ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

Texas and the Hill Country

Space Center Houston, the Alamo, Austin's live music and the Gulf.

Length	12 days, 11 nights
Distance	1,040 km, 6 driving days
Behind the wheel	12 h 30 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Houston (IAH), Houston (IAH) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Houston	Days 1–2	**8**
San Antonio	Days 3–4	**10**
Fredericksburg	Days 5–6	**12**
Austin	Days 7–9	**14**
Galveston	Days 10–11	**16**

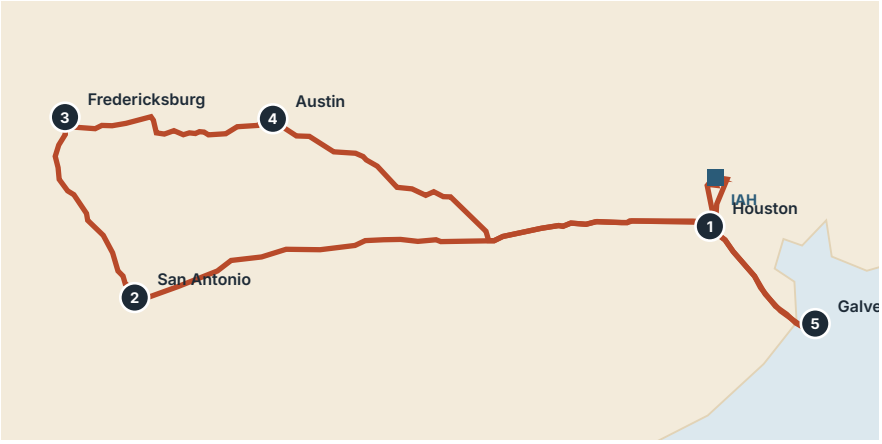
Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Houston	40	30 min	
2		Houston			
3		San Antonio	310	3 h 30 min	
4		San Antonio			
5		Fredericksburg	110	1 h 20 min	
6		Fredericksburg			
7		Austin	130	1 h 40 min	
8		Austin			
9		Austin			
10		Galveston	340	4 h	
11		Galveston			
12		Flight home from IAH	110	1 h 30 min	

1,040 km · 12 h 30 min behind the wheel · on average 170 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Houston (IAH), drive to Houston · About 40 km (20 mi), 30 min
Day 3	Houston, drive to San Antonio · About 310 km (200 mi), 3 h 30 min
Day 5	San Antonio, drive to Fredericksburg · About 110 km (70 mi), 1 h 20 min
Day 7	Fredericksburg, drive to Austin · About 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min
Day 10	Austin, drive to Galveston · About 340 km (210 mi), 4 h
Day 12	Galveston to Houston airport (IAH), fly home to Amsterdam · About 110 km (70 mi), 1 h 30 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–2

Houston TX

Space Center Houston

Land at Houston (IAH), drive to Houston: about 40 km (20 mi), 30 min

2 nights

HOUSTON · DAYS 1–2

HOTEL

- ☐ Hilton Garden Inn Houston Medical Center, TX · 3★ — roughly €110
  6840 Almeda Rd
- ☐ Home2 Suites by Hilton Houston Medical Center, TX · 3★ — roughly €130
  6840 Almeda Road
- ☐ Courtyard Houston I-10 West/Park Row · 3★ — roughly €70
  18010 Park Row Drive
- ☐ Drury Inn & Suites Houston Galleria · 3★ — roughly €110
  1615 West Loop South
- ☐ Courtyard by Marriott Houston Heights/I-10 · 3★ — roughly €130
  3220 Katy Freeway

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DAYS 3–4

San Antonio TX

The Alamo and the River Walk

Houston, drive to San Antonio: about 310 km (200 mi), 3 h 30 min

2 nights

SAN ANTONIO · DAYS 3–4

HOTEL

- [ ] Aloft by Marriott San Antonio UTSA Area · 3★ — roughly €120
  5630 UTSA Boulevard
- [ ] Drury Inn & Suites Near La Cantera Parkway · 3★ — roughly €90
  15806 Ih 10 W
- [ ] Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North Stone Oak · 3★ — roughly €100
  823 North Loop 1604 East
- [ ] Drury Inn & Suites San Antonio Northwest Medical Center · 3★ — roughly €90
  9806 Interstate Hwy 10 W
- [ ] Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Airport · 3★ — roughly €110
  95 NE Loop 410

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DAYS 5–6

Fredericksburg TX

The Hill Country's wineries

San Antonio, drive to Fredericksburg: about 110 km (70 mi), 1 h 20 min

2 nights

FREDERICKSBURG · DAYS 5–6

HOTEL

- [ ] The Winchester Lodge · 3★
  415 E Austin St
- [ ] Inn on Barons Creek · 3★ — roughly €120
  308 South Washington Street
- [ ] Rarumpelpunzeldornaschenwittchen · 3★
  527 Chaparral Dr
- [ ] Fredericksburg Inn and Suites · 3★ — roughly €100
  201 S Washington
- [ ] La Quinta by Wyndham Fredericksburg · 3★ — roughly €100
  1465 E Main St

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DAYS 7–9

Austin TX

Live music on Sixth Street

Fredericksburg, drive to Austin: about 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min

3 nights

AUSTIN · DAYS 7–9

HOTEL

- [ ] SpringHill Suites by Marriott Austin North · 3★ — roughly €70
  13309 NORTH US HIGHWAY 183
- [ ] Hampton Inn and Suites Austin University Capitol · 3★ — roughly €110
  1701 Lavaca St
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn Austin North-Near the Domain, TX · 3★ — roughly €100
  2600 Brockton Ave
- [ ] Hyatt Place Austin Downtown · 3★ — roughly €100
  211 E 3rd St
- [ ] Aloft by Marriott Austin Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  109 E 7th St

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DAYS 10–11

Galveston TX

Beaches on the Gulf of Mexico

Austin, drive to Galveston: about 340 km (210 mi), 4 h

2 nights

GALVESTON · DAYS 10–11

HOTEL

- [ ] Coppersmith Inn B&B · 3★
  1914 Avenue M
- [ ] The Mansion on 17th · 3★
  511 17th St
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Galveston Island · 3★ — roughly €140
  4028 AVENUE U
- [ ] Harbor House Hotel and Marina at Pier 21 · 3★ — roughly €220
  At Pier 21 # 28
- [ ] Holiday Inn Resort Galveston - On The Beach by IHG · 3★ — roughly €100
  5002 Seawall Blvd

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What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Houston	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	Houston	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	San Antonio	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	San Antonio	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Fredericksburg	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Fredericksburg	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Austin	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Austin	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Austin	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Galveston	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Galveston	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Flight home from IAH	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,760
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€720
Total	**€4,180**
	€2,090 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

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About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/texas-hill-country/

PHOTOS

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San Antonio	Mardi Gras has a Texas touch in little Bandera, the "Cowboy Capital of Texas," west of San Antonio, Texas LCCN2014631488.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Fredericksburg	Poppies, Fredericksburg, Texas LCCN2014633200.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Austin	Texas Governors Mansion Highsmith.jpg · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Galveston	Ships in an inlet of Galveston Bay, above Galveston Island in Texas LCCN2014633299.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain

MAP AND TYPE

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