



Walnut Canyon Cabins



Sunrise breakfast from the Rocky Top Cabin Deck

Adventures in Fredericksburg, Texas

By Rhonda and Carl Rubadue

An advance scouts' perspective of what to do, beautiful places to see, state and national parks to explore, the best watering holes, and recommended places for a bite to eat and more!

Get off the grid, relax and re-charge!

Walnut Canyon Cabins

503 Deer Road, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

www.walnutcanyoncabins.com

walnutcanyoncabinscarl@gmail.com



Howdy, Y'all!

We're Rhonda and Carl Rubadue—happy, relaxed transplants from the snowy Intermountain West to the sunny hills of Texas. Rhonda's well on her way to becoming a "crazy chicken lady," and Carl still gets his winter fix with regular ski trips, though we sure don't miss shoveling snow!

When we were searching for a bed and breakfast, we looked coast to coast. But the moment we stepped onto this property and saw the canyon view, we were hooked. We wanted a turnkey operation and found it! We are proud of the improvements we have made. We feel they enhance your opportunity to relax, recharge and get in touch with nature during your stay.

Each cabin has a view of the canyon, and the breeze through the trees is as peaceful as it gets. Inside, original artwork keeps you rooted right in the Heart of Texas.

Our 15 acres are full of surprises, friendly cows that love treats, deer that roam freely, and birds that play in the wind. Whether you're watching wildlife like foxes and armadillos or just letting the Hill Country breeze carry away your stress, it's a little slice of heaven.

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We love hosting guests and take pride in making sure your cabin feels like home from the moment you walk in. After seven plus years, we still feel lucky every single day to be here and to share it with folks like you!

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In this bit of information, we hope you can shoot for, and even plan on, discovering local happenings, tastes, and many other things to enjoy in our area. While exploring, we hope you discover something new that you did not realize you would love—all part of the adventure, right?

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Outdoor Adventures For Everyone



The Bat Emergence at the Old Tunnel State Park

One of our absolute favorite adventures—and a must-see while you're here—is **Old Tunnel State Park**, Texas' smallest state park with one of the state's biggest surprises.

Between May 1 and October 31, over **a million Mexican free-tailed bats** roost in the abandoned railroad tunnel. Come dusk, they burst out like a swirling tornado, rising through the trees in search of dinner. It's jaw-dropping—especially in **August and September**, when numbers peak to up to 3 million bats. Last time Carl and I went, we enjoyed the experience with guests as the tornado of bats spiraled for **25 minutes** straight. It gave us Goosebumps!

This tunnel once connected Fredericksburg to San Antonio by rail, so it's a special piece of Texas history. Today, it's also a lesson in conservation. Evening programs by park rangers explain how these bats help Texas farmers grow food organically by devouring pests naturally.

If you're a little nervous—don't be. The bats fly *up*, not over you. And when the rangers call for silence, the sound of their wings is like a large **waterfall**. It's truly magical.

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The best seats are in the lower viewing area. Tickets to the lower viewing area (Thu–Sun) are \$5 and must be booked in advance—we’re happy to help you get tickets. No dogs allowed, so leave your pups cozy at your cabin. Trust us: *Bats are the Best!*



Enchanted Rock State Park

Enchanted Rock—it’s an absolute must during your stay.

Just 27 miles from here, this giant pink granite dome rises out of the Hill Country like something out of a dream. The first time you see it, you just stop, you can’t believe you’re actually allowed to climb it. But you are! And once you do, you’ll feel like you’ve accomplished something truly special.

The Summit Trail is short but steep, about 425 feet up, it is like climbing a 30 to 40 story building. The view from the top? Awe-inspiring, even spiritual. You’ll get 360-degree views of rolling hills, distant ranches, and the big, endless Texas sky. Enchanted Rock has drawn visitors for centuries. Native tribes believed it was sacred. When you’re up there, you’ll understand why.

What makes it even more magical are the tiny, hidden ecosystems. After a rain, Carl always looks for fairy shrimp—tiny translucent creatures that hatch in shallow pools from eggs that survive dry spells. You might also spot rock quillwort, an endangered plant found only in Central Texas. And the lichens? Some are hundreds, even thousands of years old, clinging to bare granite where almost nothing else survives.

