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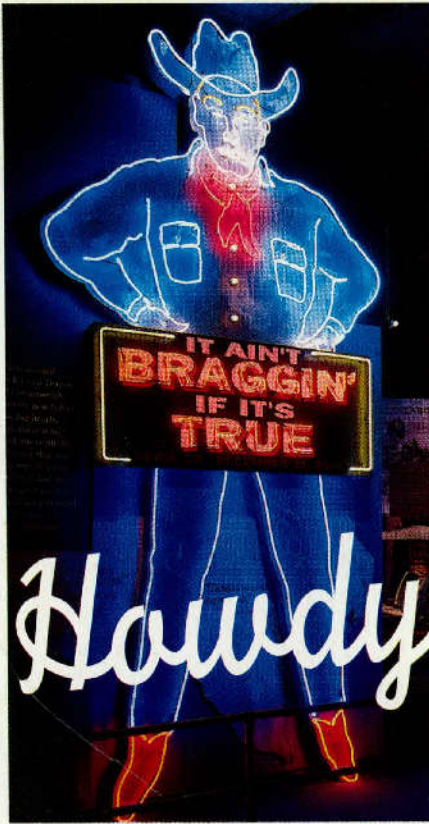
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# WELCOME TO THE TANTALIZING TERRITORY THAT IS TEXAS.

**Y**ou will find enticing diversity here—in the scenery, the history, the food, and the people. And you will discover a hospitality born of gracious Southern roots, sprinkled with old-fashioned Western grit, and spiced with the cultures and customs of Hispanic, German, Czech, and two dozen or so other significant ancestries. Texas is, indeed, like a whole other country.

Scenery ranges from craggy mountains in the west to pine forests in the east. And, in between, landscapes showcase surf-kissed beaches, stream-carved canyons, and cedar-studded hills. Two national parks offer spectacular panoramas, and more than 120 state parks provide camping and picnicking amid attractive surroundings. In the spring, bluebonnets (the official state wildflower) mingle with other blossoms of red and yellow and white to paint stunning roadside scenes.

Energizing cities and charming communities invite you to stay awhile and share in their treasures. You can visit outstanding museums, thought-provoking historic sites, and excellent zoos. And you can tarry awhile in marvelous resorts and charming small inns.

Throughout the state, a fascinating melange of restaurants will delight you, as well. Cuisines, especially in the larger cities, prove as varied as the many faces of Texas. Asian, Pacific Rim, Thai, Southwestern, and a full slate of other popular foods now grace almost as many menus as favorites such as barbecue, chicken-fried steak, charbroiled T-bones, fried catfish, and Mexican food.

Kick up your adrenaline aboard a colossal roller coaster and slow down the pace with a walk down a nature trail. Shop at a Mexican-style market or a discount mega-mall. Try out your golf game at dozens of challenging courses. Watch an exhilarating sport: football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and NASCAR racing—you name it; Texas has it. And, of course, you can savor the flavor of the Old West at dude ranches, rodeos, and chuck-wagon dinners throughout the state.

Festivals and fairs abound. Say hello to “Big Tex” at Dallas’ State Fair of Texas. Crack a piñata at Fiesta San Antonio. Lift a lager at Fredericksburg’s Oktoberfest. And salute the spirit of America at Laredo’s Washington’s Day Celebration.

**Come along and join the festivities. Texas welcomes you!**

X51422848

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

**T**exas is a big place—really big. Need an example? Well, the distance between Houston and Big Bend National Park is 603 miles; That's 10 hours traveling by car at 60 mph, and you still haven't left the state!

So, we've divided this Guide into seven regions: Panhandle Plains, Prairies and Lakes, Piney Woods, Gulf Coast, South Texas Plains, Hill Country, and Big Bend Country. The cities and towns in each respective region are listed alphabetically, so you can quickly find and read about them as you travel through the vastly different areas that make up the great state of Texas.

At the beginning of each regional section you'll find a detailed map as well as an overview describing the distinct features that define each region. Following the regional sections, you'll find a thorough listing of all lakes in Texas. In addition, there's also a listing of state and national forests included for your reference.

We've included listings for chamber of commerces and convention and visitor bureaus who belong to the Texas Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau. Addresses and phone numbers are included if you need more information.

Highway designations in the book include I- for Interstate highways, US for U.S. highways, Texas for state highways, and F.M. and R.M. for Texas Farm-to-Market or Ranch-to-Market roads. Remember, Texas is a very big state with lots of roadways, so make sure you plan ahead if you are motoring through the state.

**Thanks for visiting and enjoy your stay in the Lone Star State!**

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**Use this guide to help you discover the wondrous treasures that Texas has to offer:**

*Texas State Travel Guide* is published by the Texas Department of Transportation, 150 E. Riverside, Austin, Texas, 78704. The guide encourages recreational travel to and within the state by listing Texas cities with publicly accessible sites of scenic, historical, and recreational interest.

*NOTE: We want your Texas experience to be filled with the great sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of our wonderful state. However, changes often occur with attractions. Hours change, days of operation change, and unfortunately, some attractions close. So, to ensure your visit to the Lone Star State to be the best possible, we urge you to call ahead to verify with the local chamber of commerce or attraction if the attraction will be open during the time of your visit. Welcome to Texas, ya'll!*



Michael Arador/TXDOT

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**Introducing the new digital gateway to the Lone Star State;**

**TravelTex.com**, the official Web site of Texas tourism. Whether you're just beginning to plan a Texas vacation or ready to book hotel and flight reservations, TravelTex.com has everything you need to plan your travel. Updated event schedules, reservation tools, online coupons, free publications and more are all available with just a few clicks of your mouse. If it's in Texas, you'll find it on [TravelTex.com](http://TravelTex.com). Just stop by and visit awhile.

**Want to find out more about travel and tourism destinations in Texas?**

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Texas Commission on the Arts are vital parts of Texas' tourism effort. Visit their Web sites to find out more info about all kinds of interesting things to see and do while you're in the Lone Star State. From visiting a state park, to touring a historical landmark or even going to a museum or catching a great play or show, the links below can point you to all kinds of wonderful adventures:

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department web site)

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) (Texas Historical Commission web site)

[www.artonart.com](http://www.artonart.com) (Texas Commission on the Arts web site)

**For more information, visit these Web sites:**

[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) (Texas Highways online magazine)

[www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us) (Texas Department of Public Safety web site)

[www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) (Texas Department of Transportation web site)

*Texas State Travel Guide* is available on tape for the visually disabled. It can be obtained through the Texas State Library.

For more information about the Guide, write to:

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Texas Department of Transportation  
Travel Division  
P.O. Box 141009  
Austin, TX 78714-1009

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# EVENTS IN TEXAS

The listings on this page represent only a sampling of the events happening statewide. For a more detailed schedule of Texas events visit the Web site at [www.traveltexas.com](http://www.traveltexas.com), or write for a copy of the quarterly *TEXAS EVENTS CALENDAR* at PO Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249.

## JANUARY

### FORT WORTH

Southwestern Exposition, Livestock Show & Rodeo

### MISSION

Texas Citrus Fiesta

### PORT ARTHUR

Janis Joplin Birthday Bash

## FEBRUARY

### EL PASO

Southwestern Livestock Show & Rodeo

### GALVESTON

Mardi Gras

### HOUSTON

Houston Livestock Show

### LAREDO

Washington's Birthday Celebration

### SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo

## MARCH

### ALPINE

Cowboy Poetry Gathering

### DALLAS

Dallas Blooms

### DUBLIN

St. Patrick's Festival

### FULTON

Oysterfest

### HOUSTON

River Oaks Azalea Trail

### MERCEDES

Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo

### PALESTINE

Dogwood Trails

### SAN ANGELO

San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo

### TYLER

Azalea & Spring Flower Trail

### WASHINGTON

Texas Independence Day Celebration

## WOODVILLE

Tyler County Dogwood Festival

## APRIL

### BEAUMONT

Neches River Festival

### CORPUS CHRISTI

Buccaneer Days

### HALLETTVILLE

Texas State Championship Fiddlers' Frolic

### HIGHLAND LAKES AREA

(Buchanan Dam, Burnet, Lampasas, Llano, Marble Falls) Bluebonnet Trail Celebration

### HOUSTON

Houston International Festival

### HUNTSVILLE

General Sam Houston Folklife Festival

### POTEET

Strawberry Festival

### ROUND TOP

Winedale Spring Festival & Texas Crafts Exhibition

### SAN ANTONIO

Fiesta San Antonio

### TURKEY

Bob Wills Day

### WACO

Brazos River Festival

### WAXAHACHIE

Scarborough Faire

## MAY

### ABILENE

Western Heritage Classic

### ATHENS

Texas Fiddlers' Contest/Reunion

### CRYSTAL BEACH

Texas Crab Festival

### COLUMBUS

Live Oak Festival

### EL PASO

"Viva! El Paso"

### MARSHALL

Stagecoach Days

### KERRVILLE

Kerrville Folk Festival  
Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair

### SAN MARCOS

Viva! Cinco de Mayo

## JUNE

### ALBANY

Fort Griffin Fandangle

### CANYON

"Texas"

## JACKSONVILLE

Tomato Festival

## LONGVIEW

Alley Festival

## LULING

Watermelon Thump

## SAN ANTONIO

Texas Folklife Festival

## SULPHUR SPRINGS

Hopkins County Dairy Festival

## JULY

### LAMPASAS

Spring Ho Festival

### LONGVIEW

Great Texas Balloon Race

### STAMFORD

Texas Cowboy Reunion

### WEATHERFORD

Parker County Peach Festival

## AUGUST

### DALHART

XIT Rodeo & Reunion

### FREDERICKSBURG

Gillespie County Fair

### WEST

Westfest

### WICHITA FALLS

Hotter 'N Hell Hundred

## SEPTEMBER

### ABILENE

West Texas Fair & Rodeo

### AMARILLO

Tri-State Fair

### ARANSAS PASS

Shrimporee

### BOYS RANCH

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo

### BRENHAM

Washington County Fair

### CALDWELL

Kolache Festival

### CORPUS CHRISTI

Bayfest

### DALLAS

State Fair of Texas

### DEL RIO

Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration

### GRAND PRAIRIE

National Championship Indian Powwow

### LUBBOCK

Panhandle South Plains Fair

## LUFKIN

Texas Forest Festival

## ODESSA

Permian Basin Fair & Expo

## PLANO

Balloon Festival

## ROCKPORT/FULTON

Hummer/Bird Celebration

## OCTOBER

### FLATONIA

Czhillispiel

### FREDERICKSBURG

Oktoberfest

### GILMER

East Texas Yamboree

### GONZALES

"Come & Take It" Days

### PLANTERSVILLE

Texas Renaissance Festival

### ROCKPORT

Seafair

### TYLER

Texas Rose Festival

### WINNIE

Texas Rice Festival

### WINNSBORO

Autumn Trails

## NOVEMBER

### CRYSTAL CITY

Spinach Festival

### MARSHALL

Wonderland of Lights

### NEW BRAUNFELS

Wurstfest

### SAN ANTONIO

Holiday River Parade

### TERLINGUA

Original International Tolbert/Fowler Memorial Championship Chili Cookoff

Terlingua International Chili Championship

### JEFFERSON

Christmas Candlelight Tour

## DECEMBER

### GALVESTON

Dickens on the Strand

### GRANBURY

Candlelight Tour

### LUBBOCK

Candlelight Christmas at the Ranch

### SAN ANGELO

Christmas at Old Fort Concho

### SAN ANTONIO

Fiesta de las Luminarias

Las Posadas

go...<sup>SM</sup>

explore.



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Amarillo  
Austin  
Corpus Christi  
Denton  
El Paso  
Fort Worth

Dallas  
Central Expressway  
Mockingbird  
North - Richardson  
Stemmons

Houston  
Astrodome  
Hobby Airport  
West  
Odessa

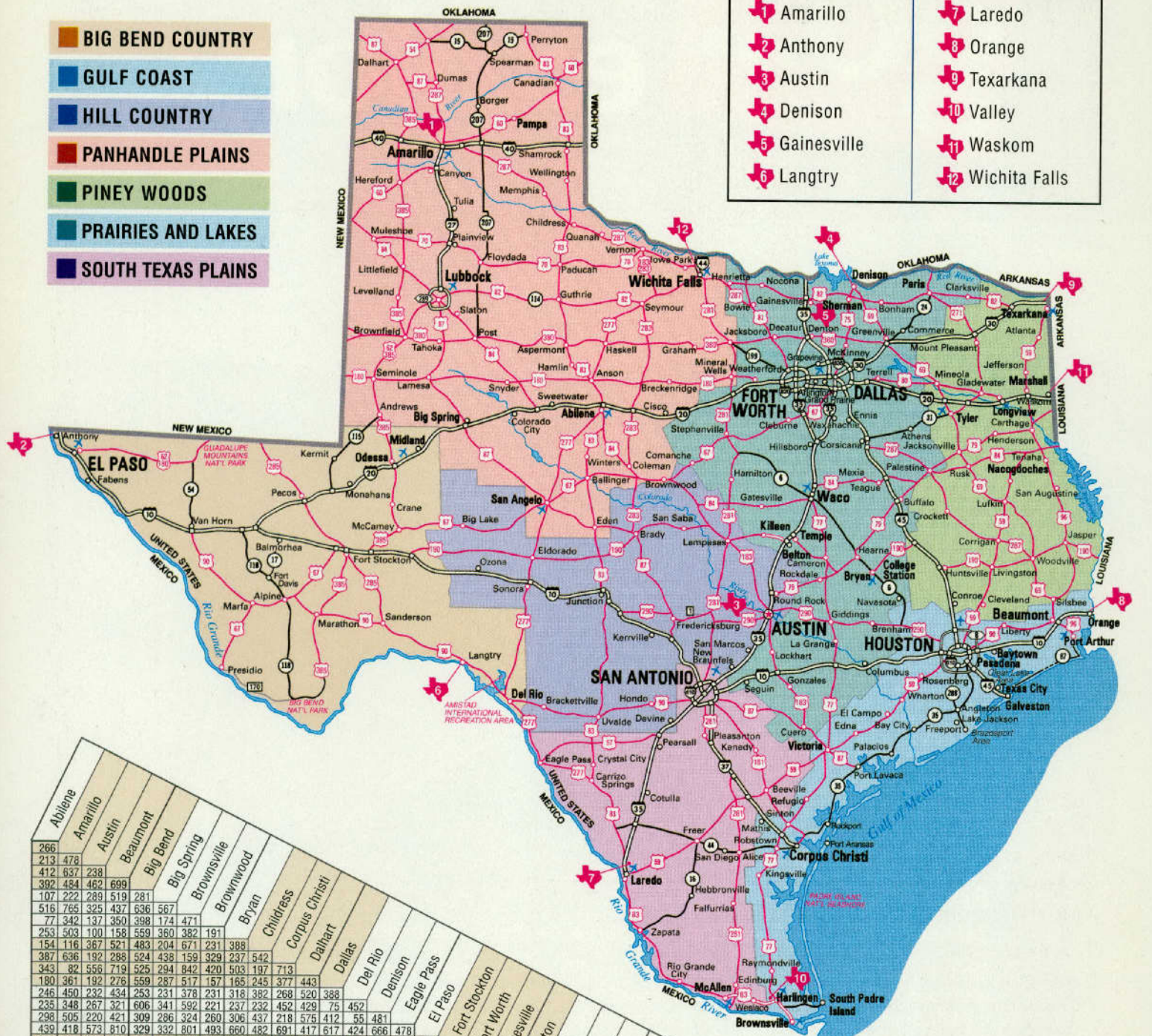
San Antonio  
Downtown Market Square  
Hill Country  
South Padre Island  
Tyler

\*Radisson Go Package rates are per night, subject to change and availability. Some restrictions apply.

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS

- 1 Amarillo
- 2 Anthony
- 3 Austin
- 4 Denison
- 5 Gainesville
- 6 Langtry
- 7 Laredo
- 8 Orange
- 9 Texarkana
- 10 Valley
- 11 Waskom
- 12 Wichita Falls

- BIG BEND COUNTRY
- GULF COAST
- HILL COUNTRY
- PANHANDLE PLAINS
- PINEY WOODS
- PRAIRIES AND LAKES
- SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

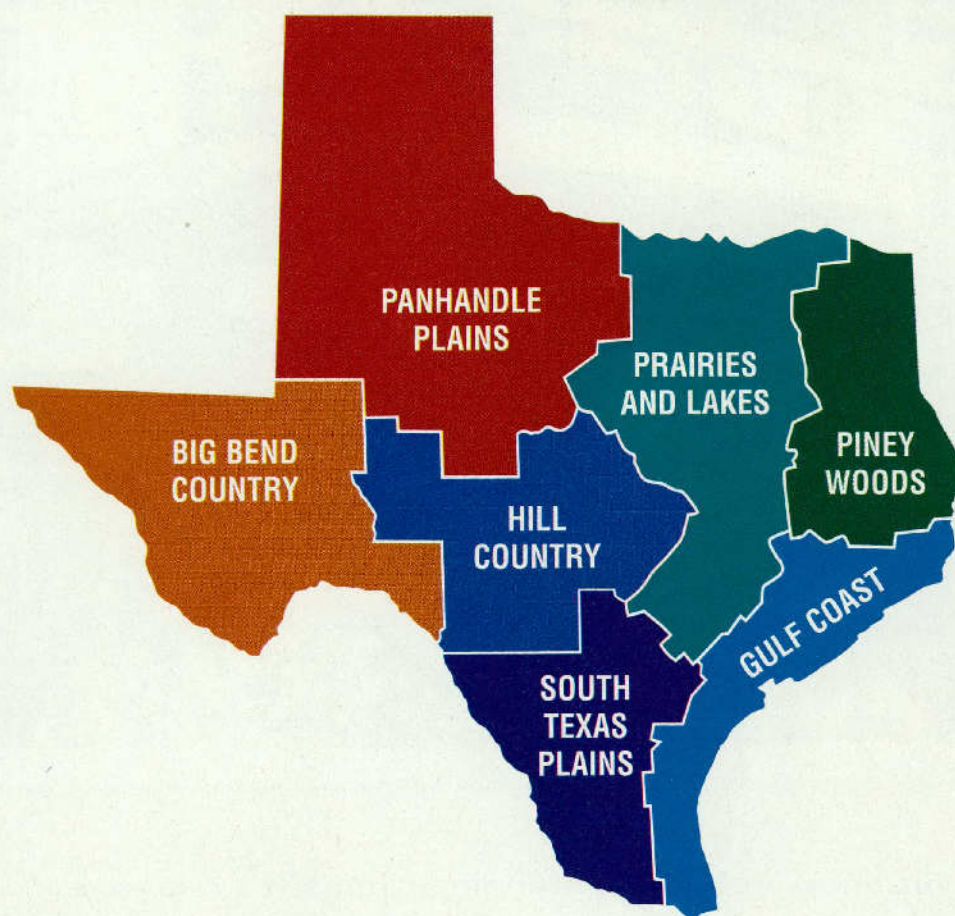


Ablene	Amarillo	Austin	Beaumont	Big Bend	Big Spring	Brownsville	Brownwood	Bryan	Childress	Corpus Christi	Dalhart	Dallas	Del Rio	Denison	Eagle Pass	El Paso	Fort Stockton	Fort Worth	Gainesville	Galveston	Houston	Huntsville	Junction	Kingsville	Laredo	Longview	Lubbock	Lufkin	McAllen	Odessa	Orange	Dzonia	Paris	Pecos	San Angelo	San Antonio	South Padre Is.	Temple	Texarkana	Tyler	Van Horn	Victoria	Waco	Wichita Falls																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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# THE SEVEN REGIONS OF TEXAS



**S**ay “Texas” and think **BIG**. Big country. Big hospitality. And big opportunities for a fun-filled vacation. But the state is so large (some 275,416 square miles that encompass 254 counties) that the “big picture” can sometimes become a confusing jumble of cities and towns and lakes and parks.

And a guide such as this one, if it is presented strictly alphabetically, might describe a city in the Panhandle, followed by a town in the Hill Country, almost 500 miles away.

To make it easier to learn about traveling in Texas and to add to your reading enjoyment, this guidebook has adopted seven regions of the state. They coincide with those originated by the Texas tourism industry and with the listings in the quarterly *Texas Events Calendar*, as well as those used by *Texas Highways*, the official travel magazine of Texas.

The regions progress alphabetically by title, with listings of the cities and towns they enclose from A to Z. The sections begin with the Big Bend Country in far West Texas.

The Big Bend Country region contains the state’s two national parks, as well as cities such as Del Rio, El Paso, Midland, and Odessa. (The guide, of course, also lists and describes most of the small communities within each section.)

Next comes the Gulf Coast, which stretches from the Texas-Louisiana border southward to Brownsville, and covers Beaumont, Houston, Galveston, and Corpus Christi. The Hill Country section encompasses the geographical center of the state (near Brady) and includes the capital city of Austin, LBJ National and State parks, as well as Fredericksburg.

In the Panhandle Plains, you will find Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, and Wichita Falls and beautiful Palo Duro Canyon State Park. The Piney Woods brings you a large segment of East Texas, including Marshall, Texarkana, and Tyler.

Prairies and Lakes sweeps down through the center of the state and embraces Bryan-College Station, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Waco, while the South Texas Plains presents the lower Rio Grande Valley towns of McAllen and Mission, along with Laredo and San Antonio to the north.

An introduction describes each region and many of the sites and sights within it, and a map gives you a snapshot view of the area. Photographs throughout the guide illustrate the colorful attractions awaiting you.

**Read on, and have a big time in Texas!**



After eight hours in the car, you might think it's a mirage.

When you're finished exploring the ranches, historic towns and other attractions along the wide Texas plains, you'll appreciate few sights more than a Hampton™ hotel. When you visit any one of our 64 locations in the Lone Star State, you'll enjoy a free breakfast bar and our 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. And you can earn Hilton HHonors® hotel points and airline miles throughout your stay. So come join us. When you're on the road, there's no better place to stay. For reservations, visit us at [hamptoninn.com](http://hamptoninn.com) or call 1-800-HAMPTON®.

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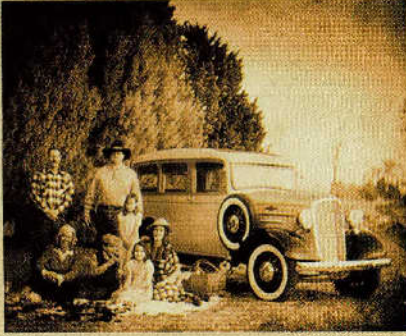


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# BIG BEND COUNTRY



**I**n Big Bend Country, the sky's no limit. Nowhere else in Texas do the stars at night shine quite so bright or the sunsets seem quite so rosy. Here, too, the earth displays its own vigor. Prickly pear cacti bloom with fuchsia ferocity and golden exuberance, as desert vistas shimmer far into the distance. Nomadic tumbleweeds bounce erratically across lonesome prairies, and craggy mountain peaks form a jagged phalanx on the horizon. Nature needs no introduction in this awe-inspiring terrain.

Two spectacular national parks—Guadalupe Mountains on the north and Big Bend on the south—encapsulate the rugged grandeur of the area and provide an outdoor feast for hikers, campers, naturalists, artists, and all who savor nature's untamed beauty.

Cities carve out a comfortable niche here as well. On the western edge of the region, venerable El Paso enchants visitors with its multicultural festivities, multisplendored cuisines, and numerous museums. On the eastern rim, Midland, Odessa, and Del Rio invite you to enjoy an eclectic array of attractions such as a collection of vintage airplanes, a Shakespearcan theater, and the recreational opportunities of massive Amistad International Reservoir. And in between, towns like Pecos, Fort Davis, Alpine, Marfa, and Marathon serve up surprises of their own, including ghostly lights, frontier forts, and splendid views of the heavens.

Let's take a leisurely tour across the diverse landscape and vast terrain that is Big Bend Country.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

## PARKS ALONG THE RIO

Tucked into the inner elbow of the Rio Grande as it meanders southward, Big Bend National Park spreads across more than 801,000 acres of land so diverse that the Chihuahuan Desert floor gives way to Chisos Mountain peaks in mere minutes. Hikers find some 150 miles of trails within the park's confines and campers can occupy primitive campgrounds and sites with RV hookups. In the Chisos Basin, a lodge provides a restaurant and accommodations for those unprepared for roughing it.

Options abound. You can walk a short and easy path to the base of fabled Santa Elena Canyon, where the Rio Grande cuts a bronze swath through soaring 150-foot limestone walls. Or, you can don serious hiking gear and trek to the South Rim of the Chisos Mountains for an unparalleled view. At your feet, a vast, undulating landscape rolls southward some 16 miles to the Rio Grande and the country of Mexico.

Rafters often ply their crafts along the Rio Grande here. It's a great way to gain a refreshing perspective of the park—and you don't have to set sail on your own. Several professional river outfitters in the area will gladly provide gear and guides.

Wildlife in Big Bend National Park ranges from jackrabbits to javelinas and from beavers to black bears, though many of the park's four-footed creatures venture out mostly at night. Throughout the park, birders seek a peek at some of the 450 species found here, including the rare Colima warbler and the golden eagle.

West of the national park lies the approximately 270,000-acre Big Bend Ranch State Park. Like its national park neighbor, the state park boasts desert lands, mountains, canyons, and waterfalls, but there are few modern amenities here. Hikers and backpackers encounter a rugged brand of nature that encompasses two mountain ranges with long-extinct volcanoes, while sites along the scenic River Road (FM 170) offer rafters and canoers access to the waters of the Rio Grande.

The park's eastern gateway, Warnock Environmental Education Center, showcases Chihuahuan desert plants, as well as the archeology, history, and natural resources of the Big Bend. Fort Leaton, the western visitor center

for the park, stands on the site of an 1848 adobe trading post. Here you'll find historic ruins, interpretive exhibits, and shaded picnic areas.

### SCOUTING THE AREA

Although the vast parklands draw lots of visitors to this area of Big Bend Country, other interesting sights and pastimes exist here as well, providing intriguing, and sometimes quirky, attractions.

In Lajitas, the Old West rises up to meet you, as you visit shops, offices, and eating places where buildings boast frontier-like façades. And where else can you greet an office-holding billy goat that swills beer? At the Lajitas Trading Post, say howdy to brew-guzzling goat Clay Henry III, the duly elected "mayor" of the town.

And then there's *chili*! Each fall at the old ghost town of Terlingua, you can join about 5,000 rabid chili fans, who stoke their fires—and your palate—during heated chili cookoffs.

### GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Some 240 miles north of the Big Bend, along the Texas-New Mexico border, 86,416-acre Guadalupe Mountains National Park safeguards its own share of natural treasures. Fortress-like El Capitan mountain and nearby Guadalupe Peak, Texas' highest point at 8,749 feet, provide a dramatic introduction to the park's spectacular scenery.

The Guadalupe Mountains site includes four of the highest peaks in Texas, as well as glorious McKittrick Canyon, where aspens, madrones, and maples mingle their crimson, bronze, and yellow hues to breathtaking advantage in the autumn.

Though you can drive through the southeastern edge of the park, you can appreciate Guadalupe Mountains fully only by hiking into the interior. Backpackers who appreciate Nature at her most solitary particularly enjoy long hikes into the park's inner regions. Some 80 miles of trails lead through stands of Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and mountain junipers, and to upland meadows, where deer and elk graze. Day-trippers savor the short excursion into the more accessible environs of McKittrick Canyon.

Since Guadalupe Mountains National Park lies miles from communities of any size, be prepared to "rough it" in these isolated but beautiful surroundings. But if you treasure extraordinary and remote natural beauty, Guadalupe Mountains National Park rewards every challenge.

Blessed with Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Big Bend Ranch State Park, Big Bend Country boasts almost 1,170,000 acres of wilderness terrain that offer scenic vistas and outdoor adventures you will never forget.

