

WET & WILD

ADVENTURE CAMP

www.wetwildcamp.com

GUIDE

TO

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FOR

CHILDREN

By Lucy Grant

At Wet & Wild Adventure Camp, we have tried to create a place where kids can have the kind of summer they will remember as one of the best memories of their childhood. We want them to have fun and also develop a love and appreciation of nature and the outdoors. Austin and the surrounding hill county offer an abundance of adventurous, beautiful and exciting things to do. Kids love adventure and variety. That's why we go someplace different practically every day.

Many people think it's too hot to do anything outside in the summer. I can tell you that you can enjoy the outdoors in the summer if you will just include swimming into your fun. Even on the hottest days, you can play, hike and explore as long as you have available water nearby to jump into when you get hot. That's why this guide is so heavy with swimming areas. If you want to do something (such as hike Enchanted Rock) where there is no nearby water, either go another time of year, or before 10 am in the summer.

When planning your summer with your children, try new places; schedule at least one or two (or even more) new adventures a week. Your children will love it and (eventually) you will too. Don't let the time when your children are young and excited slip by with obligations and housework. Have a ball. Enjoy them while you can. They grow up and are gone before you know it.

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Animals

Austin Aquarium 512-222-5586
 Austin Bats – 512-478-0098 (www.batcon.org)
 Austin Nature Center – 512-327-8181
 Austin Zoo 512-288-1490
 Capital of Texas Zoo (.org)
 Crowe's Nest Farm – 512-272-4418
 Exotic Zoo, Johnson City 830-868-4357
 Natural Bridge Wild Animal Park 830- 438-7400 (nbwildliferanchtx.com)
San Antonio Zoo 210- 734-7183
 Sea World 210-523—3900

Berry Picking

Sweet Berry Farm, Marble Falls – 830-798-1462 www.sweetberryfarm.com
 Wolf Farm, Elgin –512-273-2388

Boating

Austin Canoe and Kayak 512-719-4386
 Austin Duck Adventures – 512-477-5274
 Austin Sailboat Rentals 512-815-0980
 Capital Cruises 512-480-9264
 Inks Lake State Park 512-793-2223
 Just for Fun Boat Rentals 512-266-2176
 Rafting, Guadalupe River: Jerry's 830-625-2036; Janie's 830-625-4928
 Gruene River Co. 830-625-2800; Rockin R 830-629-9999
 Rowing Dock (2419 Stratford Dr) 512-459-0925
 Texas Rowing Center (on Town Lake) 512-467-7799
 Vanishing Texas River Cruise 800-728-8735
 Zilker Boats - 512-478-3852

Bowling

Blanco Bowling Club – you set your own pins, lots of fun for kids. 830-833-4416
 Dart Bowl – 512-452-2518 5700 Grover
 Highland Lanes – 512-458-1215 8909 Burnet Rd.
 Interstate Lanes – 512-255-8826 3101 N IH 35
 Millenium Youth Complex – 512-472-6932 1156 Hargrave
 Showplace Lanes – 512-834-7733 9504 N IH 35
 UT Underground – 512-475-6670 24th and Guadalupe
 Westgate Lanes – 512-441-2695 2701 Westgate Blvd.

Caves and Caverns

Colorado Bend State Park 915-628-3240
 Inner Space Caverns 512-863-5545
 Longhorn Caverns 512-756-4680
 Natural Bridge Caverns 830-438-7400 (nbwildliferanchtx.com)
 Wonder World 1-800-782-7653 x 2283

Golf

Butler Park Pitch and Putt – 512-477-4430 201 Lee Barton Dr
 Peter Pan Mini Golf – 512-472-1033 1207 Barton Springs Rd

Indoor Rock Climbing

Austin Rock Gym –512- 416-8455

Main Event 512-401-0000

Amusement Parks

Austin's Park (and Pizza) 512-670-9600 (go carts, wall climb, laser tag, bumper boats, miniature golf, video games, batting cages, rides)

