

THE BEST OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

From the town where "Everybody's Somebody," to the Cowboy Capital of the World, the Texas Hill Country is a little slice of heaven. Once you're here, we're sure you won't want to leave!

Texas has a geographic and cultural diversity that rivals that of many nations, and nowhere is that variety more evident than in the Texas Hill Country. Here different landforms dramatically converge along the Balcones Fault, with hills of ancient limestone and pink granite sculpted into a breathtaking landscape. Cool, crystal-clear rivers and springs, tall majestic trees and abundant wildlife add the remaining ingredients necessary to call this the most unique part of Texas.

Join us and you'll not only experience the spacious beauty of the Texas Hill Country, you'll also discover some of Texas' finest, friendliest communities. Founded by brave pioneers of German, Czech and Scandinavian descent, these colorful bergs are steeped in history and brimming with hospitality and charm. It's small-town Texas at its best!

Come test your cycling abilities on some really magnificent routes. While this is not a tour for those who despise the challenge of a good climb, the rewards are bountiful, with scenic views and panoramas that you can only imagine. And the quiet backroads are divine, reminding us more of our beloved country lanes in Ireland than typical Texas highways. In short, these rides include many of our favorites in the entire state.

We've explored over 1,000 miles of Central Texas highways and byways to bring you an adventure that truly embodies the very best of the Texas Hill Country. The best routes on scenic backroads. The finest accommodations, from historic mansions to deluxe resorts. Fantastic food, from great country cafes to fine gourmet dining. Plus extras like visits to Texas wineries and other Texas-style attractions. And as always, our friendly knowledgeable guides and outstanding sag support are an integral part of the bargain. Need we say more? Pack your bags and come experience a little slice of heaven.

Everything was perfect. Your planning, routes, & accommodations made such a great trip!

Carol Collins. Houston, TX



Tour Length
7 days/6 nights

Terrain
Rolling hills and river valleys interspersed with challenging climbs.

Mileage
Average 35-45 miles/day.

Arrive/depart
Austin, Texas

www.planeteearthadventures.com

Days 1 – 2

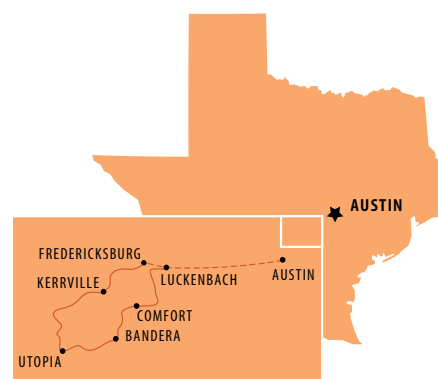
From the Capitol of Texas, we'll whisk you straight into the heart of the Texas Hill Country, beginning with a visit to our favorite Hill Country winery, Becker Vineyards. Then following a visit to legendary Luckenbach, the tiny hamlet where "Everybody's Somebody," we trace the path of the defunct F&N railroad as we ride the scenic Old San Antonio Road into picturesque **COMFORT**, Texas, nestled along the banks of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. ● Amble down backroads along the peaceful banks of Verde Creek to the historic Camp Verde Store. Then it's up and over Bandera Pass and down into the Medina River Valley to the colorful town of **BANDERA**, the "Cowboy Capital of the World." Oh, did we forget to mention? Bandera County is also known as the "Switzerland of Texas."

Days 3 – 4

Today we ride over Tarpley Pass high atop the Edwards Plateau as we cross from the Medina River valley into Sabinal Canyon and our heavenly destination, **UTOPIA**. Our cozy accommodations right on the beautiful tree-lined Sabinal River are equally idyllic. (Don't forget your swimsuit!) This has to be some of the most spectacular scenery in the Hill Country, so for those itching for more miles, an optional ride to the popular Garner State Park on the Frio River should scratch your itch. ● Meander along the lovely Sabinal through Vanderpool and past Lost Maples State Natural Area before climbing up onto the "high lonesome." After ridge running awhile, we dive down into the headwaters basin of the south fork of the Guadalupe River, crossing the Guadalupe no fewer than 14 spectacular times before arriving in **KERRVILLE** at our local resort lodgings.