**"El Camino del Rio," Spanish for "The River Road," stretches from Lajitas northwest to Presidio offering one of the most spectacular drives in Texas**



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

**Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in Midland**

### EL PASO DEL NORTE

Okay. You've hiked. You've rafted. You've camped under the stars. You've seen nature at her comeliest and quirkiest. But it's time to move on. Now you're ready to rub elbows with Texans in the big city. Let's begin with gusto—in El Paso.

Sprawled along the westernmost tip of the state, delineated by the Rio Grande and Franklin Mountains, El Paso combines metropolitan modernity with a delightful bicultural charm born of its 16th-Century Spanish origins. The city, which grew from settlements that date to 1598, forms the largest U.S. city on the Mexican border and sits across the Rio Grande from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

El Paso offers activities and places of interest that can entertain you for days. You can tour historic sites, including missions such as Nuestra Señora del Carmen—called Ysleta Mission by El Pasoans—founded by Spanish Franciscans in the early 1680s (thus predating those established in California in the late 18th Century). At the 1875 adobe Magoffin Home (a state historical park), you can view original family furnishings and learn how an affluent El Paso family lived in the 19th Century.

You can explore a dozen museums in the city and in neighboring Fort Bliss that offer artwork and exhibits as varied as the vivid fiberglass sculptures of Luis Jimenez, a portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, and replicas of the original adobe buildings at Fort Bliss.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

For a birds-eye view of El Paso and adjacent Juárez, go to Franklin Mountains State Park on the western rim of the city. Here, you can take a five-minute ride aboard the Wyler Aerial Tramway, which climbs 940 feet to a vantage point on Ranger Peak. Look around you at a scene that encompasses some 7,000 square miles, two countries, and three states. Awesome!

If shopping is your game, El Paso is your game board. Specialty stores sell imported furnishings and exotic art objects, foodstuffs, such as spicy salsas and seasonings, cowboy boots made from snakeskin and ostrich hide, and scores of other unusual items.

Time for dinner? Head about 35 miles southeast toward the town of Fabens, where Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch cooks up char-broiled steaks extraordinaire and plentiful Western atmosphere to boot. Where else can you polish off a T-bone amidst a display of antique saddles, while watching the sunset paint the horizon a dusky red and gold?

Sports teams, such as professional baseball, soccer, and hockey, as well as college football and baseball, find a lively home in El Paso. The city also boasts some of the finest—and most inexpensive—public golf courses in the state. And for the kids, Wet 'n' Wild Waterworld (near Anthony) and Western Playland Park provide hours of frolicsome fun.

At the Tigua Indian Reservation at Ysleta (the oldest community in the present boundaries of Texas), you can visit a museum that focuses on the Tigua's cultural history, and then play bingo and other games of chance at their Speaking Rock casino.

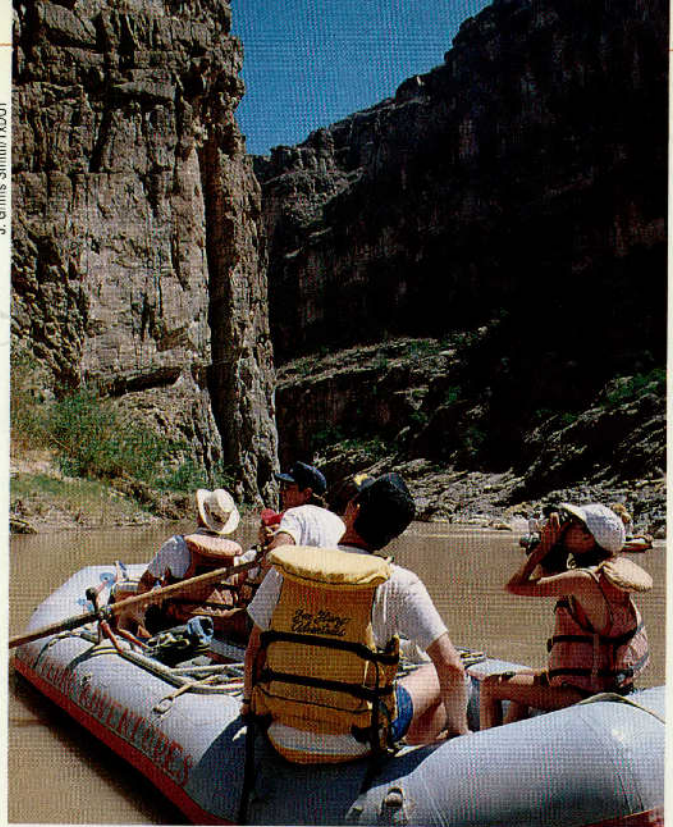
Wrap up your trip to El Paso with a scenic drive along the Rim Road for a look at this captivating city and its sister, Juárez, as they unfold below, joined by the silver sliver that is the Rio Grande.

## POINTS CENTRAL

Deep in the heart of Big Bend Country, towns such as Marfa, Marathon, Fort Davis, and Langtry tantalize you with glimpses of the rough-and-tumble Old West. They provide some unlikely surprises, as well. In Fort Stockton, you can salute Paisano Pete, probably the "world's largest roadrunner," and visit the restored Grey Mule Saloon, while at Iraan, you can say howdy to the old cartoon character Alley Oop at Fantasyland.

In the summer, take a dip in the cool waters of Balmorhea State Park's artesian pool, fed at the rate of more than 22 million gallons a day by San Solomon Springs. Slice up a rich, juicy cantaloupe from the fertile fields of Pecos for a luscious taste treat, then visit the West-of-the-Pecos Museum,

**Texas' oldest mission, Corpus Christi de la Ysleta in El Paso, dates from 1681**



**Rafting in Big Bend National Park**

where 50 rooms of exhibits enlighten you about Pecos and West Texas. In any season, you can surf the sands of Monahans Sandhills State Park, near Monahans, where 4,000 acres of wind-sculpted sand dunes provide an unusual playground.

For an out-of-this-world experience, try Marfa. This friendly community has gained worldwide fame for its "Marfa Lights," an unexplained, unscheduled, and unchoreographed nighttime phenomena of bright orbs that swoop and pulsate on the nearby prairie. There's even a special turnout on the highway some nine miles east of town for those who seek the lights.

About 25 miles east of Marfa lies attractive Alpine, the seat of vast Brewster County. Spend some time in the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University and learn about the ancient peoples and the early settlers who shaped this area, then stop by the Last Frontier Museum for a look at rocks, gems, and minerals of the region. You can unearth some unusual gifts at the Woodward Agate Ranch, some 18 miles south of Alpine, where you can search for lovely pom-pom and red-plume agates, as well as precious opals.

Thirty miles further east lies Marathon. Here, you'll find intriguing art galleries that feature one-of-a-kind Mexican and Indian handcrafts and outstanding landscape photography.

North of the Marathon-Alpine-Marfa area, the picturesque Davis Mountains are home to some of the most photogenic sights in Texas. Here, the stark white domes of the McDonald Observatory stand atop Mount Locke, visible for miles against the cobalt sky. During the day, you can tour the observatory, operated by the University of Texas at Austin, for a look at the sun's turbulent surface, and, in the evenings, you can attend "Star Parties" for unparalleled views of the heavens. Davis Mountains State Park, four miles north of Fort Davis, offers pleasant walks, abundant bird life, and the distinctive and charming Indian Lodge hotel, as well as a scenic drive.

Visit the arboretum and cactus greenhouse of the marvelous Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, then spend a reflective hour or so at the impressive Fort Davis National Historic Site. Here, you can listen to the haunting tones of a bugle echo across the parade ground as you explore the fort's reconstructed barracks and other buildings that evoke 19th Century frontier Texas.

Another vivid reminder of the Old West sits some 160 miles southeast of Fort Davis at Langtry. Here, the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, staffed by professional Texas travel counselors, chronicles the life of rascally old Judge Roy Bean, the "Law West of the Pecos," who dispensed his own high-handed brand of justice.

Just a few miles east of Langtry, a highway turnout at the U.S. 90 bridge over the Pecos River provides one of the prettiest views along Texas highways. Below, the river tumbles through precipitous canyon walls as it nears the end of its journey at mighty Amistad International Reservoir. The spot is also near

Seminole Canyon State Park, where you can see 4,000-year-old Indian pictographs and displays that cover the early history of the area. Down the road, the hospitable city of Del Rio awaits.

Del Rio, which bills itself as “The Best of the Border,” is a gateway to huge Amistad International Reservoir, a fishing and boating bonanza, and is home to the oldest bonded winery in Texas, Val Verde Winery, founded by the Qualia family in 1883.

If you looked for Judge Roy Bean’s gravesite at Langtry, you didn’t find it. That’s because Roy and his son Sam are buried here on the expansive grounds of the Whitehead Memorial Museum. When you pay your respects to the old judge, you can also visit the museum’s other many interesting exhibits.

Del Rio’s sister city, Ciudad Acuña, lies just a stone’s throw across the Rio Grande and offers abundant Mexican border town shopping, restaurants, and nightspots.

### MIDLAND AND ODESSA

Aim due east from El Paso about 300 miles [or aim north from Del Rio about 250 miles] and set your sights on the “mini-metroplex” of Midland and Odessa. This dynamic duo on the eastern edge of the Big Bend Country encompasses a wide-ranging assortment of attractions, sports, and activities, and boasts a number of locations where the Bush families, of presidential fame, once resided, worked, and attended school.

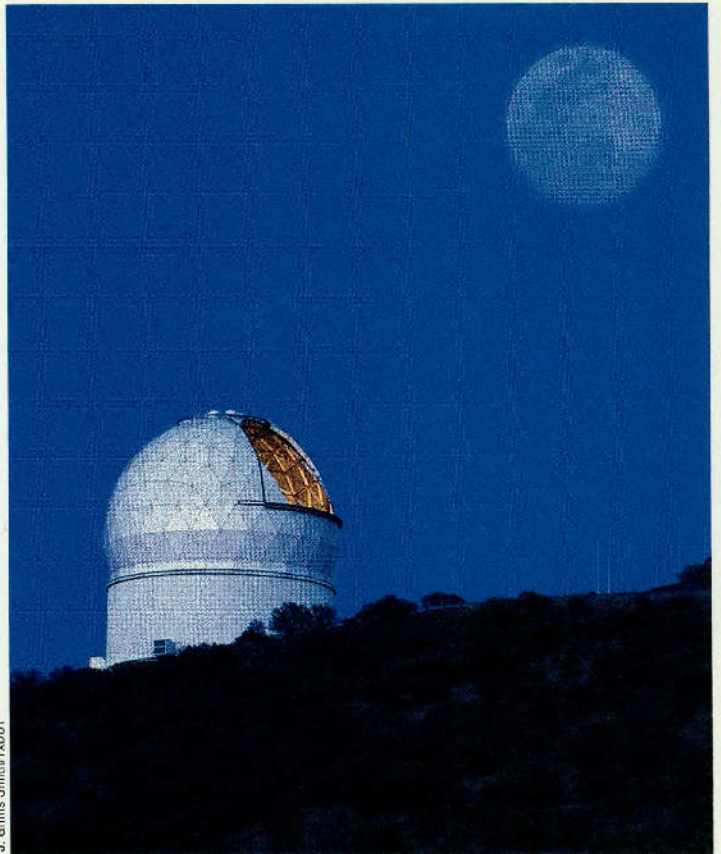
Along with minor league baseball, a 20-acre water park, a nationally recognized community theater, and more than 40 city parks, Midland offers an interesting mixture of museums.

If you thrill to the sights and sounds of beautifully restored vintage airplanes, you will have a field day at the American Airpower Heritage Museum, where you might see a World War II P-51 Mustang and B-17 Flying Fortress. If your quest is geology, at the Petroleum Museum, you can probe the oil-rich Permian Basin through exhibits that re-create the story of oil exploration in West Texas. Other Midland museums offer a planetarium and displays of Western memorabilia, saddles, and guns.

For entertainment on the offbeat side, attend a summer production at the flamboyant 1920s Yucca Theatre, where mummies perform madcap melodramas amidst the theater’s elaborate Assyrian-style architecture.

Odessa, a scant 20 miles to the west, also delights visitors with an uncommon abundance of attractions. Here, you can pose for a snapshot with a 10-foot-high “World’s Largest Jackrabbit.” And—from the slightly ridiculous to the almost sublime—you can also revisit the Shakespearean era at the Globe of the Great Southwest, an authentic replica of the original Globe Theatre in England. The theater hosts Shakespearean plays and other stage productions year round.

### Amistad International Reservoir near Del Rio

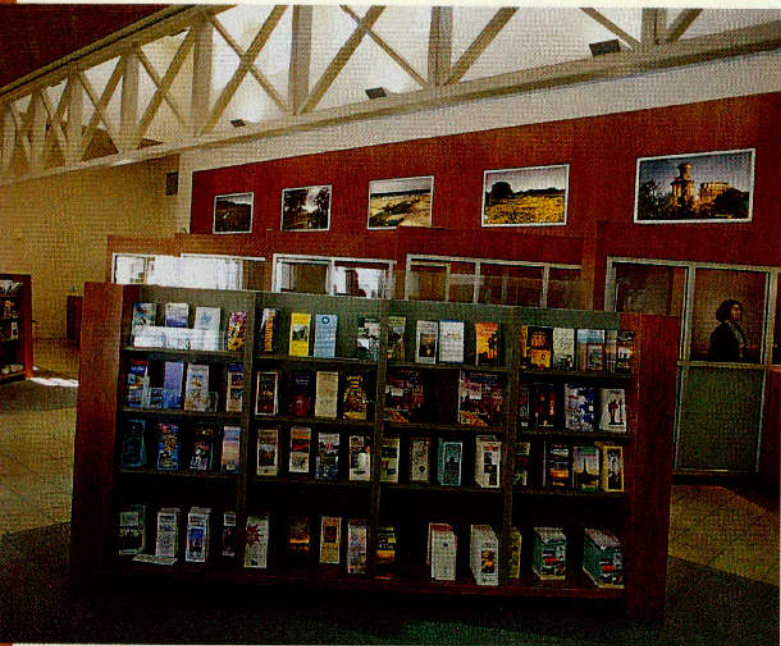


J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT

### McDonald Observatory at Mount Locke near Fort Davis

Exhibits at the Presidential Museum chronicle every U.S. presidency since that of George Washington. Remember “I Like Ike” buttons? Campaign mementos such as buttons, posters, and banners, as well as miniature dolls representing the First Ladies, take you on an interesting walk through American political history. Then, some 10 miles west of town, you can stroll across the spot where a meteor crashed to earth some 20,000 to 30,000 years ago. The Odessa Meteor Crater marks the second largest meteor site in the United States.

Meteors and Marfa Lights. Mountains and metropolises. Stars-so-bright and awesome sights. Savor them all, sprinkled with the Southwestern flavor of Big Bend Country.



Kevin Sullivan/70007

Texas Travel Information Center in Anthony

## ALPINE

Pop. 5,786

Alt. 4,485

Map P-6

**General**—Was established prior to 1882 and it is seat of Brewster County. Today, the city is a retail center and shipping point for huge ranching area, headquarters for mining companies, and home of Sul Ross State Univ. The city is a designated Texas Main Street city and it is the lodging and retail hub between Davis Mountains and Big Bend National Park. Climate and location make town popular vacation area. Visitors enjoy golfing, mountain climbing, rock and mineral collecting, swimming, and camping amid spectacular vistas. During seasons, hunters take mule and white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, javelina, and upland game birds. Golfers find the public golf course a challenge year round.

Visitors can usually watch collegiate cowboys hone their rodeo skills at the Sul Ross Univ. rodeo arena three evenings a week during fall and spring semesters.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Apache Trading Post**—Rustic log cabin and family oriented gift shop features Big Bend collectibles, books on the history and geology of the Big Bend, Mexico, and Indian heritage. It houses the largest selection of topographic maps and three dimensional relief maps highlighting the mountains of West Texas.

Find out about the mysterious Marfa Lights in an eight-minute video shown continuously in the "Stars of Texas" room filled with movie posters of films shot in the area, including "Giant." Meet Quicksilver Pete, a camera loving burro and Sasha, the Wonder Dog. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 6 p.m. On U.S. 90 three miles west of Alpine. 915/837-5506.

**Sul Ross State Univ. Museum of the Big Bend**—For more than 70 years this museum has been collecting and exhibiting artifacts of the vast Big Bend region. Here, people have traveled and lived for over 11,000 years. Throughout that time, four distinct cultures emerged and shaped the history and heritage of the region. The exhibits capture this history and the contributions of the Native Americans, the Spanish, the Mexicans, and the Anglo-Americans. Visitors enjoy learning about yesterday in the Last Frontier of Texas. The museum is accessible to the disabled. Gift shop. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Free admission; donations accepted. 915/837-8143 or visit the Web site at [www.sulross.edu/~museum](http://www.sulross.edu/~museum).

**Last Frontier Museum**—Small museum features rocks, gems, and minerals of the region. Located in the lobby of the Antelope Lodge at 2310 W. Highway 90. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 7 p.m.

**Theatre of the Big Bend**—Productions offer musicals, classic theatre and other performances throughout the year. Oh, be sure to take your lawn chairs. For show titles and dates, call the Theatre in Alpine at 915/837-8218.

**Woodward Agate Ranch**—Source of famed Texas agates (red plume, pompom, and a rainbow of other types) colorful jasper, labradorite feldspar, calcite, precious opal, and other minerals. Hunt and collect on over 3,000

acres; guide service available (fee). Rough agate 50 cents per pound; grading help by ranch experts. Lapidary shop. Open year round; 18 miles south of Alpine on Texas 118. 915/364-2271.

## ANTHONY

Pop. 3,850

Alt. 3,800

Map L-1

**General**—One of Texas' newest towns (incorporated in 1952); a two-state city. On Texas 20, which in this area follows historic route of El Camino Real, Spain's royal highway that connected Mexico with Texas, California, and Florida. In 1598 Don Juan de Oñate and band of colonizers traveled this road to settle Santa Fe, at rate of only 40 miles in 15 days. Economy now keyed to food canning and packing, cotton, and federal correctional institution.

**Travel Information Center**—One of the centers provided by state at key highway entrances to Texas, in State Capitol complex, and at Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Centers are operated daily except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors, free services to all visitors include information, maps, literature on every part of state, and expert assistance in charting routes. Located on I-10 at New Mexico state line; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**Wet 'n Wild Water World**—Water-oriented recreation park pumps a million gallons a day to provide "volcano" with water slides. Includes a lazy water tube float, barbecue restaurant, and picnic area. Open daily, May - Aug.; weekends in Sept. On I-10 near Texas Travel Information Center. Admission.

## BALMORHEA

Pop. 527

Alt. 3,205

Map N-6

**General**—Established by firm of land promoters in 1906, town site was in center of 14,000-acre tract watered by famous San Solomon Springs. Today remains center of irrigated farming.

**Balmorhea State Park**—At historic San Solomon Springs, facilities include motel with meeting room, camping and trailer sites, rest rooms with hot showers, shaded picnic areas, and playground. Huge walled swimming pool is fed by the springs at rate of 22-26 million gallons daily. With 62,000-square-foot surface, pool is one of the largest man-made pools in the U.S.; scuba diving; swim at your own risk. Springs were important watering place for buffalo, Indians, and pioneers. Today, the springs supply irrigation needs.

A once existing desert wetland (*ciénega*) has been reconstructed providing a habitat for two endangered fish species, the Comanche Springs pupfish (*Cyprinodon elegans*) and Pecos gambusia (*Gambusia nobilis*).

Four miles west on Texas 17. Open year round; admission. 915/375-2370. For reservations, 512/389-8900.

**Lake**—Balmorhea. See LAKES listing.

## BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK AREA

Pop. 3,069 (est.)

Alt. 1,850-7,825

Map R-6/7

**General**—Big truly describes this area. The soaring peaks of the Davis and Chisos Mountains contrast with the deep canyons worn by the Rio Grande. The floor of the Chihuahuan Desert exhibits a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation that thrive in the desert climate.

The arrival of the railroad in the late 1800s brought opportunities for business and development. Today immense ranches dominate this scenic part of the state, but hardy communities offer a variety of recreation and entertainment facilities. Several museums document life in this area. Big Bend Area cities include Alpine, Lajitas, Marathon, Study Butte and Terlingua in Brewster County, Sanderson in Terrell County, Fort Davis in Jeff Davis County and Marfa and Presidio in Presidio County. The combined counties cover 14,671.3 sq. miles.

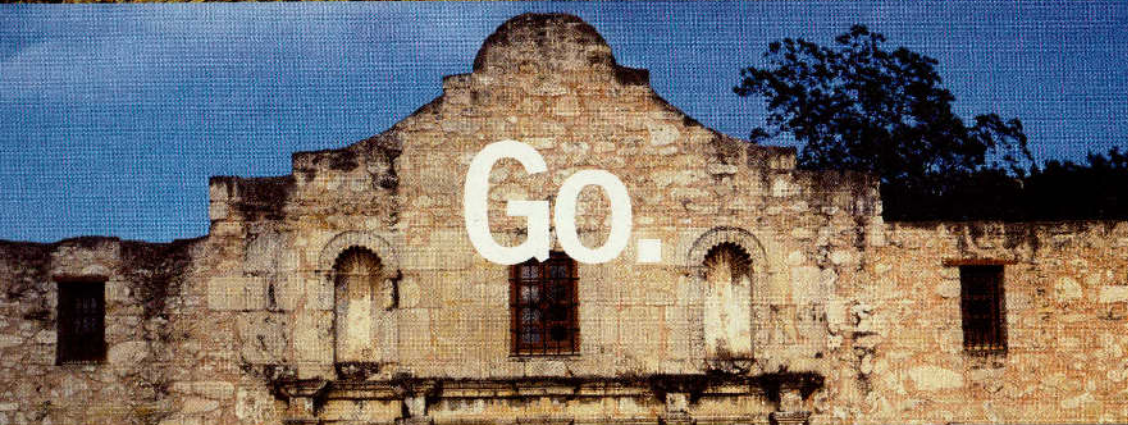
Because of the vast distances between towns, be sure the gas tank is filled going to and from Big Bend National Park.

**Big Bend National Park**—This huge park encompasses 801,163 acres of magnificent contrasts. Visitors can travel from the Rio Grande with its spectacular canyons and jungle-like floodplain up through Chihuahuan Desert, which constitutes majority of the park, to Chisos Mountains with cool woodlands. Its variation in elevation and temperature makes Big Bend an ideal year-round park. Big Bend is a challenging place to visit in the summer. May and June temperatures in the Chisos Mountains can reach 95 degrees. With a diversity of Mexican and American plants, more than 1,200 plant types are





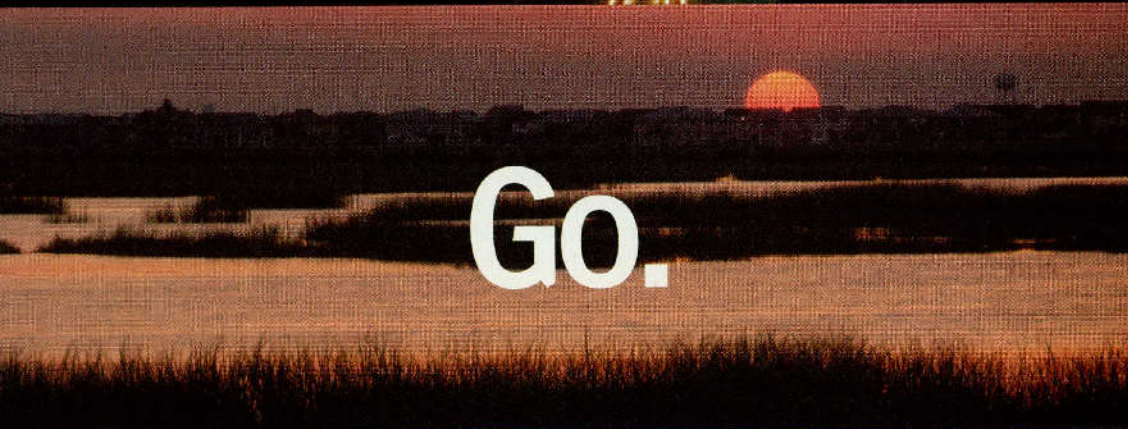
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found in the park. Animal life is just as varied. Desert wildlife is mostly nocturnal, but deer, coyotes, javelinas, gray fox, skunks, raccoons, and jackrabbits might be seen during the day. Lucky visitors might spot some of the rarer animals, such as ringtail, black bear, beaver, and mountain lion. More than 450 bird species have been identified, more than at any other national park.

One hundred million years ago, this area was ocean. And 65 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed the area.

It is a vast land that invites exploring, not a park that can be seen in just a few hours. More than 150 miles of trails range from short, easy nature walks to primitive trails for experienced hikers. More than 100 miles of paved roads and about 170 miles of dirt roads are in the park; check with any ranger for current conditions of all primitive, backcountry and graded roads before attempting travel.

A permit is required for all backcountry and primitive camping; also for all river-users. Free permits may be obtained at park visitor centers.

*Pet owners take note: Pets are not permitted on any trail and must be kept on leash at all times. In fact, pets aren't allowed outside developed areas: campgrounds and road sides. Also, because of wild animals roaming the park, do not leave any pet unattended, and because of extreme heat, do not leave pets locked in cars. It's best to leave your pets at home.*

Rangers present walks and illustrated talks throughout the year.

Basic facilities in the park include visitor centers, post office, National Park Service campgrounds, a trailer park, store-gas stations, and a restaurant-gift shop-lodge in the Chisos Mountains Basin. Lodging is available in 58 motel-type rooms and eight lodge-type units, plus six more rustic cottages—all located in the Basin area of the park. Advance reservations are strongly advised throughout the year, especially around holidays and during spring break. Write Chisos Mountains Lodge, Basin Rural Station, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834. Phone 915/477-2291.

For further information, write Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834, or call 915/477-2251.

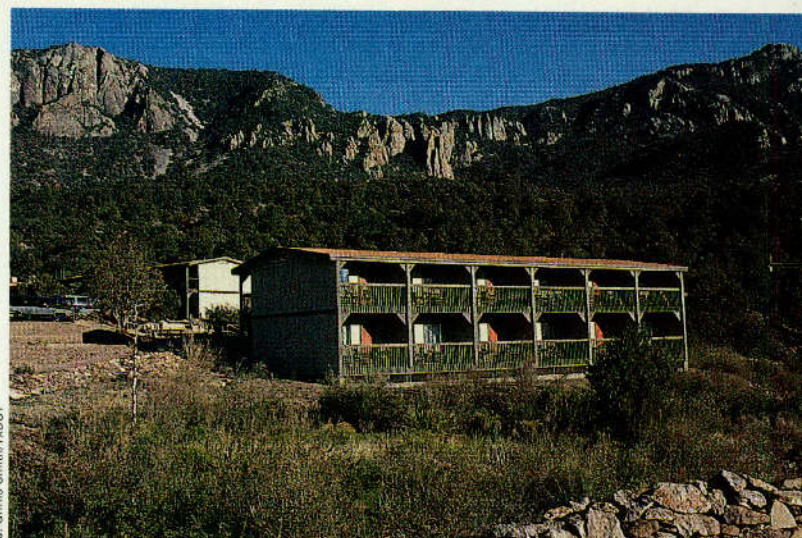
*Big Bend National Park Visitor Centers* offer information, maps, literature, and exhibits about the area. Visitor center in lobby of Park Headquarters at Panther Junction open year round, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visitor centers in Chisos Basin, Persimmon Gap, and at Rio Grande Village open seasonally, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The national park is accessible from Marathon via U.S. 385 (70 miles), from Alpine via Texas 118 (108 miles), and from Marfa/Presidio via U.S. 67 and F.M. 170 (156) miles. Admission.

## Whitehead Memorial Museum, Del Rio



J. Griffiths Smith/TKDOT



Lodge, Chisos Mountains Basin in Big Bend National Park

**Big Bend Birding Expeditions**—Headquartered at the Terlingua Ranch, guided tours take visitors to all parts of the area. Custom birding trips range from hiking to rafting along the Rio Grande, by mountain bike, by horseback, or by van into the back roads of the area. For information, call 1-888-531-2223 or 915/371-2356.

