



Barbecue traditions in Texas are as old as the state itself. Today, they're being kept alive by a promising generation of newcomers who stay anchored in tried-and-true methods that have become renowned the world over.

→ Black's is one of the oldest barbecue restaurants in the state and uses prime Angus beef for their world-famous brisket. Kreuz Market (pronounced "Krites") is a sauce-averse joint where beef, sausage, and pork are served on brown butcher paper. Chisholm Trail and Smitty's Market have both been satisfying guests for well over half a century. Lockhart State Park awaits exploration for visitors looking to shake off a few calories or wanting to switch up their menu by fishing for bass, catfish, or sunfish.

It's a straight shot down US-183 to Luling, just 20 minutes south. Look no further than the lively halls of Luling City Market, where the "holy trinity" of barbecue (sausage, brisket, and ribs) is bestowed on devout pilgrims. The

other game in town is watermelon, and Luling loves this fruit so much that they host an annual four-day festival, the Watermelon Thump.

## The "holy trinity" of barbecue? Sausage, brisket, and ribs.

At any time, though, it's a delight to take a few sweet slices and eat them on the banks of the San Marcos River.

One more hour on the road, this time east, is the final stop of San Antonio. Work up an appetite seeing the city's famous historic spots, from the Alamo to the ancient missions and the

Riverwalk, and then submit once more to the barbecue. Newcomers are making waves here, with 2M Smokehouse and Pinkerton's BBQ, both nationally acclaimed since opening in 2016 and 2021, respectively. Head to old-school Mexican places for some cabrito, a roasted goat specialty.

Remove the barbecue blinders once in a while to try other regional delicacies, including Rocky Mountain Oysters (battered and fried bull testicles), aligot (cheesy mashed potatoes), and kolaches, a Czech pastry that is now a Texan classic. It's all fine fuel for the road, and the best thing about this trip is that there are plenty of places to fill up. ♦