

# THE DAYTRIPPER WITH CHET GARNER

## Biography of Chet Garner – Host of ‘The Daytripper’

Chet Garner combines favorite past times from his youth and turns them into one heck of an adventurous profession as the host of acclaimed PBS travel show “The Daytripper.” Childhood for Chet meant growing up as part of the first wave of the video camera generation and exploring the hidden treasures found along the vast expanses of the Texas countryside. Riding in the back of the family suburban, he saw Texas like a true Texan should - rarely passing up a roadside picnic table or small town museum and stopping at just about every Bar-B-Q joint within view. Not too much has changed since then, only now, he documents his exhilarating journeys and shows them throughout the state of Texas with “The Daytripper.”

“The Daytripper” is all about bringing Texas to Texans so they can have all access to the richness of the state’s culture right from home. Garner, who describes himself as a “crazy, BB-Q loving, outdoorsy” type, says his enjoyment of navigating mazes of backcountry roads and his love of Texas in general are more than just a personal passion. He feels strongly that “far too few Texans tend to explore all the amazing things that lie right in their own backyards,” which is why he has taken it upon himself and his tightly-knit production team of four known as HOGABOOM ROAD, Inc. to show Texans the many reasons why their state is an international tourist destination while inspiring them to go have a “new” experience of their own.

“The Daytripper” first started out as a show about the endless adventures in and around Austin called *The Austin Daytripper* on local PBS affiliate KLRU. As the show’s popularity escalated after only the first few episodes, Garner realized how interested people really are in what the vast state has to offer and made the decision to “share the Daytripper love with the rest of Texas.” Within only a year of their first episode’s premiere, “The Daytripper” will be launched to viewers in most major markets across the state. The show focuses on attractions just outside of big city limits – everything from dive restaurants and hidden swimming holes, to the breathtaking beauty within the state’s parks, upscale wineries, and of course the tastiest of authentic Texas Bar-B-Q. Garner has actually become an “official” expert on the topic having been responsible for compiling *Texas Monthly’s* Top 50 Bar-B-Q and burger lists.

Each episode of “The Daytripper” is conceived around a specific destination. Garner and his team leave no stone unturned (sometimes literally) in search of every bit of fun the town and its surroundings have to offer. Garner explains, “Every town in Texas has something that makes it unique, something that sets it apart. Sometimes it’s obvious, and sometimes you have to look a little deeper, but it’s there.” And since they are all meant to be “day trips,” not too much money or time is needed to explore these charming destinations.

As the host, Garner describes himself as “hormone free, cage free, but definitely not grass-fed.” With every well-plotted step along each adventure, he personally embraces the show’s mission to “highlight all the natural and man-made wonders that lie throughout the state and to enrich the lives of our viewers by inspiring them to venture out on day trip excursions of their own to explore the great wonder that is TEXAS!” His already contagious energy is somehow enhanced while taking the viewers to every inch of the grand state.

The crew that helps make it all possible is there for literally every move whether he is maneuvering through the extremely claustrophobic depths of the Enchanted Rock cave or taking a spontaneous break to swing from a tree into the San Marcos River. Upon first conceiving of the idea, Garner called fellow UT Film School Alum, Nate Locklear, who was instantly convinced to become his co-producer and cameraman. The other members who joined them in their mission are Richie Lozano as editor and sound technician, Mary Adolph who oversees production, and Kellie Baldwin who began as their intern but became a “full-fledged” member of the Daytripper team.

As natural as this career path has been for Garner, he actually took some “back roads” to land where he is today with the show. After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in film, he went to law school and graduated first in his class at Baylor University. Almost immediately after graduation, he found the “high paying law job” he had strived for and realized shortly thereafter he needed to map out an escape route. Returning to his true passions – toting around a video camera and eating Bar-B-Q – his inspiration was reignited, and “The Daytripper” was born.

Outside of hosting the show, Garner is a full-time father and husband and proudly asserts, “No day trip comes close to the joy of home. And when you take home on a day trip – that’s golden.” And these family values obviously carry over into his vision for the show and his plans to keep it all in Texas. “Our purpose is to show Texans the beauty of Texas. Taking it any bigger than that would defeat our purpose.” For more information on “The Daytripper,” please see: [www.thedaytripper.com](http://www.thedaytripper.com).

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