



THE SWISS ALPS OF TEXAS

MEDINA • VANDERPOOL • LEAKEY • FRIO CANYON

START / FINISH Fredericksburg, Texas	DISTANCE Approx. 190-210 miles	ALLOW Full day • 6-8 hours
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A grand Hill Country circuit into the high limestone country west of Medina. The landscape rises from river valleys into steep ridges and broad overlooks, earning this corner of Texas its 'Swiss Alps' nickname. This version makes RR 337 and the Frio Canyon the centerpiece without repeating the full Twisted Sisters loop.

01 FREDERICKSBURG → KERRVILLE TX-16 SOUTH | ~24 MI

Leave Fredericksburg on **TX-16 South** toward Kerrville. The opening leg drops gradually from the Fredericksburg plateau toward the Guadalupe River valley and gives you time to settle into the car.

02 KERRVILLE → MEDINA TX-16 SOUTH | ~25 MI

Stay on TX-16 through Kerrville and continue toward Medina. South of Kerrville, the road becomes narrower and more technical. Medina sits near the headwaters of the Medina River and is the natural gateway to the western high country.

03 MEDINA → VANDERPOOL RR 337 WEST → FM 187

In Medina, turn **RIGHT** onto **RR 337 West**. Where 337 meets FM 187, turn **RIGHT / NORTH** toward Vanderpool. The terrain becomes increasingly dramatic as the road enters the Sabinal River valley.

04 LOST MAPLES COUNTRY FM 187 NORTH | OPTIONAL 15-20 MIN SCENIC DETOUR

Continue north through Vanderpool toward **Lost Maples State Natural Area**. The Sabinal Canyon is known for limestone walls, clear water and stands of bigtooth maple. A full park visit deserves its own day, so treat this as a scenic gateway and photo stop before returning south to RR 337.

CLIMB INTO THE HIGH COUNTRY

Return to RR 337 West at Vanderpool and continue toward Leakey. This is the signature driving section.

05 RR 337 → LEAKEY VANDERPOOL → FRIO CANYON

RR 337 climbs into pale limestone ridges, then drops through a sequence of switchbacks, sweepers and overlooks toward the Frio River valley. Elevations in the broader Swiss Alps loop range roughly from 1,400 to more than 2,100 feet. **Use safe pullouts for the views and keep your focus on the road through the corners.**

FRIO CANYON & RETURN

LEAKEY • UTOPIA • MEDINA • THE LONG WAY HOME

06

LUNCH: BENT RIM GRILL

657 RR 337 W, LEAKEY | SUGGESTED STOP: 60 MIN

Stop at **Bent Rim Grill** directly on RR 337. Its burgers, sandwiches and relaxed roadside atmosphere make it a natural lunch stop for a driving route. It is currently listed as open for lunch seven days a week. Refuel in Leakey before continuing.

07

FRIO RIVER / LEAKEY

US-83 & FRIO CANYON | OPTIONAL PHOTO STOP

Leakey sits in the upper Frio River canyon, surrounded by some of the steepest terrain in the Hill Country. Take a short break near the river where public access and parking are clearly permitted. The contrast between the cool river corridor and the surrounding limestone ridges defines this part of the drive.

08

LEAKEY → UTOPIA

US-83 SOUTH → FM 1050 EAST

Leave Leakey on **US-83 South**, then turn **LEFT onto FM 1050** toward Utopia. This quieter leg trades the intensity of RR 337 for open ranch country and the Sabinal River valley. It is an excellent decompression road after lunch.

09

UTOPIA → MEDINA

FM 187 NORTH → RR 337 EAST

From Utopia, take **FM 187 North** through Vanderpool, then turn **RIGHT onto RR 337 East** toward Medina. This closes the high-country circuit and gives you another perspective on the same ridges and valleys.

10

RETURN TO FREDERICKSBURG

MEDINA → TX-16 NORTH → KERRVILLE → FREDERICKSBURG

From Medina, take **TX-16 North** through Kerrville and continue to Fredericksburg. This is a substantial driving day. If concentration begins to fade, use Kerrville as the final break before the last 24 miles.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

FREDERICKSBURG	TX-16 S	KERRVILLE / MEDINA
MEDINA	RR 337 W → FM 187	VANDERPOOL
VANDERPOOL	RR 337 W	LEAKEY
LEAKEY	LUNCH	BENT RIM GRILL
LEAKEY	US-83 S → FM 1050	UTOPIA
UTOPIA	FM 187 N → RR 337 E	MEDINA
MEDINA	TX-16 N	FREDERICKSBURG



BEFORE YOU GO

Begin with a full tank and refuel in Leakey. Cell service is inconsistent. Expect deer, livestock, motorcycles, cyclists, gravel and low-water crossings. Avoid the route during severe weather and never enter a flooded roadway.

GRAND TOURING ETIQUETTE

The high-country roads reward smoothness and patience. Stay fully within your lane, slow before blind crests, respect private property and use only safe, legal pullouts for photographs. The scenery is the reason for the drive, so give yourself time to enjoy it.

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