

Jody Rookstool's Top 12 Places to Visit in Texas

Texas, the Lone Star State, is a vast and diverse land with something to offer every traveler. From bustling cities to serene landscapes, there are countless places to explore and discover. Jody Rookstool, a local expert and founder of TexasTripping.com, shares her top 12 must-visit destinations in the state.

1. The Hill Country



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by Jody Rookstool

4.3 out of 5

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The Texas Hill Country is a region of rolling hills, vineyards, and charming small towns. It's a great place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and relax in nature. There are plenty of wineries, breweries, and distilleries in the area, as well as hiking trails, rivers, and lakes.

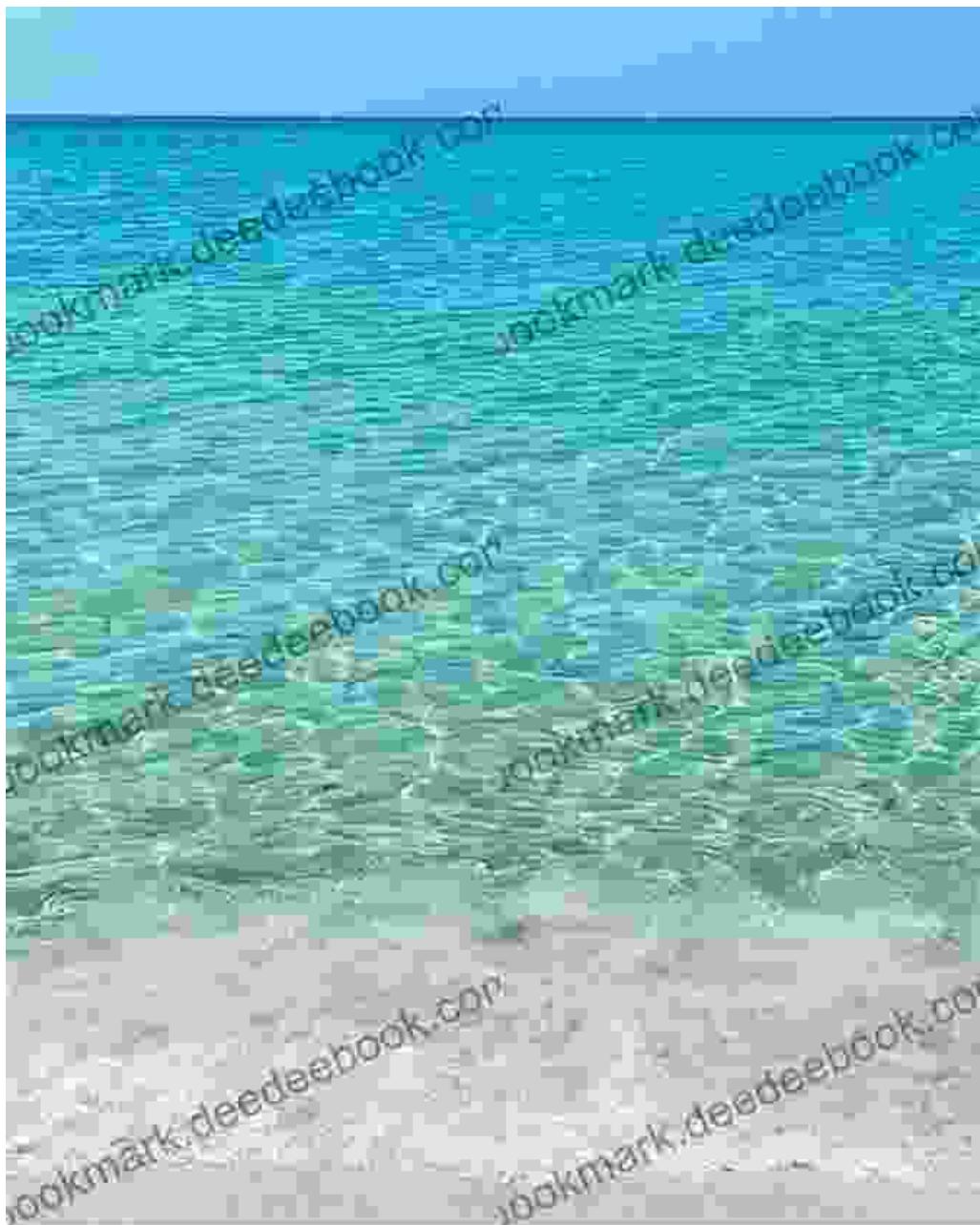
2. The Big Bend



The rugged landscape of Big Bend National Park.

Big Bend National Park is a vast, desert wilderness in West Texas. It's home to mountains, canyons, and the Rio Grande River. There are plenty of hiking trails in the park, as well as opportunities for camping, fishing, and rafting.