**Hallie's Hall of Fame Museum**—Houses mementos and relics found on the late Hallie Stillwell's ranch. Mrs. Stillwell's book, "I'll Gather My Geese," recalls her life as a teacher and rancher in and around the rugged national parklands. Nearby is Stillwell RV Park and Store. Just north of Big Bend to F.M. 2627, then east to the facilities. 915/376-2244.

**Rio Grande Float Trips**—Licensed river outfitters in area towns provide one-to nine-day float trips through the remote canyons of the Rio Grande. Advanced reservations required for lengthy trips. For information, call Big Bend River Tours at 915/424-3219 or 1-800-545-4240; Far Flung Adventures, at 915/371-2489 or 1-800-359-4138 (see Web site at [www.farflung.com](http://www.farflung.com)); Rio Grande Adventures at 915/371-2567 or 1-800-343-1640; Texas River Expeditions, 915/371-2633 or 1-800-839-7238 (see Web site at [www.texasriver.com](http://www.texasriver.com)); and Scott Shuttle Service Canoe & Float Rental at 1-800-613-5041.

**Scenic Drives**—A 74-mile loop through the Davis Mountains (from and back to Fort Davis) leads to a host of choice mountain landscapes. Two miles south on Texas 17 take Texas 166 west to intersection with Texas 118, then southeast back to Texas 17 and Fort Davis. Features include nine scenic roadside parks, Mount Locke topped by McDonald Observatory, beautiful Madera Canyon, and Davis Mountains State Park.

*El Camino del Rio*, Spanish for "The River Road," local name for F.M. 170 that stretches from Lajitas northwest to Presidio and beyond. An excellent paved route, it's one of the most spectacular drives in Texas, plunging down mountains and through canyons along the sun-drenched Rio Grande. Drivers are cautioned that the route encounters steep grades (15%), sharp curves, occasional loose livestock, and low-water crossings; special alert for large RVs or vehicles pulling large trailers.

## DEL RIO

Pop. 33,867

Alt. 948

Map R-11

**General**—Del Rio bills itself as "The Best of the Border." It is seat of Val Verde (green valley) County with more than 3,000 square miles. Agriculture includes cattle ranching, extensive production of sheep, lambs, wool, and mohair from Angora goats. Abundant hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, javelina, dove and quail. Fishing, boating and water sports on Amistad Reservoir. Home of Southwest Texas Jr. College and Sul Ross State Univ. Rio Grande College. With some 400 archaeological sites, area is among nation's richest in aboriginal cave paintings. See Amistad Recreation Areas below, and Seminole Canyon State Park, LANGTRY.

Local transportation makes it easy to visit Mexico just across the border. Regularly scheduled crossings throughout the day to Ciudad Acuña, see below.

For complete visitor details, maps, brochures and Mexico information, visit the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, 1915 Ave. F; open weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 830/775-3551.

J. Griffiths Smith/TKDOT

**Amistad National Recreation Area**—Boat ramps, marinas, campgrounds, picnic areas administered by National Park Service on U.S. side of huge international Amistad Reservoir. From park headquarters on U.S. 90 just west of Del Rio, obtain information, maps, schedules for free programs, and directions to local prehistoric Native American pictograph sites accessible by boat and foot. Fees for camping and boat use. Hdqtrs. open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except major holidays. 830/775-7491 or Web site [www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis).

**Ciudad Acuña**—City across Rio Grande from Del Rio. Intriguing night spots, restaurants, fascinating shops offering decorative wrought iron, jewelry, woven goods, leather craft, pottery and souvenirs.

**Lake**—Amistad Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**San Felipe Springs and Moore Park**—Lush oasis in semiarid setting, springs were important watering stop on historic Chihuahua Road that connected Texas port of Indianola with Chihuahua City, Mexico. Springs flow some 90 million gallons of clear pure water daily. San Felipe Country Club golf course (semiprivate) surrounds springs, and Moore Park provides a large swimming pool.

**Val Verde Winery**—Family enterprise in its fourth generation, founded in 1883 by Italian immigrants. Grapes had been grown in the area since 1825, but other varieties from Spain, America and Mexico were introduced. Still operated by the family, the winery welcomes visitors during regular business hours. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Access via Pecan St. south.

**Walking Tour**—Visit downtown area of historic buildings, churches and homes dating from the 1800s, including the 1887 courthouse. Also ancient *acequia* system (irrigation canals) still in use. Walking tour brochure from the chamber of commerce.

**Whitehead Memorial Museum**—Dedicated to life and legends of frontier Southwest, museum includes rustic structure that was early trading post serving both Texas and Mexico. Plan at least two hours to roam through the 2 1/2-acre and 13 exhibit sites. Judge Roy Bean (see LANGTRY) and his son are buried on museum grounds. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1308 S. Main St. For information, call 830/774-7568. Admission.

## EL PASO

Pop. 563,662

Alt. 3,762

Map L-1

**General**—Grew from earlier settlements dating back to the Juan de Oñate expedition in 1598 and a settlement by Juan Maria Ponce de León 1827, although area missions predate that civil settlement by almost 150 years. Largest U.S. city on Mexican border; neighboring Juárez, is Mexico's largest border city. Combined populations are about two million. Located in ancient mountain pass from which the name derived; surrounded by mile-high peaks.

Symphony orchestra, theater, museums, libraries, and diversified sporting activities including horse racing, polo, tennis, football, and basketball. Home of Univ. of Texas at El Paso, noted for Bhutanese-style architecture and Sun Bowl Stadium.

El Pasoans celebrate Thanksgiving in spring, and claim the first celebration was 23 years before the Pilgrims' celebration. Gasper Perez de Villagra documented the hard journey of Juan de Oñate's expedition. Oñate and his travelers crossed the Rio Grande near El Paso on April 20, 1598, and feasted in thanksgiving.

For full details and literature on city attractions, visit the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1 Civic Center Plaza.

Professional sports abound throughout the year with the AA Texas League baseball team, El Paso Diablos, the El Paso Patriots, an A-League soccer team, the El Paso Buzzards, Western Professional Hockey League, and the El Paso Scorpions rugby club.

Interested in a two-pound steak? Inquire about the Indian Cliffs Ranch/Cattleman's Steakhouse 30 minutes east of the city on I-10. Exit Fabens Exit #49, turn north. For information, 915/544-3200.

**Border Patrol Museum**—Presents the rich heritage of the U.S. Border Patrol. Equipment, documents, books, and memorabilia available to the casual visitor or the scholar. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 4315 Transmountain Rd. (Loop 375).



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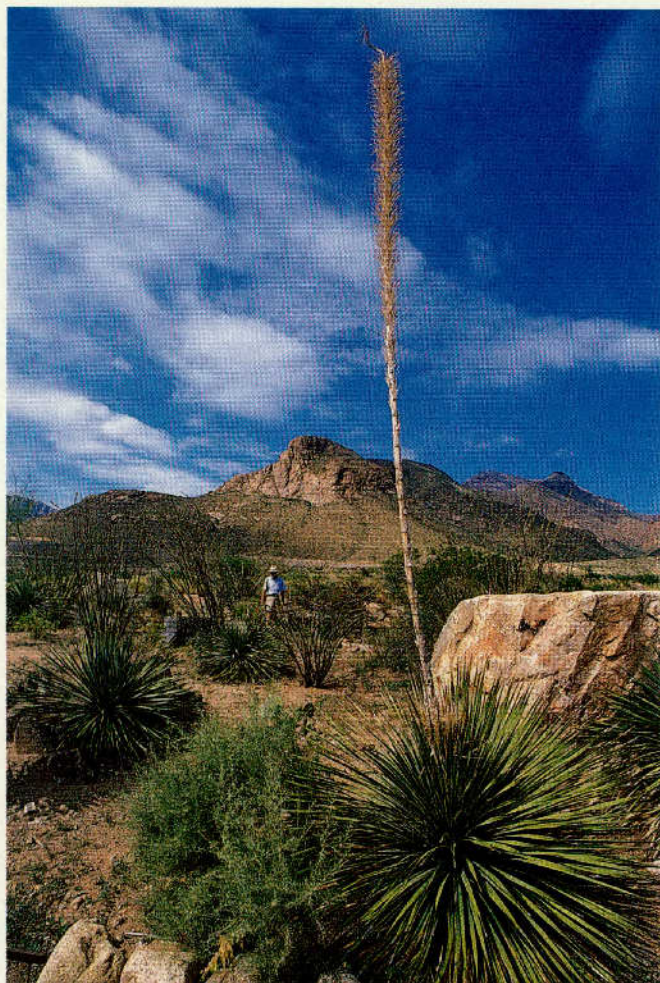
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### PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

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Balch Springs Howard Johnson Express Inn	Lewisville Howard Johnson Express Inn
Copperas Cove Howard Johnson Express Inn	Lubbock Howard Johnson Express Inn
Dallas/Mesquite Howard Johnson Express Inn	Midland Howard Johnson Express Inn
Dallas/Richardson Howard Johnson Express Inn	Red Oak Howard Johnson Express Inn
Del Rio Howard Johnson Express Inn & Suites	San Angelo Howard Johnson Inn
Denton Howard Johnson Express Inn	San Antonio/Downtown Howard Johnson Riverwalk Plaza Hotel & Resort
Donna/McAllen Howard Johnson Express Inn & Suites	San Antonio/East Howard Johnson Express Inn
El Paso Howard Johnson Inn	San Antonio/Fiesta Park Howard Johnson Express Inn
Ft. Worth/South Howard Johnson Inn	San Antonio/Medical Center Howard Johnson Inn & Suites
Grand Prairie Howard Johnson Express Inn	South Padre Island Howard Johnson Inn & Resort
Harlingen Howard Johnson Express Inn	Webster/NASA Howard Johnson Express Inn & Suites
Houston/Astroworld/Six Flags Howard Johnson Express Inn	The Woodlands Howard Johnson Express Inn
Houston/Central Howard Johnson Express Inn	

\*Children 17 and under stay free in their parent's room with existing bedding. \*\*Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers. ©2002 Howard Johnson International, Inc. All rights reserved. Hotels are independently owned and operated.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

**Cactus garden at Wilderness Park Museum, El Paso**

**Chamizal National Memorial**—Cites amicable settlement of long-standing border dispute between U.S. and Mexico, in an area by the Rio Grande where a new channel marks adjusted international boundary. Visitor center, exhibits, films in Spanish and English on Chamizal and border history. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Paisano and San Marcial sts.

**Concordia Cemetery**—Historic cemetery and landmark. The cemetery is divided into five parts, including the actual "Boot Hill." Gunfighter John Wesley Hardin is buried here along with other notable gunslingers of the old Southwest. Exit I-10 at Copia.

**El Paso Centennial Museum**—Archeology, anthropology, geology; photos and maps show historical development of El Paso. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Campus, Univ. of Texas at El Paso, University Ave. and Wiggins Rd.

**El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center**—Collection includes aerial photographs of World War II concentration camps, personal effects such as death camp pajamas, and artifacts captured by American servicemen, as well as recreation of a death camp transport train. Open Sun. - Thurs. 1 - 4 p.m. At 401 Wallenberg. For information, 915/833-5656.

**El Paso Museum of Art**—Multimillion-dollar Kress Collection and Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington; frequent exhibits of classical and contemporary Mexican and Southwestern art. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At Corner of Santa Fe and San Antonio sts., across from the Convention Center.

**El Paso Museum of History**—U.S. Cavalry mementos; valuable charro costumes and saddles; Southwestern history from the conquistadors to Pancho Villa in pictures. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.; I-10 at Loop 375 (Avenue of The Americas).

**El Paso/Juárez Tours**—An easy and fun way to cross the border to shop and sightsee in Juárez, Mexico, is by El Paso/Juárez Trolley. Air-conditioned rubber-tired trolleys depart from the Civic Center on the hour from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Nov. - Mar. and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Apr. - Oct. daily. For information, call 915/544-0062.

Fiesta Tours offer trips to Juárez for shopping. Tours depart daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tours are in minicoach buses and hotel pick up is available. For information, call 915/544-4646.

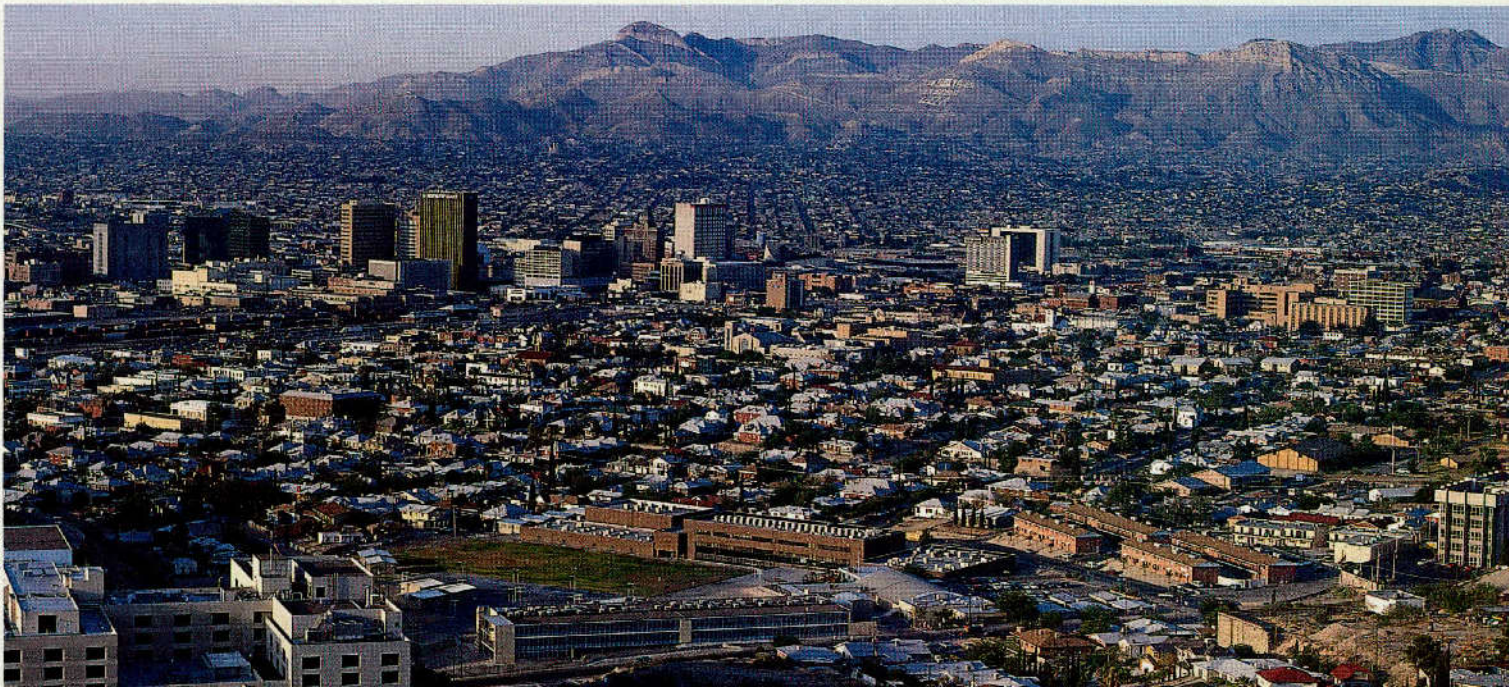
Rancho Grande Tours and shuttle service have shopping tours, a visit to Guadalupe Mission, industrial parks, country club homes, and the bullfights (in season) in Juárez. Call 915/771-6661.

**El Paso Speedway Park**—Auto racing every Sat. night from mid-April to mid-Oct. on 1/2 mile, semi-banked clay oval racetrack. Race car categories include IMCA-type Modifieds, Sprint Cars, Hot Stocks, Hobby Stocks, and Mini-Stocks. Track is 12 miles east of El Paso International Airport at 14900 Montana Ave. Races usually start at 7:30 p.m. For more information during racing season, call 915/857-3478.

**El Paso Union Depot**—Built in 1906 as the first international train station built in the U.S., the handsome renovated building now serves AMTRAK and his home to the city's transportation system, Sun Metro. Located behind the Convention Center.

**El Paso Zoo**—Located near the Bridge of the Americas, gateway to the U.S. and Mexico, the zoo exhibits over 700 animals of about 200 species. Accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the El Paso Zoo is the major zoological attraction in the entire west Texas, southern New Mexico, and northern Mexico region.

**El Paso, Texas, in the foreground, and Juárez, Chihuahua, are the largest border cities of Texas and Mexico**



Geoff Appoll/TXDOT



J. Gillis Smith/7/2007

### El Paso Museum of Art

Featured is an Asian section, and animals from north, central, and south Americas. Among the unique exhibits is the "Paraje," portraying the early history, settlement and animals of El Paso and the southwest. An 8,000 square foot Americas Aviary allows visitors to enter the enclosure and view exotic birds up close. Restaurant and gift shop on site.

The zoo is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and Jan. 1. Located at 4001 E. Paisano St. (across from county coliseum). For information, call 915/544-1928. Admission.

**Fort Bliss**—U.S. Army post established in 1848 as defense against hostile Indians and to assert U.S. authority over lands acquired after the Mexican War. Headquarters for Confederate forces in Southwest during Civil War, later refitting post for military efforts against the wily, much-feared Apache chief, Geronimo. Today a U.S. Army Air Defense Center and combat training for allied nations.

**Air Defense Artillery Museum**—In Building 5000, Pleasanton Rd. near Robert E. Lee Rd., is the U.S. Army Air Defense & Artillery Museum, only one of its kind in the country, with hands-on displays and dioramas about the history of air defense. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Christmas, New Year's, Easter and Thanksgiving.

**Buffalo Soldier Monument**—This bronze statue is based on the painting, "The Errand of Corporal Ross" by El Paso artist Bob Snead. It is located the Robert E. Lee gate to the Fort.

**Fort Bliss Museum**—Replica of original adobe fort maintained as museum of frontier military era; Pleasanton Rd. and Sheridan Dr. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Christmas, New Year's, Easter and Thanksgiving.

**Museum of the Noncommissioned Officer**—Traces history of the U.S. NCO corps with artifacts dating from the Revolutionary War. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Biggs Army Airfield, Bldg. 11331, Barksdale & 5th sts.

**Franklin Mountain State Park**—This 24,000 acre park is located within the El Paso city limits. Hiking, picnicking, primitive camping, and nature study. It encompasses an entire Chihuahuan Desert mountain range. At Woodrow Bean and Trans Mountain Rd. For information, call 915/566-6441.

**Fray Garcia Monument**—This 14-ft. bronze sculpture by John Houser honors the priest who founded the area's first mission. The statue, in Pioneer Plaza downtown, is the first in the series of "Twelve Travelers" monuments by Houser scheduled for various sites in El Paso.

**Hueco Tanks State Historical Site**—Precious water from infrequent rains "stored" in natural rock basins; for centuries a strategic travel stop in this arid region. Ancient Indian pictographs, plus names of '49ers on way to California. Picnicking, hiking, climbing, and camping. Off U.S. 62/180 26 miles east of El Paso; admission.

**Insights - El Paso Science Center**—Features educational, hands-on exhibits about science and technology: solar power, motion, light illumination, electricity, space science, computers, energy, and the human body. All exhibits designed to make learning about science and technology an active experience. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. except major holidays. 505 N. Santa Fe St.

**International Museum of Art**—This museum is home to African, Western, Heritage, Kolliker, and Hall of Fame artists. It is located in the stately Turney Mansion near downtown. Open Thurs. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 1211 Montana Ave. For information, call 915/543-6747.

**Juárez**—Mexico's fourth largest city, and that country's largest city on the U.S. border (pop. 1.5 million), linked to El Paso by four bridges over the Rio Grande. Visitors find variety of shopping such as the Pueblito Mexicano Shopping Mall, an indoor mall that is a recreation of Mexican village or pueblito to traditional Mexican markets. Also beautiful accommodations, night clubs, and Museo de Arte e Historia that displays excellent collection of pre-Columbian art, historic and contemporary, art and artifacts.

**Magoffin Home State Historical Site**—Guided tours of homestead built in 1875 as replica of earlier home destroyed in 1868 flood. Was political and social center of Magoffinsville community (later named El Paso). Walls average 2 1/2 feet thick; timber cut in Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico, 80 miles from El Paso. Traditional enclosed patio; much original furniture. Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. 1120 Magoffin St. Admission.

**Old Missions**—El Paso's Lower Valley is site of several graceful old Spanish missions that are older than the better-known missions of California. Open daily, daylight hours, tour mapped by El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau includes the following:

**Nuestra Señora del Carmen**, was established in 1681, and later dedicated Corpus Christi de la Ysleta, 1690; damaged by both floods and fires, but restored and maintained in original style and now familiarly called Ysleta Mission. Oldest mission in Texas, established for Tigua Indians. When founded, the mission pueblo was south of the Rio Grande, but has been left on the Texas side by changes in the river channel. Some mission land has been in constant cultivation since 1682, over 300 years! 100 block of Old Pueblo Rd. (Zaragosa exit from I-10 east).

**Nuestra Señora de la Concepción del Socorro** was established in 1682 as mission for Piro, Thanos, and James Indians. Originally located about 12 leagues from Guadalupe Mission at Paso del Norte and about 7.5 leagues

from Ysleta. However, when a group of Indians threatened to revolt, mission moved to new location about one league from Ysleta Mission. Early 19th Century flood changed course of Rio Grande and left village and mission on Texas side. Present village of Socorro adjacent to southeast El Paso, F.M. 258 south.

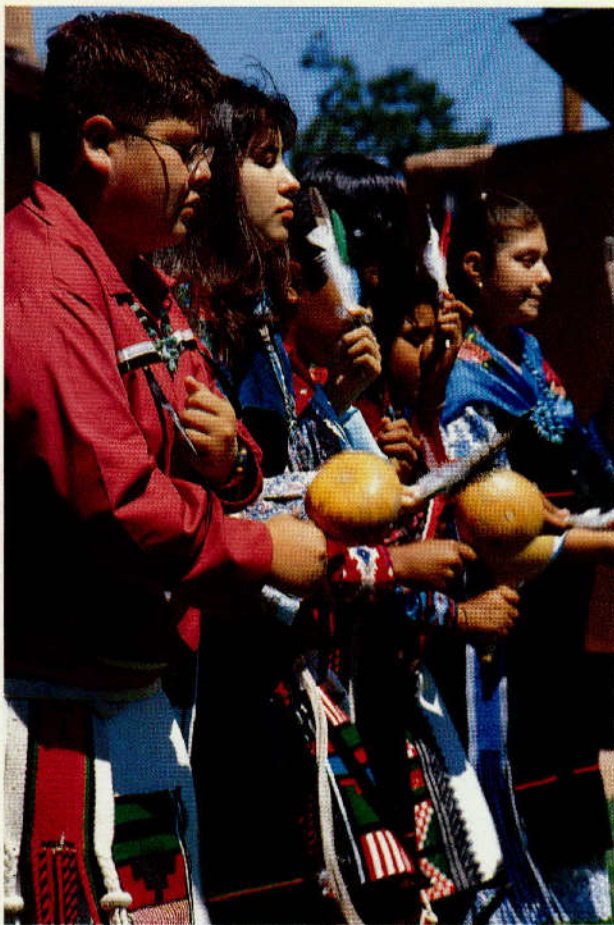
**San Elizario Presidio Chapel** was founded 1777 to serve Spanish military garrison and government. Still in daily use, chapel stands as built 200 years ago, preserving a type of architecture that supplanted more austere styles of Ysleta and Socorro missions. Village of San Elizario served as El Paso County seat for years and was location of a presidio (fort) of the same name. F.M. 258 south.

**Mission Tour**—Hop aboard the "Trolley on a Mission" for mission tours. Visit Mission Ysleta, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Socorro, and San Elizario. 4 1/2-hour tour includes lunch as well as a

From the days of Pancho Villa to the heroism of the Buffalo Soldiers... the beauty of Hueco Tanks to the enchanted Tigua Indians... timeless desert landscapes to a palate of rich culture... Come visit El Paso and experience a living history book.

**El Paso**  
TEXAS

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J. Griffiths Smith/ix0007

### Tigua Indians in El Paso

stop at the History Museum and Tigua Cultural Center. Tours on fourth Sat. of the month Sept. - Apr.; every Thurs. May - Aug. For information/reservations, 915/544-0062. Departs from Civic Center, 1 Civic Plaza. Fare.

**Natural History Museum of El Paso**—This museum, in association with the Texas Museum of History, features more than 300 exhibits spanning the wonders of the universe, the progression of life on earth, and the dawn of civilization. Open Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. At 9348 Dyer St. in Northgate Center. For information, call 915/545-4257.

**Parks**—Many parks, plus Franklin Mts. State Park, are popular picnic areas. During year, a variety of stage productions is presented in an amphitheater in McKelligon Canyon Park.

**San Jacinto Plaza**—It's the original historic city square and park, right in the heart of downtown. The plaza features a fiberglass sculpture, "Plaza de los Lagartos," by sculptor Luis Jiménez depicting the alligators that used to call San Jacinto Plaza their home.

**Scenic Drives**—Scenic Drive traces a winding course on southern flank of Mount Franklin above downtown El Paso, with view of Juárez across the river. Reached from Richmond St. on the east, from Rim Rd. on the west.

El Paso is "V" shaped, divided by imposing steeps of Franklin Mountains. Connecting top ends of "V" is Loop 375 (Transmountain Road) that climbs through mile-high Smugglers Gap with impressive views of rugged mountain-desert scenery. Accessible from I-10 northwest of city and from U.S. 54 northeast.

**Sierra de Cristo Rey**—The Mountain of Christ the King looms above El Paso at point where territories of Texas, Mexico, and New Mexico meet. Prominent on the 4,576-foot summit is a massive monument of Christ on the Cross by artist Urbici Soler, built of Cordova cream limestone quarried near Austin. Not recommended to climb except during Pilgrimage last Sun. in Oct.

**Tigua Indian Reservation: Ysleta del Sur Pueblo**—Oldest community in present boundaries of Texas, now part of the city of El Paso, was established in 1681 by refugees from a bloody Indian uprising that expelled Spanish and Christian Indians from present New Mexico. Spanish missionaries and loyal Tigua Indians settled here at El Paso del Norte and built Ysleta Mission. The mission church is still the religious focal point of the Tigua Indian community.

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Cultural Center is owned and operated by the Tigua Indians. It features a museum, gift shop, Indian social dancing, the

Cacique Cafe, and delicious, fresh Indian bread. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 305 Yaya Lane (off Socorro Rd.) For information, call 915/859-7913.

**Travel Information Center**—I-10 west. See ANTHONY.

**VIVA! El Paso**—Outdoor drama that captures the culture and heritage of the Southwest. Spectacular Franklin Mountains serve as a backdrop at open-air McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater. Traces El Paso's history through four eras: Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and Western. Thurs. - Sat. performances Jun. - Aug.

**Shakespeare-on-the-Rocks** features four of the Bard's best-known works each weekend during Sept. Optional Renaissance-style dinner and backstage tours available. For information, call El Paso Association for the Performing Arts 1-800-915-VIVA, or visit the Web site at [www.viva-ep.org](http://www.viva-ep.org).

**Western Playland**—25-acre amusement park with dozens of rides, including the Splashdown Log Ride and El Bandito Roller Coaster. Games, shops, and foods. Open Mar. - May, Fri. 7 - 11 p.m., Sat., Sun. 2 - 10 p.m.; June - Aug., Mon. - Fri. 7 - 11 p.m., Sat., Sun. 2 - 11 p.m.; Sept. - Oct., Sat., Sun. 2 - 8 p.m. On landscaped grounds adjacent to lake in Ascarate Park, 6 mi. east of city off I-10; Trowbridge Exit, south to Delta Rd. Admission.

**Wilderness Park Museum**—Dioramas depict ancient Indian tribes of the Southwest, their survival in the desert, and to a changing environment. Also nature trail and native plants. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 3401 Transmountain Rd. (Loop 375). For information, call 915/755-4332. Admission.

