



THE WILLOW CITY LOOP

A CLASSIC TEXAS HILL COUNTRY SCENIC DRIVE

START / FINISH Fredericksburg, Texas	DISTANCE Approx. 35-40 miles	ALLOW About 3-4 hours with lunch
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One of the Hill Country's signature drives, the Willow City Loop trades outright speed for scenery. The narrow 13-mile road winds through limestone hills, creek crossings, live-oak country and broad ranch valleys. In spring, the same landscape can become one of Texas' great wildflower displays.

01 **FREDERICKSBURG → WILLOW CITY** **TX-16 NORTH → RR 1323 | ~16 MI**

Leave Fredericksburg on **TX-16 North**. After roughly 13 miles, turn **RIGHT onto Ranch Road 1323** toward Willow City and continue for about 3 miles. The transition from open highway to smaller ranch roads sets the tone for the drive.

02 **WILLOW CITY** **RR 1323 | HISTORIC HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY**

Willow City is a small ranching community centered along Willow Creek. Look for the historic **Willow City School**, a sandstone school complex that reflects the area's German-Texan settlement history. Keep the stop brief and respect private property and community access.

ENTER THE LOOP

In Willow City, turn LEFT onto Willow City Loop. The scenic road runs for approximately 13 miles before reconnecting with TX-16.

03 **DRIVE THE WILLOW CITY LOOP** **13-MILE SCENIC ROAD | DAYLIGHT HOURS**

Settle into an unhurried pace. The Loop passes through rugged canyon country, limestone outcrops, creek beds, live oaks and open ranch valleys. The road is narrow and can be blind in places, with cattle guards, cyclists, wildlife and local traffic. **This is a sightseeing road, not a performance road.**

04 **WILDFLOWERS & HILL COUNTRY VISTAS** **BEST KNOWN IN SPRING | ENJOY FROM THE ROAD**

In a good spring season, bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush and other wildflowers can cover the hillsides and meadows. The scenery remains worthwhile year-round. Nearly all land beside the Loop is privately owned, so remain on the roadway and use only clearly legal, safe pullouts.

THE LOOP & LUNCH

RANCH COUNTRY • WILDFLOWERS • A HILL COUNTRY BURGER

05 NORTHERN LOOP / CANYON COUNTRY WILLOW CITY LOOP → TX-16

As the road climbs and falls, watch for the Loop's signature long views across the surrounding hills and valleys. Slow before blind crests and creek crossings, and expect vehicles to stop unexpectedly during wildflower season. When the Loop reaches **TX-16**, turn **LEFT / SOUTH** toward Fredericksburg.

06 LUNCH: PECAN GROVE STORE 5244 N STATE HWY 16 | THURSDAY-SATURDAY 11:30 AM-8 PM

Continue south on TX-16 to **Pecan Grove Store**, a restored 1957 Hill Country ice house, store and garage. Make this the lunch stop and order one of its well-known half-pound **Dino Burgers**. The burger menu is currently served Thursday, Friday and Saturday, making those the best days to run this itinerary exactly as written.

07 PECAN GROVE HISTORY & BIERGARTEN SUGGESTED STOP: 60-75 MIN

The original store was built by Lawrence Segner across Marschall Creek from the family's 1800s homestead. Today the property retains its old Hill Country character with a shaded biergarten and frequent live music. If you are driving, keep the stop focused on lunch and non-alcoholic refreshments.

08 RETURN TO FREDERICKSBURG TX-16 SOUTH

From Pecan Grove Store, continue south on **TX-16** into Fredericksburg. The short final leg gives you an easy finish after the tighter, slower roads of the Loop.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

FREDERICKSBURG	TX-16 N	RR 1323
RR 1323	EAST	WILLOW CITY
WILLOW CITY	LEFT	WILLOW CITY LOOP
THE LOOP	~13 MI	TX-16
TX-16	SOUTH	PECAN GROVE STORE
PECAN GROVE	TX-16 S	FREDERICKSBURG



BEFORE YOU GO

The Willow City Loop is most enjoyable in daylight. The road is narrow, has little or no shoulder and can become congested during spring wildflower season. Expect cyclists, wildlife, cattle guards and sudden stops.

GRAND TOURING ETIQUETTE

The surrounding ranches and meadows are private property. Do not block gates or driveways, enter fields, walk through wildflowers or stop where the vehicle is not completely clear of the roadway. Slow down, keep your distance and let the landscape be the experience.

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