3. The Gulf Coast



The Texas Gulf Coast is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the country. The water is clear and blue, and the sand is white and soft. There are also plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, and swimming.

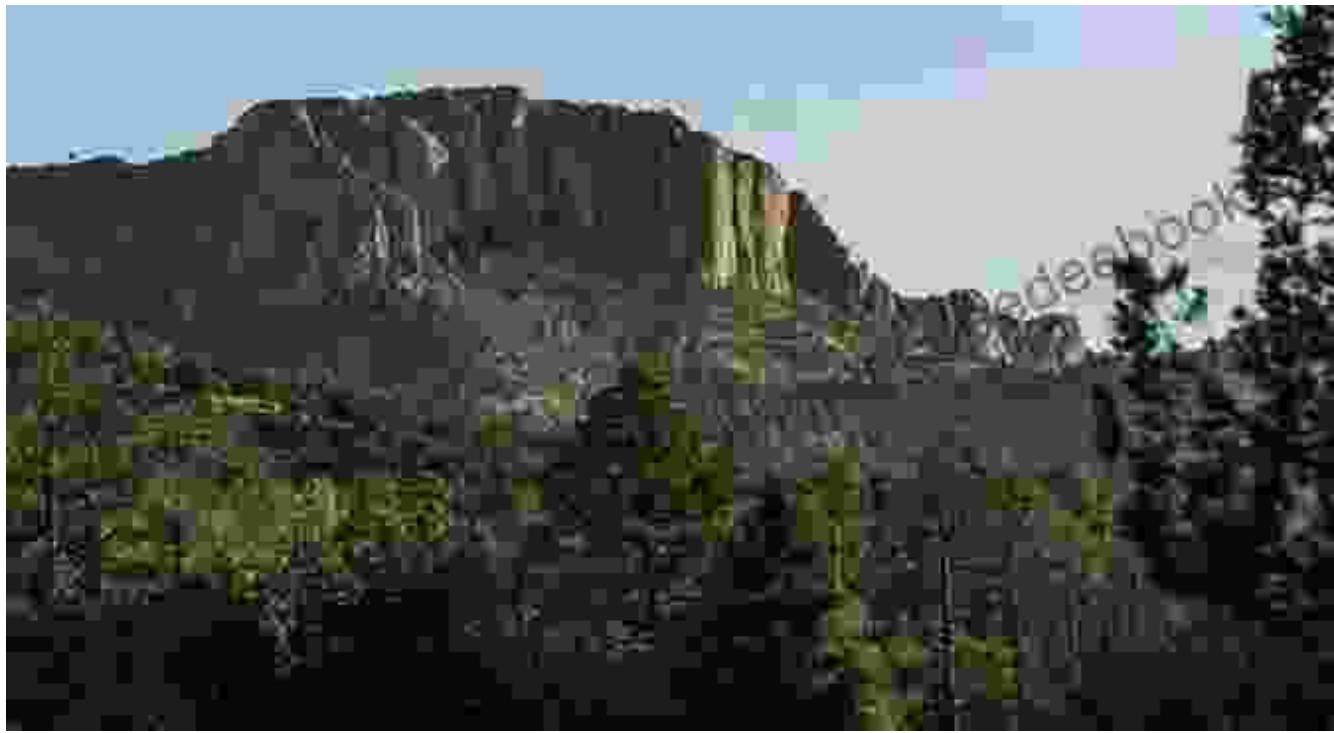
4. The Piney Woods



The towering pine trees and winding rivers of the Texas Piney Woods.

The Texas Piney Woods is a region of dense forests and winding rivers in East Texas. It's a great place to go camping, hiking, and fishing. There are also plenty of lakes and rivers in the area, where you can swim, boat, and fish.

5. The Davis Mountains



The Davis Mountains are a range of mountains in West Texas. They're home to rugged peaks, alpine meadows, and clear mountain streams. There are plenty of hiking trails in the area, as well as opportunities for camping, fishing, and hunting.

6. The Big Thicket



The lush forests and swamps of the Big Thicket.

The Big Thicket is a vast, subtropical forest in East Texas. It's home to a diverse array of plants and animals, including alligators, black bears, and bobcats. There are plenty of hiking trails in the area, as well as opportunities for camping, canoeing, and kayaking.

7. Padre Island National Seashore



Padre Island National Seashore is a long, narrow island off the coast of South Texas. It's home to pristine beaches, dunes, and wildlife refuges. There are plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing, and sunbathing.

