



Weird Texas: Your travel guide to Texas's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets

Wesley Treat , Heather Shade , Rob Riggs , Mark Moran (Executive Editor) , Mark Scurman (Executive Editor)

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Think you know Texas? Sure, there's the Alamo, the Cowboys, armadillos, Longhorns, Aggies, chili, the Space Center, and lots and lots of bluebonnets. And everybody knows not to mess with us. But there's something else, something we've got more of than any other state—we've got a whole lot of...weirdness. Yep, the Lone Star State has a vast amount of strange people and unusual sites, and they burst forth from every page of the biggest, most bizarre collection of Texas stories ever assembled: *Weird Texas*

Our weird quotient is so high that it took three expert chroniclers of the weird to put this book together. With notepads and cameras in hand and steeds of one sort or another at the ready, Wesley Treat, Heather Shade, and Rob Riggs traveled the highways, byways, back roads, and all roads in between in search of the odd and the offbeat. They tracked down impossible-to-believe tales only to discover an odd grain of truth that gives the stories just enough credibility to make one feel a little...uncomfortable. Whether it's a goatman, a mystery airship, haunted cemeteries, or bouncing ghost lights, our authors have researched and chronicled the stories and present them here for you, fellow admirers of the weird.

So turn the pages and visit the Munster Mansion, chat with the Big Thicket Wild Man, coast up Austin's Gravity Hill, and drive down Demon's Road (after *that* road trip, see if mysterious handprints appear on the outside of your car). Check out the Lonely Ghost of Old Greenhouse Road, lean against the Leaning Tower of Texas, motor on out to Cadillac Ranch, enter the cave of the White Shaman, get healed in Sour Lake, and travel across, if you dare, the Screaming Bridge.

A brand-new entry in the best-selling *Weird* series, *Weird Texas* is packed with all the good stuff your history teacher never taught you. So join Wesley, Shady, and Rob on their great adventure. You won't regret it. And that's a Texas-style promise.

Weird Texas: Your travel guide to Texas's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets Details

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Scott says

this was interesting and well done.

It included local weird stuff like the Cathedral of Junk in Austin (a future field trip, for my charge, i think) and some dated stuff like Leslie Cochran who has died since the book's publication

I was more interested in what it had to say about other weird stuff around other parts of texas

A quick light read

Chy says

This book got left at my house about four years ago by a friend. He's been over multiple times and shrugs about it, so it got organised into my books. I've thumbed through it over the years, but only recently actually sat down and read it. It's pretty entertaining. Personal stories and bits from the author keep it fresh.

I also was finally able to find a "haunted" road we'd tried to find when I went to school in Huntsville. Because this book was able to tell me the actual name of the road. (We only knew it was called "Demon's Road.") We found our own creepy road, however, that was not in this book.

But besides the ghostly stuff, there was a lot of interesting "weird" stuff about my state. A lot of them I knew, a few made me want to go visit places I found out are actually near me, and some made me glad I live nowhere near those places.

Matt says

I love books like this with offbeat real-life stories. Well, at least stories of where some of the legends come from. This book is heavy on ghost stories, but even ghost stories give you a look in to history and hoe people think.

Beverly says

Fun and fascinating.

TK Keanini says

I am pleased to have documentation that Texas was weird before I arrived.

This is a great book to reference when we have guests from out of town stay with us and ask the question "Well, what is there to do in Texas?"

Valerie Sherman says

Fun, quick read; purchased at BookPeople in Austin.

Jennifer says

It isn't that Texas isn't Weird. But I feel like this book could of gone weirder. The two most troubled areas of the book would be "Unexplained Phenomenons" and "Abandoned in Texas."

Unexplained Phenomenons is almost purely about the ghost lights in Texas. These lights are in fact interesting, but it seems a bit lazy to not feature anything else in the chapter. What makes the "Weird" series so interesting are the small blurbs about a wide variety of topics.

The chapter on abandoned structures started out interesting up until they closed the book with an essay. Although the article was well written, it felt vague and therefore out of place. It didn't seem to give any specific places to go, or anything out of the ordinary. Maybe if the essay was shorter, it would of felt more appropriate as a closing.

Putting these two chapters aside, the book was great. The places and stories featured in the book gave a lot more depth to Texas. Like any of the "Weird" books, I recommend it to any tourist or anyone who lives in the state.

Hope says

I picked this up a few years ago when I was still living in Texas, but it sat unread on my bookshelf for four years. I'm not sure why I decided to read it now, except, as those who know me well can tell you, I have a mild obsession with Texas. It was heartwarming to read about some of the sights I had seen and happened upon during the countless miles I logged on Texas backroads and highways.