Rhonda always watches for painted buntings—those vivid rainbow birds we see here at the cabins show up there too.

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Dogs are welcome at the park, but not on the Summit Trail—best to leave them comfy in your cabin while you hike. Admission is \$8 per person, and we strongly recommend reserving ahead. Stay past sunset if you can, it's a certified Dark Sky Park, and the stars are just as breathtaking as they are right here at our cabins!

Museums You Will Not Want to Miss



National Museum of the Pacific War

If you're even *remotely* interested in military history, you **must** go to the National Museum of the Pacific War while you're here. It's right in downtown Fredericksburg. If you're like us, you're probably thinking—*why* would a museum about the Pacific Theater be in the middle of Texas? Well, this is the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, who commanded the Pacific Fleet during WWII. The museum is built around his grandfather's old hotel, and it's absolutely world-class. In fact, it was just ranked **No. 6 in the country** by *USA Today's Readers' Choice 2025*.

You'll explore major battles like Okinawa and Iwo Jima, but what really surprised us were the exhibits that walk you through the events *leading up* to WWII, things we had never learned before. We both walked out genuinely stunned, saying, "*WOW, I never realized how all the earlier wars were connected and led us here.*" The artifacts aren't just objects—they tell stories that stay with you long after you leave. Carl's favorite part? The restored planes and ships—the craftsmanship and attention to detail are absolutely incredible.

And now there's an immersive new experience called *The Rescue*. You follow 7-year-old Berna through the jungles of the Philippines, sneak past enemy soldiers, and board a submarine under attack. It's emotional, powerful, and yes submersive.

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They are closed on Tuesdays be aware there is an admission fee, and if you're visiting on the weekend, we highly recommend you buy tickets online ahead of time.



Altstadt Tractor Museum

One of our favorite places to recommend to guests is the **Tractor Museum at Altstadt Brewery**—and the best part is, it's completely free to visit!

You can sip a cold beer or a glass of wine as you stroll through the museum, which features an impressive private collection of vintage tractors. Some are small and compact, while others are towering machines reminiscent of old steam locomotives. What truly stands out is the immaculate restoration—these tractors shine like they've just come off the factory floor.

The collection is always changing, with antique cars rotating in and out, so there's usually something new to discover. The stories that accompany each machine take you on a journey through agricultural history, from the earliest days of farming to more modern developments. It's a fascinating window into how farming practices and machinery have evolved over the decades.

This is a museum that really appeals to all ages. Whether it's young kids seeing these giant machines for the first time or adults admiring the craftsmanship and engineering, everyone we've told about it has come back saying how much they loved it.

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You can also grab a soft pretzel or even a cigar while you're there. In our opinion, it's an absolute must-see. Whether you're into history, machinery, or just want to experience something unique, it's well worth the stop.

Libations, *The Texas Wine Trail, Breweries and Distilleries*



One of the first things guests ask is, "*Which wineries should we visit?*" So, here's the inside scoop on a few that we love — the ones that are a little off the beaten path but full of heart, history, and great Texas wine. You quickly discover that at all the local wineries, you are drinking and sharing with friends, old and new!

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Wineries

Start with **Michael Ros Winery**, just 8 minutes from the cabins. Carl's favorite wine there is Tempranillo. Inside, do not miss the handmade tables built by Michael himself from pecan trees cleared to build the tasting room. The whole place feels like an Italian piazza — relaxed, inviting, and dog-friendly on the patio. Rhonda love's sitting outside with a glass of their award-winning Picpoul, listening to live music by Anthony Garcia.

Next, head to **Texas Heritage Vineyard**, where we both love the back patio. This dog-friendly winery was voted Best Tasting Room in town, it's a spacious, welcoming spot with fire pits, live music, and serves gold and double gold medal-winning wines made right here in Gillespie County. It's perfect for relaxing with friends and discovering what 100% Texas wine really means.

Looking for a true Texas original? **Sister Creek Vineyards** in Sisterdale has been around since 1988 and is set in a historic cotton gin. Our favorite wine there is their 4-blend: Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot, and Syrah. It's small, intimate, and the moment you step inside, they treat you like family.

And for something special, don't miss **Heath Sparkling Wines** — a stunning, modern setting and, in our opinion, the best sparkling wine in Texas. Reservation required.

