Dallas to Shreveport

A flexible first trip through East Texas and northwestern Louisiana. Choose stops; verify driving directions, access and current conditions before you leave.

Use Dallas as your western starting area and Shreveport-Bossier as your eastern base. Build a route around the places that interest you. Tyler, Jefferson and Caddo Lake can be planned as side trips rather than treated as automatic stops on the fastest drive.

Choose a trip style

STYLE	BUILD YOUR SHORTLIST
Towns + food	Dallas area / Terrell / Canton / Tyler / Longview / Marshall / Shreveport-Bossier. Choose a few stops and allow time to eat and explore.
Nature + a small-town base	Marshall / Jefferson / Caddo Lake. Add a park day and a relaxed meal; check water, weather and reservation information.
A longer regional weekend	Tyler or Martin Creek Lake State Park, followed by Marshall and the Red River National Wildlife Refuge area. Check the extra driving before combining them.

Make a realistic stop list

My travel dates: _____

My overnight bases: _____

Three places I most want to see: _____

My daily driving limit and rest stops: _____

Build a route and save your stop list on ExploreTraveler

Compare the trip using your own quotes

Make the journey part of the trip

Build a flexible day between Dallas and Shreveport-Bossier.



Regional travel illustration: a composite of town streets, bayou scenery and a Southern meal; not a photograph of a particular venue.

Picture the day, then make it yours

Use this visual companion with the checklists and source links in the following pages. Leave space for discoveries and changes.

1 Western start

Start with Dallas-area logistics.

2 East Texas stops

Choose a few worthwhile stops.

3 Eastern base

Settle into Shreveport-Bossier.

Four nature starting points

State parks and federal wildlife refuges have different purposes and visitor rules. Use the official visitor pages below to check the exact site and date.

PLACE / TYPE	WHY CONSIDER IT	CHECK BEFORE GOING
Caddo Lake State Park Texas state park	A wetland-focused stop with official park maps and visitor information.	Day-use or camping reservations, weather, water access and current alerts.
Tyler State Park Texas state park	Lake recreation, hiking, birdwatching and a woodland setting.	Trail and lake conditions, campsites and any equipment or reservation needs.
Martin Creek Lake State Park Texas state park	Lake-side time, trails and a quieter East Texas nature stop.	Current park notices, day-use access, campsite choices and your driving route.
Red River National Wildlife Refuge Federal wildlife refuge	A Bossier City-area stop with official visitor directions and trail information.	Which refuge unit you are visiting, public-use rules, open facilities and current notices.

Official visitor information

Caddo Lake State Park

Tyler State Park

Martin Creek Lake State Park

Red River National Wildlife Refuge

My nature-day checklist

Park or refuge: _____ Date checked: _____
Reservation / access confirmed: _____
Weather plan, water and rest stops: _____
Accessibility questions to ask the site: _____

Check official maps rather than relying on this worksheet for navigation. A refuge is not a National Park Service park; do not assume passes, permits or visitor rules transfer between sites.

A food trail you can keep

Start with verified local tourism listings, then record your own experience. This is a research shortlist, not a tested ranking of the region's best restaurants.

STARTING LEAD	PLAN THE VISIT
Stanley's Famous Pit Barbecue / Tyler	Listed by Visit Tyler. Confirm the current menu, service hours, availability and your detour before visiting.
Joseph's Riverport BBQ / Jefferson	Listed in the Jefferson tourism dining directory. Combine your own dining research with a town visit.
Marshall + Shreveport-Bossier	Add another restaurant from the destination's official dining directory. Compare food interests, access, price and dietary questions directly.

My tasting passport

STOP / DATE	WHAT I TRIED	MY NOTES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Useful questions

What time is food usually available? Can items sell out? Is the menu current? What are the parking and accessibility arrangements? If you have food allergies or other dietary needs, ask the venue directly about ingredients and preparation.

Marshall regional day trips

Stanley's tourism listing

Jefferson dining directory

Find more original travel stories and food videos

Turn ideas into a trip

Use current quotes and confirm each reservation yourself. This workbook does not quote live prices, make bookings or determine entry permission.

YOUR COST CATEGORY	YOUR ESTIMATE	CONFIRMED / NOTES
Transport + fuel	_____	_____
Lodging / camping	_____	_____
Food + drinks	_____	_____
Activities / parking	_____	_____
Backup reserve	_____	_____
My trip total	_____	_____

Before departure

Confirm driving directions, venue and park information, accommodation terms, weather and a backup stop. Save official addresses and emergency contacts on your own device. International visitors should research entry and driving-document questions using the relevant official authorities.

Use the free entry and visa research checklist

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Open the Dallas-to-Shreveport planning hub

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Regional suggestions are editorial planning ideas. Fees, menus, opening times, access, weather and rules can change. Links and QR codes identify this guide as the referral source; they do not reveal private recipients or offline copies.