

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS—WAXAHACHIE—WWH—MALLORY

### Gingerbread Capital of Texas

Waxahachie is 30 miles south of Dallas on I-35. The Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau is at 102 YMCA Dr., Box 187, Waxahachie 75168 (937-2390; [www.waxacofc.com](http://www.waxacofc.com)). There's also a visitors center on the square at the Ellis County Museum (listed below under attractions).

Both locations offer free brochures on local and area attractions, events, lodging, restaurants, and shopping. They also provide free walking and driving tour guides covering more than 250 historic residential, religious, governmental, and commercial structures.

For bus groups, the chamber arranges step-on guides (\$25 per guide per day) and non-event historic homes tours (\$100 per home per bus).

**The area code is 972.**

### Historic Structures

The main attraction on the walking/driving tours is the **Ellis County Courthouse** (101 W. Main; closed until winter 2001 for interior restoration).

Other popular sites, which are also on the Gingerbread Trail Tour (see "Events" below for details), include: the **Ellis County Museum** (201 S. College; 937-0681, [www.rootsweb.com/~txecm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txecm)), open Tue-Sat 10-5 and Sun 12-4 (not wheelchair accessible), free admission (donations accepted); the **Chautauqua Auditorium** in **Getzendaner Memorial Park** (Grand Ave. 3 blocks south of W.

Main), open only during the Gingerbread Trail and special events (The park is open year-round with picnicking, playground, and walking trails.); the **Ellis County Fine Arts Museum** (501 W. Main; 937-3910), open Tue-Fri 10-3 or by appointment for groups; and **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** (308 Monroe; 937-4582), with services Sun at 8 and 10:30 and Wed at 7.

The driving tour also details: **Southwestern Assemblies of God University** (1200 Sycamore), on the former Trinity University campus; **Nicholas P. Sims Library** (515 W. Main; 937-2671), open Tue-Sat 9-5:30 and (Sept.-May) Thu 9-8; **Ferris Ward School** (411 Gibson), now a school administration building; **Wyatt Street Shotgun Houses Historic District** (302-314 Wyatt St.); and **Waxahachie City Cemetery** (from the square take W. Jefferson St. to Hawkins St. and go south two blocks).

### Dining

**The Dove's Nest Restaurant:** 105 W. Jefferson; 938-3683 (; **Catfish Plantation:** 814 Water St.; 937-9468. **Creola Cafe:** 200 S. Rogers; 938-2290. **Scarlett's Place:** 115 E. Franklin; 923-2398. **Crazy Horse Cafe:** 103 E. Main (in the Rogers Hotel); 938-9818. **The 1879 Townhouse Restaurant & Bakery:** 111 S. College; 937-7261.

### Historic Lodging

**The Rosemary Mansion:** 903 W. Main; 935-9439 or 923-1181; [www.texasguides.com/rosemarymansion.html](http://www.texasguides.com/rosemarymansion.html)). **The Harrison:** 717 W. Main; 888/354-5761 or 938-1922; [www.harrisonbb.com](http://www.harrisonbb.com). **Caska House** and

**Hemingway's Retreat:** 716 W. Main; 800-931-339 or 937-3390;  
www.chaskabb.com. **BonnyNook Inn:** 414 W. Main; 938-7207.

The newly-restored 1912 **Rogers Hotel** (on the square at 103 E. Main; 938-3688) features 27 rooms and suites—as well as soon-to-be-open bar/deli, bakery/coffee shop, and gift shop. (FACT-CHECKER: MAKE SURE THE NEW ADDITIONS ACTUALLY ARE HAPPENING)

### **Shopping**

Waxahachie boast many **antique and gift shops** located in historic structures. For a complete list, contact the chamber (see above). For folk art in a historic setting, try **Webb Gallery** (209 W. Franklin, 938-8085, www.webbartgallery.com). Hours: Sat-Sun, 1-5 and by appointment.