## FORT DAVIS

Pop. 1,050

Alt. 5,050

Map 0-6

**General**—The Prude Guest Ranch is popular for meetings and vacations. Horseback riding, hay rides, chuckwagon cookouts, and more; for information/reservations call 1-800-458-6232.

Additional information on accommodations, events, and dining may be obtained from the chamber of commerce by calling 915/426-3015 or 1-800-524-3015. Also visit Web site at [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com).

**Chihuahuan Desert Visitor Center**—A natural area owned and managed by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute for scientific research and education. The facility includes an arboretum comprised of plants native to the Chihuahuan Desert Region and a cactus greenhouse. Modesta Canyon Trail is a self-guided nature trail to Modesta Springs and Clayton Overlook, the highest point on was established and grew under protection of U.S. Army post of the same name that was founded in 1854 at crossroads of famous Chihuahua Trail and Butterfield Overland Mail Route. The city has served as county seat of Presidio County and later Jeff Davis County created largely from Presidio. Altitude and climate make it a popular tourist and camping area. Signs along the trail point out geologic formations and give facts about plants and animals. Visitors to Clayton Overlook are almost always rewarded with a glimpse of

### Fort Davis National Historic Site



J. Griffiths Smith/ix0007

aoudad Sheep from the southwest slope of the mountain. Open April 1st - Labor Day Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. The rest of the year the center is open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Texas 118, 3.5 mi. south. For information, call 915/364-2499.

**Davis Mountains State Park**—In a sloping basin among scenic Davis Mountains, 1,869 acres host more than 155,000 visitors annually. Primary service facility is multilevel hotel called Indian Lodge, patterned in the pueblo style. A free interpretive center is open afternoons, June through Aug., featuring plant and animal material, both live and mounted; bird observation window and wildlife watering station. Camping, picnicking, dining room, trailer facilities, rest rooms, nature study, hiking. Six miles west of Fort Davis; Texas 118, Park Road 3. Admission.

**Fort Davis National Historic Site**—When pioneers and gold seekers surged west in the mid-1800s, national concern focused on secure travel routes. In Texas, nearly 600 miles of wilderness stretched between San Antonio and El Paso. Throughout the distance, wagon travelers fell prey to fiercely hostile Indians. Fort Davis, established in 1854, was the first military post to guard the route and offer haven by the precious waters of Limpia Creek.

But the trauma of the Civil War stripped the frontier of military protection, and Indians again raided unchecked. Little of value remained when federal troops returned to Fort Davis in 1867. New construction eventually produced substantial rock and adobe buildings that housed up to 12 companies of cavalry and infantry. Post-war troopers were black "buffalo soldiers," many of them former slaves from Southern plantations.

As the western movement resumed, troopers patrolled the long immigrant road, escorted mail and wagon trains, and mounted wide-ranging expeditions into the vast wilderness territory. After years of conflict, peace and civilian settlement finally came to the frontier. With the bluecoats no longer needed, Fort Davis was deactivated in 1891.

Operated by the National Park Service, Fort Davis today is a superb example of frontier forts from that epic era, including both ruins and restorations. A museum, open daily in reconstructed barracks, vividly interprets frontier military life.

Another feature is a sound re-creation of a 19th Century military parade, bugles and hoofbeats...the clank and jangle of mounted troops...music from band manuals of 1875. Echoing over the empty parade ground, it is a haunting fragment of the past.

Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. except national holidays. On the northern edge of town. From I-10 on the north, or U.S. 90 from the south, the site can be reached by Texas 17 and Texas 118. Admission.

**Historic Inn—Hotel Limpia**—Restored country inn, c. 1912; sturdy, turn-of-the-century oak furniture, second-story veranda and glassed-in sunporch with rattan rockers; Boarding House restaurant. Two other restored buildings, plus cottage; 20 rooms, 12 suites. Hotel Limpia Dining Rooms include the Sutter's Club. On the town square in Fort Davis. For information, 915/426-3237, or 1-800-662-5517.

**Neill Museum**—Antique toys made in Texas, 300 antique dolls, bottles, and furniture. In historic 1898 Truheart House seven blocks west of courthouse. Museum open June - Labor Day daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; admission. Also two rooms bed-and-breakfast with antique furniture; year round. 915/426-3969 and 426-3838.

**Overland Trail Museum**—Named for historic trail that once passed its front door, small museum was former home, office and shop of Nick Mersfelter, early resident who was justice of the peace, barber, and area music master. Austrian-born Mersfelter could play almost any instrument, was once member of San Antonio Philharmonic Orchestra. Pioneer ranch, trail, and law enforcement artifacts. Open Wed. - Sun. afternoons in summer; admission.

**University of Texas McDonald Observatory at Mount Locke**—Built in 1932 following bequest from William J. McDonald, amateur astronomer. On 6,791-foot peak of Mount Locke. Site selected because of clear air, high ratio of cloudless nights, distance from concentrations of artificial lights, and dust-and radiation-filtering growths of shrubs and timber. Original instrument was 82-inch reflector; 107-inch reflector is in larger dome.

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET), the third largest in the world was designed to specialize in spectroscopy, the technique astronomers use to break down light into its component wavelengths. The telescope was built and is owned by a consortium of five universities: The Univ. of Texas at Austin; The Pennsylvania State Univ.; Stanford Univ.; Ludwig-Maximilians Univ. of Munich, Germany; and Georg-August Univ. of Goettingen, Germany. The HET is connected to the George T. Abell Gallery. Interpretive programs in the Abell Gallery highlight the HET's design and purpose. Admission for the



J. Griffin Smith/Tx000

### Chihuahuan Desert Visitor Center in Fort Davis

Abell Gallery. For those driving recreational vehicles, shuttle service is available from the Visitors' Center.

The Visitor Center at the foot of Mount Locke presents programs daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. In summer, solar viewing presented 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; guided tours at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Winter: solar viewing 11 a.m., guided tour 2 p.m. Up on the summit, the larger dome is open to public and may be viewed from visitors' gallery. Each Tues., Fri. and Sat. evening, weather permitting, the center conducts "Star Parties" for the general public, with viewing of stars and planets through telescopes set up by the observatory. Observatory is 16 miles northwest via Texas 118, Spur 78. Spectacular view from site.

Once a month, visitors can view celestial objects through 107-inch telescope by making reservation with visitor center. (Very popular and sometimes booked months in advance.) Fee charged for large telescope viewing, 915/426-3640.

## FORT STOCKTON

Pop. 7,846

Alt. 2,954

Map O-7

**General**—Town developed with establishment of military post in 1859, an outpost on Butterfield Overland Mail Route at crossing of Old San Antonio Road and ancient Comanche War Trail. Popular with Indians long before white men arrived because of large springs nearby. Area was one of earliest irrigated farming efforts in Texas; some 8,000 acres irrigated as early as 1877. Today seat of Pecos County, retail and shipping headquarters for vast ranching, natural gas and oil activities, and major West Texas crossroads. Hunting excellent for mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

**Annie Riggs Hotel Museum**—The old hotel, built in 1899, was a popular stop on stage route. Restored and maintained by local historical society. Fourteen rooms display area collections; 19th Century clothing, photography, Indian artifacts, cowboy regalia, kitchen utensils, geology, religion, Camp Stockton artifacts. Open daily Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.; extended hours in summer. 301 S. Main St.; 915/336-2167. Admission.

**Comanche Springs**—Once among largest springs in Texas, now site of Olympic-sized swimming pool.

**Courthouse Square**—Historic features include courthouse (1883), first Catholic Church (1875), first schoolhouse (1883), and Zero Stone placed by survey party in 1859, used as origin point for all land surveys in this part of West Texas. Nearby St. Stephens Episcopal Church (1872), was first Protestant Church west of the Pecos River.

**Grey Mule Saloon**—Preserving nostalgic remembrance of times past, restored old saloon was one of early-day "red-eye" dispensaries of West Texas. Callaghan and Main sts.

**Historical Sites Tour**—A series of special signs on city streets provide guidance for do-it-yourself tour of historic sites. Historical notations date from



J. Griffin Smith/2001

### Historic Fort Stockton

days of Cabeza de Vaca's explorations, 1534, and other explorers such as Espejo in 1583, Mendosa in 1684. Friendly citizens will fill in details.

**Historic Fort Stockton**—Typical frontier military post established 1858 as Camp Stockton; abandoned in 1886. Fort consisted of 35 buildings made of adobe and hand-hewn limestone. Four original buildings remain: Three of the eight officers' quarters, and guardhouse with jailer's quarters, three solitary confinement cells, and a larger holding cell. Some of the other buildings reconstructed. Open Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m.; admission. 300 E. 3rd; 915/336-2400.

**James Rooney County Park**—Green and spacious park on southern edge of city at historic Comanche Springs. Swimming, picnicking and tennis courts.

**Lake**—Imperial Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Old Fort Cemetery**—Records on existing tombstones indicate few people lived beyond age 40; indication of hardships among those who opened and settled this harsh country.

**Paisano Pete**—At 20 feet long and 11 feet tall, Pete is probably the world's largest roadrunner. A popular photo subject. U.S. 290 at Main St.

**Tunis Creek Stagecoach Stop**—Former way station on Butterfield Overland Mail Route; later a Texas Ranger station. Historic structure was moved to a highway rest area on U.S. 290, 20 miles east. Original location was approximately two miles south.

**Visitor Information Center**—For information on dining, accommodations, events, and other area information, stop by the center at I-10 and U.S. 285. The center also offers Roadrunner Bus Tours Mon. - Fri. at 1 and 4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. at 2 p.m. The tour covers 16 points of interest. Or, drive the tour with map and cassette tape. Open Labor Day to May 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; summer 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. For information, call 915/336-8052

**Wheels and Frills, The**—The "Wheels" Museum features a collection of vintage cars, tractors, trucks and many of the accessories that go with them. Some vehicles you might see are a 1917 Ford Model T touring sedan; a 1929 Ford Model A one-ton truck; and a 1948 Allis-Chalmers G tractor. Other items on display in the museum include a collection of Texas license plates, hub caps and hood ornaments, antique office machines, and a hand tool collection. The "Frills" is an art gallery and gift shop featuring many hand made items. The museum and gallery are housed in a building built in the 1920s for use as an automobile dealership. No charge for the gift shop and gallery, however, there is an admission for car museum. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. At 221 North Main St. For information, call 915/336-8421.

## IRAAN

Pop. 1,238

Alt. 2,200

Map O-9

**General**—With 1928 discovery of oil, town exploded into existence of hastily constructed frame buildings and tents. Name, chosen in a contest, combines names of the townsite owners, Ira and Ann Yates.

**City Park**—40-acre park adjacent to Fantasyland. Picnicking, grills, swimming pool, camping.

**Discovery Well A No. 1**—Gusher blew in more than half-century ago, remains one of largest producing oil wells in North America. Tremendous jet of oil sprayed tent city four miles away. Historical marker in city park gives details.

**Fantasyland**—Alley Oop, comic strip caveman, was created by V.T. Hamlin while he lived in Iraan. Visitors can see Alley Oop and Dinny in gigantic figures in the 7.2-acre park.. On U.S. 190.

**Iraan Archaeological Museum**—Located in Fantasyland Park, museum features excellent fossil exhibits, plus Indian artifacts, ranching antiques, and oil field relics. Open Apr. 1 - Sept. 1, Wed. - Sun. 2 - 6 p.m.

## KERMIT

Pop. 5,714

Alt. 2,890

Map L-7

**General**—Winkler County seat was a mere village in 1926 when population of entire county was 81. Then oil was discovered nearby in the fabulous Permian Basin, and the boom was on. Today a center for oil and petroleum-based industries. County-owned golf course 7 miles west on Texas 302; open daily except Mon.

For information on area attractions, dining, or events, stop by the chamber of commerce at 112 N. Poplar, or call 915/586-2507.

**Kermit Sandhills**—Just 10 miles east of the city is Sandhills Park. Overnight camping and off-road vehicles are welcome. Texas 115 to F.M. 874 intersection.

**Medallion Home**—City's oldest existing structure; first built about five miles south of town on the four-section claim of W.H. Seastrunk in 1907. Lumber was bought in Pecos and freighted to Kermit from Monahans. In 1910, Seastrunk dismantled his house and moved it into the town. Seastrunk sold the property and it remained in the in the W.E. Baird family until 1967 when the house was presented to the city. It is furnished with period pieces. Open weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 3 - 5 p.m. In Pioneer Park on the north side of Winkler County Park.

## LAJITAS

Pop. 150 (est.)

Alt. 2,440

Map R-6

**General**—(La-HEE-tahs), on F.M. 170, is at the western edge of Big Bend National Park. First became a village in 1915 when an Army post was stationed to protect Big Bend area from flamboyant Mexican bandit Francisco (Pancho) Villa.

Recent developments feature a modern motel and resort complex with golf course, river rafting, swimming pools, tennis courts, horseback riding, restaurant, and genuine-looking "frontier" building styles with plank sidewalks and hitching rails. Inquire locally about all facilities. Caters to visitors year round; winter season most popular. 915/424-3471.

**Warnock Environmental Education Center** offers an archeological, historical, and natural history profile of the Big Bend region. Also information about vehicle, hiking, and river raft access; experienced backpackers only; no developed facilities. The visitor center introduces Big Bend Ranch State Park, and offers maps, books and other informational material; self-guided tour of botanical garden displaying characteristic plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily; admission. Immediately east of Lajitas on F.M. 170.

## LANGTRY

Pop. 30 (est.)

Alt. 1,315

Map Q-10

**General**—In deep Southwest Texas by the Rio Grande, the village was established 1881 when Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway was building through; was junction of construction from east and west. Two origins of town's name exist; one prosaic, the other romantic. One credits town name to a civil engineer named Langtry who directed a group of Chinese laborers in railroad construction. But colorful Judge Roy Bean insisted he named town after his idol, English actress Lillie Langtry, the "Jersey Lilly."

High Bridge Adventures offers scenic boat tours on Pecos River and Rio Grande depending on the level of water. For information/reservations, write to PO Box 816, Comstock, TX 78837 or call 915/292-4495.



Primitive camping is available along the Devil's River at Baker's Crossing. For information, write HC 69, Box 200, Comstock, TX 78837, or call 915/292-4503.

**Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center**—Features rustic saloon, courtroom and billiard hall and the opera house of Judge Roy Bean, the colorful and controversial "Law West of the Pecos" in 1880s. The center preserves historic site where Judge Bean ruled with high-handed, but appropriate brand of homespun law, outrageous humor and six-shooter justice.

Adjacent modern visitor center interprets highlights of Judge Bean's career in "The Magic of Pepper's Ghost Revealed" where dioramas come to life with live historic re-enactments in miniature stages. The "ghost-like" characters recall events during Bean's tenure as judge.

Travel counselors provide literature and information about every part of Texas. Impressive cactus garden displays flora of Southwest; plaques label specimens and cite Indian/pioneer lore about the thorny plants. Free attraction, open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**Scenic Overlook**—U.S. 90 spans arid, primitive land little changed since pioneers first made their way across it in creaking wagons. One of the most formidable barriers to early-day travel—and civilization—was the precipitous canyon of the Pecos River. Modern travelers can pause and picnic in roadside park by U.S. 90 on east rim of canyon, about 18 miles east of Langtry. View is spectacular and provides insight into difficulties faced by pioneers who had to negotiate crossing without a bridge of any kind.

**Seminole Canyon State Park**—Guided hiking tours (strenuous) Wed. - Sun. at 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. to Fate Bell Shelter where 4,000-year-old rock art may be seen; visitor center houses displays of early man and area history. Remainder of park open daily; campsites and picnicking. Note: Call park for public hunt dates. On U.S. 90, 20 miles east. Admission. 915/292-4464.

## MARATHON

Pop. 455

Alt. 4,043

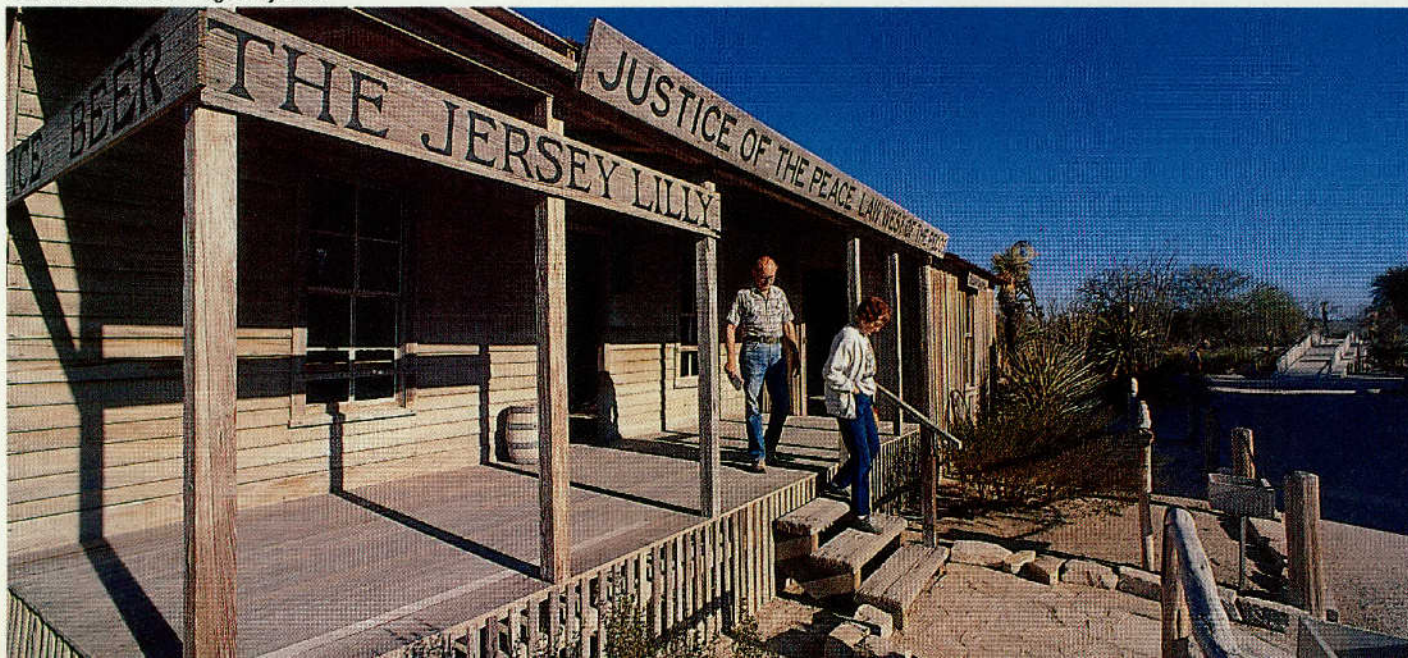
Map P-7

**General**—Marathon's name was suggested by sea captain who said the area reminded him of Marathon, Greece. Today the town on U.S. 90 at the junction with U.S. 385 is a tourist crossroads, a major gateway to Big Bend National Park, and a headquarters for vast ranching activities.

**Black Gap Wildlife Management Area**—100,000 acres devoted to management study of native wildlife. Visitors welcome, though formal tours not available. Species include bobcat, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, javelina, fox, coyote and reintroduced desert bighorn sheep. Permit hunting and fishing in Rio Grande at specified times. Camping area for authorized hunters and fishermen only. South 55 miles via U.S. 385 and R.M. 2627.

**Great Marathon Basin**—Widely known geologic area noted for extensive surface outcroppings of varied rocks and minerals, popular with professional

The Jersey Lilly served as both saloon and courtroom for Judge Roy Bean



Michael Amador/TXDOT



Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry

geologists and amateur rockhounds. Inquire locally for directions to many interesting spots.

**Historic Inn—Gage Hotel**—Restored West Texas hotel of the 1920s, original pine floors and woodwork; utilitarian rooms (19) with ranch-style furnishings. Traditional Texas and Southwestern fare in restaurant. U.S. 90 in Marathon.

## MARFA

Pop. 2,121

Alt. 4,688

Map P-5

**General**—Marfa was established in 1881 as water stop of Texas and New Orleans RR. Today it is a trading point for many large ranches in surrounding mountains. Superb climate makes Marfa a popular tourist center. In season, hunters are attracted by plentiful mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Check out the El Paisano Hotel. In 1955 it served as base of operations for filmmaker George Stevens while filming the movie "Giant."

For more information on the Marfa area, contact the chamber of commerce at 915/729-4942.

**Chinati Foundation**—Large-scale sculpture by contemporary artists; some enclosed, some in open air. On grounds of historic Fort D. A. Russell on south edge of city. Open Thurs. - Sat. noon - 5 p.m. At One Cavalry Rd. just off U.S. 67.

**Highest Golf Course in Texas** is the municipal nine-hole course nearly a mile high in Marfa. Visitors and locals enjoy golfing in the clear, dry mountain air.

**Marfa Mystery Lights**—First reported by early settlers in 1883, the mysterious lights still defy explanation. An historical marker at the prime viewing area, nine miles east of the city on U.S. 90, gives details.

**Presidio County Museum**—Features a slide program recalling Presidio County's history. There are also historical exhibits, including one on the Marfa Lights. Open Wed. 2 - 5 p.m.

**McCAMEY**

Pop. 1,805 Alt. 2,441 Map N-9

**General**—Before 1925, only a lone boxcar occasionally stood on siding at this featureless site. Then an oil driller named McCamey hit a gusher. In less than a year, McCamey was brawling boom town of 10,000 housed in tents and hastily constructed buildings. Much quieted, McCamey today is still a center of oil activity and is livestock shipping point for surrounding ranches. In addition, a growing number of wind turbine generators on the surrounding mesas make McCamey the wind energy capital of Texas.

**Mendoza Trail Museum**—Exhibits include relics of this recent frontier: Indian artifacts, fossils, mementos of oil boom, antique furniture. Also on museum grounds are historic Adrian House, and Santa Fe RR depot. Open Mon., Wed. & Thurs., 1 - 5 p.m.; Tues. 1 - 4 p.m. On U.S. 67 east. 915/652-3192.

**Santa Fe Park**—Large pecan and elm trees, rare in this region, shade picnic areas and grassy playground. At east city limits of McCamey on U.S. 67. Free overnight parking is available behind the museum.

**MIDLAND-ODESSA**

Pop. (Comb.) 185,939 Alt. 2,891 Map L/M-8

**General**—Both Odessa and Midland were established as the railroad moved westward in the late 1800s. Today, geologically speaking, it is known as the Permian Basin, containing tremendous quantities of anhydrite, potassium, salt, natural gas and oil. Farming and ranching were the main sources of income until the discovery of oil in the 1920s when Midland-Odessa became headquarters for the vast petroleum industry in the Permian Basin. Today, both cities remain active in the oil and gas business, but vast cattle ranches and farm land recall the days of the Old West. From city limit to city limit is only five miles, but between the two cities you can still find those cattle ranches and vast oil patches.

Both cities are seats to their respective governments. Two public golf courses in Odessa and two in Midland provide year-round golfing opportunities. Education is a priority with two community colleges and the Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin. Deaderick Hall Auditorium on the Odessa College campus and Chaparral Center on the Midland College campus offer a variety of entertainment choices. Both cities share cultural activities throughout the year, especially with the Midland/Odessa Symphony and Choral.

**Confederate Air Force and American Airpower Heritage Museum, Midland**



Kevin Stillman/TxDOT

**Odessa's Globe of the Great Southwest is authentic replica of original Shakespearean Globe Theatre in England**

Through "booms" and "busts," the cities have grown and developed with highrise buildings, a strong educational system, economic diversification and dedication to the fine arts. The Midland RockHounds, franchised by the Oakland Athletics, plays AA professional baseball Apr. - Aug. while the Odessa Jackalopes offer Texas League ice hockey Oct. - Mar.

Craving sweets? Stop by Susie's South Forty Confections in Midland for tasty Texas Pecan Toffee. Kitchen and gift shop on Old Lamesa Rd. (South County Rd. 1180) 1/2 mile south of I-20, Exit 137. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mar. - Sept. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Oct. - Feb. A second site is at 2101 W. Wadley at the intersection of Wadley and Garfield in north Midland. For information, call 915/570-4040.

For additional information on events, accommodations, or dining facilities, contact the Midland Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-624-6435, or the Web site at [www.visitmidlandtx.com](http://www.visitmidlandtx.com). The Odessa Convention and Visitors Bureau can be contacted at 1-800-780-4678 or the Web site at [www.odessacvb.com](http://www.odessacvb.com).

**American Airpower Heritage Museum and Confederate Air Force Headquarters**

—After World War II, a handful of former service pilots put their wartime flying experience to use as crop-duster pilots in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. But when a group of them paid \$2500 for a surplus P-51D Mustang in 1957, the seed was planted for the growth of the nation's finest and most complete collection of flyable WWII combat aircraft.

When these dedicated pilots found that virtually all of the nearly 300,000 aircraft that had been produced during the war had been destroyed, they vowed to try to preserve at least one of each type so that future generations would understand and appreciate the importance and accomplishments of American airpower.

The museum remains dedicated to acquisition, restoration and preservation in flying condition of these vintage military aircraft. The CAF maintains an impressive array of World War II planes including foreign aircraft. The museum also owns the world's largest collection of aviation nose art. Major flying demonstration is "Airsho" the first full weekend in October.

Approximately 14-20 of the 142 aircraft in the CAF are on display at any one time, with different aircraft quarterly. On display could be combat stalwarts such as P-40 Warhawk, P-47 Thunderbolt, P-51 Mustang, P-39 Aircobra, P-63 King Cobra, P-82 Twin Mustang, F4F Wildcat, F6F Hellcat, F8F Bearcat, F4U Corsair, and German Heinkel HE-111. Other flyable planes include B-24 Liberator, B-17 Flying Fortress, B-29 Superfortress, A-26 Invader, B-25 Mitchell, C-47 Skytrain, and several trainers.

Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. and holidays noon - 5 p.m. at Midland International Airport, on I-20 Business Route. Tel 915/563-1000, or visit the Web site at [www.airpowermuseum.org](http://www.airpowermuseum.org). Admission.

**Christensen Stadium**—Home to the Midland RockHounds AA affiliate of the Oakland Athletics. Seating capacity of this baseball facility is 5000. Two private picnic areas provide opportunities for special events. Games scheduled Apr. - Aug. Loop 250 and Lamesa Rd. in Midland. Call 915/683-4251 for schedules and ticket information.

Gay Shackleton/TxDOT

**Cole Theatre**—Home of Midland Community Theatre. Performances include dramas, comedies, and musicals. For information, contact the MCT box office at 915/682-4111. 2000 W. Wadley in Midland.

**Ellen Noel Art Museum of the Permian Basin**—Variety is the key word here with 10 - 20 art exhibitions yearly featuring all facets of painting, sculpture, photography, and design, ranging from contemporary works to the "old masters." A walled sculpture garden features bronzes by contemporary Italian sculptors. The garden is also a sensory garden designed for the visually impaired. Take time to browse in the museum shop. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. On grounds of The Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin at 4909 E. University Dr. west of Loop 338 in Odessa. Donations accepted. 915/368-7222.

**Ector County Coliseum**—8,500-seat coliseum hosts varied cultural attractions. Behind the coliseum are six additional exhibit buildings and a covered arena. Just north of coliseum is re-created cable-tool drilling rig, circa 1920. In driller's shack adjacent to rig is a collection of photographs and relics of West Texas oil-boom days. Coliseum is home to Permian Basin Fair and Exposition, the Permian Basin International Oil Show, as well as the Odessa Jackalopes ice hockey team in the Western Professional Hockey League. Hockey games held Oct. - Mar. For schedule, call 915/552-PUCK. Andrews Highway and 42nd St. in Odessa. For information on the coliseum, call 915/366-3541.

**Fire Museum**—The Midland Downtown Lions Club Fire Museum contains city's first two fire trucks and other early fire fighting equipment. Photographs line the walls, and an original collection of early fire markers also on exhibit. Sponsored by Downtown Lions Club. Open daily, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tel. 915/685-7332. 1500 W. Wall in Midland. Free admission.