Days 5 – 7

Next we pedal down some of the most peaceful byways in the state as we make our way toward Fredericksburg, founded by German settlers in 1846. Our route is ideal for cycling more reminiscent of Europe than the USA with its distinctive limestone farmhouses and narrow country lanes. Then kick back in historic **FREDERICKSBURG**, now the toast of Central Texas, and enjoy the town's captivating charms during our two night stay there. ● We wind up our adventure in spectacular fashion by saddling up for one of the finest rides in the state – the incredible **Willow City Loop**. And to prove that getting there is half the fun, we'll start with a spin along the quiet and incredibly scenic Crabapple Creek. After lunch we'll cruise the loop, often cited by *Texas Highways* as one the state's most scenic routes, especially for wildflower aficionados. ● Our adventure concludes with a hearty breakfast and transportation back to the trailhead in Austin where we'll bid you a fond farewell until the next adventure.



For reservations call
800-923-4453
www.planetearthadventures.com



*“Great time,
great leaders,
great cycling,
great food.”*

Ginny Keely, Canyon Lake, TX

2007 TOUR DETAILS BEST OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

DATES: April 15-21, 2007

COST: \$1795 for 7 days/6 nights.

INCLUDES: ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

- Six nights accommodation in deluxe inns & B&Bs
- Most meals: 5 gourmet dinners, 3 lunches, 6 full breakfasts

EXPERT GUIDANCE

- Two knowledgeable & experienced local guides & bike mechanics

COMPLETE SUPPORT & TRANSPORTATION

- All land transportation during the tour by private coach
- Support vehicle throughout the tour – provides daily SAG support, luggage transfers and even carries you if you so desire
- Healthy snacks, energy fuel and drinks on daily rides

PLANET EARTH ADVENTURES EXTRAS

- Complimentary wine tastings and tours at selected locales
- Detailed maps and other interpretive info
- Complete pre-departure packet and assistance
- Planet Earth Adventures T-shirt & water bottle
- Gratuity and all applicable sales taxes included
- Optional services of on-site massage therapist also available

BIKE RENTAL: \$130 for hybrid. \$160 for Specialized Roubaix road bike.

ARRIVE/DEPART: Austin, TX

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PLANET EARTH ADVENTURES

We are a small, family run outfitter with but one mission – to share our love of some very special places with you.

We specialize in the select destinations of Texas, Ireland (and sometimes Scotland) because we know these places intimately. We live, work and play here, and each is so extraordinary we feel they must be shared. Since 1987 we have been proud to offer unforgettable bicycling, walking and tailor-made vacations reflecting that passion.

Furthermore, each of these legendary locales is blessed with a unique cultural identity, a wealth of natural beauty and some of the friendliest folks on the face of this Earth. Our goal is to distill the best of these elements into a richly rewarding experience you'll remember long after your visit is over.

To do so, we skillfully blend elements of cultural discovery, fun, fitness, great food and creature comforts, all backed by our total devotion to you and your enjoyment of our time together. Our adventures are fashioned as journeys of the mind and of the senses. The pace is relaxed, the atmosphere one of fun and friendship. Best of all, you'll never

have to worry about getting lost in the shuffle. Because ours is still a family run business, personal attention is a foregone conclusion. To us, you are like a friend with whom we'd like to share our favorite places.

What can you expect when you travel with us? Small, personable groups that allow you more freedom and a greater sense of place. The best routes and itineraries created with our extensive knowledge and research. Cozy accommodations selected for their quality and character. Unforgettable cuisine chosen from our favorite culinary discoveries. Expert guidance from experienced staff and local resources. And our complete support both before the tour and on the road.

So come along and experience the excitement we feel for these parts of the planet! We're eager to share our world with you!



To find out more about all our tours, visit us on the web at:

www.planetearthadventures.com

For reservations and additional information call or email us at:

800-923-4453

info@planetearthadventures.com



Planet Earth Adventures

UNFORGETTABLE CYCLING, WALKING & CUSTOM TOURS