### **Events**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual **Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes** (June 2-3, 2001) features a self-paced tour of 5 historic homes and several historic buildings. Meet North Texas radio and TV personalities at each home and get their favorite ginger recipes. An arts & crafts fair will be at Singleton Plaza (204 N. Rogers), one block north of the square, next to the 1888 Old Ellis County Jail (200 N. Rogers). Hours for tour and fair: 10-6 each day. Tickets and information are available at the Ellis County Museum (201 S. College; 937-0681) or tour homes. (Free shuttle buses leave the museum periodically throughout the day.) Admission: \$12 adults, and \$6 ages 5-12. Advance tickets bought by May 25 are \$2 off. Call 888/428-7245 and charge on Visa/MasterCard. The 1895 Texas Theater (110 W. Main on the square), currently closed, will open during the tour

for showings of a 16-minute video on the courthouse; contact the Ellis County Museum for times.

**Scarborough Faire** Renaissance festival continues each Sat-Sun through June 3. Take I-35 exit 399A and go west on FM 66 for 1.6 mi to the entrance. Hours: 10-7 rain or shine. Admission: \$15.99 adults, \$6 ages 5-12, free under 5. For details write to Box 538, Waxahachie 75168 (938-3247; [www.scarboroughrenfest.com](http://www.scarboroughrenfest.com)). (The terror theme park **Screams** is held at the same location during weekends in October. Call 938-3247.)

The **Cow Creek Country Classic Bike Rally** (June 23, 2001), sponsored by the Waxahachie Rotary Club, starts at 7:30 a.m. at Waxahachie H.S., 1000 N. Dallas Hwy./US 77 Business, and features several distances, plus an all-terrain bike trail. Registration fee: \$XX(TBA by fact-checking). Call 937-2390.

The **Crape Myrtle Festival & Driving Trail** (July 3-4, 2001) includes: July 3, a free fireworks show and concert by the Dallas Wind Symphony at dusk, approximately 7:30 p.m., at Lumpkins Stadium (from downtown take N. Dallas Hwy./US 77 Business to Waxahachie H.S. and turn east on Indian Dr.); July 4, a 10 a.m. parade on W. Main St., and an arts & crafts fair 11-4 at Getzendaner Park with free admission. Call 937-2390.

The **Waxahachie Community Theatre** presents *Always Patsy Cline* in August. Admission: \$15 per person. For dates and details, write Box 2102, Waxahachie 75168 or call P.J. Searsy, 217-1791. The theatre also presents *State Fair* at the Chautauqua Auditorium in Getzendaner Park on Oct. 26-27,

2001 (7:30 p.m.) and Oct. 28, 2001 (2:30 p.m.). Admission: \$9 adults, \$7 students and seniors.

The **Chautauqua Preservation Society** holds a day-long “assembly” on Sept. 29, 2001, in its historic Chautauqua Auditorium (see above for location). Featured will be 10-12 historic and artistic presentations including: music of Chopin performed by Dr. Nina Drath, founder of the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Texas; science program by Dallas teacher George “Captain Chemistry” Hague; birds of prey show by Pierre Bradshaw of On the Wing Again; and western swing concert by the famed Light Crust Doughboys. For times, contact Kirk Hunter, 1112 W. Jefferson, Waxahachie 75165 (937-8887; khmm@hpnc.com). All-day admission: \$25 adults (\$20 pre-registration); Friend of Chautauqua members \$20 (\$15 pre-registration); student \$10 (\$8 pre-registration). Evening performance only: \$8 adults, \$4 student.

The Waxahachie Symphony Assn. presents the **Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra** (Sept. 30, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.) at Waxahachie HS Fine Arts Center, 1000 N. Dallas Hwy./US 77 Business. Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 students.

**Bob Phillips’ Texas Country Reporter Festival** (Nov. 3, 2001) features a parade, plus entertainment and arts & crafts spotlighted on Phillips’ popular TV travelog. Admission: free. Call 938-9827.

The **Candlelight Historic Home Tour** (Nov. 23-25 and Dec. 1-2 & 8-9, 2001) features 15 homes decorated for the holidays. Hours: 2-8 p.m. Admission: \$12 adults, and \$6 ages 5-12. Advance tickets bought by Nov. 16 are \$2 off (call 888/428-7245 and charge on Visa/MasterCard). Call 937-2390.

**Bethlehem Revisited** (Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-2 & 7-9, 2001) is a dramatization of the birth of Christ held behind Central Presbyterian Church (402 N. College). Hours: 6-9 p.m. Admission: free (donations accepted). Call 937-2390.

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