Nov. 24 9-10 a.m.

Take a Thanksgiving day hike around the island with your dog. Meet at the bridge to the island at 9 a.m. (903) 836-4336



MARTIN CREEK LAKE SP

Christmas in the Pineywoods 2016

Dec. 2 & 3 6-9 p.m.

Take a drive through the Pineywoods and see the campsites decorated in festive holiday light displays. Families will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus and enjoy hot chocolate or hot cider by the fire at the Group Picnic Pavilion. Entrance fees will be waived for all visitors who bring a new (unwrapped) toy to donate to the local community's Operation Blue Santa. (903) 836-4336

Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

Make a Bird Feeder

Dec. 3, 10, 17 10-11:30 a.m.

Bring your kids over to the nature center to make a handmade gift for our feathered friends. Using simple ingredients you'll make a great, nature-inspired bird feeder. They can hang this in the backyard as a present for the birds or give it to someone as a gift. Please note: peanut butter and honey will be used, please be prepared for any potential allergies. (409) 384-5231

Holiday Crafts for Adults

Dec. 3, 10, 17 2-3 p.m.

Join our park ranger to make a delicate ornament out of pins, beads, and sequins. This craft is inspired by ornaments of the past and make beautiful gifts for friends and family. This arts and crafts project is appropriate for older audiences since it contains sharp pins, tiny beads, and lots of patience. Please bring a \$4 donation to cover the cost of material for this project. (409) 384-5231

Meridian State Park

Thanksgiving Recovery Hike

Nov. 25 10 a.m.

Join us for a post-turkey coma hike! This will be a ranger-led, 2.5-mile hike on the Bosque Trail. This trail is quite arduous so be sure to wear proper closed-toe shoes and bring plenty of water. This hike may take up to 1.5 hours. We will stop along the way to enjoy the extravagant scenery and explore nature. (254) 435-2536

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Dec 17 1 - 3 p.m.

Mall Santas are great, but for some real one-on-one time with the big guy, come out to the park. This special event will allow kids to spend some quality time with Santa and share his favorite snack while going over that Christmas wish list. (254) 435-2536



MONUMENT HILL AND
KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

Trail of Lights

Dec 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 6-8 p.m.

\$5/adult and \$1/child 3-12 years old
Celebrate Christmas in early Texas-German style! Enjoy a beautifully illuminated quarter-mile trail transformed by thousands of lights that decorate Monument Hill and Kreische House. View the lights of the town of La Grange from the trail's hillside overlook. Experience the home of H.L. Kreische decorated in traditional Texas-German 1850s-era Christmas splendor. Bring your children; they won't want to miss an opportunity to whisper Christmas wishlists to Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Enjoy the genuine seasonal hospitality of the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery, who sponsor the event. Get into the Christmas season's spirit with us - Texas-German style! Sorry, no pets or alcohol allowed. (979) 968-5658

Mother Neff State Park

A Mother Neff Christmas

Dec 10 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Join us for creative Christmas crafts and holiday-themed activities. There will be a scavenger hunt that will get you exploring the park's scenery and



MOTHER NEFF SP

3rd Annual Old Fashioned Holiday Taffy Pull

Dec. 18 10 a.m.

Get ready for some holiday candy making fun as we make batches of homemade honey cream and saltwater taffy. We will explore some of the different taffy recipes from the Depression era and the sugar-rationed days of World War II. These all-time favorite recipes are sure to bring back memories for some and spark new interests in young hearts. Join us as we get our hands covered with sweet buttery goodness. Free with park admission. (830) 672-3266



PALMETTO SP

wildlife. Visit the park headquarters for a book signing event and to check out the park store's unique nature and camping gifts for everyone on your list. Overnight visitors are encouraged to decorate their sites since there will be a competition for the best decorated campsite. Judging will take place after sunset and a prize awarded. Standard park entrance fees apply. (254) 853-2389.

Palmetto State Park

Full Moon Hike

Dec 13 8 p.m.

Experience December's full moon in a brand new way! Join a ranger on a one-mile hike that includes a chance to see the moon through a telescope. This hike is easy and will be fun for all ages. Hike should take about an hour, or longer depending on the time spent at the telescope. Free with park admission.

Ornament Swap

Dec 17 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Looking to add something new to your holiday tree? The park will be hosting an ornament swap! Bring an ornament and take an ornament. We will also have areas set up to craft new ornaments from recycled materials and natural products. Free with park admission.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Christmas in the Canyon

Dec. 17 5-8 p.m.