After your wine adventure, come back to your cabin, open a bottle, and enjoy the stars from your porch. That's the Hill Country magic we love to share and what memories are made of.

Check out our Attraction and Blog pages for more information on our favorites.

Breweries

Now some mentions of the other fabulous Libations, **Altstadt Brewery** on HWY 290 is a state-of-the-art building that is a must see with beer that is a must try for beer lovers! The brewery is a work of art in itself! Take a brewery tour (it is free) to see the gleaming equipment and follow the journey from "grain/wort to beer"! There are a variety of beers available for tasting, sampling, and purchase.

Fredericksburg Brewery on Main Street is one of the oldest Breweries in the area, another must visit. With a number of freshly brewed beers on tap you are sure to find one that will wet your whistle. As with all Micro-breweries, the offerings rotate seasonally.

We also enjoy sending folks to **Belly Up Brew Pub** in Fredericksburg. It's one of those places that just gets it right—small, relaxed, and full of charm. Inside, it's cozy with a U-shaped bar and a few TVs. The vibe is chill, and the dog-friendly patio is perfect for soaking up the Hill Country air. We both really enjoyed the "Tres Amigos Mexican Lager" they were serving during our visit!

Fat Ass Winery and Brewery This place always has something fun going on! Their beer (and wines, for that matter) are unique! The Jalapeño Beer that was being poured during our visit, is for those that "LIKE IT HOT!" Again, expect the pours to change on a regular basis. Carl enjoys a good IPA and found the difference between the West Coast IPA and the New England IPA to be subtle but refreshing. Rhonda, found the Dumb Ass Blonde to be her favorite and the Kick Ass Amber a close second. While here they serve many wines as well. Their FA Country Peach is award winning!

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Distilleries

For **Bourbon, Whiskey, Tequila and Gin** lovers you have choices, too!



Garrison Bothers Distillery in Hye, Texas has a full array of Bourbons. It is the first legal whiskey distillery in Texas. Care and expertise in every bottle! Visit this place to see and taste "from corn to cork"! Since Rhonda is not really a Bourbon lover, Carl finds the Single Barrel Bourbon one of his favorites!

The 1693 Distillery is proud to serve Whiskey and Tequila. Located in Stonewall, Texas right on HWY 290 and the corner of Luckenbach Road. Learn about the similarities in these two distinctively different libations. These flavors are wonderful just sipping side by side to taste the differences!

Dietz Distillery on HWY 87 just south of Fredericksburg serves up small batch Gin, Vodka and Rum. They also serve specialty beverages highlighting these wonderful creations. I like the Five Judges Gin in a simple Gin and Tonic with Lime, Rhonda goes for the Vodka Cosmopolitan. So many choices, so little time.

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Night Life, Saloons and Bars

Let's Go to Luckenbach, Texas



We debated whether to classify this as a Museum or "Night Life". Ultimately, it leads off this section.

Luckenbach is not just a stop, it's a state of mind. We send all our guests there because it captures the heart and soul of the Hill Country like no other place. You will hear live music drifting under 500-year-old oak trees and feel the rhythm from that historic dance hall still kicking since 1887. It is so easy to get swept up in what we

love here at Luckenbach, the lively, welcoming vibe.

The General Store is your first stop, part museum, part gift shop, and full of charm. Then wander over to the Saloon. It's rustic, lively, and the kind of place where locals, musicians, and travelers all blend together. Cold beer and wine, live music, and friendly conversation, it is what Luckenbach does best.

Willie Nelson made this place legendary with the 1977 hit "*Luckenbach, Texas (Back to the Basics of Love)*" alongside Waylon Jennings. His connection put this town on the map, and his spirit still lingers in every guitar string and lyric sung here.

It is easy to spend the entire day soaking in the laid-back atmosphere and catching live performances from a wide range of artists. A favorite part is how Luckenbach has different stages, so there is always someone or group playing on one of them. They could be big names, some local gems/favorites, and then the "Pickers Circles." A "Picker Circle" allows and invites anyone with an instrument to pull up a chair and join in! It is a chance to discover incredible talent you might not hear anywhere else, all in one unforgettable setting.

