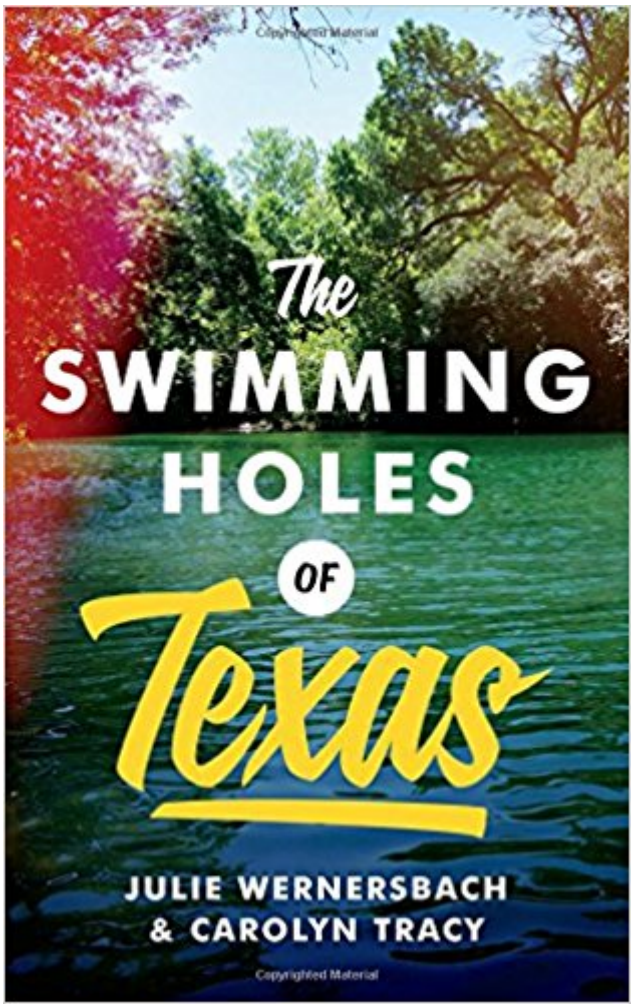
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# The Swimming Holes Of Texas




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## Synopsis

Nothing beats a natural swimming hole for cooling off on a scorching summer day in Texas. Cold, clear spring water, big old shade trees, and a quiet stretch of beach or lawn offer the perfect excuse to pack a cooler and head out with family and friends to the nearest natural oasis. Whether you're looking for a quick getaway or an unforgettable summer vacation, let The Swimming Holes of Texas be your guide.Julie Wernersbach and Carolyn Tracy highlight one hundred natural swimming spots across the entire state. The book is organized by geographic regions, so you can quickly find local places to swimÃ¢â ¬â •or plan a trip to a more distant spot you'd like to explore. Each swimming hole is illustrated with an inviting color photo and a description of what it's like to swim there, as well as the site's history, ecology, and conservation. The authors include all the pertinent info about admission fees and hours, parking, and on-site amenities such as showers and restrooms. They also offer tips for planning your trips and lists of the swimming holes that are most welcoming to families and pets.So when the temperature tops 100 and there's nothing but traffic in sight, take a detour down the backroads and swim, sunbathe, revel, and relax in the swimming holes of Texas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Julie Wernersbach is the literary director of the Texas Book Festival and a former marketing director at BookPeople, AustinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s largest independent bookstore.Carolyn Tracy is a freelance photographer who works for an animal welfare nonprofit.

I read a wonderful article about the authors and how much they traveled and researched the book. It

said they were told of other swimming holes by locals. Admittedly, I am a little disappointed in the book in that the majority of the places included in the book are well known or are state parks, with information easily obtainable on the internet or other books. I was expecting more unknown holes. That being said, it is a nice book and I love the inside tips they offer.

This book starts on page 221 goes through page 235 and then jumps to page 13. The first part is missing and pages 221-235 are repeated at the end. Not sure if I should return this or if it's a misprint for all the books. Would replace asap as I am going on a trip to Texas.