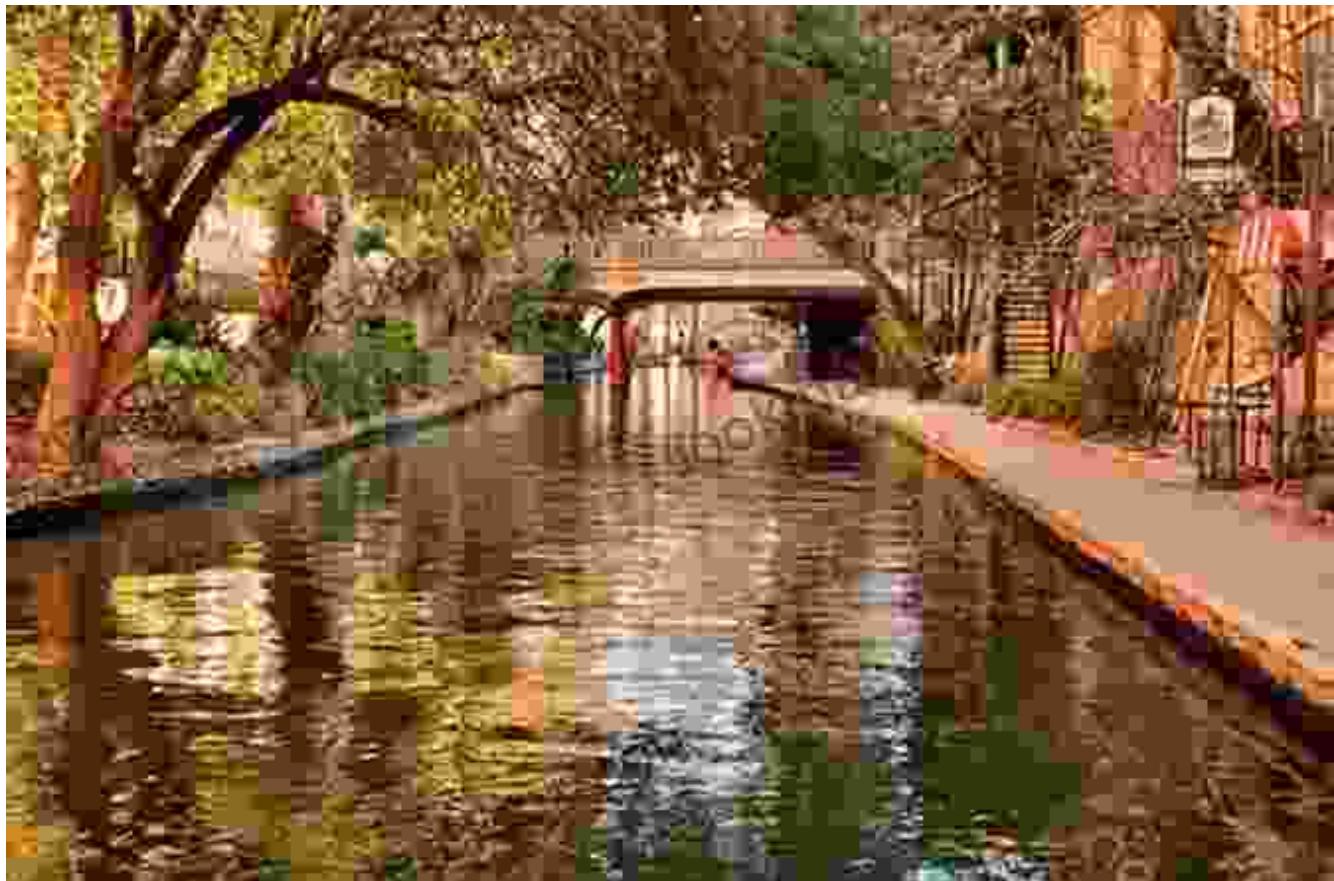
8. The Fort Worth Stockyards



The historic cattle pens and rodeo grounds of the Fort Worth Stockyards.

The Fort Worth Stockyards is a historic cattle pens and rodeo grounds in Fort Worth, Texas. It's a great place to experience the cowboy culture of the Old West. There are plenty of shops, restaurants, and attractions in the area, as well as a daily cattle drive.

9. The San Antonio River Walk



The San Antonio River Walk is a beautiful, tree-lined walkway along the San Antonio River. It's a great place to relax and enjoy the scenery, as well as visit shops, restaurants, and attractions. There are also plenty of opportunities for kayaking and canoeing.

