

## Review of Bastrop State Park, Texas

Nestled among the majestic Lost Pines in the hills of Texas is a gem of a State Park, called Bastrop. It's located about 30 miles southeast of Austin off of highway 71 and about a 2 hour drive from San Antonio. The entrance is at the junction of loop 150 and Highway 21, which runs parallel to highway 71 on the East side of the town of Bastrop, Texas. The entrance to the park passes through Lost Pines Golf Course so it doesn't feel like you're entering a park at all and you have to be careful or you'll drive right past the entrance.

The park still retains some original buildings built by the CCC during the parks early days. Many of the campsites, especially primitive ones, are nestled in amongst the tall majestic pines. Their thick bed of needles provides a soft cushion for tenting. The RV sites are primarily located along the top of a hill but also amongst the pines. Sites include electricity and water and a small number of sites appear to have sewer hookups. The park is known for its beautiful hiking trails, but there are no biking trails due to environmental restrictions. If you want a beautiful bike ride, you can take advantage of the 12 mile road connecting Bastrop to Buescher State Park, which is particularly hilly and scenic or ride around the park on Park Rd 1A & B.



During my stay I saw a lot of riders making the trek along Park Road 1C between the two state parks. Bastrop includes a small "lake" (call it a big pond) though the water level was suffering due to the drought. The main pavilion area includes a very large pool and nice playground for the kids though my kids preferred to play along the hiking trails among the pines.

Overall, my family and I loved our trip to Bastrop and intend to find some time to return so we can explore some more of the hiking trails among the Lost Pines. For more details see the park's website:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/bastrop/>

Reservations can also be made at [ReserveAmerica](http://www.reserveamerica.com/) [http://www.reserveamerica.com/].

By **Jim Bray**

[Bray.james@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Bray.james@sbcglobal.net)