**Globe of the Great Southwest**—On grounds of Odessa College, theater is authentic replica of original Shakespearean Globe Theatre. Shakespeare productions held throughout the year, along with national road shows and local productions which range from country/Western and bluegrass concerts to Broadway musical comedies. On grounds is replica of Ann Hathaway's cottage that contains antiques and Shakespearean library. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2308 Shakespeare Rd. in Odessa. 915/332-1586.

**Hero's Water World**—20-acre water-fun park in middle of West Texas desert. Single-price admission provides unlimited use of all facilities including four water slides, swimming and diving pools, Mountain Rapids tube ride, wave pool, sandy beach, squirt pools and playgrounds for younger children, go-carts, and an arcade. 2.5 mi. west of Midland International Airport. Open May - Sept. Tel. 915/563-1933. At 12300 E. Business 20. Admission.

**Jackrabbit Statue**—"World's Largest Jackrabbit" is a 10-ft. statue in the school administration's parking lot at 802 N. Sam Houston, Odessa. A popular photo spot.

**Midland County Historical Museum**—Exhibits include early Midland history, photos, pioneer relics, mementos of the Civil War, World Wars I & II, and Indian artifacts. Open Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. 301 W. Missouri, Midland. For information, call 915/688-8947.

**Midland Man**—Anthropologist Dr. Fred Wendorf authenticated remains (calvarium, upper skull) of what is now known as the Midland Man. Discovery proves existence of man in Midland area 22,000 years ago; site on Scharbauer Ranch south of city limits. Reproduction of remains on display in Midland County Historical Museum.


**Midland Parks**—Over 45 fine parks dot the city. Included are Dennis the Menace Park, Hogan Park, Chris Davidson Memorial Park, Centennial Plaza and Washington Park. Dennis the Menace Park is a superb three-acre duplicate of original in Monterey, Calif. with bright colors, wading pools, walks, slides, playhouses and fountains. Hogan Park has picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming pool, ball diamonds, 36-hole golf course (ranked in the top 25 municipal courses in the state), driving range, and the Sibley Nature Center and Trail which gives visitors a look at West Texas flora and fauna. Chris Davidson Memorial Park is one of three parks in the U.S. that is totally accessible to wheelchairs. Park offers merry-go-rounds, swings, physical fitness courses, basketball and volleyball courts, and a gazebo. Centennial Plaza is tribute to Midland's 100th anniversary, dedicated in honor of pioneers who settled here. In center of downtown, it offers waterfalls, terraced landscaping and seating for outdoor concerts and relaxed picnic lunches. Washington Park features tennis courts, baseball field, walking track, and a one-foot-deep wading pool with play features in the center. A zero-depth pool where the water level slowly deepens like a shoreline from zero to twelve feet at the deep end is nearby. For more information, call the Midland Park and Recreation office at 915/685-7355.

**Museum of the Southwest Complex**—Art collections displayed in 1934 mansion on National Register of Historic Places. Interior house accents include carved wooden friezes, hand-painted tile and Italian marble fireplaces. Collections focus on Southwest and include works by Taos Society of Artists, Texas regionalists, photographers, and sculptors. Varying traveling exhibits shown. September arts and crafts fair first weekend following Labor Day each year. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1705 W. Missouri in Midland. For information, call 915/683-2882. Donations accepted.

**Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum**—Exhibits provide children and families with an interactive environment for exploration and investigation. Explore Citiscap, a multi-level, child-size city complete with a bank, grocery store, television station and more. Exhibits for children ages 4 - 12; computer area; pre-school play area. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Tel. 915/683-2882. Donations accepted.

**Marian Blakemore Planetarium**—Public sky shows. Group shows by reservation. (Midland schools use facilities for astronomy classes during school year.) Gallery area and interactive video component. Admission. For information and show times, 915/683-2882.


**Music City Mall**—Enjoy free, live entertainment with a variety of acts. Clowns, balloon sculptors, bands and solo artists performing everything from rock, country/Western to folk and Tejano, perform throughout the mall. Carousel fashioned after an 18th-Century original. Ice skating rink for public skating and special events. At 4101 E. 42nd St. in Odessa. 915/550-2483.




## Come Smile With Us!

Visit Midland/Odessa where you'll find people as warm as the weather. Experience WWII history at the CAF American Airpower Heritage Museum. Discover oil at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum or step into the Oval Office at the Presidential Museum.

Enjoy the seasonal festivals and fairs, rodeos, minor league baseball and ice hockey, shopping and dining, all with one thing in mind...to put a smile on your face.




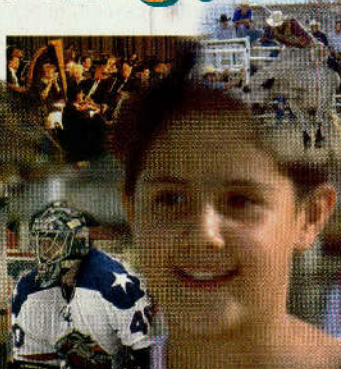


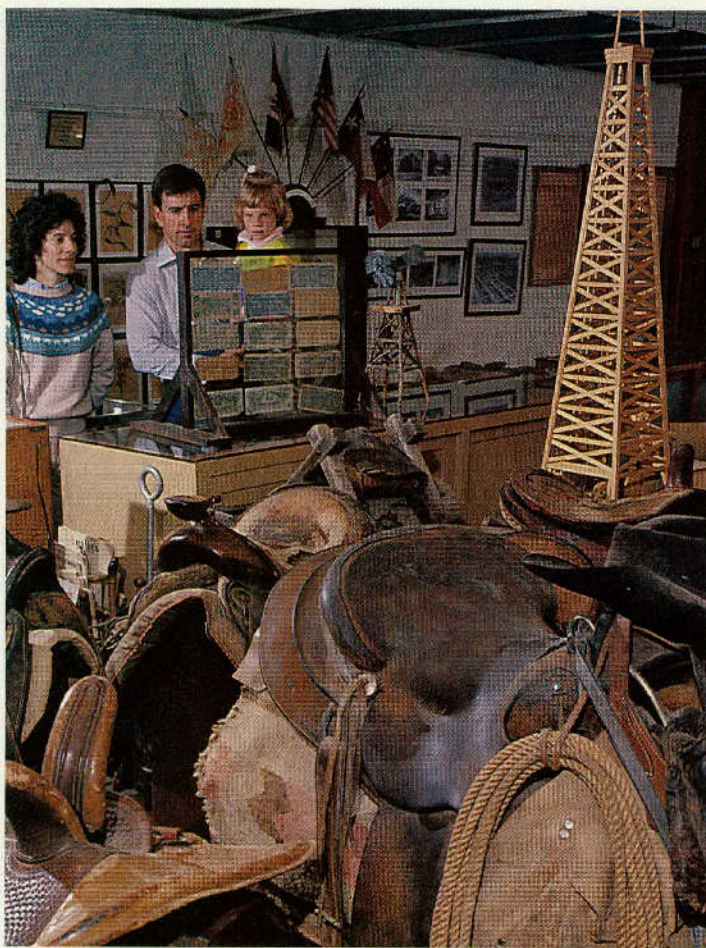
## MidlandOdessa

THE SUNNY SMILE OF TEXAS

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Kevin Stillman/DPX

**Midland County Museum, Midland**

**Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library/J. Evetts Haley History Center**

—With emphasis on Texas and Southwestern history, museum features the collection and historical research of J. Evetts Haley, acknowledged dean of range country historians. Nearly 30,000 items in the collection include displays, volumes and papers on all facets of early Western life, especially the cowboy and range cattle industry. Also contains extensive collections of Billy the Kid and Lincoln County War. Foremost among historical relics is original Alamo mission bell, cast in 1722. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Midland at 1805 W. Indiana. Tel. 915/682-5785. Donations accepted.

**Odessa Meteor Crater**—Shower of meteorites plunged to earth some 20,000 years ago, shattering limestone bedrock and leaving explosion pit some 500 feet in diameter; other smaller adjacent pits. Over the centuries, desert winds silted crater almost level with surrounding plains, and site was not identified as meteor crater until the 1920s. Today a marked nature trail winds through crater. Pick up a free brochure interpreting the unusual feature at the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, 700 N. Grant Ave. Just west of Odessa exit I-20 at F.M. 1936 (south), drive west on frontage road 3.4 mi. to sign indicating crater site to south.

**Odessa Parks**—Acres of fine parks offer a variety of recreational opportunities in Odessa. The 40-acre Floyd Gwinn Park was the first built in the city and features two playgrounds, two tennis courts, baseball fields, basketball courts, lighted volleyball courts and soccer fields. Swimming pool open in summer months. Noel Heritage Plaza in the center of downtown provides a welcome oasis for visitors; it is especially pretty during the Christmas holidays. Comanche Trail Park is a 160-acre park that has a 3.5-mile paved trail system, a man-made pond stocked with a variety of game fish, playground, soccer and baseball fields, and it is an ideal place for bird watching. Sherwood Park has facilities for baseball, soccer, sand volleyball and tennis, as well as a large playground. Woodson Park has softball and tennis courts, playground and swimming pool, and picnic pavilions. The Univ. of Texas Permian Basin Park has lighted softball fields, soccer fields, little league baseball fields, covered picnic facilities; sand volleyball courts, basketball and tennis courts; paved walking trail; and a one acre pond. The Barrier Free Progressive Park is a special park for special people. It is designed to meet the needs of disabled

children and features two play areas for different age groups; a sensory garden for visually challenged children; and talking tubes to communicate around the park. McKinney Park, off I-20, features lighted ballfield, tennis court, volleyball court, playground equipment, picnic facilities, and swimming pool. At Christmas, this park is transformed into a holiday wonderland, with thousands of holiday lights in "Starbright Village." Numerous neighborhood parks also have ball fields and tennis courts around the city.

**Parker House Museum**—This house, completed in 1935, was owned by Jim and Bessie Parker and was headquarters for their ranching operations, which eventually encompassed some 175 sections in Andrews and Ector counties, including two sections east of the Odessa townsite. The house has been restored and features the life and times of the Parker Family from the 1930s to the 1950s. Gallery rooms upstairs feature changing historical exhibits. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 1118 Maple St. in Odessa. For information, call 915/335-9918. Donations accepted.

**Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame**—The museum's variety of collections, exhibits and interpretation of the oil industry make it an outstanding visitor site. Historical highlights include thousand-year-old reed mats and woven fiber articles from the area's prehistoric population; superb historical paintings; cowboy tack and early railroad artifacts. Petroleum exhibits include great historic photos of early boom-town activities; fascinating well-drilling techniques in paintings, models and hardware; 3-D models of oil strata; geological AV shows and the story of oil formation; actual oil-well cores from deep underground. Step back 230 million years and walk 30 feet "under water" in a Permian-age sea. Stand amid a wrecked drilling rig and experience a simulated wild well blowout. Outside you can find a large collection of antique oil drilling rigs and equipment as well. This museum also features the largest collection in the nation of Tom Lovell works. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. at 1500 I-20 west, exit 136 in Midland. Tel. 915/683-4403. Admission.

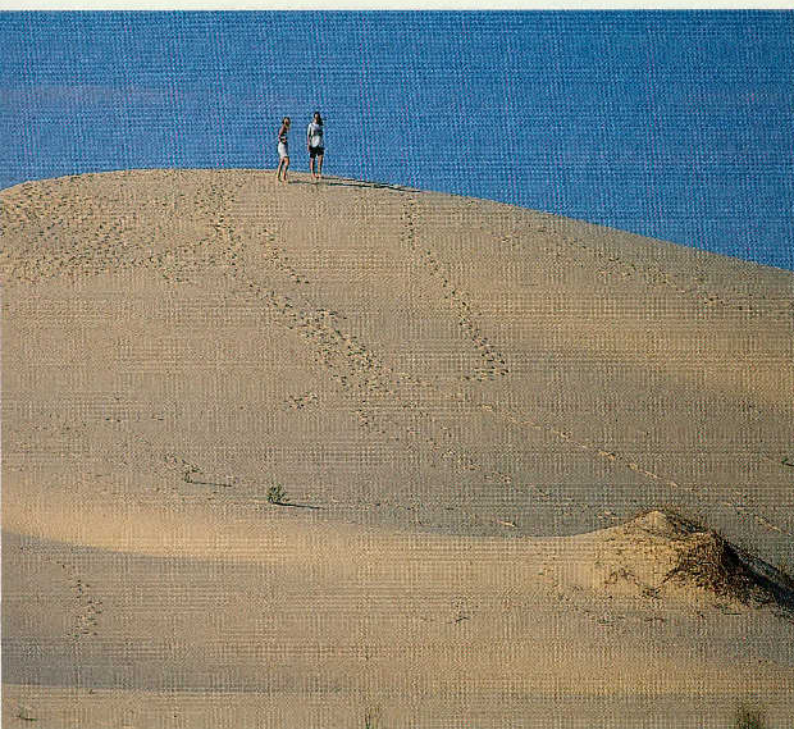
**Permian Basin Vietnam Veterans' Memorial**—Dedicated to area veterans who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The five-sided pentagon holds plaques of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as the names of the individuals who lost their lives during the conflict. Located at the Midland International Airport.

**Presidential Museum**—An unusual museum devoted to the U.S. presidency and presidential political campaigns, from George Washington to the present. Campaign slogans, buttons and posters—some of them bizarre—biting political cartoons; coin-like campaign medalettes, popular as give-away tokens during much of the 19th Century. Also a collection of dolls with replicas of hair styles and inaugural gowns of every first lady. The intricate miniature dresses required 20 years to research and craft. Temporary exhibit gallery, and a vast presidential research facility. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 622 N. Lee St., Odessa; closed major holidays. For information, call 915/332-7123. Admission.

**Campaign posters from past elections displayed in Presidential Museum in Odessa**



J. Griffin Smith/Tx00T



Michael Murphy/1x001

**Wind-sculptured sand dunes and large forest of Havard oak trees, that grow no taller than three feet, form Monahans Sandhills State Park**

**Pliska Airplane**—John V. Pliska, born in Tyne, Austria, came to Texas with his parents in 1897 and settled in Flatonia. In 1903 he started on a trip to Mexico by train. When the train stopped in Midland, he got off to look over the local blacksmith shop. Pliska was hired as a blacksmith and became the first person in Midland County to become a U.S. naturalized citizen. Fascinated by airplanes, Pliska planned to build one and by 1909 had started gathering materials. In 1911, a Wright Brothers Model B plane landed in Midland on a cross-country flight. Pliska viewed it and began to build his own plane along with Gary Coggin, a local auto mechanic. Pliska flew his plane in 1912. Pliska's flying machine can be viewed daily in the Midland International Airport lobby. 915/560-2200.

**Putt Putt Golf & Games**—Center has 36 holes of themed golf, go carts, batting cages, laser tag, arcade with 50 video games and food on six acres. Open daily. 3415 N. Loop 250 West in Midland. Tel. 915/520-3993.

**White-Pool House**—Oldest existing house in Ector County, two-story brick home was constructed 1887. Behind it stands a barn, replica of early 1900s architecture. On Register of National Historic Places. Period furnishings are those of original and second owners and reflect lifestyles of 1880s ranching period and 1920s oil era. Frequently changing exhibits give visitors opportunities to view and learn about the community in different eras. Open Tues. noon - 3 p.m.; Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment. 112 E. Murphy St. in Odessa. Donations accepted. For information, call 915/333-4072.

**Yucca Theatre**—Nostalgic example of flamboyant Assyrian-style architecture, featuring gilded lions, ornate columns, scrollwork and elaborate lighting fixtures. This Texas Historical Medallion landmark houses the madcap Summer Mummies, melodrama mayhem and hilarity Jun. - Labor Day. 208 N. Colorado St. in Midland. For information, call 915/682-4111.

## MONAHANS

Pop. 6,821

Alt. 2,613

Map M-7

**General**—Spanish explorers crossed area of present Ward County more than 400 years ago, but it remained undisturbed habitat of Indians until mid-1800s. City established about 1881 as stop on Texas and Pacific Railroad, building west from Fort Worth. County seat, today a financial and marketing center for more than 800 square miles of cattle and oil country.

Oil wells, drilled at a distance from the downtown area, are slanted to draw oil from beneath city hall, courthouse, banks and business houses.

**Lake**—Imperial Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Million Barrel Museum**—Built in 1928 as oil-storage facility, huge tank was abandoned due to leakage. Converted in 1987 to museum featuring

relocated and restored Holman House that served as hotel at terminus of Monahans-Fort Stockton Stage Line early in 20th Century. Period furnishings. Also on site is first Ward County jail, display of antique oil field equipment and amphitheater. Open daily. On U.S. 80, 1.5 mi. east of city.

**Monahans Sandhills State Park**—4,000 acres of wind-sculptured sand dunes like classical landscape of the Sahara. Park has modern museum and interpretive center, picnicking, camping and sand surfing. Huge sandhills area, only part of which is in park, was formidable obstacle to pioneer travelers and wagon trains. Indians knew it better and frequently camped here because pure, fresh water could be found between certain dunes by scooping a trench in sand. Not apparent to eye is one of largest oak forests in nation, stretching over 40,000 acres of arid land. The "forest" is not apparent because mature trees (Havard oaks) are seldom over three feet high, yet they send down roots as far as 90 feet to maintain miniature surface growth. The unusual park is on I-20/U.S. 80 five miles east. Admission.

**Pyote Museum and Rattlesnake Bomber Base**—Old base, south of I-20, was training base for thousands of B-17 and B-29 bombardment crews during World War II. Museum displays area history, mementos of base. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 6 p.m. Museum is in county park that also offers picnicking, swimming pool, three-hole golf course, tennis and overnight camping. On I-20, 15 miles west of Monahans.

## PECOS

Pop. 9,501

Alt. 2,580

Map M-6

**General**—Established 1881 as stop on Texas and Pacific Railroad, Pecos gained early fame as hangout for rowdy cowboys and fast-draw lawmen. Touted as "Home of World's First Rodeo," Pecos was scene of cowboy contest in 1883 that was forerunner of today's popular sport. (West of the Pecos Rodeo, 4th of July, re-enacts 1883 events.) Today a hub of travel both east-west and north-south; commercial center for ranching, irrigated farming, produce processing, and oil production. Area hunting for mule deer, javelina, upland game birds. Visit the chamber of commerce, 111 S. Cedar St. (U.S. 285) for details or see their Web site [www.pecostx.com](http://www.pecostx.com).

**Lakes**—Balmorhea and Red Bluff. See LAKES listing.

**Maxey Park & Zoo**—Among several species of animals are buffalo, Longhorns, deer, javelina, mountain lions, and antelope. Picnic area, a gazebo, and a botanical garden with regional flowers and shrubs are found in the park area. Also, "kid's city" playground for children of all ages. Full facility campground and RV park west of the park. On I-20 access road between U.S. 285 and Texas 17.

**Pecos Cantaloupes**—Grown in irrigated fields, luscious melon is the delight of gourmets throughout the United States. Quality derives from natural combination of alkali soil, western sunlight and altitude. Pecos cantaloupes enjoy comparable status with Maine lobsters, French wines and Swiss cheeses. Harvested late July through Sept. with a festival held in late summer. For festival schedule, 915/445-2406.

**West-of-the-Pecos Museum and Park**—Museum occupies old saloon and three floors of historic hotel, once the area's finest. See restored ornate fixtures, accurate displays of life in the late 1800s, and site where two outlaws were gunned down by quick-draw bartender, Barney Riggs. Fifty rooms of exhibits showcasing Pecos and West Texas history. Information on other Pecos attractions. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. (6 p.m. daily in summer). 120 E. First St. Admission.

Adjacent park contains first building in Pecos, grave of Clay Allison, the "Gentleman Gunfighter," replica of Judge Roy Bean's saloon (see LANGTRY for actual site), an Eclipse windmill and offices of the tourist-center and chamber of commerce.

## PINE SPRINGS

Pop. 20 (est.)

Alt. 5,634

Map L-4

**General**—The tiny community on U.S. 62/180 just south of the New Mexico state line was the location of a station on famous stagecoach run, Butterfield Overland Mail Route. Station was established in 1858; tumbled stone ruins and a granite historical marker are all that remain today.

**Guadalupe Mountains National Park**—Dedicated 1972, the park contains 86,416 acres with elevations ranging from 3,650 to 8,749 feet at the summit of Guadalupe Peak, highest point in Texas. Four of the state's highest peaks are in the park, as well as many other unnamed peaks over 8,000 feet, along with deep canyons and a rare mixture of plant and animal life. The barren, desert



J. Griffith Smith/70001

### West-of-the-Pecos Museum in Pecos

outer mountain slopes belie a wooded, game-rich interior of great scenic beauty. Forests of ponderosa pines mingle with aspens, maples, mountain junipers and madrones. Abundant deer and elk graze upland meadows.

Access to the park's rugged, majestic interior is by hiking and backpack camping along 80 miles of marked trails. The National Park Service advises that only experienced, well-equipped backpackers should enter the primitive back country for extended stays. Permits are required for overnight trips and camping is allowed in designated areas only. All should check in and out at the headquarters visitor center on U.S. 62/180 near Pine Springs. A natural history museum is in the 1870s Frijole Ranch House. Wildlife exhibits, slide program, and bookstore are in visitor center.

Visitors may drive near mouth of *McKittrick Canyon*, where easy hiking trails lead into enchanting scenery (day use only). A geology exhibit and slide program are at the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Center.

Tent and self-contained RV camping at Pine Springs campground near the ruins of historic "Pinery" stage station. Water, rest rooms, evening programs. Containerized fuel stoves (gasoline, propane, alcohol) only. On U.S. 62/180. Fee.

## PRESIDIO

Pop. 4,167

Alt. 2,594

Map R-5

**General**—Town grew from early Spanish settlement once protected by a presidio (fort). Surrounding terrain arid, rugged, and often spectacular. Mexican town south of the river is Ojinaga.

**Big Bend Ranch State Park**—This state park has almost 300,000 acres in the Chihuahuan Desert wilderness encompassing desert, mountains, canyons, and the Rio Grande. Hiking, backpacking, nature study, river rafting, and canoeing available. Entrance and user fees. Visitors check in at Warnock Environmental Education Center in Lajitas or Fort Leaton State Historic Site in Presidio.

**Fort Leaton State Historic Site**—One of Texas' most unusual historic sites, massive adobe fortress built by frontiersman Ben Leaton in 1848 immediately after Mexican War at strategic site on Chihuahua-San Antonio Trail in arid West Texas by the Rio Grande. Leaton cornered lucrative trade with area Indians, supplied far-ranging U.S. Army patrols, and was accused of encouraging Indian raids on settlements in Mexico by trading weapons and ammunition for stolen livestock. Of more than 40 original rooms around large patio, 24 are architecturally restored and roofed with cottonwood vigas (beams) and rajas (split cottonwood), sheathed with adobe. Restoration, not yet complete, eventually will include frontier furnishings of living and guest quarters, dining room, kitchen, storerooms and granary. Interpretive exhibits trace area history and culture; audiovisual program on desert ecology. Open daily 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closed Dec. 25; 3 miles east of Presidio on F.M. 170; admission. (Daily, annual, restricted annual, annual group entrance permits and Parkland Passports are not valid.)

Visitor center at the fort introduces Big Bend Ranch State Park.

## RANKIN

Pop. 800

Alt. 2,595

Map N-9

**General**—County seat of Upton County, named for F.E. Rankin who discovered a valuable, much-needed source of water in 1911. Town serves area ranchers and oilmen.

**Rankin Museum**—Housed in historic Yates Hotel (c. 1927) built by oil tycoon Ira Yates; features restored lobby, original wicker furniture and ceiling fan, pioneer artifacts, meteorite believed to be fragment of the one whose crater can be seen between Odessa and Monahans, and restored 1940 Ford firetruck. Open Thurs. - Fri. 2 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. at 200 W. Fifth St.

## SALT FLAT

Pop. 35 (est.)

Alt. 3,715

Map M-4

**General**—Small community that grew near extensive surface salt deposits left by intermittent lakes in Hudspeth County just west of the Guadalupe Mountains. Area was focus of bloody dispute known as the Salt War in 1860s and '70s. Before the dispute reached a confused, tragic end, it had involved both Mexican and U.S. citizens, political parties, judges, legislators, mob action, army troops and Texas Rangers. Murder, assassination and revenge killings took place on both sides. Some of the gray-white salt deposits may be seen today from U.S. 62/180.

## SANDERSON

Pop. 861

Alt. 2,980

Map P-8

**General**—Sanderson was originally named Strawbridge when the Texas and New Orleans Railroad reached the townsite. When the railroad established a roundhouse and service facilities in 1881, it was renamed Sanderson for the railroad construction engineer. Terrell County was created out of Pecos County in 1905, and Sanderson was designated county seat. Main stream of economy is gas and oil production and ranching.

**Terrell County Memorial Museum**—This museum features turn-of-the-century ranch memorabilia which includes tools, implements, clothing and household goods. Open daily 3 - 5 p.m. At 211 East Mansfield St.

## SIERRA BLANCA

Pop. 533

Alt. 4,512

Map N-3

**General**—Now on modern I-10 in far West Texas, town grew at juncture of the nation's second transcontinental rail route in 1881 (Southern Pacific and Texas & Pacific). Historical marker commemorates the event downtown at corner of Sierra Blanca Ave. and U.S. 80. Town named for Sierra Blanca Mountain (6,950 ft.) just northwest.

**Railroad Depot Hudspeth County Museum**—In original Southern Pacific Depot building in 1882 which served both Southern Pacific and Texas & Pacific railroads. The building was moved a couple of blocks to present location near post office on U.S. 80. Exhibits include railroad memorabilia, Indian artifacts, and history of county. Also houses offices of local historical society. Open Wed. 1 - 5 p.m.

**Adobe Courthouse**—Under a neat white stucco sheath, the Hudspeth County Courthouse is the Southwest's only in-use governmental structure of adobe. It's a popular snapshot subject. A replica of old Fort Hancock is on display, the last fort built to protect against Indians (1882-1895).

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 1111 north 43 miles to intersection with primary east-west route of U.S. 62/180. Generally flat ranching areas edged by mountains on the horizon. Profuse stands of giant yuccas growing 15 to 20 feet high. These desert "forests" are most spectacular in March and April when each stalk is topped by huge cluster of white blossoms.

**Sierra Diablo Ranch**—This working cattle ranch offers plenty of activities with Texas hospitality. You can relax, put your feet up, or saddle up and ride the range. The ranch also has three cattle drives a year. For information, call 1-800-986-9940 or visit the Web site at [www.sierradiablo.com](http://www.sierradiablo.com). Take F.M. 1111 north to Big Tank Rd. and follow the signs.

## STUDY BUTTE

Pop. 267 (est.)

Alt. 2,500

Map R-6

**General**—is in the wild, harsh region of the Big Bend and civilization came slowly. Rich deposits of mercury were discovered here about 1900, and the

## VAN HORN

Pop. 2,435

Alt. 4,010

Map N-4

**General**—Grew from wayfaring stop on historic Bankhead Highway and Old Spanish Trail from San Antonio to California in mid-1800s. Still a primary road junction of I-10 (U.S. 80), U.S. 90 and Texas 54, and hub to several state and national parks; in a broad basin devoted to irrigated farming, surrounded by Van Horn, Sierra Diablo and Apache Mountains. Mining includes talc, sulfur and marble, plus undeveloped indications of copper, uranium and feldspar. A popular stop for east-west or north-south travelers; caters to longer-staying vacationers with sunny climate, interesting rock and mineral deposits, hunting for mule deer, pronghorn antelope and upland game birds.

John Madden, colorful television football broadcaster, designated Chuy's Restaurant for his "Haul of Fame." Madden frequently crisscrosses the country in his bus to broadcast games. Just before Super Bowl weekend, he annually names his "All-Madden Team." Plaques and photos of inductees hang in the restaurant at 1200 W. Business Loop 10.