On our first visit here, we took our photo by the iconic sign, put it on our Christmas card and sent it out to everyone we knew! Our friends and family loved it! Do not be surprised if you stay longer than planned. Because here, "***everybody's somebody in Luckenbach***".

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You have got to check out **Crossroads Saloon**—it's one of our absolute favorite spots in town. We usually go on Sundays when it's a little quieter and "locals night". You can still enjoy the live band, but actually have a conversation, too. The Saloon and restaurant are separate, which we love. You can grab a drink, watch the band, and if you are early enough, order dinner right there in the Saloon.

We always go for the little corner table up the steps—it is perfect for watching people dance on the beautiful wooden floor. We love scooting around the floor ourselves! The Saloon has a gorgeous old bar, great bourbon (Carl's favorite!), and live country music that just makes you want to move.

There is a \$10 cover on Friday and Saturday nights, and absolutely worth it! Whenever friends visit, this is where we take them. It is real Texas fun—warm, welcoming, and unforgettable. Whether you love dancing or just watching others do it, you will have a blast!

Restaurants We Enjoy

We love sharing the kind of restaurants you might not hear about on your own. Fredericksburg has some amazing spots—and yes, a few can get pricey. But you do not have to spend a lot to have a truly memorable meal around here. Carl and I have found some hidden gems full of character, flavor, and heart. These are in absolutely no order!



If you are looking for something local, laid-back, and packed with flavor, you have got to try **LeRoy's TexMex BBQ**. We love it and we send many of our guests there because it never disappoints. LeRoy's blends two Texas favorites, mesquite-smoked BBQ and bold Tex-Mex into one unforgettable meal. It is right next to Jenschke Orchards, so it is a perfect stop if you are wine tasting or peach picking.

The vibe is super casual, come-as-you-are, with picnic tables, good music, and big portions. Carl swears by the street tacos, you get three, with three choices of smoked meats, and they are packed with flavor. Me? I am still dreaming about the Chicken Guajillo. It's that good. And do not miss the nachos, even the-half order is

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enough for two people. They are loaded with meat, charro beans, queso, avocado Pico de Gallo, lime crema, tomatillo salsa, BBQ sauce... it is a full Texas experience on one plate.

They also serve breakfast! The menu includes tacos and plates, and if you have a sweet tooth, the peach cobbler and peach ice cream (made from the orchard's own fruit) are the perfect ending.

It is a local favorite for good reason, big flavor, no fuss, and a meal you'll be talking about long after. One visit and you will be hooked; trust me, your return trip to Walnut Canyon Cabins might just be planned around another LeRoy's meal.

If you are looking for a spot that's cozy, romantic, and delightfully charming, **Alla Campagna** is it. We were incredibly happy when this place opened not too long ago. It is right on Main Street, but it feels like you have discovered a little secret tucked away in the Hill Country. The space is warm and intimate, with antique details and a menu that is in a class of its own.

The food is fresh, seasonal, and thoughtfully prepared, nothing feels heavy or overdone. Carl loves the Lasagna Alla Campagna, and I cannot get enough of the pillowy Gnocchi. Our guests have raved about the Linguine Con Gamberi and devoured the Ragu Pappardelle. The wine and cocktail list is just as impressive and carefully curated.

The indoor space is small and cozy, but if the weather's nice, we recommend asking for a patio table, it's perfect for families and larger groups. Be sure to make a reservation if you are planning on a weekend meal.

You will leave full, happy, and already planning your next visit to Alla Campagna and Walnut Canyon Cabins!

If you have never had the chance to eat in a classic 1940s diner, **The Airport Diner** is your perfect time machine. Right next to the Hangar Hotel and Gillespie County Airport, The Airport Diner feels like stepping into a bygone era with shiny stainless steel, terrazzo floors, cozy booths, and black granite counters. Plus, you get a front-row view of vintage planes taking off and landing, how cool is that? We love sitting in those classic booths, watching the planes. You can order breakfast anytime, pancakes, omelets, or the spicy Huevos Rancheros (our personal favorite) and just soak it all in. The menu is full of fun, with sandwiches and salads named after planes and local legends, think the B-17 Flying Fortress, Bomber Burger, Yellow Steerman, and Lieutenant Dan. Each has its own character, making your meal even more memorable.