The main reason I kept reading is because the book reminded me of all the ghost story books I used to read when I was a kid. I came to realize ghost stories are a lot scarier to me now than they were then!

The writing is not great. The book is essentially a webpage in hardcover. I guess I shouldn't expect much from what is really a coffee table book/travel guide, but I thought it was a little thin on information, and the illustrations were mostly someone's fantasy of apparitions.

Also -- where is the MAP???! Even having lived for six years in Texas and traveled extensively in the state, many of the remote locations were unknown to me. I found it shocking that there wasn't a map showing the locations where these wonders were located.

Anyway, I wouldn't recommend buying this one. And, for the record, the Marfa lights are not car headlights. No way.

Mel says

Enthralling - makes me want to hop in the car and explore the state for the next few months. Well, maybe not the Big Thicket in the dark...

The Cat In The Hat says

interesting. picked this up on a jaunt to schulunberg, tx at Frank's. read it all night to finish....

Kristina says

A great book that explores the urban legends and myths that spread throughout Texas... but that's not all. It also includes interesting (even historical) facts about people and places. As a Texas native, it's always interesting to find books about my "home-state" and read about the heritage and histories of places and cities I'm familiar with - this book offers just that. I was intrigued to read about places and landmarks I had always passed by in Austin, for example, but never knew about, and was even a little excited to see that my hometown and its own urban legends had made the publishing cut! It does, however, include a lot of testimony from locals who have written in to the authors and though this adds to the flavor of reading about eerie and paranormal stories, sometimes you're left wondering which stories are true and which anecdotes are exaggerated. (Some are even signed "anonymous", which adds to both the frustration and the "eerie-ness".) Nevertheless, this book should be included with the many many books that are dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and heritage of Texas. Anyone looking to know more about Texas - from the historical, to the wacky, to the weird and creepy - should take a look at this book.

Omar says

I was really surprised at some of the stuff I learned, and I'm not supposed to do a regular review, I'm supposed to take stories I liked, research them, and then cite my sources.

First:

EXTREMELY FRIGHTENING FOR CHILDREN

La Llarona (pronounced "LA Ya-ro-na", literally translating to "*the cryer*")

The tale is supposed to be about a poor widow with two kids, living near the Rio Grande. She finally found a rich person that wanted to marry her, but the man wouldn't agree to marry her unless she got rid of her kids. The woman was overcome by greed, and in the middle of the night heartlessly stabbed her children and drowned them in the Rio Grande. She went to the rich man, thinking he would be proud of her, and marry

her, but as she showed up on his doorstep with blood on her gown, he refused to marry her. She suddenly realized what she had done, ran back to the Rio Grande, and began frantically wandering the banks, looking for her children. She is cursed with a head of a horse and to forever wear her bloody gown, wandering the banks, crying out, "*Mis ninos! Mis ninos!*" or "my children".

Legend also says if she sees anybody traveling the banks at night, she will say, "*Aqui estan mis ninos!*" or, "Here are my children.", and take you away.

Source 1

Source 2

Second: (and last)

Odd

Mysterious Lights

In the town of Anson, Texas, located approx. 20 miles north of Abilene, is the location of strange lights. If you ever visit Anson, turn right at the Alsupps, and travel until you arrive at a graveyard just outside of the town. Then turn right onto a dirt road, and at crossroads, turn your car so it is looking at the main road, and turn your engine off. Flash your headlights 3 times, and you will see them.

Source 1

Sharon Barrow Wilfong says

A little too heavy on all the hearsay Ghost Stories but, being from Texas, I found the monuments, art and other unusual artifacts across Texas worth reading about and also potential places to explore.

Laura says

I first heard of this series a couple of years ago. I thought about purchasing it last year but it was too pricey at the time. This year our school district is making a big push for students to read expository texts and 7th graders are strongly encouraged to read about Texas. I found a cheap copy on eBay and am now adding it to my classroom library.

Some of the tales I've heard before; I enjoy watching "Country Reporter", a show about quirky Texas. Some I hadn't. I wish the authors, editors, or publishers wouldn't photoshop the pictures. I don't like their illustrations intruding on my imagination. A common gripe of mine was realized in this book when they included descriptions of photographs rather than the photographs.

Still, it's a fun book I wouldn't mind showing visitors. Next time I travel around, I'll check with the book. As it turns out, I've missed a few opportunities to experience Texas' quirkiness the last time I left the Metroplex.

Joe Blow says

This book makes me proud to from the greatest nation in the world, TEXAS. Great pictures, great stories and a fun discussion piece.
