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State Parks Getaways - January 2013

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Get Rollin': Ride a Bike in Texas' Best Places

Want to bike among bluebonnets, pedal on a beach, cruise safely on a nice, flat road or give yourself a highly technical, mountainous workout? Texas State Parks can fill your wish.

To know before you go, you can review trail difficulty ratings and descriptions on the [Biking](#) activity page. Then check out a [video roundup](#) of what it's like to bike in a



variety of state park settings, including this



Caddo Paddling Trail to Launch on Wetlands Day



Ten new canoe and kayak trails at Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou will be joining the [Texas Paddling Trails](#) family on February 2 (World Wetlands Day), weather permitting. And what better place to be on World Wetlands Day than in a canoe or a kayak in Texas' only natural and possibly grooviest swamp?

Over fifty miles of new loop trails range in length from 2.4 to 8.8 miles and eliminate the need for trailering. Six put-in and take-out points can be found in [Caddo Lake State Park](#), the [Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area](#) and Backwater Jack's RV Park, our official trail partners.

Thick bald cypress and a tangle of aquatic plants thrive in the waters at Caddo Lake. Because the vegetation is so lush, much of the lake is really a maze of sloughs, bayous and ponds. The well-marked trails make it possible for visitors to explore this vast and mysterious area without getting lost.

The park affords excellent access to diverse fishing opportunities. (Remember, fishing is always free in Texas State Parks.) Also popular are the park's quaint [cabins](#), built by the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) in the 1930s.

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Make a Date with Texas History – March 2



If you're new to Texas, you better learn this date - "March 2, 1836" - the date that Texas declared its independence from Mexico! It's the annual occasion for a Texas-sized birthday celebration.

One of the best places to celebrate is [Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site](#),

where buildings, exhibits, re-enactors and interpreters dressed in period clothing tell the compelling story of the genesis of a new nation. See them in action in this [video](#).