TRAVEL/NATUREJulie Wernersbach and Carolyn TracyThe Swimming Holes of TexasUniversity of Texas PressPaperback, 978-1-4773-1237-7, (also available as an e-book), 256 pgs., $21.95May 16, 2017ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the middle of July. Bank marquees and car thermometers clock another 104Ãƒâ Ã Å¡ day. Air conditioners moan. Brooklyn transplants weep.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•The Swimming Holes of Texas by Texas Book Festival literary director Julie Wernersbach, with photography by Carolyn Tracy, is the forty-fourth volume in the University of Texas PressÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Jack and Doris Smothers Series in Texas History, Life, and Culture. A curated selection of more than one hundred recreational swimming sites in Texas, The Swimming Holes of Texas is so much more than merely that; itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a series of mini-courses in the geography, ecology, history, archaeology, anthropology, and pop culture of the Lone Star State.Wernersbach and Tracy explored swimming holes (research can be a tough job) from Caprock Canyons in the Panhandle, to Martin Dies Jr. State Park deep in East Texas, to Bandera in South Texas, and on out to Balmorhea and Boquillas Hot Springs in far West Texas. Most of the sites are in national, state, and city parks, but a handful take you places GPS canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t. Divided into six regions, The Swimming Holes of Texas provides a map for each region, with the locales arranged in alphabetical order within each section. Each entry includes information on hours of operation, entrance fees, park rules, camping, local history, details on the swimming conditions, amenities, and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“pro tips.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Pro tips are the life hacks of swimming holes: Cypress Bend Park in New Braunfels is your alternative to Schlitterbahn; reservations are required at Hamilton Pool in Dripping Springs; clothing-optional Hippie Hollow forbids nudity in the parking lot; itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s pronounced ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“BURN-eeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•; no swim areas are specifically designated at Choke Canyon State Park because of the, um, alligators.Each entry is packed with information. Fun facts include: the Texas State Bison Herd lives at Caprock Canyons State Park; Deep Eddy began life as

a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“veritable aquatic theater, featuring attractions such as a trapeze, Ferris wheel, and Great LorenaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Diving HorseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•; Krause Springs in Spicewood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an undisturbed Native American burial ground; Palmetto State Park is (maybe) home to something called the North American wood ape, aka ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Ottine Thing,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (possibly) the Texas Bigfoot.This guide is thoroughly practical, offering specific, detailed advice. The authors asked four questions about each swimming hole: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Is this water we want to swim in? Are there reasonable amenities? Do we feel safe and relaxed? And, most important, would we want to come here again?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Included are several Top Five lists for different categories, depending upon your preferences or needs. These are where youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll find the best choices for families with children, which locales are dog-friendly, which are the most easily accessible, and several additional categories.TracyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s photographs had me smiling and feeling peaceful. Special mention is due to the stunning photo of JacobÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Well in Wimberley, and sunset at Lake Brownwood State Park turning the water copper and bronze.Whether waxing poetic and philosophical (ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Mythic, mysterious, miraculous West Texas ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s no promise that the Chihuahuan Desert will save your soul, but it will certainly set you to thinking about the vast stars above and the enormous earth beneath your feetÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•), or discussing purely practical matters such as water shoes, The Swimming Holes of Texas is written with humor and appreciative respect for the land and its resources. It is the definitive, indispensable guide to surviving summer in Texas.Originally published in Lone Star Literary Life.

This book is what I never knew I needed. A few summers ago I tried to remember the name of that awesome swimming hole from my college years at UT, and it took a while to find it. Between Google and Yelp, I eventually did. But a book like this is exactly what I needed. No more scrolling through poorly written and incomplete reviews (if they exist at all) on Yelp.True to guidebook form, this one is clearly organized with the park or swimming hole's name, address, phone number, and web address. Below that, you get hours of operation, fees (they can vary), rules, camping options, and amenities. But the parts that really shine are the pro tips and summaries of the areas and the swimming holes themselves. The pro tips are delivered in a casual and quirky tone. I could picture a sun kissed local sharing those tips with me. The area and swimming hole summaries are beautifully written and more descriptive than the accompanying photographs. The descriptions of each region covered in the book are lovely to read as well.As a mom, I appreciated any information that related

to kid safety and nearby activities. And getting the skinny on which swimming holes had places to eat either on the premises or a short drive away are awesome too.I know it is backwards to bring up the introduction last, but I thought the gravity of the underlying message would make for a better "outro" for this review. Clean up after yourself. This is said explicitly at least five times. I counted. We want other people, especially future generations, to be able to enjoy Mother Nature’s wonderful amenities, so we need to do our part to ensure that these treasures are protected and maintained. I highly recommend this guidebook to Texas natives and visitors who enjoy the great outdoors and water activities. Like me, I think you will be pleasantly surprised to see how many swimming holes are just a short drive away.

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