Information on events, accommodations, and area attractions may be obtained from the Van Horn Convention and Visitors Bureau at 915/283-2682. **Culberson County Historical Museum**—A vivid reminder of civilization which came slowly to this remote region. Displays of Indian artifacts, antique ranch, farm, and home implements. A resplendent antique bar, complete with ornate hardwood, mirrors and brass rail, recalls lusty frontier times. In historic Clark Hotel, 110 W. Business Loop 10 downtown. For information, call the Van Horn Convention and Visitors Bureau at 915/283-2682.

**Smokehouse Auto Museum**—The only classic car museum in Far West Texas; restored vehicles from the 1910s to the 60s. Rotated regularly from a private collection. Also featured are photos and other auto related memorabilia. Open Mon. - Sat. 6 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.; adjacent to Smokehouse Restaurant. At 905 W. Business Loop 10.

## WINK

Pop. 919

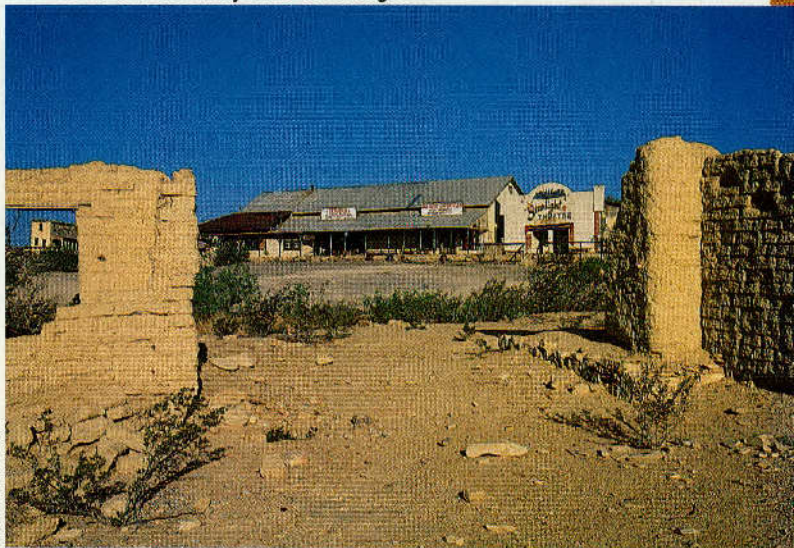
Alt. 2,785

Map M-7

**General**—The town began in 1926 when oil was discovered in the Hendrick oil field in Winkler County. By the next year the Wink Townsite Co. began selling lots on a local ranch. The oil boom brought new people to the town causing a shortage of housing. Wink was originally named Winkler, named after C.M. Winkler, a colonel in the Confederate Army, a member of the Texas legislature, and a justice of the Court of Civil Appeal, and for whom the county was named; however, the post office said there was already a Winkler and the name was shortened to Wink. Today Wink's economy is still based on the petroleum industry as well as ranching.

**Roy Orbison Museum**—Orbison grew up in Wink and called it home. The museum features memorabilia from his boyhood and well as his musical career. Record albums and singles are displayed in cases, as well as the singer's trademark sunglasses. For tours, call 915/527-3622. Located downtown on Texas 115.

## Ruins and a country store in Terlingua



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

## Fort Leaton State Historic Site in Presidio

mining town of Study Butte (Stew-dy Beaut) came into being around the Big Bend Cinnabar Mine, managed by Will Study. But fame and progress, elusive as the quicksilver itself, faded as the mine became less and less profitable and was closed in the early 1940s. Today a few families live among old stone and adobe structures. Visitors pause to absorb silent impressions of a colorful past, and occasional rockhounds search tailing heaps for fragments of cinnabar, agate, and other colorful rocks.

## TERLINGUA

Pop. 250 (est.)

Alt. 2,720

Map R-6

**General**—In the 1800s the area around Terlingua was inhabited by a few scattered Mexican herders, living in a precarious relationship with Apache and Comanche Indians who regularly moved through the wild country. Mercury was discovered in 1890, and soon thriving city of almost 2,000 was devoting its energies to extracting the rich red ore (cinnabar) from beneath barren hills. Millions of dollars worth of quicksilver was marketed before the boom tapered off. The hundreds of wooden shacks are gone entirely; many rock and adobe buildings stand roofless, walls crumbling.

Some modern residents have come of late—leisure homes in the remote desert setting, a country store with grocery staples, souvenirs and mineral specimens, a few motel-type accommodations, a couple of restaurants, and the Terlingua Ranch Resort.

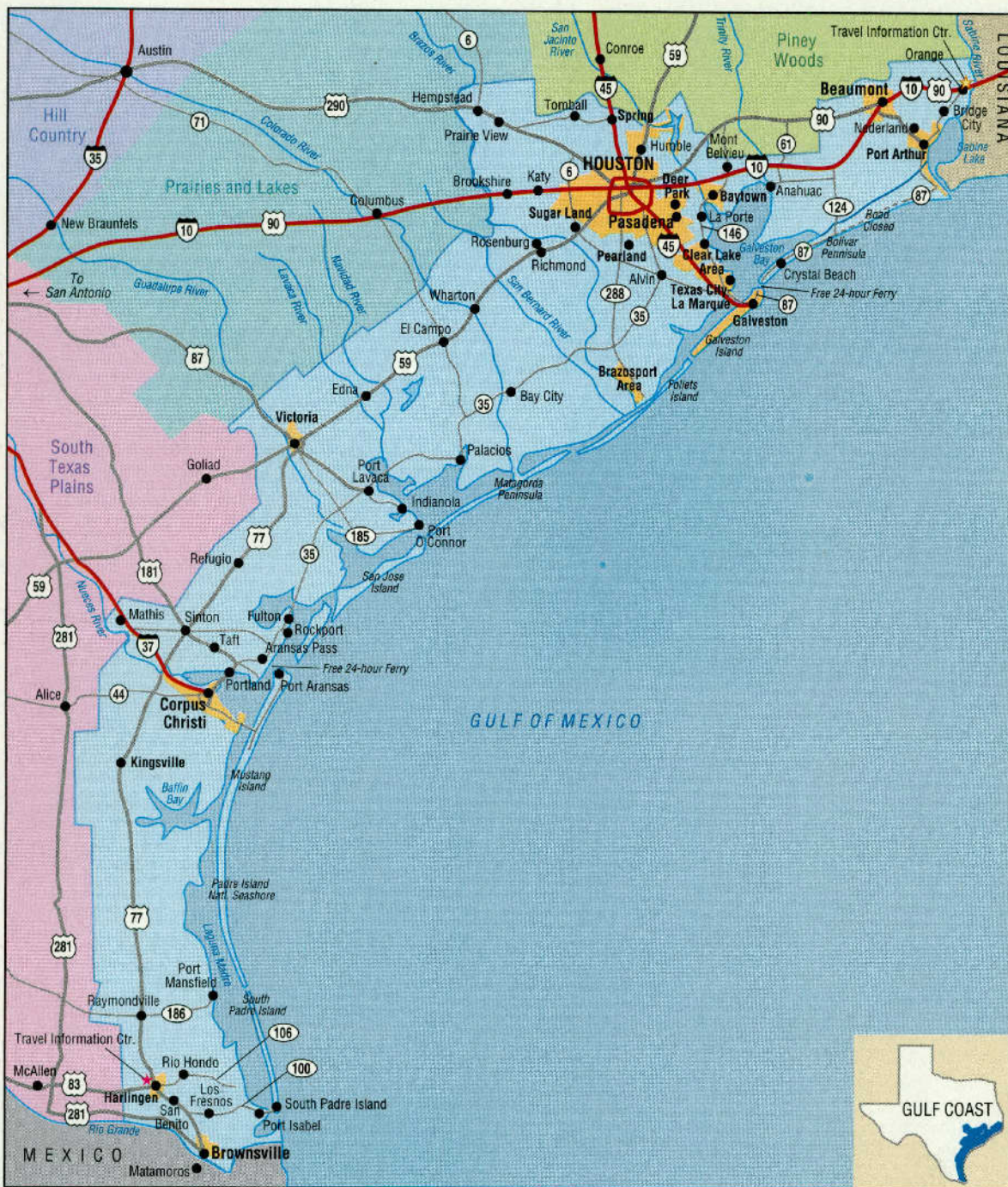
Once a year, on the first Sat. in Nov., some 5,000 "chiliheads" converge on the desolate area for the International Championship Chili Cookoffs. The first, started in 1967 as a contest both of wit and chili between humorists Wick Fowler and H. Allen Smith, has become a cherished Texas tradition. The other contest includes individuals and representatives from the Chili Appreciation Society International.

**Christmas Mountains Sanctuary**—Numerous remote and primitive campsites available, as well as miles of trails and roads for hiking, mountain biking (non-motorized only), and horseback riding. Several private operators offer guided tours to some of the old mining operations found on the property. For information, call 1-888-531-2223 or 915/371-2356.

J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT



# GULF COAST



**T**he vast Gulf of Mexico weaves its watery spell upon seafarers and landlubbers alike. In Texas, “land ho!” is as exciting a cry as “anchors aweigh!” For, in addition to the bounty of the shimmering sea surfing its shores, Texas offers an abundance of terrific terra firma along its 624-mile coastline.

Peninsulas and islands, cities and towns, beaches and parks, all extend their own magical allure. You will find every civilized and seaside attraction imaginable along the scimitar-shaped slab of Texas known as the Texas Gulf Coast.

Let's journey from coastal north to valley south and sample the delights along this Gulf-kissed stretch of Texas that offers something for all visitors, for all seasons.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

## UPPER COAST

At Orange, experience your first slice of Lone Star hospitality at the Texas Travel Information Center. You have but to enter the door and friendly travel counselors greet you with the typically Texan “howdy, y'all,” and provide you with suggestions and literature for your Texas visit.

Plan to explore Orange. The city harbors treasures such as the 1894 Stark House and the Stark Museum of Art, which houses a superb collection of



Southwestern art, as well as unusual Indian art and artifacts. For a rousing look at area wetlands, try an airboat ride that zips you through swamps lined with giant cypress trees draped in Spanish moss and teeming with bird life. Watch, too, for frogs, turtles—and alligators.

Journey south and you will note Texas 87's graceful Rainbow and Veterans Memorial bridges that span the Neches River on the route to Port Arthur. The 176-foot-high-clearance Rainbow Bridge, completed in 1938, was, then, the highest elevated highway bridge over tidal waters in the world.

In Port Arthur, you can *laissez le bons temps rouler* (let the good times roll), while celebrating the Cajun heritage of many of its citizens and enjoying tasty seafood specialties such as shrimp gumbo and crawfish etoufee.

Remember the rocking Sixties? You'll rekindle a bit of them in Port Arthur's Southeast Texas Musical Heritage Room at the Museum of the Gulf Coast. Here, an exhibit memorializes, among other musicians, the legendary Janis Joplin, a Port Arthur native. You can admire the psychedelic Porsche painted in kaleidoscopic patterns by the late rock star.

Nature takes the forefront at nearby Sea Rim State Park, where a boardwalk trail makes it easier to view coastal bird life and marshland vegetation. And history holds sway at Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park, which marks the site of an 1863 Union attempt to invade Texas during the Civil War.

Just up the road, Beaumont offers a chance to revisit the days of Spindletop, the first great Texas oil gusher. You can walk through the re-creation of the Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown and relive the fever pitch of the 1901 discovery of oil. Wooden oil derricks, a saloon, livery stable, and other buildings help capture the era.

Museums here cover a surprising range of subjects, including art, steamboats, fire-fighting, and police work. While the Texas Energy Museum focuses on 19th Century discoveries of oil, the Edison Plaza Museum exhibits thousands of items owned, invented, or influenced by Thomas Edison, including prototype light bulbs, vintage hair dryers, movie cameras, and phonographs.

From Beaumont, head south toward the Gulf and you'll soon be driving along the pleasant ocean-washed stretch known as the Bolivar Peninsula. Here, resort communities such as Crystal Beach persuade you to tarry awhile and enjoy fishing, shelling, birding, and crabbing. On the peninsula, you can see the stately old Bolivar Lighthouse and, at Port Bolivar, you can drive aboard a Texas Department of Transportation ferry for a free 18-minute ride across a three-mile section of waterway to Galveston, the island once a stronghold of the infamous pirate Jean Lafitte.

No matter whether you arrive in Galveston by water, land, or air, you will find an island and a city overflowing with exciting entertainment and boasting a captivating history.

### Texas Travel Information Center on I-10 in Orange



Michael Amador/7X001



Gay Shackett/6X001

### Beaches on the Gulf Coast

A horse-drawn carriage ride takes you through areas such as The Strand (a National Historic Landmark District), where you can visualize Galveston as a bustling 19th Century port and financial center. At the Texas Seaport Museum, recall the thrilling era of graceful sailing ships by touring the 19th Century *Elissa*, a square-rigged barkentine.

Numerous historic mansions and buildings grace the island's cityscape and bespeak its prosperous past. You can tour the opulent Bishop's Palace, built in the late 1800s and visit the Italianate magnificence of the 1859 Ashton Villa and the elegant Moody Mansion. At the artfully restored Grand 1894 Opera House, stage productions still enthrall audiences.

Don't miss Moody Gardens, 156 feature-packed acres that encompass the Aquarium, Rainforest, and Discovery pyramids, an IMAX® Theater, and Palm Beach, a freshwater swimming lagoon complete with white sand beach.

And, of course, Galveston Island lures anglers with deepsea, pier, bay, and surf fishing. Adding to the fun are 32 miles of beaches that beckon swimmers, surfers, strollers, and sunbathers, and a multitude of shops throughout the island that comprise a browser's paradise. Nightlife thrives here, too, particularly on Post Office Street, where the sound of live band music emanates from clubs and the savory scents of Italian, Greek, and Mexican cuisines tempt diners. Galveston serves up a hefty helping of goodies for everyone.

Between Galveston and Houston, several communities form the Clear Lake area. Among them, the Kemah Boardwalk in Kemah raises the fun level several notches with waterfront-themed restaurants, specialty shops, a water garden, and amusement rides. Also in Clear Lake, the immensely popular Space Center Houston launches you on intriguing journeys through the nation's space program. Here, you—and the kids—can drive a simulated lunar rover, command a shuttle, and man a space station.

Houston, Texas' largest city, is a happening place. What else would you expect from the number four city in the nation? Theatrical, musical, and dance productions captivate spectators in acclaimed venues such as the Wortham Center, the Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, and the Alley Theater. Art and antique collections abound in museums that present extraordinary ranges of paintings, sculptures, antiquities, and artifacts.

Shoppers delight in upscale stores like those in the Galleria, and find pleasure, too, in the shops and restaurants of the Houston Underground, a six-mile system of pedestrian tunnels that connect numerous buildings and several hotels. If you like to seek bargains midst a kitsch-y assortment of goods, visit Traders Village, the largest flea market on the Texas Gulf Coast.

For the kids, Adventure Bay water park, Six Flags AstroWorld, Six Flags WaterWorld, and the wonderfully hands-on exhibits of the Children's Museum of Houston provide hours of fun. And sports-minded visitors can whoop it up at professional basketball, hockey, and baseball games, while golfers and tennis buffs can pursue their favorite pastimes at dozens of courses and courts.

In the mood for something different? To experience sights and sounds a tad unusual, visit the whimsically decorated vehicles at the ArtCar Museum, or the gewgaws and naive art in the labyrinths of the Orange Show. At the Houston Museum of Natural Science, view the Sams Collection, an assortment of 600 gems and minerals whose glitter rivals London's Crown Jewels. Here, too, you can enjoy the tropical environs of the Cockrell Butterfly Center, where beautiful butterflies flutter about in colorful abandon.

After you sample the impressive attractions that Houston offers, you can pursue equally interesting adventures in the small towns around the city.

Spend some reflective moments at San Jacinto, one of the most hallowed spots in Texas. Here, just east of Houston, the 570-foot-tall San Jacinto Monument marks the site where Sam Houston and his troops wrested Texas independence from Mexico by routing the larger forces of the Mexican Army under Santa Anna. Within the same park, the Battleship *Texas*, which served in World Wars I and II, rests at permanent mooring in the Houston Ship Channel.

North of Houston, the restored early 1900s railroad village of Old Town Spring in the city of Spring tempts travelers with an array of restaurants and shops featuring arts, crafts, and antiques. Also at Spring, you can explore the Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center and the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, then whisk the kids over to SplashTown Waterpark, where rides and slides rule. If you thrill at the thought of piloting a combat plane, try it here at Texas Air Aces. During this adventure, you fly in the front seat of an aircraft and blast targets with a laser gun while an instructor supervises from the rear seat. Bam!

At Hempstead, Liendo Plantation provides monthly tours of one of Texas' earliest cotton plantations, once home to famed sculptress Elisabet Ney, while the George Ranch Historical Park near Rosenberg offers historic 19th Century buildings and cowboys who work cattle at a 1930s-style ranch.

Reward yourself at Katy with an amazing side-trip to the Orient. Here, the breathtaking grandeur of China's Forbidden City at Beijing rises in miniature at Forbidden Gardens, a 40-acre outdoor museum. Fascinating displays chronicle China's history and include a one-third scale replica of the 3rd Century terra-cotta warriors that stand 6,000 strong near the tomb of China's first emperor at Xian.

Hugging the coastal region south of Houston, the Brazosport Area envelops towns such as Angleton, Freeport, Lake Jackson, and Surfside Beach, and provides beaches, parks, and museums aplenty for leisurely touring. In particu-

lar, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Park provides an engaging look at an 1830s Greek Revival plantation filled with period furnishings and artifacts.

**CENTRAL COAST**

Head southwest from the Beaumont-Houston-Galveston triangle and you will soon enter the broad vistas of the Gulf plains. Small communities abound and most offer ample pastimes for visitors. The towns that rim the Gulf quite naturally center their attractions on waterfront activities, while cities toward the interior, such as Victoria, Refugio, and Kingsville spotlight their histories of oil production, farming, and ranching.

In addition to two fine museums, Victoria offers 400-acre Riverside Park and the Texas Zoo, where native Texas species, such as javelinas, red wolves, and armadillos, roam areas that replicate their natural environment. In Port Lavaca, take a look at the hexagonal Halfmoon Reef Lighthouse, (originally established in 1858 in Matagorda Bay), then head over to Port Lavaca Causeway State Park for a fun day of saltwater fishing from the 3,202-foot-long pier.

Along the Texas coast, fishermen tend to stake out a tried-and-true destination and return season after season. One such favorite is Port O'Connor. From this small village, you can fish the bays, jetties, and deep waters of the Gulf for redfish, flounder, whiting, red snapper, kingfish, and ling, as well as scrappy sailfish, marlin, and tarpon. And, for a back-to-nature camping experience bar none, try the primitive sites on Matagorda Island State Park, accessible from Port O'Connor by boat or ferry. On the island, the stark silhouette of the long abandoned Matagorda Island Lighthouse rises in the middle of the park, on the northern end of the island. Take your mountain bike and wheel around the island free from traffic woes; no cars allowed.

Farther south along Texas 35, the bayside towns of Rockport and Fulton attract birders, fishermen, and artists alike. Together, the just-about-joined-at-the-hip communities offer abundant water sports, excellent arts-and-crafts shopping, and idyllic over-the-ocean sunsets. Here, too, you can visit the ornate and impressive 1876 Fulton Mansion and the Texas Maritime Museum, where exhibits illustrate Texas' coastal heritage. Birders flock to the area to view hundreds of species and to catch glimpses of the endangered whooping cranes that winter in nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. In mid-September, you can observe swarms of migrating hummingbirds hovering at feeders throughout town.

Continue south along Texas 35 and visit Aransas Pass, home to numerous sport-fishing opportunities as well as a hardworking—and picturesque—shrimp fleet. Then, drive aboard the free ferry for about a five-minute ride to Port Aransas, where you will find a quintessential coastal resort town offering fishing, birding, shelling, and beach activities. Here, too, you'll relish good

**Houston skyline**

J. Griffin Smith/TxDOT





Michael Amador/TXDOT

### Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi

restaurants and shops aplenty, as well as numerous camping sites and a host of hotels, motels, and rentable condominiums. And, if you like to tempt lady luck, you can set sail on a twice-daily cruise that offers games of chance.

The largest Texas city south of San Antonio, Corpus Christi proves one of the most attractive as well. Visitors enjoy its pleasant palm-lined boulevards, balmy climate, distinctive "T" head docks, and harmonic blend of Texan and Mexican cultures. In the cuisine arena, seafood rivals TexMex, while Greek, Italian, and Southwestern specialties find their niche, too.

The Gulf of Mexico and its sealife come alive in the stunning exhibits at the Texas State Aquarium, which houses more than 250 species of marine life. Don't miss oohing and awwwwing at the frisky seahorses, water turtles, and Texas river otters.

The city is awash in interesting museums. At the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, you can even board an exact scale replica of Christopher Columbus's ships *Pinta* and *Santa Maria*. And, in Corpus Christi Bay, the *USS Lexington*, a vintage wartime aircraft carrier, houses a floating naval museum that displays restored aircraft, antiaircraft guns used during World War II.

Corpus Christi provides living vignettes of nature at her most interesting. If you share a fascination with dolphins, check out "Dolphin Connection," which takes you by boat to rendezvous with the gentle, neighborly creatures in Corpus Christi Bay. At the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens, you can view exotic flora in the Orchid House, then wander through rose and hibiscus gardens.

Kids can romp at numerous fun locations, including Playland at the Beach park with a go-cart track and bumper boats and cars, and at Pirates of the Gulf miniature golf course.

Corpus Christi also serves as the gateway to Padre Island National Seashore, an 80-mile section of Padre Island that provides pristine stretches of Gulf-washed beaches and unparalleled opportunities for sea, surf, and sand activities.

Be sure to tour Kingsville, where ranching "reins" supreme, with visits to the King Ranch, the King Ranch Museum, the King Ranch Saddle Shop, and the Joe E. Conner Museum.

### LOWER COAST

Wend your way along U.S. 77 toward the southern tip of Texas and its Rio Grande border with Mexico. Here's your chance to enjoy solitude, for you will drive about 50 miles—from Sarita to Raymondville—with nary a sizable community in sight. Near Raymondville, you enter a region rich in agricultural bounty, where a lengthy growing season means an almost year-round harvest of products such as peas, carrots, spinach, cabbage, oranges, grapefruits, sugar cane, grain, and cotton.

If fishing tops your to-do list, head eastward from Raymondville toward Port Mansfield. This popular outpost of saltwater sports gives you access to the lower Laguna Madre, where the shallow waters shelter game such as redfish and sea trout.

At Harlingen, stop by the hospitable Texas Travel Information Center for expert advice about interesting sites. The city offers many treats for visitors, including the majestic Iwo Jima Monument, the original working model for the statue at Arlington National Cemetery.

For a fun shopping excursion, browse the bountiful shops of the Jackson Street District, where storefronts and streetlights reprise the 1920s. Golfers relish the city's challenging courses, and baseball fans delight in watching games played by the area's minor league team, the Rio Grande Valley White Wings.

From its waterside perch on the lower end of Laguna Madre, Port Isabel provides a fine base for anglers and serves as a link to South Padre Island, reached by the 2.6-mile-long Queen Isabella Causeway. At Port Isabel Lighthouse State Park, climb the spiral staircase of the picturesque lighthouse and look to the east, where you will glimpse the sandy splendor of Padre Island.

A beach-lover's utopia, South Padre Island offers numerous resort hotels, dozens of restaurants, RV parks, and camping areas. Activities include snorkeling, diving, fishing, boating, biking, and riding horses along the beach. In season, Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark lures kids and grownups alike with fantastic water rides and slides. And a casino cruise calls the island homeport, as well.

Brownsville, the Lone Star State's southernmost city, brings its own cultural grace and beauty to the tip of Texas. Here, you will find a serendipitous mixture of museums, historical sites, and nature preserves. Trolley tours give you a fun perspective of the city.

Among Brownsville's many treats for the visitor, the Gladys Porter Zoo proves a standout. A zoological and botanical preserve set amidst lush tropical foliage, the zoo provides a special look at more than 1,500 animals representing some 400 species from all over the world.

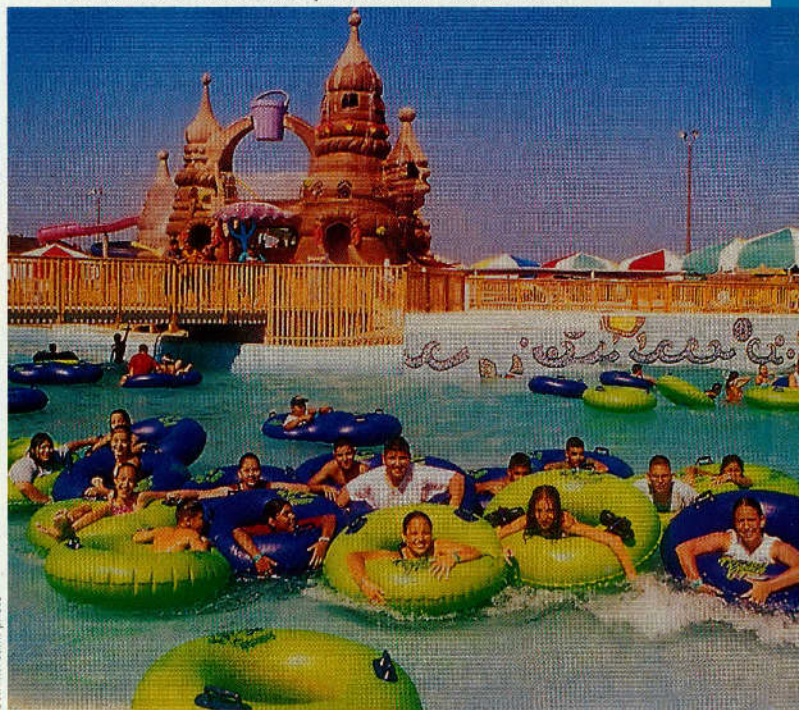
You will find an abundance of historical sites in the Brownsville area as well. Buildings from old Fort Brown, established in 1846 during the Mexican-American War, now house facilities for Texas Southmost College. North of the city, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site marks the 1846 artillery duel between U.S. troops and Mexican forces that began the Mexican War, and a historical marker east of Brownsville cites Palmito Ranch Battlefield, the last land engagement of the Civil War.

For an exciting introduction to Mexico, cross the Rio Grande and visit Brownsville's sister city, Matamoros, with its festive assortment of shopping, restaurants, and nightclubs.

Then, return to Texas and coast on over to the dunes and the beaches of the Gulf.

Inhale the tang of the salty sea breeze. Stroll the surf and feel the ocean's warm waters tug gently at your toes. Revel in the mighty roar of the powerful waters. Nothing in the world quite compares.

### Schlitterbahn® Beach Waterpark on South Padre Island



Schlitterbahn photo

**ALVIN**

Pop. 21,413

Alt. 51

Map R-21

**General**—In northeastern Brazoria County, city founded in 1876 when railroad built through connecting Galveston with Richmond. It's named for founder Alvin Morgan. City has survived hurricanes, notably the 1900 and 1915 storms, and a disastrous fire in 1902. Agriculture and oil-related products sustained the economy for years, but, with its strategic location on the southeastern Houston metropolitan area and close proximity to NASA, today Alvin is center for diversified industries.

Cultural aspects are influenced by Alvin Community College. An abundance of parks offers places for picnicking; for those looking for sandy beaches, Alvin is just minutes from the Gulf Coast.

During the spring, Shimek Gardens on County Road 237 one mile west of the city is spectacular with more than 800 varieties of daylilies and roses on 4.3 acres. It's worth a drive by.

Visit Froberg Farms for home-grown fruits and vegetables. Visitors often pick their own items. On Texas 6 and County Road 190.

For information on accommodations, dining facilities, and events, contact the Alvin Convention and Visitors Bureau at 105 West Willis, or call 281/585-3359.

**Alvin Opry**—Good old-fashioned country/gospel music Fri. and Sat. nights. At Eighth and Sealy sts. For information, call 281/585-1581.

