

# Hunting in Texas

Have you spotted any deer along the tracks? Believe it or not, there are plenty of them out there! Hunting of white-tailed deer and other wild game is a cherished tradition in the Lone Star State. Many different types of hunting strategies and techniques are used to increase the odds of success when chasing game. However, restrictions such as licenses and limited public land create boundaries for Texas hunters.

The white tailed deer is the most popular Texas game animal. It can be found statewide, but its most dense population is in central Texas. Other than white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorns are also hunted in West Texas. Hunters also harvest javelinas, wild boars, feral hogs and squirrels. Keep an eye out for deer and other big game animals. Occasionally deer are spotted during daylight hours, but they are most active at dawn and dusk.

While in the West Texas plains, look outside the train and try to spot a hunting blind – they look like tiny houses on stilts. Hunters wait quietly inside them so that deer will not be frightened away. Often deer feeders filled with corn will be located near a blind. Hiding is not the only strategy needed by hunters since deer primarily use their noses to detect danger. Huntsmen fight against this natural ability by using scents to attract deer and mask human odor.

Hunting in Texas also has its restrictions; not just anyone can grab a gun and shoot a deer at will. Texas laws require a license and a limited number of tags for hunting and harvesting game. In addition to this, public land is extremely limited in Texas compared to other states. Less than four percent of land in Texas is publicly owned, and much of that land is made up of state park campgrounds, trails and picnic areas, where hunting is restricted. The majority of hunting in this state takes place on private land - many privately owned ranches sell hunting leases, and a growing number of ranches offer lodging and guide services as well.

Hunting is a strong tradition in Texas, but in recent decades the number of hunters has been steadily decreasing. The Texas Parks and Wild life Department faces a huge loss in revenue if this trend continues, and has initiated hunting programs for youth across the state. Hunting equipment companies are also developing new technologies, tactics and hunting methods to sustain and increase participation.

## Source(s):

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deer\\_hunting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deer_hunting)

<http://www.deerhunting.ws/statemay/txregs.htm>

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