Join us for the jolliest fun you can have 800 feet below ground. Enjoy the beauty of hot air balloons against the backdrop of Palo Duro Canyon and pay a visit to Santa Claus at the Mack Dick Group Pavilion. Come for hot chocolate and stay for festive live music provided by The Dryland Dreamers and the Oakdale Elementary Honor Choir. Have your picture taken with Santa, then take a crisp nature hike on the Pioneer Nature Trail. Kids can create their own lasting souvenir when they make a Palo Duro Mouse ornament. Entry to the park will be free with the

donation of a food item starting at 4 p.m. All food items will benefit the High Plains Food Bank. (806) 488-2227

Ray Roberts Lake State Park Johnson Branch

It's Turkey Time!

Nov. 26 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Now that we've all eaten our fill of turkey, let's take some time to learn about these big birds! Together, we'll explore the history of turkeys in Texas, where they live now, and just what exactly is a snood?!? We'll also dispel some of the more common myths about our feathered, poultry friends. (940) 637-2294

Calling All Turkeys!

Nov. 26 2-3 p.m.

Come learn all about the different types of calls made by tom and hen turkeys. You can practice making hen calls using a variety of turkey-calling tools. You'll even get to make your own turkey call! Meet at the amphitheater near the Kid Fish Pond. (940) 637-2294

Dreaming of a Wild Christmas

Dec. 17 4-6 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled, holiday-themed evening. Make your own popcorn garland, create a homemade present, and listen to a holiday story in front of a roaring fire. There will be hot cocoa and holiday treats to sample. (940) 637-2294

Ray Roberts Lake State Park Isle du Bois

A Very Wild Christmas

Dec. 24 4 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit out at Ray Roberts Lake! Join us for an evening of fun as we read our favorite holiday stories and sing Christmas carols by a warm fire while enjoying some hot cocoa and Dutch oven treats. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites in holiday splendor. A

prize will be given to the best decorated campsite as chosen by park visitors. (940) 686-2148

Resaca de la Palma State Park

Jolly Night Hike

Dec. 10 5-9 p.m.

Gather your friends and family and join us for a night of Christmas cheer in the great outdoors! Spread the holiday spirit with a night of hiking, festive crafts, live performances by local talent, and a visit from our very own Green Santa! Admission fee: Adults: \$6, Children 12 and under: \$2. (956) 350-2920

San Angelo State Park

Christmas in the Park

Dec. 17

Start this unique holiday celebration at 2 p.m. with a Longhorn/Bison Hayride Tour. Afterwards, head back to the Chaparral Pavilion where the kids can paint and decorate their own Bison and Longhorn cinnamon-scented ornaments. Stick around for cookies, hot cocoa and Christmas stories by the campfire while we wait for the Light Tour to begin. Campers are encouraged to help Light Up the Park for the holidays; participants will be given prizes donated by the Friends of the State Park. Children can also enter their names for a drawing after the Light Tour; winners will receive a T-shirt and a patch! (325) 949-4757

Sea Rim State Park

A Very Marshy Christmas

Dec. 17 3-6 p.m.

Ever wonder how Santa gets around the marsh to visit the good little boys and girls? By air boat of course! Santa and Mrs. Claus have booked Sea Rim's cabin and will be arriving by air boat. Children will have a photo opportunity with Santa starting at 3 p.m. when he arrives. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Children can participate in a craft



SEA RIM SP

making sea turtle tree ornaments. Come early and visit the beach prior to Santa's arrival. (409) 971-2559

Sheldon Lake State Park

Holiday in the Park

Dec. 11 1-4 p.m.

Get in the winter spirit with a Holiday in the Park at this free event! Bring your friends and family to create ornaments, build wreaths, and enjoy a fire with holiday music playing. Complete a holiday-themed geocache, venture up the 82-foot John Jacob Observation Tower, or join a winter hike. Don't forget your camera to capture those special moments! All trails and walking paths are wheelchair accessible. (281) 456-2800

South Llano River State Park

Christmas at the Ranch

Dec. 3 1-4 p.m.

Come join us as the park celebrates Christmas at the Walter Buck, Jr. Ranch. With the original ranch home acting as the backdrop, several ranch-themed activities will be taking place at the park headquarters. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites in holiday splendor. In the evening, visitors can drive through the campground to take in the festive decorations.

Entrance fees for day-use visitors will be waived. (325) 446-3994

Tyler State Park

Pineywoods Christmas & Nature Wonderland Hike

Dec. 9 & 10 4-9 p.m.