**Bayou Wildlife Park**—A variety of exotic wildlife in natural settings roam freely through prairies and woods. Guided tram ride stops frequently in 86-acre habitat allowing visitors to meet and feed animals. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Apr. - Aug.; Sep. - Mar. closed Mon., otherwise 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Year's. Also subject to closing during inclement weather. Approximately 4 miles east on F.M. 517. For information, 281/337-6376.

**Nolan Ryan Center**—This museum showcases this hometown legend's career from Little League to Major League Baseball. Memorabilia, photos, quotes, video presentations, interactive computer stations, an interactive pitch/catch simulator all combine to tell the story of Ryan's 27 seasons of baseball. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. On the campus of Alvin Community College at Texas 35 and Mustang. Admission. For additional information, call 281/388-1134.

**Texas Thunder Speedway**—Stock cars, street stocks, hobby stocks, and go-cart races provide racing excitement on Sat. nights Mar. through Oct. seven miles south on Texas 35. Gates open at 5 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. For schedule and information, call 281/393-1190.

**ANAHUAC**

Pop. 2,210

Alt. 21

Map Q-22

**General**—First permanent settlement in 1821 when Spanish fortress, established there, was made port of entry for American colonists. Origin of name uncertain; perhaps derived from pre-Aztec Nawatlan tribes, or later Indian word. Today seat of Chambers County; serves rice, cattle, seafood, and oil-producing area.

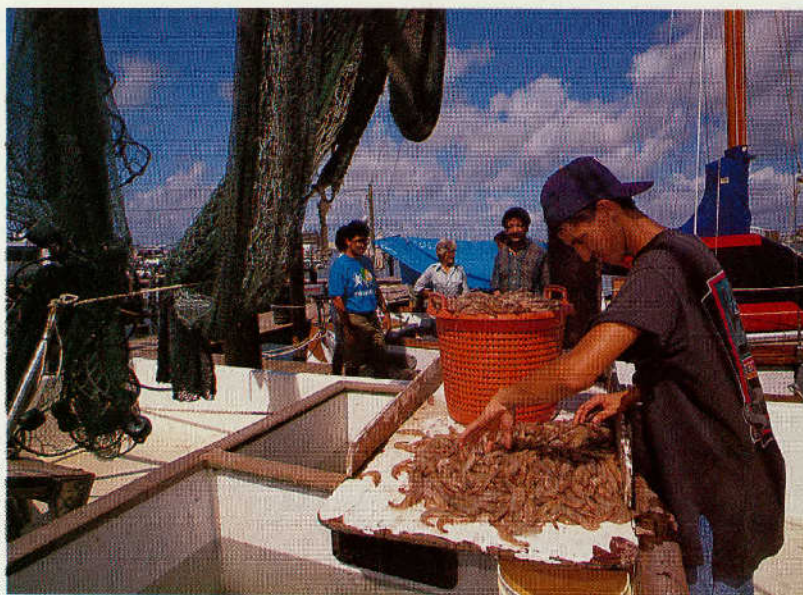
Named Alligator Capital of Texas in 1989 by Texas Legislature; boasts more alligators than people. Home of Texas Gatorfest, staged two days each Sept. in Fort Anahuac Park during alligator hunting season.

**Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**—More than 40 species of birds nest in 24,356 acre marshland on East Bay, about 18 miles southeast. Managed primarily for wintering and migrating waterfowl, the threatened American alligator is also found. Bird checklist has 253 species listed—extra large number because birds flying north across Gulf of Mexico eager for first resting place on land. Refuge activities include wildlife observation, birding, photography, waterfowl hunting, fishing, and crabbing. Overnight camping limited, both in duration and location. Contact refuge headquarters for directions or information. 409/267-3337 or write PO Box 278, Anahuac, TX 77514.

Anahuac Wildlife Headquarters also supervises McFaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges east along coast. See PORT ARTHUR.

**Chambers County Museum**—General history; exhibits of local and pioneer history, archaeology. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Courthouse Annex. 409/267-8363.

**Fort Anahuac Park**—Some traces remain of Fort Anahuac, combination Mexican fort and customhouse on Galveston Bay near mouth of Trinity River; built about 1831 by prisoners of Mexican government. In one of preliminary battles of Texas Revolution, fort was captured by William B. Travis, later commander of the Alamo. Park offers picnicking, camping, rest rooms, boat ramp. 5 Main St., on Trinity Bay.



J. Griffis Smith/TX007

Gulf of Mexico shrimp harvest at Aransas Pass

**ARANSAS PASS**

Pop. 8,138

Alt. 20

Map V-18

**General**—Named for pass between Mustang and St. Joseph Islands; on mainland but connected to Mustang Island and Port Aransas by causeway and ferry. Shrimping, commercial and sport fishing are top area industries. Waterfowl hunting in season. Guide service available.

Visit Conn Brown Harbor, south from Stapp Ave.; at harbor entrance, see Seamen's Memorial Tower, dedicated to fishermen lost at sea.

The "Official Shrimporée of Texas" celebrating the area's long-standing ties to the shrimping industry is a three-day celebration held every September.

For more information, visit the Aransas Pass Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 130 W. Goodnight, or call 800/633-3028 or check out their Web site [www.aransaspas.org](http://www.aransaspas.org).

**Birding**—Of the more than 700 species of birds in North America, the Texas coast is visited by 500. With three viewing spots on the Texas Coastal Birding Trail, and the largest outdoor hummingbird garden in the state, birding is a great attraction.

**Fishing**—Area is mecca for fishermen. Countless bait and tackle shops supply all angling needs, including rental equipment. From shore, wharves, piers, and jetties, anglers can expect to catch redfish, speckled and sand trout, sheepshead, flounder, croaker, skipjack, and drum. Group boats provide bay and deep-sea fishing for half or full days; charter cruisers are available for off-shore sport. Species caught from group or charter boats may include tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and others.

**Kayaking**—Saltwater kayaking is available in South Bay adjacent to Hwy. 361 in Aransas Pass.

**BAY CITY**

Pop. 18,667

Alt. 55

Map S-20

**General**—Established 1894; seat of Matagorda County. Today commercial center for farming, ranching, oil, and nuclear energy. Port on Colorado River Feeder Channel connecting with Intracoastal Canal; recreation on river includes boating, skiing, fishing, and a 28-space RV park.

**Matagorda County Museum**—Early clothing, books, Texas maps, furniture, paintings. Century-old carpentry tool collection, late 17th Century music, archives.

Children's Museum features exhibits and activities for kids. It's in the basement of the museum and open Sat. afternoons 1 - 4 p.m., or by special arrangements. Museum open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 2100 Avenue F. 979/245-7502.

**Riverside Park & Rio Colorado Golf Course**—On the bank of the Colorado River, park features 40 campsites with full-service RV hookups. Other facilities include jogging trail with a 10-station exercise course along the way, boat ramp, day pavilion, and fishing. Adjacent to park is Rio Colorado

Golf Course, a beautiful 18-hole Gary Player-designed course. From Bay City, take Texas 60 south; turn right on FM 2668, and the park is two miles west on the right. For park information, call 979/245-0340; for golf information, call 979/244-2955.

**South Texas Project Visitors Center**—Displays and explanation of nuclear power generation. Telescope for viewing of actual plant. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tours by reservation, Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; call 361/972-5023. About 20 miles southwest of city on F.M. 521.

## BAYTOWN

Pop. 66,430

Alt. 26

Map Q-22

**General**—Grew from small sawmill and store settlement in 1824; among early settlers was Nathaniel Lynch who set up Lynchburg Ferry in 1822. Confederate shipyard established nearby at mouth of Goose Creek in 1864; oil discovered 1916. Industries today feature oil refineries, petrochemicals, and synthetic rubber. Recreational facilities for sailing, saltwater fishing, and water sports activities. Home of Lee College.

**Baytown Historical Museum**—Artifacts pertaining to local and pioneer history. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 220 W. Defee St.

**Baytown Nature Preserve**—Following a devastating hurricane Alicia in 1983, Baytown entered into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which resulted in the acquisition of 400 acres of land to establish a park. Located on the western edge of town, it is a quiet oasis of natural beauty and home to hundreds of birds and animals year-round. It is on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which extends from the Texas-Louisiana border to Brownsville.

**Fred Hartman Bridge**—This structure, spanning the Houston Ship Channel, boasts double diamond-shaped towers that stand as tall as a 45-story building. The cable-stayed bridge's main span is 2,475 feet, the length of eight football fields. Just to the south of the bridge on Texas 146 is Bayland Park Marina. There is also a multi-ramp boat launch and dock with rest rooms for boaters to enjoy fishing and other water activities.

**Goose Creek Stream Greenbelt**—Much of the city's growth happened along the shores of Goose Creek Stream. Much of its shoreline is preserved for a greenbelt park. Visitors can find a birding overlook, pavilion, bike and pedestrian trails, canoe launches, park and playground.

**Houston Raceway Park**—A 440-acre drag racing complex with races every Wed. and Sat. night (Dec. - Mar., Wed. & Sun.). At 2525 F.M. 565 South. For information call 281/383-2666.

**Lynchburg Ferry**—Shuttles travelers across the mouth of the San Jacinto River. In operation since 1822. West of city.

**Parks**—Bicentennial Park features outdoor theatre and hosts annual July 4th celebration and other outdoor concerts. Lee Drive and Market sts.

Gray Sports Complex includes lighted ballfield, lighted tennis courts, nature trails, picnic area and playground. 5200 East Rd.

### Coastline at Matagorda County



Laurence Parent

### Fire Museum of Texas in Beaumont

Republic of Texas Plaza was dedicated during the sesquicentennial and features statue of Ashbel Smith, one of city's early settlers and leader for advancement of education in Texas. Historical marker in city identifies Smith's home "Evergreen" overlooking Tabbs Bay.

**Wallisville Heritage Park**—Displays and artifacts of Spanish Mission Nuestra Señora de la Luz and Presidio San Agustín de Ahumada, 1756 - 1771; vintage saddle-making tools, hardware; area history. Adjacent restored 1869 school contains genealogical/historical library. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 13 mi. east on I-10 at Trinity River, Exit 807.

## BEAUMONT

Pop. 113,866

Alt. 32

Map P-23

**General**—Settlement began when early French and Spanish trappers and explorers established trading post in early 1800s; townsite laid out mid-1830s. Named either for relative or agent who sold original 50 acres of land, or for slight elevation southeast called *beau mont* in French. City came of age in 1901 with world's first great oil gusher at Spindletop; village became city of 30,000 within a month. Today an industrial giant, major port, and agricultural center. Home of Lamar Univ.

South Texas State Fair draws more than 600,000 visitors annually in early October and features FFA and 4-H livestock, a livestock auction, live entertainment, exhibits, and carnival.

The St. Anthony Cathedral at 700 Jefferson Dr. is modeled after St. Paul's Basilica in Rome. Construction began soon after the 1901 oil boom. Call 409/833-6433 for appointment and hours.

**Art Museum of Southeast Texas**—Permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, mixed media. Traveling exhibits; folk art. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. until 8 p.m.); Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Tearoom open Mon. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free admission. 500 Main St.; phone 409/832-3432.

**Art Studio**—A place to assist beginning artists and to present educational programs. Changing exhibits each month. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. at 720 Franklin. For information, call 409/838-5393. Admission.

**Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum & Visitors Center**—No American athlete was more versatile than Beaumont's Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias (1914 - 1956); three-time basketball All-American; three gold Olympic medals; world-class pioneering woman golfer. Trophies and memorabilia. Visitors center with experienced tourist counselors who provide information about accommodations, attractions, events, and business and industry data. Free maps and brochures. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Telephone 409/833-4622 or 1-800-392-4401. 1750 I-10 & MLK Parkway, Exit 854.

**Beaumont Fire/Rescue Training Center**—Training center for Beaumont and area fire departments in hazardous materials, rescue, and fire fighting. Also home of Lamar University Industrial Fire and Hazardous Materials Training Program, which is one of four schools in nation recognized by OSHA to train industrial fire fighters. Public tours welcome. Near I-10 and Pine, at end of Marina Dr. For information, call 409/839-4307.

Patsy Wigninton photo



J. Griffin Smith/2000

**Art Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont**

**Beaumont Police Museum**—Collection of police memorabilia dating to the turn of the 20th century, housed in former jail converted to a museum. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 255 College. 409/880-3825.

**Brown-Thicket Preserve**—See KOUNTZE and WOODVILLE.

**Brown-Scurlock Galleries**—Operated by Beaumont Art League. Changing exhibits and art classes. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2675 Gulf St. (on fairgrounds). Call 409/833-4179.

**Clifton Steamboat Museum**—24,000 sq.-ft.-facility with exhibits representing the Battle of San Jacinto, the Republic of Texas and its statehood, the Civil War in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana, the Steamboat Era, World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War. The museum's theme is "Heroes...Past, Present and Future" and honors military and civilian heroes. Features include the tugboat *Hercules*, the Hercules Club, Moresi's Foundry, O'Hearn's, a gift shop, a frame shop and art gallery, restaurant, and See-Max Theater At 8727 Fannett Rd. For information, call 409/842-1910.

**Dishman Art Gallery**—Home of the Heinz and Ruth Eisenstadt Collection which contains 147 paintings, 252 porcelains, eight sculptures, and a 17-piece German Biedermeier dining room suite, five display cabinets, and four carpets. Art exhibitions also draw from talents of Lamar University student and faculty artists, as well as local and national artists. Open Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Located on the Lamar University Campus at U.S. 69 south at MLK Parkway. 409/880-8141.

**Fire Museum of Texas**—Home of the World's Largest Fire Hydrant. This 24-foot, spotted hydrant was donated by Walt Disney Studios to celebrate the re-release of the animated classic "101 Dalmatians." The larger than life attraction is a working fire hydrant that actually spews water on special occasions. Founded in 1927, this former fire station displays antique fire bells, leather buckets, nozzles, badges, photographs, and vintage fire engines. Special exhibits trace the history of fire service and showcase recorded histories of fire departments across the state. Upstairs, a "Fire Safety Activity Center" teaches fire prevention and includes a safety house, toy collections, and puppet theater. Firehouse gift shop. Endorsed by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Assn. of Texas as the official state fire museum. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Housed in old Central Fire Station at 400 Walnut; phone 409/880-3927.

**French Historic House & Museum**—Historic pioneer settlement house built in 1845 by John Jay French, tanner and merchant. Antique furnishings, clothing, pioneer household utensils. Outbuildings on grounds include blacksmith shop, tannery, corncrib, and smokehouse. Operated by Beaumont Heritage Society. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2985 French Rd.; phone 409/898-3267. Admission.

**High Island Boy Scout Wood and Smith Oaks Nature Sanctuaries**—Owned by the Houston Audubon Society, these bird sanctuaries are located on a salt dome and stand out as the only substantial feature above the surrounding marshland. Spring migration usually mid-Mar. - mid-May; fall migration, Aug. - Oct. Hours are sunrise to sunset. About 47 miles south on Texas 124. Admission fee. For information, 713/932-1639.

**McFaddin-Ward House**—Restored beaux-arts colonial mansion and carriage house built 1906 - 1908. The main house showcases original possessions and life-styles of a wealthy Southeast Texas family during the first half of the 20th Century. Carriage house contains servants quarters and other displays designed to show the support function this building played in operation of the estate. Both buildings open for tours Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; last tour of main house begins at 3 p.m. No children under eight for main house; children of all ages welcome at carriage house. Reservations advisable; 409/832-2134. Visitor entrance at 1906 Calder Ave. at Third St. Admission.

**Port of Beaumont**—Facilities at the modern port include observation deck. Free guided tours of port facility in a minibus. Open daily 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m. 1255 Main St.; 409/832-1546.

**Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown**—The world's first oil boomtown recreated with typical clapboard buildings of the era, including information center, post office, photo studio, saloon, livery stable, blacksmith shop, surveyor's office, and wooden oil derricks. Lucas Gusher Monument commemorates beginning of the world's modern petroleum industry that literally blew in at 10 a.m. on Jan. 10, 1901, with the gusher drilled by Anthony F. Lucas. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. University Dr. at U.S. 69 S; 409/835-0823. Admission.

**Texas Energy Museum**—Definitive museum on oil industry spotlights 19th Century discoveries. Includes temporary exhibits on energy science and the environment. Exhibits and talking robots trace effects of Spindletop and how it began the modern petroleum industry. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 600 Main St.; 409/833-5100. Admission.

**Tyrrell Historical Library**—Landmark 1903 Romanesque-Gothic former Baptist Church houses thousands of books on Texas history, genealogical research resources, and art collections. Listed on National Register of Historic Places. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., 695 Pearl; 409/833-2759.

**Tyrrell Park**—500 acres of virgin wood land with 18-hole golf course, playground, bridle and hiking trail. Within the park are botanical gardens and Cattail Marsh.

The 10-acre Beaumont Botanical Gardens feature a Japanese garden, a rose garden, azalea wall and display planting. The nearby Warren Loose Conservatory showcases a waterfall, petrified wood, palms, ferns, and a dinosaur.

Cattail Marsh, a constructed wetland, offers a variety of recreational activity with more than eight miles of graveled levee roads for jogging, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, and wildlife photography. There is no drinking water in the Marsh area and overnite camping is not allowed. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. For Cattail Marsh information, call 409/866-0023.

To reach the gardens and the Conservatory, call 409/842-3135. Open daily, free admission. On Tyrrell Park Rd. off Fannett (Texas 124).

**BRAZOSPORT AREA**

**Pop. (Comb.) 81,825 (est.)**      **Alt. 15-32**      **Map S-21**

**General**—A community of eleven cities situated at the mouth of the Brazos River, each separate, but joined in similar outlook and destiny. Brazosport communities are Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Quintana Beach, Richwood, Surfside Beach, and West Columbia. This area came into prominence when the first Texas settlers landed on Quintana Beach. Since then, it has been home to the first Texas capital of an elected government of the Republic of Texas, to Stephen F. Austin's 300 settlers, and to several historic plantations. Today, the area offers an exceptional small town quality of life with big city amenities. Excellent specialty and antique shops await shoppers.

Bed and breakfasts accommodations offered in historic buildings.

Begin your visit with a drive or walk on the 21-mile stretch of drive-on beach. You can walk or swim in the surf, or just watch the seagulls and schools of fish. Recreational activities include fresh- and saltwater fishing, swimming and boating, surfing and crabbing. There are a number of parks with RV facilities on or near the beach. An 18-hole public golf course is just minutes from the beach.

The Brazosport Convention and Visitor Council at 420 Texas 332 W. offers details on area attractions, accommodations, restaurants, and other visitor data. For information, call 979/265-2505 or 1-888-477-2505. Information is also available from the Southern Brazoria County Visitors and Convention Bureau at 1239 W. Texas 332. For information, call 979/265-2508 or 1-800-WET-GULF (938-4853).

**Brazoria County Historical Museum**—Museum housed in the 1897 Brazoria County Courthouse, the heart of Stephen F. Austin's Colony. This

is where Texas began its emergence as an independent nation. Exhibits include the Austin Colony exhibit and chronicles the birth of that nation. It also speaks to the frontier experience that has so marked the American character. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 100 E. Cedar St in Angleton. For information, call 979/864-1208, or visit the Web site at [www.bchm.org](http://www.bchm.org).

**Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge**—Refuge on more than 42,000 acres on Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; nesting area for mottled ducks and ancestral wintering grounds of snow geese. Freeport Christmas Bird Count always one of highest in nation; since area established in 1966, 247 bird species identified here. Access by boat for fishing, crabbing, oystering (permitted in public waters), and waterfowl hunting in specified areas. Six-mile self-guided auto tour and hiking trail. Open first full weekend of every month. Before visiting, contact refuge headquarters in Angleton at 1212 N. Velasco in Angleton; write PO Drawer 1088, Angleton, TX 77516; phone 979/849-6062.

**Bryan Beach State Recreation Area**—On Gulf of Mexico, Intracoastal Waterway and Brazos River. Activities include fishing, beach-type recreation, primitive camping. From Angleton, southwest 2 mi. on F.M. 1495, then 3 mi. south on Gulf beach.

**Center for Arts & Sciences**—This center includes an art gallery and museum of natural science, as well as a theater center where several productions are held annually at both Little Theater and Music Theater.

The art gallery features changing mixed-media exhibits every six weeks: oils, watercolors, sculpture, photography. Open Tues. - Sun., 2 - 5 p.m.

Wildlife, fossils, rocks and minerals, and aquarium are features of the science museum. Another highlight is one of the largest shell collections on display in Southwest. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 400 College Dr. in Lake Jackson. For information, call 979/265-7661.

**Columbia Historical Museum**—During Texas Revolution, West Columbia was known simply as Columbia; town figured prominently in history of Texas. Was first capital of the Republic of Texas from Sept. - Dec. 1836. The first Congress convened under a triple-trunk live oak tree known as the Independence Tree. Sam Houston was inaugurated president, and Stephen F. Austin served as the first Secretary of State. A replica of the first capitol (reconstructed in 1977), is at 14th and Hamilton.

Reflecting the area's prominent role in Texas history, the museum traces the historical significance of the Victorian era with artifacts from the joys of childhood through the grief of death. Displays document the West Columbia Oilfield, largest producer of its time in the U.S., and the ranching industry that still exists. An entire room is devoted to East Columbia with a diorama of the town as founded in 1823 by Josiah H. Bell, photographs of early-day homes, and bells from the *Hiawatha* and the *Brazos Belle*, grand steamboats that sailed the Brazos River, first for trade, and later, pleasure.

The museum is open Wed. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 247 E. Brazos (Texas 35) in West Columbia. Call 979/345-6125 or visit Web site [www.westcolumbia.org](http://www.westcolumbia.org) for more information.

**Fishing**—Extensive facilities for fishing, both inshore and deep-sea. Local jetties, piers and surf are popular spots for catches of speckled trout, drum, redfish, sheepshead, flounder and gafftop; tackle and bait available nearby. For deep-sea fishing there are party and charter fishing vessels for hire at several docks. Offshore fishermen seek bonito, ling, marlin, snapper, dolphin, king mackerel, warsaw and sailfish.

**Gulf Intracoastal Waterway**—Slicing through lowlands near Surfside Beach, canal is most valuable waterway in America, carrying as much annual tonnage as the Panama Canal and more than twice that of St. Lawrence Seaway. The protected waterway was authorized in 1942 and completed in 1949. Now stretches 1,066 miles from Brownsville, Texas, to Carrabelle, Florida. Surfside bridge on Texas 332 east spans Intracoastal Waterway to waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

**Jackson Plantation Archeological Site**—A Texas Antiquities Archeological Landmark, the site is on the banks of Lake Jackson. The plantation was destroyed by a hurricane in 1900. Ruins of eight buildings subject of study of Univ. of Houston-Clear Lake and the Brazosport Archeological Society. Free, guided walking tours available the first Sat. of the month 10 a.m. - sun-down. Handicap assessable via utility vehicle. From Lake Jackson, NE 1 mi. on F.M. 2004 from Texas 332. For information, call the Lake Jackson Historical Museum at 979/297-1570.

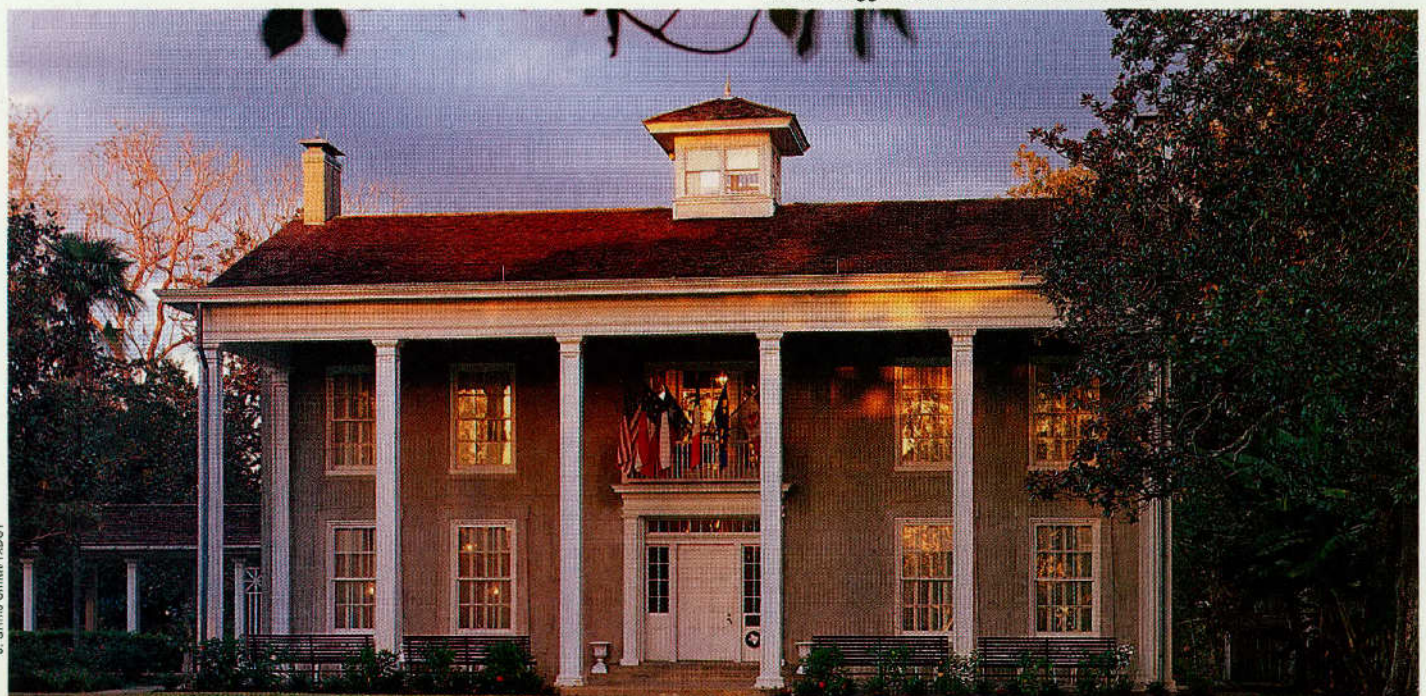
**Lake Jackson Historical Museum**—The facility chronicles the rich history of the city with interactive exhibits and high-tech displays. Four eras are featured: the prehistoric era, the plantation era, development of the area's petrochemical industry, the founding and growth of modern Lake Jackson, and gift shop. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. and major holidays. At 249 Circle Way in Lake Jackson. For information, call 979/297-1570, or visit the Web site at [www.lakejacksonmuseum.org](http://www.lakejacksonmuseum.org).

**Quintana Beach County Park**—Offers exceptional recreational facilities on picturesque island. Day-use facilities include: paved, off-beach parking, shaded pavilions, rest rooms, showers, multilevel fishing pier, and playground. Two historic homes within park: Coveny House features period museum and natural history display, and Scaburn House is park office. Elevated boardwalks (all with wheelchair ramps) connect pavilions, rest rooms, and showers.

RV facilities include 56 camping sites, full hookups, dump station, RV bathhouse with rest rooms, showers, and laundry facilities. Reservations accepted for camping. From Texas 288 in Freeport, take F.M. 1495 south 1.7 miles; County Road 723 east three miles to park entrance. 979/849-5711, ext. 1541, or 1-800-872-7578. Fees.

**San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge**—Snow and blue geese winter in 24,000-acre refuge between Cedar Lake Creek and San Bernard River on the Intracoastal Waterway; herons, egrets, and ibis found on marsh ponds; shorebirds, gulls, terns on mud flats, and mottled ducks nest in area. Bird list for

#### Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Park



refuge contains nearly 250 species. For information about access, hunting, and fishing, contact headquarters at Brazoria Wildlife Refuge. Open daily, sunrise to sunset.

**Sea Center Texas**—This is a marine development, aquarium, and education center developed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Dow North America, and the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. The marine fisheries center has hatchery with the capacity to produce 20 million fingerlings annually, primarily red drum and spotted seatrout, for release into Texas coastal waters. The complex also has 35 one-acre rearing ponds, a saltwater marsh demonstration project, and visitor s center. It also has a 24-foot “touch tank” for visitors to study certain animals, wall displays on marine life, two 2,500-gallon aquariums, two 5,000-gallon aquariums, and one 52,000-gallon aquarium. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 1 - 4 p.m. Hatchery tours by reservation only. At intersection of Plantation Dr. and Medical Dr. in Lake Jackson. For information, call 979/292-0100.

