



Where EAGLES Soar

Find a place of
refuge and relaxation

in Texas Hill Country.

By Rona
Distenfeld

THERE AREN'T MANY PLACES where you can stay in comfort and style, dine on expertly prepared fare while gazing at a beautiful lake and revel in 940 acres of pristine land certified as a Texas wildscape. Welcome to Canyon of the Eagles Lodge and Nature Park.

This is a place where families come to be together, couples come to be alone, and water lovers come to boat and fish and swim. And anyone wanting to relax can enjoy the peaceful feeling of rocking on the porch with a favorite book.

Then there are the birds. Texas is home to more native and migratory avian species than any other state, and Canyon of the Eagles offers everything from eagles to hummingbirds. It is a protected habitat for the Golden Cheek warbler and the black cap vireo and a popular nesting spot for the bald eagles that give the canyon its name.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RONA DISTENFELD



Dogs are welcome in the park, so bring your best friend (top). Play at Twin Creek Falls on a guided kayak trip with Lake Buchanan Adventures (above).

FISH, BIRD AND PLAY ON THE WATER

If you love the water, you'll find plenty of ways to enjoy Lake Buchanan. The Vanishing Texas River Cruise sails from the dock by the park store and goes up the river to places unreachable by land. This is where visitors are most likely to see eagles, hawks, egrets and herons. In the winter, a special eagle cruise travels near the eagles' nesting areas to increase the chances of spotting one of these majestic birds. And with temperatures usually in the 60s, it's fun even without the eagles.

For those seeking more active water sports, Lake Buchanan Adventures pro-

vides canoeing or kayaking for a few hours or a few days. A quick ride up the lake on a pontoon boat drops participants at waiting kayaks just below Twin Creek Falls. A guide gives a quick lesson, and then it's around the corner to play in the falls. It's safe and easy, even for beginners. For more adventurous groups, overnight canoe/camping trips are available, designed to order for the group.

Lake Buchanan is also a popular fishing spot. Fish from the private fishing pier or from the water with Lake Buchanan Adventures or a private boat. Catch striper, white bass and catfish, and the restaurant at the lodge will even cook it for you.

ROCK ON THE PORCH

If you prefer land, try the 14 miles of hiking trails, visit the observatory, sun by the pool or relax in your room. The "cabins" were designed by award-winning architects Flato/Lake to blend into the environment, and they appear simple and rustic. Inside, however, the rooms are spacious and airy, with lots of windows for natural light (and a great view of the lake), comfortable beds, stained concrete floors and porches with rocking chairs. RV and tent sites are available, and campers are welcome to use the pool and game room.

When you want an unhurried, relaxed place to get away from it all, Canyon of the Eagles is a unique way to savor the Texas Hill Country and emerge refreshed. ■

Before You Go

- Canyon of the Eagles Lodge (800) 977-0081; www.canyonoftheeagles.com
- Lake Buchanan Adventures (512) 756-9911; www.lakebuchananadventures.com
- Vanishing Texas River Cruise (800) 474-8374; www.vtrc.com

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