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Texas has about three thousand known, explored caves, ranging in size from small crawlways to huge caverns. Most of these caves, however, are generally restricted to exploration by trained, experienced cavers, geologists, and biologists.

Paperback One of my sons became enthusiastic about caves and caverns several years ago after a school field trip to Inner Space Caverns near Georgetown, Texas in central Texas not far from Austin, the state capital. I was fortunate to tour Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico when I was a youngster about his age, so I understood his excitement. Needless to say, we were psyched when we recently got the opportunity as a family to tour Natural Bridge Caverns off I between New Braunfels and San Antonio , a Texas cave which is also a U.S. National Natural Landmark. Discovering this beautiful book in the library has added immeasurably to our enjoyment and education about Texas caves. For example, Inner Space Caverns gave my son a bookmark which brags that Texas has the largest collection of caves in the nation, numbering over 30,000. By the way, Texas caves are found in the greater Edwards Plateau of central Texas, an upland surface underlain by a thick sequence of Cretaceous and Paleozoic limestone. With an area of 82,000 km², it is one of the largest unbroken karst cave regions in the United States. Caves in the uplands are typically fossil, with just a few interconnected rooms and short passages and pits. In many caves, chambers are profusely decorated with calcite, as in the famous Caverns of Sonora one of the seven Texas show caves listed below. They are not particularly deep: Author Blair Pittman is an award-winning photographer, and the magnificent photos in this book attest to that fact. I very much recommend this book. To quote from the jacket: Natural Landmark just north of San Antonio on the way to New Braunfels and Austin Wonder Cave San Marcos, north of New Braunfels on the way to Austin This book says that Wonder Cave is most noteworthy for the visible fault line of the Balcones Fault, created when the earth shifted during the uplifting of the Edwards Plateau some thirty-five million years ago. Including massive black stone formations which originated as bat guano! And the stains on the cave roof which evidence where the bats once roosted. All very interesting to say the least. A note to teachers of Texas history: THIS is the type of history which should predominate Texas History classes, not minute details of each and every successive bloodbath which has unfortunately taken place on the soil of our great state. One person found this helpful.

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