



### SeaWorld San Antonio

Sea lions Clyde and Seamore star in their own show at Pacific Point Reserve



### Pioneer Museum

Families can explore and learn how to make rope, soaps, and how to shear sheep

# Katy Family Weekend Adventures

Make memories with these  
quick and fun family weekend trips

*Written by Lana Timbs*

It's vacation time in Katy! Short, fun-filled weekend trips will keep your family entertained throughout the summer without breaking the bank. Families can bond as they check out Texas wildlife, take some amazing photos in new lands, and add to their list of places traveled and adventures enjoyed.

## ★ Champagne's Cajun Swamp Tours

(4 hours)

1151 Rookery Rd.

Breaux Bridge, LA

337-230-4068

[champagnesswamptours.com](http://champagnesswamptours.com)

Is your family ready to encounter gators in the bayou? Champagne's Cajun Swamp Tours is one of the top-rated family tourist attractions in Louisiana. Located on Lake Martin, approximately four hours away from the Katy area, a comfortable boat and experienced tour guide will take you on a tour into the heart of the swamp. Along the tour, various species of birds can be seen such as great horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, the great blue heron, as well as snakes and alligators. While you're in town, be sure to check

out Breaux Bridge, which features authentic Cajun cuisine and is rich in culture your family will admire. Traditional music can also be enjoyed.

## ★ Dallas World Aquarium

(3.5 hours)

1801 N. Griffin St.

Dallas

214-720-2224

[dwazoo.com](http://dwazoo.com)

A 2014 winner of the Traveler's Choice Awards for attractions, the Dallas World Aquarium is a summer adventure for the whole family. The aquarium features exhibits like Mundo Maya, Orinoco Secrets of the River, South Africa, and Borneo. Each exhibit showcases animals



### Six Flags Fiesta Texas

The Iron Rattler has a staggering drop of 171 feet with a drop angle of 81 degrees



### Dinosaur Valley State Park

The 1,587-acre park lets visitors plant their feet next to real dinosaur tracks

from the different areas, and there are feedings and talks throughout the aquarium. On weekends, Grupo Pakal dances to native music throughout the day in the Mundo Maya exhibit. Other Dallas attractions include the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Zero Gravity Thrill Amusement Park, and the Dallas Zoo.

### Dinosaur Valley State Park

(3.5 hours)

1629 Park Rd. 59

Glen Rose

[tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/dinosaur-valley](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/dinosaur-valley)

Bring the family to walk like a dinosaur - in real dinosaur tracks! Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose features dinosaur tracks that can be found along the Paluxy River. The family can camp, fish, hike, picnic, swim in the river, and enjoy walking where the ancient dinosaurs did so many years ago. Dinosaur Valley State Park also offers a ranger program that teaches skills such as archery, fishing, and geocaching. Other Glen Rose area attractions include the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center for guided tours featuring wild animals, Cedar Loop-Great Texas Wildlife Trails, and Acton State Historic Site where the grave of Elizabeth Crockett, wife of Davy Crockett, can be found.

### Duck Dynasty Tour

(5.5 hours)

West Monroe, LA

469-444-3050

[duckcommander.com](http://duckcommander.com)

It's time to grow out your beard and get out your camo! About five-and-a-half hours from Katy, you'll find the famous Duck Commander warehouse and the backdrop to all the fun your family has watched on A&E's *Duck Dynasty*. Pose for photos under the famous Duck Commander Buck Commander sign and shop at their newly expanded retail space. Be sure to check out some of the Robertson family's recommended stops like Bayou Bowl, Debbie's Snowballs, Excalibur Family Fun Center, Haskell's Donuts, and Landry Vineyards.

### Old Tunnel State Park

(3.5 hours)

10619 Old San Antonio Rd.

Fredericksburg

866-978-2287

[fredericksburgtexas-online.com/batcave](http://fredericksburgtexas-online.com/batcave)

Three million Brazilian free-tailed bats reside in the Old Tunnel State Park just outside Fredericksburg. From May through October, your family can view the bats seven days a week, and on Thursday through Sunday nights can experience educational presentations about the bats from the experts. The bats migrate to Mexico during the winter, and are back in the tunnel around April. Female bats have a single pup (baby) in nearby caves in the Fredericksburg area. Fredericksburg is also famous for the many bed and breakfasts, shopping and antiquing opportunities, dining experiences, wine, arts, and even kid-friendly attractions. A weekend getaway to Fredericksburg could be the perfect vacation for your family just three-and-a-half hours from Katy.

### Sea Life Grapevine Aquarium

(4 hours)

3000 Grapevine Mills Pkwy.


Grapevine

469-444-3050

[visitsealife.com/grapevine](http://visitsealife.com/grapevine)

New to Grapevine's Sea Life Aquarium this summer is the 3,500-square-foot rainforest adventure. The family will experience crocodiles, piranhas, and an anaconda. Since its opening in 2011, the rainforest is the largest expansion to the aquarium. Walking through the exhibit is sure to be fun and educational for the entire family. In addition to the Sea Life Aquarium, which is located at Grapevine Mills Mall, LEGOLAND Discovery Center is also a must-see, featuring a LEGO factory tour, 4D cinema, Kingdom Quest laser ride, and a special build and test zone. The nearby Grapevine Vintage Railroad gives passengers a look at what train travel felt like in the early days as they explore the Stockyards National Historic District.






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## ★ SeaWorld San Antonio

(2.5 hours)

10500 SeaWorld Dr.  
San Antonio, TX  
[seaworldparks.com](http://seaworldparks.com)

Visit historic San Antonio and the newest attraction to SeaWorld San Antonio, the Pacific Point Preserve. It features the look and feel of a Pacific coastal town where sea lions and seals are among the wildlife in this new habitat. There will also be a new show called "Clyde and Seamore's Sea Lion High," starring two comedic sea lions, a walrus, and even otters. Families can also learn more about the habitat and make reservations for personal interaction with the sea lions. Other must-visit places in the city are the San Antonio Zoo, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, the Alamo, and the River Walk. KM

*LANA TIMBS is an Aggie who enjoys time with her family and has a passion for writing and meeting new people.*

**Be sure to tell them Katy Magazine sent you.  
Travel times are an estimated distance  
from the Katy area. For more family  
fun ideas, visit [KatyMagazine.com](http://KatyMagazine.com).**

## More Weekend Adventures

**Austin Duck Adventures** (2 hours)  
[austinducks.com](http://austinducks.com)

**Cherokee Trace Drive-thru Safari** (3 hours)  
[cherokeetrace.com](http://cherokeetrace.com)

**Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History** (3 hours)  
[ccmuseum.com](http://ccmuseum.com)

**Enchanted Rock State Park** (3.5 hours)  
[tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock)

**Exotic Resort Zoo** (3 hours)  
[zooexotics.com](http://zooexotics.com)

**Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier** (1.5 hours)  
[pleasurepier.com](http://pleasurepier.com)

**Garner State Park** (4 hours)  
[tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/garner](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/garner)

**Moody Gardens** (1.5 hours)  
[moodygardens.com](http://moodygardens.com)

**Natural Bridge Caverns** (2.5 hours)  
[naturalbridgecaverns.com](http://naturalbridgecaverns.com)

**Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park** (2.5 hours)  
[campjellystone.com](http://campjellystone.com)



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