Please join park staff at 4 p.m. each day for a Nature Wonderland Hike along the Lakeshore Trail. After the hike, don't forget to stop by and enjoy snacks and refreshments at the Silver Canoe Park Store and Patio. The park will be decorated with Christmas lights, and campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites. Once the sun sets, visitors can take a stroll through the campgrounds to enjoy the lights, decorations, and sounds of the holiday season. (903) 597-5338

Village Creek State Park

Christmas on the Creek

Dec. 3 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The family will love taking part in our annual holiday celebration. Get in the spirit by creating nature inspired Christmas decorations to take home while drinking hot cocoa and spiced cider to keep warm.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

Christmas Shopping at Washington Emporium

Dec. 3 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Are you looking for a special gift? Washington Emporium Gift Shop will host a special Christmas shopping event showcasing products made by local vendors and artisans from the area and throughout Texas. Refreshments, music, and Christmas readings will be provided. Santa Claus will be on hand from 2-4 p.m. to greet visitors and hear kids' Christmas wishes. Bring your camera for photos. (936) 878-2214

Christmas on the Brazos

Dec. 10

Modern and historic activities for all ages will be happening throughout the park. Independence Hall will host “An Afternoon With Dickens” with readings of some of our favorite Christmas literature at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Afterwards, at 4 p.m., you can enjoy a presentation of “Christmas Lore and Traditions.” The Star of the Republic Museum will host period crafts during regular hours. Visit Washington Emporium, the State Park Store, to find the perfect holiday gift. (936) 878-2214

Barrington’s Candlelight Christmas

Dec. 10

Get a glimpse of Christmas time in the 1850s through a candlelit tour of Barrington Farm. Tours begin at 5:30 p.m., with the last tour starting at 8 p.m. The event includes 19th century music and dancing, bonfires and Christmas readings, a 1850s Santa Claus, barn dance, cookies and hot cider. Tour the historic home of the last president of the Texas Republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering. Visit the farm’s quarters to hear how the enslaved at Barrington celebrated the season. Please allow at least one hour to complete the full experience. Standard admission fees apply. Reservations for the evening program are strongly recommended. Barrington.Farm@tpwd.texas.gov or (936) 878-2214

Wylers Aerial Tramway

Turkey Hike

Nov. 25 9 a.m.

We will hike one mile up and another mile around Ranger Peak; afterwards we will ride the Tramway back to the base of the mountain. Bring water, hat, and sturdy shoes. (915) 562-9899

Art in the Park: Print Making

Dec 10 12:30–3:30 p.m.

Looking to make a unique postcard to send holiday greetings to loved ones, or maybe send a list to the North Pole? Stop by the park and make printed postcards featuring images of some of Franklin Mountains’ iconic animals and plants. (915) 562-9899

Holidays at the Tramway

Dec. 17 noon–3 p.m.

Dec. 18 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Start a new family tradition and have your picture taken with Santa Claus at the top of Ranger Peak. Take time to see our Christmas decorations and to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider, or coffee at our “Mile High” gift shop. You’ll find unique gifts like candles, books, apparel, toys and other one-of-a-kind items for everyone on your shopping list. (915) 562-9899

Santa Christmas Hike

Dec. 25

8 a.m.–noon

Join us for our 7th annual Santa Christmas Hike. Celebrate the season with a unique, fun and challenging hike up to the top of Ranger Peak where you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider or coffee. After you’re done taking in the view be sure to stop in and shop for a unique gift in the state park store. Once you’re ready to leave, enjoy the ride back down to the base in one of our tram cars. Wear a Santa hat on the hike and receive a free tram ride down the mountain! (915) 562-9899

WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY



Visit www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays
for the most up-to-date information
on State Park holiday events.



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Start (or grow) your ornament collection with the 15th Annual Collector's Edition ornaments.

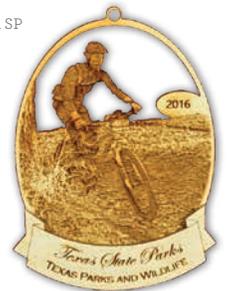
Each ornament is \$8.95, or purchase all three new designs for just \$19.95, plus tax, shipping and handling. Limited quantities of previous year's ornaments available for purchase.



DINOSAUR VALLEY SP



BALMORHEA SP



TYLER SP



TEXAS STATE PARKS GIFT CARD

Gift cards can be purchased in any amount (minimum \$5), last for three years, and may be redeemed for entrance and camping fees, state park passes, purchases at the state park store, and more!

And if you purchase a Texas State Park Gift Card valued at \$75 or more during the month of December, you can also receive a FREE 2016 ornament. Tax, shipping and handling still apply.

Order gift cards or ornaments today, call (512) 389-8900

Free ornament promotion available only by phone before Dec. 31 2016; not available in parks.

Visit www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays for more information and gift ideas.

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FIRST DAY HIKES

Recover from the holidays by joining us for a First Day Hike on New Year's Day!

Most Texas State Parks will have special hikes, walks, runs or paddles for all skill levels. Start the year off right – find a First Day Hike near you:

www.TexasStateParks.org/firstdayhikes

JANUARY