

## **EARLY BIRD ACTIVITY - SELF GUIDED TOUR**

### **WILLOW CITY LOOP & ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA**

Willow City Loop is considered by some to be one of the top ten scenic tours in Texas, especially when the bluebonnets and other wild flowers are in bloom. Enchanted Rock is a massive dome of pink granite. A hike up to the rock's summit will be rewarded by a panoramic view of the Texas Hill Country.

This sixty mile tour will take a little less than two hours driving time. More time may be required if sightseeing traffic on the Willow City Loop is heavy. Provide additional time if you plan to stop for lunch or to hike the Enchanted Rock. The Willow City Loop runs through private property and is very narrow with recommended speeds of no more than 25 - 30 MPH. Slow down for the many rough cattle guards. There are no gas stations once you leave Fredericksburg.

Distances in the following instructions are cumulative; set your trip odometer to zero before leaving the hotel.

1. Turn right out of the hotel parking lot on to US 87 (S. Washington St.) and proceed to E. Main St. at the traffic light.
2. Turn left on E. Main Street and proceed to SR 16 (N. Llano St.) - 0.5 miles.
3. Turn right on SR 16 and proceed to FM 1323 - 13.4 miles.
4. Turn right on FM 1323.
5. If its lunch time, you might want to stop at the Knot in the Loop Saloon which will be on your right just after you turn on FM 1323. They are known for their Angus beef burgers and advertise that they "open at noon - sometimes earlier". The burgers are great, but the parking lot is very rough. You may want to park on the side of the road to save your exhaust pipes.
6. After you turn, or after lunch, proceed on FM 1323 to Willow City - 16 miles. Watch for, and follow the Willow City Loop signs. The Loop will end at SR 16 - 29 miles.
7. Turn right on SR 16 and proceed to FM 965 - 33 miles. (See note at the bottom of page.)
8. The Enchanted Rock State Nature Area will be on your right about eight miles after you turn on FM 965.
9. Continue on FM 965 to Main Street in Fredericksburg - 58 miles.
10. Turn left on Main Street and proceed to US 87 (S. Washington St.) - 58.9 miles.
11. Turn Right on US 87 and Proceed to the hotel - 60 miles.

If, after completing the Willow City Loop, you decide to return to Fredericksburg, simply turn left on SR 16 at instruction 7. This will shorten the tour by about 11 miles and 15 minutes driving time