Fiesta Texas San Antonio – rides, shows, waterpark

Kiddie Acres , Austin 512-255-4131 (rides for preschoolers, also has horses)

Kiddie Park, Brackenridge Park, San Antonio 512-824-4351 (rides for preschoolers - since 1925)

Main Event 512-401-0000 (indoor rock climbing, bowling, laser tag, indoor golf, pool, video games)

Morgan's Wonderland, San Antonio 210-495-5888 (rides, playground, creative play, fishing)

ZDT, Seguin 830-386-0151 (water rides, go carts, unlimited play video games, rock wall, rides)

Blazer Tag 512-462-0202 (laser tag, sky trail, video games)

Jumpy Houses

Jumpstreet 512-506-8583

Jumpoline 512-310-1420

Locomotion 512-610-1680

Pump It Up 512-989-7867 (Austin) and 512-252-7019 (Round Rock)

Wazoos 512-282-5867

Misc. Favorites

Amy's Ice Cream 512-458-6149

Blue Bell Creameries – 1-800-327-8135

Dinosaur Park, Bastrop 512-321-6262

Gattitown –512- 301-7777

Movies

Imax – 512-936-4629

Free Kids Summer Movies South at Westgate 512-899-2717

Museums

Austin History Center – 512-499-7480

Bob Bullock Texas History Museum

George Washington Carver Museum – 512-472-4809

LBJ Library and Museum – 512-916-5136

Moody Gardens, Galveston 800-582-4673

McKenna Children's Museum, New Braunfels 830-606-9525

Texas Memorial Museum – 512-471-1604

The Thinkery 512-472-2499

Umlauf Sculpture Garden 512-445-5582

Witte Museum, San Antonio 210-357-1900

Nature

Aquarina Springs 1-800-999-9767

Canyon of the Eagles – 1-800-977-0081

Colorado Bend State Park 915-628-3240

Enchanted Rock 915-247-3903

Mayfield Park – 512-499-6700

McKinney Roughs – 512-303-5073

Mount Bonnell – 512-499-6700

Westcave Preserve 830-825-3442
 Wild Basin - 512-327-7622
 Wildflower Center – 512-292-4100
 Zilker Gardens – 512-477-8672

Parks (awesome and worth the drive)

Children's Park in San Marcos (off CM Allen Pkwy past Rio Vista Park)
 Georgetown Children's Park (visitor's center 512-863-5598).

Skating

Austin Roller Rink 512-292-7528
 Bastrop Skating 512-303-0320
 Chaparral Ice Skating Rink – 512-252-8500 14200 N IH 35
 Millenium Youth Complex – 512-472-6932 1156 Hargrave
 Playland Skating Center – 512-452-1901 8822 McCann

State Parks (reservations: 512-389-8900 www.tpwd.state.tx.us) (not mentioned below in Swimming holes)

Bastrop 512-321-2101
 Buescher 512-237-2241
 Canyon of the Eagles 800-977-0081
 Colorado Bend 915-628-3240
 Enchanted Rock 915-247-3903
 Longhorn Caverns 512-756-6976
 Palmetto 830-672-3266

Water Activities

Lions Club Tube Rental, San Marcos River 512-396-5466
 Prince Solms Tube Chute, New Braunfels 830-608-2160 (older kids)
 Texas Ski Ranch, San Marcos – 830-627-2843 (cable waterski and wakeboarding)
 Vision Quest ATX 512-298-9370 (cable waterski and wakeboarding)

Zipline Tours

Cypress Valley Canopy Tours 512-264-8880
 Lake Travis Zipline 512-614-1996
 Wimberly Zipline 512-847-9990

Swimming Holes

Barton Springs – 512-478-0098 ****
 Austin's jewel – cold and refreshing; huge shallow area for little ones ~\$3

Bergheim Campground 830-336-2235 **
 Good place to arrange a tubing trip on the Guadalupe River ~\$5
From Boerne: Take Hwy 46 East for 15 miles to Bergheim, turn North on FM 3351 for 5 mi.