Feeling hungry? Try the Preflight Sliced Ribeye Steak Sandwich or the Maverick Grilled Chicken Sandwich. And whatever you do, save room for dessert! Their shakes, malts, and root beer floats, made with local ice cream, are pure nostalgia in a glass.

It is diner food like you remember, or maybe never got to try, a slice of authentic Americana. You will leave grinning, full, and already planning your next visit to Walnut Canyon Cabins and The Airport Diner. And hey, you might even catch a vintage plane landing right outside your window!

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Shops, Boutiques, Antiques and Practical Places to Shop Groceries and Extras

H-E-B Grocery



A great grocery store! We really like the produce, seafood, meat and deli departments. Friendly, helpful staff. A great wine department with wonderful selections. Beer is cold and plenty of selections to choose from! The Pharmacy is very good as well. Address is:
407 S. Adams Street
FBG, TX 78624
830-997-9950

Natural Grocers



Natural grocers has a great produce department, ALL ORGANIC! The produce selection is very good. The dairy section has many alternatives to traditional milk products. The variety of meat alternatives, gluten-free meal entrees and side dishes provide many options. Address is:
610 E. Main Street,
FBG TX 78624
830-733-9139

Walmart Supercenter



Walmart, it goes without saying pretty much that *"if they don't have it, you don't need it!"* We like to get cereal and office supplies here and of course gifts for the grandkids! The Pharmacy is at the front of the store and very convenient. We have heard the Auto center does a great job, just in case. Address is:
1435 E Main Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-997-2633

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Opas Smoked Meats



Opas Smoked Meats is a Fredericksburg original! Great deli meats, sausages and other German craft foods as well as some great local items are all available. This is where we get the Canadian Bacon for your breakfast! Order a couple of Pork Chops, cut to order and BBQ on the Weber grill at the cabin, relax and listen to the birds!

Address is:

410 South Washington Street,
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
Phone 830-997-3358

Quintessential Chocolates



Ahh... Chocolat! – Old-World Technique Meets Texas Wine Country. One of the first things we always tell our guests is: **you've got to check out Quintessential Chocolates Co.** It's not just any chocolate shop—it's a unique, local gem. Our friend and neighbor, Lecia Duke, owns it, and what she does there is truly unique. **Take your time browsing**, then choose a **free sample**—yes, really.

Address is:

251 West Main Street
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-990-9382

Walgreens



Walgreens, for everything you would expect of a pharmacy. Their wine selection changes frequently so you sometime find some bargain California, Australian and New Zealand wines. Also their snack chip selection is all national brands.

Address:

704 South Adams Street
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-990-5089

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Antique Stores in Fredericksburg

There are many antique stores in Fredericksburg, and each one caters to a different specialty. **The Red Baron Antique Mall** has several different vendors inside their 10,000 sq foot area. I was fortunate enough to find a vintage cookbook that was perfect for a gift for my food enthusiast sister! We frequently walk through just to see what new things may be found! Located at 502 W. Main Street 830-990-2329

Larry Jackson Fine Art & Antiques, located at 209 Llano Street, 830-997-0073 is a really great store! The artwork and antique furniture are incredible! Walk slowly, there is so much to see! We dream of getting something from here every time we walk through! Once you leave the showroom, grab a beverage right around the corner at the Belly-Up Brew Pub, or a bite to eat next door at the newer Tia's Restaurant specializing in Mexican fare.

There are numerous other antique stores, these two are fun, discover your own favorite while exploring downtown!

More Stores to Note

Headquarters Hats is such a great store for hats and T-Shirts! We have each gotten hats here, they carry Stetsons and more! A hat for any occasion! Located very close to Java Ranch Roasters at 122 East Main Street 830-990-8510

Dogologie is a pet lovers mecca! You can even rent a stroller to carry and push your 4-legged family member down the street! Cards, treats, leashes, carriers, sweaters and more. We love getting cards for our pet loving friends here. As a pet lover, you may find something you never realized you needed for your loved pet! Located at 148 E. Main Street 830-997-5855

There is so much more to be seen and experienced along Main Street and the side streets. Most establishments are all housed in historic buildings that tell a story all themselves! Be sure to grab your favorite beverage to enjoy while walking up and down Main Street, it makes the experience even more relaxing. Take a minute to sit on one of the numerous benches on the street and people watch. It is great fun! You just never know who might stop and say hello, share a story and you may even meet a new friend!

