



THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE

A SELF-GUIDED GRAND TOURING DRIVE

START / FINISH Fredericksburg, Texas	DISTANCE Approx. 125-135 miles	ALLOW About 5 hours with stops
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A classic Texas Hill Country loop combining open ranch roads, Blanco's courthouse square, barbecue at Old 300, the ridge-top sweepers of FM 32, a scenic overlook and the legendary Devil's Backbone Tavern.

01 **FREDERICKSBURG → STONEWALL** **US-290 EAST | ~14 MI | ~15 MIN**

Leave Fredericksburg on **US-290 East** toward Stonewall. This is the warm-up: settle into the car and expect more traffic through the winery corridor, especially on weekends.

02 **STONEWALL → BLANCO** **FM 1623 SOUTH | ~25-30 MI | ~35 MIN**

In Stonewall, turn **RIGHT onto FM 1623**. Follow FM 1623 south into Blanco. The traffic thins, the landscape opens, and the route begins to feel distinctly Hill Country.

03 **OLD 300 BBQ** **318 4TH ST, BLANCO | SUGGESTED STOP: 60 MIN**

Park around the historic Blanco courthouse square and walk to **Old 300 BBQ**. A late-morning or noon arrival works well. Take a few minutes around the courthouse square before returning to the car.

NOW THE BACKBONE BEGINS

From Blanco, take US-281 South, then turn LEFT onto FM 32 East.

04 **DRIVE THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE** **FM 32 EAST**

Follow FM 32 east along the limestone ridge. Expect elevation changes, long views, flowing sweepers, live oaks and ranchland. **Find a comfortable rhythm rather than attacking individual corners.** Sight lines can change quickly and wildlife is common.

THE BACKBONE & RETURN

SCENIC STOPS • TEXAS CHARACTER • THE LONG WAY HOME

05

DEVIL'S BACKBONE SCENIC OVERLOOK

FM 32 | SUGGESTED STOP: 10-15 MIN

Watch for the scenic pullout along FM 32. Pull completely off the roadway before stopping. This is the primary photo checkpoint of the drive, with broad views across the surrounding limestone hills and valleys.

06

DEVIL'S BACKBONE TAVERN

4041 FM 32, FISCHER | SUGGESTED STOP: 30-45 MIN

Continue east on FM 32 to the **Devil's Backbone Tavern**, an old Texas tavern and dance hall directly on the Backbone. Walk through, look around and enjoy the atmosphere. **If you are driving, make this a sightseeing and non-alcoholic refreshment stop.**

07

RETURN TO FREDERICKSBURG

FM 32 WEST → US-281 NORTH → US-290 WEST

Retrace FM 32 west to **US-281 North**. Continue toward Johnson City, then turn **LEFT onto US-290 West**. Follow US-290 through Hye and Stonewall, then continue into Fredericksburg.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

FREDERICKSBURG	US-290 E	STONEWALL
STONEWALL	FM 1623 S	BLANCO / OLD 300
BLANCO	US-281 S → FM 32 E	DEVIL'S BACKBONE
FM 32	SCENIC OVERLOOK	DEVIL'S BACKBONE TAVERN
TAVERN	FM 32 W → US-281 N	JOHNSON CITY
JOHNSON CITY	US-290 W	FREDERICKSBURG



BEFORE YOU GO

Begin with adequate fuel. Cell service can be inconsistent. Deer and other wildlife are common, particularly around dawn and dusk. Use extra caution during or after rain. Never enter a flooded roadway. Choose generous parking spaces and avoid steep approaches or high curbs.

GRAND TOURING ETIQUETTE

Give yourself room, allow faster traffic to pass when safe, respect residents and other road users, and slow down through communities. The best Hill Country drive is not necessarily the fastest one.

Scan the QR code to open the principal route stops in Google Maps. Always follow current road signs, closures and conditions.