Blanco River State Park -830-833-4333 **
 Deep on one side of the dam and a shallow creek on the other ~\$5
½ mile Southwest of Blanco on US 281

BLORA (Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area) (254) 287-4907 ***
 Lake, sandy beach, large water slides, paddle boats and paddle bikes \$5/car
North on IH 35. Exit and turn L on Loop 121 before Belton. Just past the RR

Blue Hole, Georgetown **

Deep on one side of the dam and shallow creek on the other;
Cliffs to jump off of, but don't let the sheriff catch you. Free
North of downtown, off TX 81 and Austin Ave. At the end of Rock Street. Turn onto 2nd St. just below South San Gabriel River Bridge.

Blue Hole, Wimberly 512-847-9127 ****

Beautiful cold clear water, huge Cypress trees, rope swings,
Shallow and deep areas, secret tunnel underneath the Cypress roots
Go in the morning before its taken over by teens ~\$5
¼ mile East of Wimberly on FM 3237

Bull Creek Park ***

Small waterfall slide, rope swing, rock to jump off, fun creek area
rock tunnel through the cliff. Free
1 block off the corner of Loop 360 and 2222.

Campbell's Hole, Barton Creek **

Beautiful, stretch of Barton Creek just above Zilker Park with lots of boulders
Better to look at than swim in. Free
Walk up the creek from Barton Springs

Camp Ben McCullouch ***

Huge trees, very shady, beautiful creek; Usually very shallow, but fun if there's water.
One deeper part has a rope swing. Free or small cost
South on FM 1826 past Goldenwood, across from the Salt Lick Restaurant

City Park (Emma Long Metropolitan Park) 512-346-1831 ***

Cold water, but excellent sandy beach and a dock to jump off of
Especially fun when the boats to by and make waves. Crowded \$5/car
Go west out 2222, about ½ mile past Loop 360 to City Park Road and turn left.

Comal River ****

Float trip on the beautiful, cold clear Comal (~2 hours)
Mostly slow except for Prince Solms tube chute (walk around the little dam that follows) and Schlitterbahn rapids. ~ \$10 tube rental and taxi. Cut costs with your own tube.
Look for tube rental places close to the entrance to Prince Solms Park. They provide shuttles.

5 Mile Dam **

In Kyle. Deep water on one side of the dam and a shallow creek on the other.
Shady, green and uncrowded. The dam is fun to climb on. Free
IH 35 South to Yarrington Rd, South of Kyle. Stay on Frontage Rd to 'Y'. Right on FM 2779

Guadalupe River ***

Texas's jewel whitewater river. Good for tubing, rafting, canoeing and viewing.
From Comfort to New Braunfels...contact a rental and shuttle company on River Road.
Rocking R: 830-629-9999. Gruene River Raft Co. 830-625-2873.

Guadalupe River State Park 830-438-2656 ***

Pretty park, sometimes crowded. Nice shallow area but towards the middle of the river the

Current may be too swift for little ones. ~\$5
13 miles East of Boerne off TX 46 on Park Road 31.

Hamilton Pool – 512-264-2740 ***

Beautiful place. Small sandy beach area (gets crowded); small shallow area, waterfall, cliffs (no you can no longer jump); Bring a float. ~\$5/car
Go West on 71 past 620. Left on Hamilton Pool Rd (FM 3238) for about 13 miles on the right

Inks Lake State Park 512-793-2223 **

Gorgeous hiking, fun renting canoes and paddleboats, good swimming areas are few
 Cliffs you can jump off, beautiful waterfall (when the creek's running) ~\$5
Go west out Hwy 71, then north on 281 to Marble Falls, then west on 1431 to FM 2342.

Krause Springs 830-693-4181 ***

Beautiful! Beautiful! Fern covered cliff, creek, rope swing, huge cypress trees
 Cold, cold pool, beautiful landscaping; can get crowded. ~\$4
West on Hwy 71 to Spicewood. Right on Spur 191 (by Exxon). Right on 404.