Annual Events, Holidays and Festivals

Oktoberfest is Fredericksburg's biggest celebration—our town becomes a mini-Bavaria on the first weekend of October. If you love food and beer, this is your weekend—you'll smell bratwurst and schnitzel on the grill, with giant pretzels, oompah music, and German & local brews. Carl loves tasting the cold German beers on tap; Rhonda's all about the music, people-watching, and artisan crafts that celebrate the

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culture.

Tip: Book early with us (we always sell out!), wear comfy shoes, and come hungry—and thirsty!

Every October, the **Fredericksburg Food & Wine Festival** is a must! It's your chance to sample unique, palate-pleasing flavors from top local restaurants and wineries. Carl and I love discovering new dining spots or uncovering hidden wineries. As foodies, Carl loves chatting with the owners, while I'm all about savoring new dishes and varieties of wines.

Tip: Arrive early! Lines get long, and vendors do run out. You'll enjoy relaxing in the shade, satisfied and sipping, while others are still waiting. If you're a foodie or wine lover, this festival was made for you!

If you're here in June, don't miss the **Fredericksburg Craft Beer Festival**. With 25+ Texas craft breweries—from big names like **Shiner** to local stars like **Altstadt** and **Belly-Up Brewing**—you'll sample great beer and meet the folks behind it. There are chef-led beer pairings, food vendors, yard games, and top-notch live music all day, all set in the lively **Marktplatz Biergarten**. The brewers' camaraderie is contagious, and the whole event feels like a celebration of Texas craft and community.

Tip: Prefer wine? Texas wines are available for purchase too—so there is something for everyone to raise a glass to!

Christmas Lights in Fredericksburg an annual event that is always listed nationally as a must see! The lights in **Marketplatz** go on for the first time every season on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. And the first Friday in December features the annual **Light the Night Christmas Parade** down Main Street.

Late July through September, **it's Grape Stomp Season in the Texas Hill Country**—and if it's not on your bucket list, put it on! Carl & I still laugh about the mess we made at Pedernales—we still wear our stained souvenir shirts. It's barefoot, squishy, belly-laugh fun and totally Hill Country Texan. Enjoy live music, wine tastings, dinners, and VIP perks at spots like Becker, Hye Meadow, and Texas Wine Collective.

Tip: check winery websites early to make reservations—some sell out fast. Dress for a mess and don't tiptoe—*stomp!* It's the adult way to jump in puddles, and we promise you'll leave grinning.

Becker Vineyards just celebrated their 26th Annual Lavender Festival, so be sure to plan for Spring 2026—it's a must-do event. Carl loves that the winery is modeled after a 19th-century German stone barn, and the estate grounds are absolutely beautiful. With 66 acres of vineyards and around 500 lavender plants, the April–May bloom is truly magical. At the festival, I love wandering the fields, sipping award-winning wine, and browsing lavender-inspired vendors offering bath bombs, linen sprays, eye pillows, and even lavender honey and culinary lavender.

TIP: Pick up a bottle of your favorite Becker wine before you leave—the perfect way to unwind back at your cabin after a relaxing, lavender-inspired day.

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Our Round Up



There are so many other things to do in Fredericksburg beyond the Wine Trail. Did you know it was named one of the top five Western Art Towns by *Southwest Art Magazine*? Discover your creative side with a class at a local art studio, where you can drop in on Saturdays for pottery or wineglass painting. Or try your hand at glass blowing an experience as exciting as it is unforgettable.

Looking for an outdoor adventure? Saddle up for a horseback trail ride just northwest of town, where you will find sweeping hilltop views, wildlife sightings, and stunning sunsets. A stroll down Main Street reveals hidden treasures in local boutiques and antique stores, while a peaceful walk to the top of Cross Mountain Park offers a scenic overlook from a historic Native American lookout.

We hope you have enjoyed reading our guide and that we have inspired you to visit Fredericksburg—and discover the side you may not have known existed. Please take a look at our website by [CLICKING HERE](#). We look forward to welcoming you to your cabin and our home in Fredericksburg. And of course, if you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

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