10. The South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center



The diverse habitats and abundant birdlife of the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

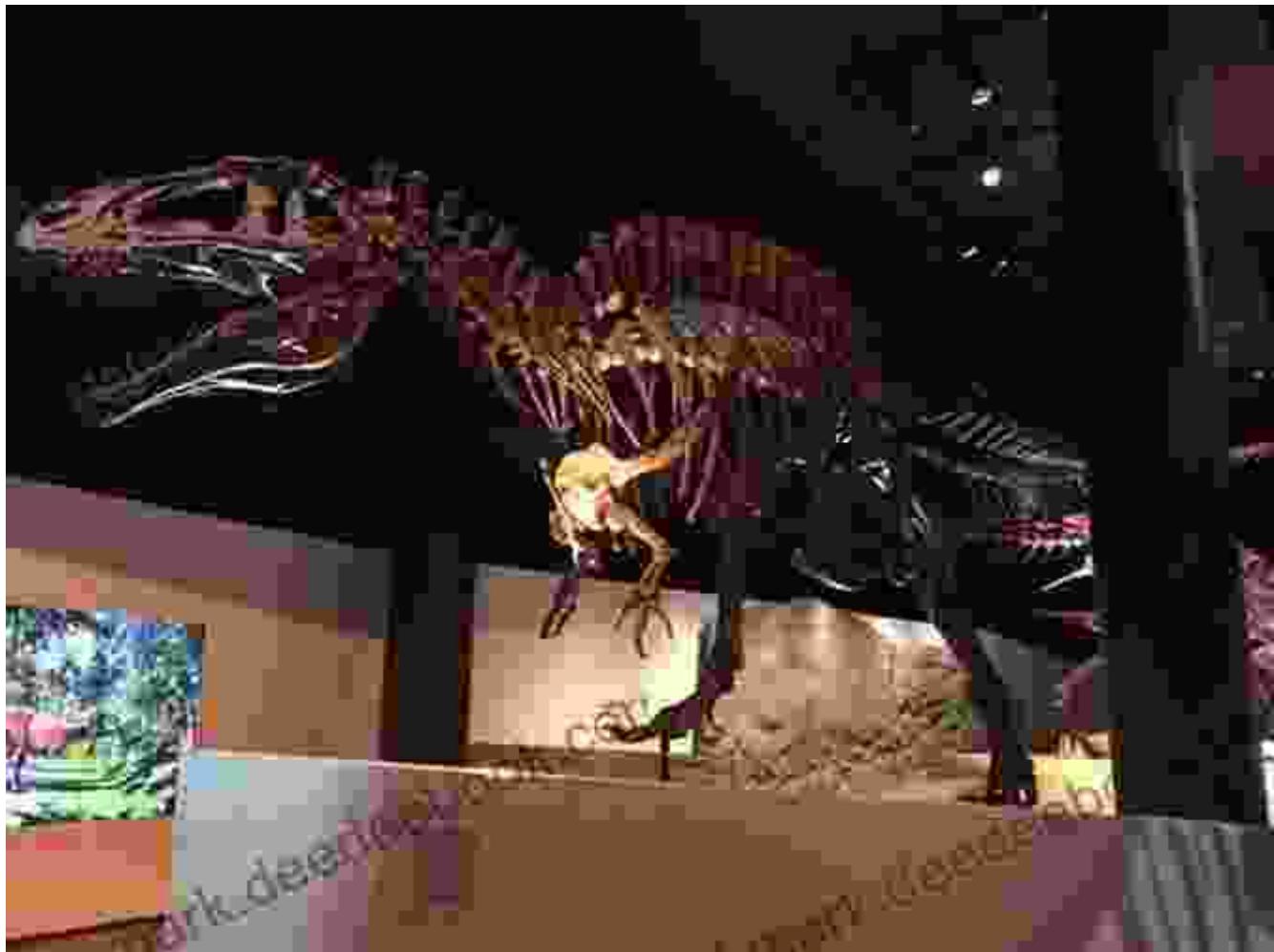
The South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center is a great place to see a variety of birds, including migratory species and year-round residents. The center has a variety of habitats, including wetlands, dunes, and forests. There are plenty of trails and boardwalks in the area, as well as opportunities for kayaking and canoeing.

11. The Texas State Capitol



The Texas State Capitol is a beautiful, historic building in Austin, Texas. It's the home of the Texas Legislature and the Governor of Texas. The Capitol is a great place to learn about the history and government of Texas. There are plenty of guided tours and exhibits, as well as a restaurant and gift shop.

12. The Houston Museum of Natural Science



The fascinating exhibits on dinosaurs, ecology, and space at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The Houston Museum of Natural Science is one of the largest and most popular museums in Texas. It has a

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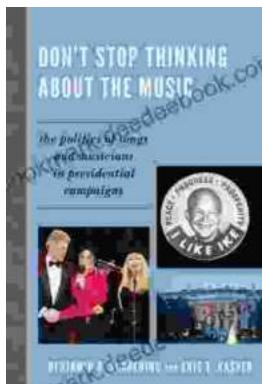
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