Lake Georgetown 512-930-3595 **

Large sandy beach, lots of shallow swimming, little shade; \$5/car
IH 35 North to FM 2338 and go West about 4 miles. Look for sign to Russell Park.

Landa Park, New Braunfels 830-608-2160 ***

Swimming hole or water park? Natural spring fed pool, big slide, rope swing, zip line, large baby pool. Shady and beautiful. It's fun. \$3. *Corner of Landa and San Antonio Street.*

LCRA Parks – 1-800-776-5272 x 304

Lots of parks on Lake Travis, most are free

Llano Slab ***

No shade. good tubing for little ones, fun for older kids too. Often trashy. Free.
On FM 3494 about 2 miles west of 1431 in Kingsland.

McKinney Falls State Park – 512-243-1643 ***

Limited shallow area; rope swing, cool and shady, watch out for poison ivy.
 Great biking trail ~\$5. *Take 183 South to McKinney Falls Parkway.(on the right)*

Pace Bend Park, Lake Travis **

Rocks and cliffs to jump off, shallow beach areas, this place is huge.
 Something for everyone, sometimes crowded. \$5/car
West on 71 about 15 miles past 620 to FM 2322; turn right and go about 5 miles.

Pedernales Falls State Park 830-868-7304 *** (3 different swimming areas)

Bee Creek – 1 mile hike but secluded and fun if flowing
 Main swim area – sometimes swift, fun little rapids with slower waist deep areas
 Youth group area – sandy beach, rope swing (maybe); shallow and deep areas ~\$5
290 West for 30 miles, then North on FM 3232 for 7 more miles.

Prince Solms Tube Chute 830-608-2165 **** \$5

For thrill seekers, fast whitewater, as good as anything at Schlitterbahn. Well lifeguarded.
From IH 35, exit Loop 337 and go west to Common St. At Liberty Street dogleg left then right.

San Marcos River (Lions Club tube rental) 512-396-5466 ****

Cold, clear, beautiful river float trip. Slow float for about an hour

Optional thrilling waterfall at the end; ~\$8 tube rental and taxi.

IH 35 to San Marcos, exit Aquarina Springs and go west. Turn left on University Drive and turn Right just past the dorms. Follow the signs to Lions Club or City Park.

Twin Falls, Barton Creek ***

On weekday mornings it's fairly empty. Otherwise very crowded. Both shallow creek and deep whitewater areas IF there's water. *Park on MoPac Frontage Rd south of 360.*

Westlake Beach – 512-327-9004

Cold water, shady and a bit pricey, but I think it has a nice beach area.

Austin Municipal Swimming Pools (fee is worth the uncrowded conditions compared to free pools)

Bartholomew Pool

Deep Eddy – 512-472-8546 (Check out the Splash parties, movies and swimming after dark)

Garrison 512-442-4048

Mabel Davis 512-441-5247

Northwest 512-453-0194

Walnut Creek 512-834-0824

Fancy Pools (pools with water slides or waves)

Bartholomew Pool, Austin (E 51st Street) 512-476-9332

Micki Krebsbach, Round Rock 512-218-7090

Milburn Pool, Cedar Park 512-258-4121

Eastside YMCA, Austin (51st street and 183) 512-933-9622

Rockin' River Round Rock – 512-671-2737

Scott Metzner Pool, Pflugerville 512-990-6350

Seguin Wave Pool, Seguin 830-401-2480

Summerfun USA, Belton 254-939-0366

Veteran's Pool, Cedar Park 512-401-5510

Trains

Amtrak Reservations – 1-800-872-1477

Austin Steam Train – 512-477-8468

Zilker Park Eagle – 512-477-7273

Waterparks

Granite Beach, Lake LBJ Waterpark, Marble Falls 830-693-9172 (weekends only)

Hawaiian Falls, Pflugerville www.hfalls.com

Hawaiian Falls, Waco

Schlitterbahn, New Braunfels 830-625-2351

Six Flags Fiesta Texas San Antonio 210-694-5050

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Arlington 817-265-3356

Splashtown, San Antonio 210-227-1100

Volente Beach – 512-258-5110