**Shrimp Boat Monument**—The former shrimp trawler *Mystery* honors historic, colorful shrimp industry of Brazosport area. 60-foot boat, built of cypress timber more than five decades ago, brought in millions of pounds of delicious Gulf shrimp during her quarter-century career. Rigged in trappings of her youth, *Mystery* is on display at head of Brazosport harbor channel on Texas 288 in Freeport.

**Surfside Beach**—Name is both a town and a description of this resort-recreation area. Swimming, sailing, surf fishing, camping and shell collecting. Cottage rentals available. Surfside, San Luis, Bryan and Quintana beaches and numerous bays and sloughs are nationally known roosting grounds for migratory birds. The highest national 12-hour bird count ever taken was in Brazosport area in 1973—226 species.

**Wilderness Park**—482-acre municipal park in natural state is bordered by Buffalo Camp Bayou and the Brazos River. Interpretive quarter-mile nature loop, 4-mile hiking trail with Brazos River views. Wildlife includes deer, wild pigs, small mammals, and alligators along the Brazos. Picnicking, fishing and hiking. On Texas 332, 1 mi. west of Lake Jackson.

**Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Park**—Feature is dignified Greek Revival plantation home built mid-1830s on rich Brazos River lands by Columbus R. Patton, planter from Kentucky. Land originally obtained in early grant from Stephen F. Austin Colony by Martin Varner, pioneer who established first rum distillery in Texas. Last private owner was James Stephen Hogg, first native-born governor of Texas. Filled with period furnishings and relics of epic past. Plantation house open daily except Mon. and Tues., guided tours 9 - 11:30 a.m., 1 - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4:30 p.m.; picnic sites on landscaped grounds; admission. One mile north of West Columbia via county road off Texas 35. 979/345-4656.

**Bargains and treasures await shoppers in Matamoros, Mexico**



Jack Lanier/TD007



Brownsville C&VB photo

Brownsville's Gladys Porter Zoo

**BRIDGE CITY**

Pop. 8,651 Alt. 32 Map P24

**General**—In southern Orange County, town was originally called Prairie View for its location on the coastal prairie. When the Rainbow Bridge was completed in 1938 over the Neches River linking Orange County to Port Arthur, name changed to Bridge City. Industrial growth came with the channeling of Cow Bayou and the presence of nearby oil fields and petrochemical plants.

**Bridge City Historical Museum...Former Prairie View Teacherage**—The building was a house used in the late 1930s as a residence for former Prairie View school district teachers and principal's family. The school district was renamed later named Bridge City. Former teachers and students have donated items. Also includes memorabilia on city's growth. Building also houses the chamber of commerce office. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 150 W. Roundbunch Rd. For information, call 409/735-5671.

**Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area Observation Platform**—The 100-foot wheelchair accessible boardwalk is located on an old abandoned oil well drilling site. The platform overlooks the Sabine River marsh, allowing visitors to see herons, egrets, ducks, and other wildlife in natural habitat. From Texas 87, turn south on Lake St. Open daily.

**Rainbow and Veterans Memorial Bridges**—A high, graceful arc on Texas 87 spans the Neches River joining Bridge City on the north with Port Arthur to the south. The two-lane, vintage Rainbow Bridge, completed 1938, spans salt marshes and industrial river channel for 1.5 miles including approaches. The bridge's 176-foot clearance height resulted from requirement that any U.S. Navy ship could pass under; tallest ship of the Navy's 1938 fleet was a dirigible tender that never sailed up the Neches.

Veterans Memorial Bridge was completed in 1991; with 143-foot navigation clearance, it is first cable-stayed bridge on Texas highways. Park at south end has playground, picnicking, and good view of bridge and ships in the Intracoastal waters.

**BROOKSHIRE**

Pop. 3,450 Alt. 168 Map Q-20

**General**—Established with building of the MKT Railroad in the early 1880s on rich alluvial land included in Stephen F. Austin's original empresario grant. Agriculture still prominent in area economy with rice, peanuts, soybeans, and cattle, plus oil and gas.

Brookshire lies on I-10, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Blue Barn Fun Farm**—A 30-acre facility with tour that explains the basics of farm animals and how each thing on a farm can be used to make a living. It's more than a petting zoo, it's a hands-on learning experience. Open daily year round; *advanced reservations required*. From I-10, take exit 732 and go north to Texas 90 and turn west. Turn north at F.M. 359 and go 4 miles to Pattison. At F.M. 359/F.M. 1458 intersection, continue west on F.M. 1458. The farm will be on the left. For reservations and additional information, call 281/375-6669. Admission.

**Lilypons Water Gardens**—Aquatic nursery and water gardening specialist with 13-1/2 acres of blooming water lilies, lotus, and other aquatic plants. Over



20 ponds are on display with koi up to 28" long and other exotic goldfish. Lotus Blossom Festival (June) and Koi Festival (Sept.) feature champion quality koi and arts and crafts. Open Mar. - Oct., daily 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Nov. - Feb., Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; just south of I-10 at 839 F.M. 1489. 281/391-0076.

**Waller County Historical Museum**—Housed in former home, circa 1910, of Dr. Paul Donigan, turn-of-the-century Armenian-American physician. Period furnishings in parlor, bedroom, dining room, and kitchen. Exhibit rooms feature county history in artifacts, documents, photos, and a series of historic wall paintings. Open Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. At 5th and Cooper sts.; 281/934-2826.

## BROWNSVILLE

Pop. 139,722

Alt. 23

Map Z-17

**General**—Texas' southernmost city, international seaport, airport and rail-road interchange point on Mexican border. Area dates from colonial days of Imperial Spain, covering periods of exploration, wars, revolutions, and colorful, though infamous, banditry.

City began in 1846 after Gen. Zachary Taylor established the first Fort Brown to confirm Rio Grande as national boundary after Republic of Texas became a U.S. State. Regrettably, that very incident touched off Mexican-American War, 1846-48. Several existing buildings of Fort Brown are now part of The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost Jr. College.

Brownsville is the Rio Grande Valley's largest city whose industries include electronics, automotive components, apparel, industrial services, and tourism. Vacationers are attracted by subtropical climate, proximity to Mexico, excellent golf courses, and access to South Padre Island.

Brownsville, "On the Border by the Sea," is a birdwatcher's paradise. The convergence of two major flyways afford the birder an abundance of Northern species migrating for the winter. More than 370 bird species share the refuges and wild places in and around the city. Check with the information center, below, for more details.

Major annual event is Charro Days, a spectacular four-day costume fiesta, in late Feb., that features parades, carnivals, music, dancing, and foods of this colorful two-nation region.

**Brownsville Art League Museum**—In historic Neale House built in 1834; moved to present location in 1950. William Neale served two terms as mayor in the 1800s, and established stage lines between Matamoros and Bagdad, Mexico, as well as Brownsville and Point Isabel. Gazebo once was the Fort Brown bandstand built in 1912. Museum features a permanent collection including works by Chagall, Daumier, Samuelson, and Whistler, and many more. Local artists are often seen painting inside the complex. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. In Ft. Brown area at 230 Neale Dr. For information, call 956/542-0941.

**Brownsville Heritage Trail**—Collection of turn-of-the-century homes and businesses located in the historic downtown area. The original 3,000-acre town-site, now downtown Brownsville, boasts historic structures and a cathedral dating back to the mid-1800s. Buildings are marked with Heritage Trail markers.

**Brownsville Visitor Information Center**—Beside U.S. 77/83 (F.M. 802 exit) in north Brownsville. Detailed visitor information, maps and tourist literature about local attractions and Matamoros, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande. Birding, fishing, and Brownsville Heritage Trail guides sold here. Historic trolley sight-seeing tours start here; call for schedule. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed holidays. 956/546-3721, or 1-800-626-2639.

**Confederate Air Force Rio Grande Valley Wing**—Museum featuring memorabilia, equipment, uniforms, video presentation, and artifacts display from World War II. Flying museum includes numerous fully-operational vintage aircraft from World War II and the Korean Conflict. Gift shop and Crew Member Lounge open to the public. Popular Air Fiesta held in March. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun., noon - 4 p.m. Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport. 956/541-8585. Admission.

**Fort Brown/University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost Jr. College**—Established 1846, fort housed troops during Mexican-American War, defended border; changed hands during Civil War. Noted for work of William C. Gorgas, later U.S. Army Surgeon General, whose studies led to eventual control of yellow fever. First developed into large military reservation and was an active post until the end of World War II. Original hospital now administration building of Texas Southmost College. Other remaining buildings include cavalry barracks, medical lab, guardhouse, and morgue. International Blvd. and May St. near Gateway International Bridge.

**Gladys Porter Zoo**—Unique zoological park with virtually all animals living in open exhibits surrounded by natural flowing waterways. It contains over 1,550 specimens representing some 420 species, 47 of which are listed as endangered. Vegetation throughout the zoo is comprised of over 250 species and sub-species of tropical and neo-tropical plants. Sections of the zoo include:

Tropical America where visitors will see jaguars, Galapagos tortoises, black-necked swans, Caribbean flamingos, spider monkeys, and Cuban crocodiles from the tropics.

Indo-Australia features orangutans, grey kangaroos, kookaburras, agile wallabys, and black swans, along with other animals.

Asia, where a large variety of animals includes Sumatran tigers, gaurs, Przewalski's Horse, pileated gibbons, sarus crane, Indian blue peafowl, and Bactrian camels.

Africa, which contains the more popular zoo animals which include reticulated giraffes, African elephants, Grant's Zebras, African lions, western lowland gorillas, chimpanzee, and other animals, along with one of the rarest antelopes in the world, the Jentink's duiker.

A Children's Zoo and Nursery features a contact yard, allowing visitors to interact with Nigerian dwarf goats, miniature mules, and domestic chickens.

The Herpetarium and Aquatic Wing contains a large collection of lizards, turtles, snakes, gila monsters, and some rare crocodylians, along with both fresh and salt water fish from around the world, with emphasis on the Texas Gulf Coast area.

Other exhibits include a Free-Flight Aviary, bear grottos, and a California sea lion exhibit.

One of the top-rated zoos in the country, it's open daily at 9 a.m. Strollers, wheelchairs, and wagons are available for rent at the Zoofari Gift Shop, as well as souvenirs. All facilities accessible by wheelchair. At Ringgold and Sixth sts. For information, call 956/546-2177. Admission.

**Historic Brownsville Museum**—Housed in restored 1928 Southern Pacific depot, well-known for its Spanish Colonial Revivalist style. The muse-

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um contains numerous photographs, exhibits, and artifacts from the area, as well as information on local military history. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 641 E. Madison. Admission. For information, call 956/548-1313.

**Matamoros, Mexico**—Just across Rio Grande from Brownsville, caters to hosts of U.S. visitors with gift shops, shopping markets, night clubs, restaurants, and cocktail rooms. Bargains in pottery, leather goods, silver jewelry, woven rugs, hand-blown glass, and many other hand-crafted items in Mexican market area. Access via Gateway Bridge (toll) at terminus of E. 14th St. or via B&M Railroad Bridge (toll). Metered parking is available for pedestrian traffic throughout downtown, as well as at public parking lot at corner of E. Elizabeth St. and Taylor Ave., one block west of International Blvd. on E. Elizabeth St.

**Palmito Ranch Battlefield**—Last land engagement of Civil War fought near Brownsville at Palmito Ranch. Confederates commanded by Col. John S. Ford, not having heard of Lee's surrender at Appomattox a month earlier, routed and captured Federal force in running encounter on May 12-13, 1865. After battle, Confederates learned from their prisoners of South's capitulation. Victors then became formal captives of their former prisoners. An historical marker is 12 miles east on Texas 4.

**Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site**—North of Brownsville near intersection of F.M. 1847/F.M. 511 is site where artillery duel opened Mexican War May 8, 1846. Cannon under command of Gen. Zachary Taylor proved superior to that of Mexican Gen. Mariano Arista. Dedicated national historic site May 8, 1993, the 147th anniversary of the battle. Given unique mandate by Congress when it was created—exhibits must cover war from both countries' perspectives from the causes of the war to its effects today. Visitors Center located upstairs at 1623 Central Blvd. showcases many artifacts and historical information from the war and includes a bookstore. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, 956/541-2785.

**Port of Brownsville**—Opened in 1936, the deep-water seaport is connected to the Gulf of Mexico by a 17-mile ship channel. The port is home to more

than 250 businesses with interests ranging from shrimping and cargo handling to paper bag manufacturing. One of the largest floating dry-docks in the U.S. is alongside the 42-foot deep port, which hosts ships from exotic foreign lands, as well as a largest fleet of shrimp boats; also known as home port to NAFTA. Northeast of town off Texas 48.

**Sabal Palm Grove Wildlife Sanctuary**—One of the best-preserved Sabal Palm forests in the U.S. 172-acre wildlife sanctuary owned by the National Audubon Society; self-guided tours permitted. Open Tues. - Sun. sunrise to sunset from Oct. 1 to June 30. Visitor center open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. same days. Open Sat. and Sun. only July 1 - Sept. 30. From International Blvd. 5.7 miles southeast on F.M. 1419 (Southmost Rd.); follow sign. Admission. 956/541-8034.

**South Padre Island**—Some 25 miles northeast of Brownsville, access to island is from Port Isabel by causeway across Laguna Madre. See SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.

**Stillman House Museum**—Residence was built about 1850 for Charles Stillman, founder of Brownsville. Museum contains his possessions, mementos of early Brownsville, furnishings, heirlooms, books, coins, and pictures. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 2 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 3 - 5 p.m. 1305 E. Washington. Admission. For information, call 956/542-3929.

## CLEAR LAKE AREA

Pop. (Comb.) 78,444 (est.) Alt. 15-32 Map TT-21/22

**General**—125-sq.-mile area within surrounding Harris and Galveston Counties encompassing NASA/Johnson Space Center and home to America's astronauts. The area is a combination of technology, tourism, business, education, and waterfront living where residents and visitors enjoy the waters of Clear Lake and Galveston Bay. Included are such communities as Clear Lake Shores, El Lago, Kemah, League City, Nassau Bay, Seabrook, Taylor Lake Village, Webster, and the Clear Lake City community, now a part of Houston. The combined population of these communities with the area annexed by Houston soars to approximately 170,000. Enjoy shopping for antiques, books, and collectibles in each of the cities above. Many have quaint tearooms and waterfront restaurants. There are even old-fashioned summer concerts at League Park on Saturdays.

Several marinas in the area have boats for charter cruises and fishing. Check with the Clear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau for listings.

Be sure to visit Eagle Dancer which features museum quality Native-American art, as well as sand paintings, rugs, drums, ceremonial headdresses, and much more. At 159 S. Gulf Freeway, (I-45) exit 23.

This area is a shopper's delight with antique and specialty shops. Visit the "Back Bay Market," an open air market on the second Sat. and Sun. monthly in Seabrook.

**Armand Bayou Nature Center**—See PASADENA.

**Arts Alliance Center of Clear Lake**—Exhibits change frequently. I-45 South, exit 25; east on NASA Rd. 1 to Nassau Bay. At 18081 Upper Bay Rd. For exhibit information, call 281/335-7777.

**Birding Opportunities**—The area is excellent for birding, especially in the Seabrook area. McHale Park, Hester Park, Robinson Park and Pine Gully Park offer excellent opportunities to see birds year round.

**Kemah Boardwalk**—Stroll along the boardwalk and watch the boats ply the waters of Galveston Bay. The boardwalk features several themed restaurants, retail and specialty shops, a hotel, a water garden, dancing fountains, and a specialty aquarium restaurant featuring a 50,000 gallon tank of tropical fish. Amusement rides include a 65-ft. Ferris Wheel, a carousel, and a gas-powered train that travels throughout the entire boardwalk for a scenic tour of the complex. Also street performers and midway games for the entire family. From I-45, take NASA Rd. 1 east to Texas 146; south on TX 146 to Kemah.

**Lakes**—Clear Lake. See LAKES listing.

**Laser Quest**—A 21st century combination of tag and hide and seek in a multi-level maze with fog and music. I-45 South, exit 26; 100 W. Bay Area Blvd. in Webster. For information, call 281/316-3794.

**NASA/Johnson Space Center**—Visit headquarters of America's manned space program, the famous "Mission Control" that guided pioneering astronauts, and directs the Space Shuttle project. See Space Center Houston below.

**Putt-Putt Golf and Games**—Batting cages, miniature golf, laser tag, go-kart racing, video games and water bumper boats. Open daily. At 806 E. NASA Road 1 in Webster. For information, 281-333-3200.

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**Texas Ice Stadium**—Premier ice skating rink with 50,000 square feet of ice. Locker rooms, party/event rooms, pro shop, child care area, restaurant, and more. Public skating, hockey and figure skating events. For hours and information, call 281/286-7979. On west side of I-45 South; exit Clear Lake City Blvd. Admission.

**Texas Rock Gym**—It's fun! It's challenging! Learn how to rock climb indoors on more than 6,000 square feet of simulated rock terrain. Climbing routes for all skill levels. Private and group lessons available, as well as a forum for speakers on related topics. Open Mon. - Thurs. noon - 10 p.m.; Fri., noon-midnight; Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight; Sun. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. At 201 Hobbs Rd., Suite A1 in League City. For information, call 281/338-7625. Admission.

**Visitor Information Center**—Maps, brochures, literature and schedule of events available at visitor center operated by the Clear Lake NASA Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. 1201 NASA Rd. 1. 281/488-7676 or 1-800-844-5253.

**West Bay Common School Museum**—Offers an award-winning "Hands-on-History" experience. It is a working, one-room schoolhouse where students on field trips experience what it was really like to attend school 100 years ago. Teachers in period dress conduct classes. The Barn Museum in adjacent building also contains a small classroom, as well as memorabilia on League City. The Icehouse Barbershop features an authentic ice house and a one-chair barbershop. Life-like figures discuss League City's history. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (until 4 p.m. Tues. and Wed.) If class is present and docent not available, visitors are encouraged to quietly take a seat in back of class. At 210 N. Kansas St. For information, call 281/480-8404.

## CORPUS CHRISTI

Pop. 277,454

Alt. 35

Map V-17

**General**—City is major deep-water port and one of Texas' most popular sea-coast playground cities. First European to have visited area is believed to have been Spanish explorer Alonzo de Piñeda in 1519. First settlement began as frontier trading post founded 1839 by empresario-colonizer Col. Henry Lawrence Kinney; obscure settlement until about 1845 when accelerated growth began. Institutions of higher learning are Del Mar College and Texas A&M—Corpus Christi.

Seawall, with steps to the water, was built in the late 1930s as part of a major landfill that created Shoreline Boulevard and the popular "T" head docks for pleasure boats. Corpus Christi Beach, north of downtown over the bridge, is the site of the *USS Lexington* and Texas State Aquarium, and offers park areas, picnic tables, showers, and rest rooms. For maps and current information on Corpus Christi attractions see Visitor Centers.

In keeping with the city's image of having glistening waterways, Corpus Christi's Water Garden at Bayfront Arts and Science Park sparkles for visitors who see, hear, and touch the garden's water. Some 150 fountains form nucleus of park, which is lighted at night.

**Aquarium, Texas State**—Experience undersea adventure upon entering through cascades of water above glass-enclosed tunnel. The aquarium features close-up views of the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico in a wide variety of marine habitats, including an artificial reef community created by the massive leg of an offshore oil rig, and other exhibits containing more than 250 species of sea life in over 350,000 gallons of sea water.

"The Wonderful World of Sherman's Lagoon" features stars of Jim Toomey's cartoon strip who guide visitors through the exhibit and explain lagoons, barrier reefs, and the animals which inhabit them.

The Conservation Pavilion houses a variety of water turtles, including the endangered Kemp's Ridley Turtles, and ultimately, Texas River Otters.

The Aquarium offers daily educational programs and Sea Camp, a marine science day camp with one-week sessions for children ages 6 - 15.

Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 2710 N. Shoreline Blvd. (Surfside Exit from U.S. 181). Admission. 361/881-1200 or 1-800-477-GULF.

**Art Center of Corpus Christi**—Exhibits of work by area artists. Main gallery exhibits change monthly. Artists practice their craft, display their accomplishments, and teach others new skills. Complex includes gift shop and restaurant. Open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Mon. 100 N. Shoreline Blvd. 361/884-6406.

**Asian Cultures Museum & Educational Center**—The mission of the facility is to provide visitors with the understanding of the Far Eastern and Asian cultures which include artifacts from India, China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Permanent displays include a five-foot bronze Amida Buddha, fine Japanese Hakata figures, lacquer ware, and porcelains. The collection also includes examples of kimonos and other native costumes, utensils, games and toys. Exhibits are changed periodically to showcase different artifacts and to accommodate the different holidays and special events throughout the year. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1809 N. Chaparral; admission. 361/882-2641.

**Bayfront Plaza Auditorium and Convention Center**—Home of Corpus Christi Symphony, community concerts, road shows, musicals.

**Capt. Clark's Flagship**—Narrated cruises of Corpus Christi Bay and Harbor. Hour-long morning, afternoon, and evening cruises. Summer weekend evening cruises feature live band. Schedule varies by season (361/884-8306). Departure from Peoples St. "T" Head. Fee.

**Centennial House**—City's oldest existing home built in 1848 of the then-popular "shellcrete" construction. Was once a Civil War hospital. Now restored, furnished, and opened to public. Open Wed. 2 - 5 p.m., when flag is flying. 411 N. Upper Broadway. Admission. 361/882-8691.

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**Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens**—The 180-acre site along Oso Creek features Orchid House, Exhibit House, exotic Plumeria collection, a sensory garden, shaded bird and butterfly trail, a wetlands trail, and Palapa Grande on Gator Lake. Other exhibits include the Hibiscus Garden and Rainbow of Roses. Visitors center includes gift shop and gallery with rotating exhibits. With extensive natural wetlands and protected native habitat, the Gardens are on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, with a lakeside observation tower. Playground and covered picnic sites near Children's Garden. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. 8545 S. Staples St. at Oso Creek. Admission. 361/852-2100.

**Corpus Christi Greyhound Race Track**—Year-round racing on 60-acre facility, as well as simulcast races from other tracks. Evening races Tues. - Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1:30 p.m. matinees. Visitors can see greyhounds in their handling pens; 18 on-premise kennels. Track has both full-service restaurants and food court. Adjacent to I-37 between Navigation Blvd. and McBride Ln. 361/289-9333 or 1-800-580-RACE.

**Corpus Christi Marina**—Two "T" heads and "L" head thrust from bay front at heart of downtown; hundreds of pleasure craft moor at neat, modern docks and slips. Water sports equipment rental in season. Excursion boats ply bay from docks; fishing boats based here, too. Excellent view of sailboat races Wed. evenings.

**Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History**—Treasure house of natural history, Gulf Coast shells and artifacts, wildlife dioramas, pictures, documents, weapons, and memorabilia highlighting varied, colorful past. Also featured are hands-on exhibits including a "Hurricane/Weather Station," a Triceratops-shaped multimedia CD-ROM computer station, "Set Your Sails" in the Children's Wharf. Also home of the Columbus Fleet. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 1900 N. Chaparral. Admission. 361/883-2862.

**Corpus Christi Zoo**—Chinchillas to pythons! Some 300 animals are on display, including a large kids petting area. Visitors will marvel at the 240-pound, 15-foot Royal Burmese python and the collection of Siberian tigers. There is always something happening at the zoo. Open daily, but call for hours at 361/814-8000. On County Road 33 just off Weber Rd. Admission.

**Dolphin Connection**—Boat trip provides first-hand look at sleek and beautiful creatures in the wild as visitors view dolphins in their natural habitat in Corpus Christi Bay. Seasonal; reservations required. 361/776-2887.

**Fishing**—Free fishing from numerous municipal piers, jetties, miles of beach, and seawall. Bait and tackle shops (tackle may be rented by the day) are abundant. Arrangements and reservations for group-boat fishing may be made at Corpus Christi Marina or through private operators. Among species anglers may expect to take, depending upon season and proverbial luck of the moment, are (in the bay) sheepshead, sand and speckled trout, redfish, flounder, catfish, whiting, drum, pompano, and Spanish mackerel. Deep-sea anglers cruising Gulf waters from Port Aransas may take tarpon, sailfish, wahoo, king mackerel, bonito, and many others, plus red snapper and jewfish over offshore reefs.

**Harbor Playhouse**—Texas' oldest continually performing theater; community productions and summertime melodramas. 1 Bayfront Park. 361/888-7469.

**Heritage Park**—Restored turn-of-the-century homes in "Old Irishtown" section makes "the past a part of the present and future". Houses include the

**USS Lexington Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi**



Gay Shackelford/1x00T

**Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens**

Little-Martin House, the Lichtenstein House, the Sidbury House, the Guggenheim House, the Merriman-Bobbys House, the Jalufka-Govatos House, the Ward-McCampbell House, and the Grande-Grossman House. Also, the Galvan House that serves as the park's headquarters and houses the Multicultural Center, featuring changing art exhibits depicting the city's heritage; open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1600 block of N. Chaparral St. For information on tours, call 361/883-0639.

**International Kite Museum**—History of kites through displays and video from earliest Chinese kites more than 2,000 years ago. Includes fascinating story of kites used in scientific discoveries. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. In Best Western-Sandy Shores at 3200 Surfside. 361/883-7456.

**Lake**—Corpus Christi. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Corpus Christi State Park**—About 35 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. See MATHIS.

**Mustang Island State Park**—About 10 miles east of Corpus Christi. See PORT ARANSAS.

**Padre Island National Seashore**—110-mile-long Padre Island offers one of the last natural seashores in the nation. Each end of the narrow sand island is developed with parks and resorts. But in between, the National Seashore preserves an unblemished 80-mile stretch. Information about swimming beaches and extensive primitive beach-camping areas and nature trails at ranger station. Visitor center with gifts and concessions, bathhouse, and picnic area. Beachcombers may collect seashells, driftwood, perhaps prized glass floats from Portugal or the Orient, and other items washed in by tides. Federal law prohibits collecting historical artifacts like flint points, antique coins, or any other item more than 100 years old. Use of metal detectors is prohibited on the National Seashore. Admission.

City is connected with the north end of Padre Island by John F. Kennedy Causeway. Office of the Superintendent is at 9405 S. Padre Island Dr., Corpus Christi 78418. For information, call the visitor center at 391/949-8068.

**Parks, City**—Ten major city parks offer variety of outdoor attractions and facilities, including picnicking, playgrounds, birding, swimming, tennis, softball

Kevin Stillman/1x00T

and other sports, and fishing pier. Corpus Christi Beach, north of Harbor Bridge, has pavilion, playground, showers, rest rooms, and picnicking.

**Cole Park** on bay front features pier, playground, amphitheater, and Kid's Place recreation area for children and families. Outdoor concert series in summer. 1526 Ocean Dr.

**The Hans and Pat Suter Wildlife Park** along Oso Bay features a viewing tower for watching birds, especially flocks of heron, cranes, and roseate spoonbills. Boardwalk, hike-and-bike facilities, jogging trail. Accessible by Ocean Drive or take South Padre Island Dr., exit at Nile.

For more information, call City Parks & Recreation; 361/884-7275.

**Parks, County**—Nueces County Parks offer exceptional recreational facilities. John J. Sablatura Park, near Banquete on Texas 44, has picnic, barbecue and camping facilities, and small zoo with animals of South Texas.

J.P. Luby Surf Park on Texas 361 offers a surf pier for wave generation.

To the south, Padre Balli Park (361/949-8121) features overnight camping hookups, covered picnic areas, pavilion, park ranger station, and 1,200-ft. Bob Hall Pier (361/949-8425) with snack and tackle shop. Packery Channel Park, on Padre Island near junction of Texas 361 and Park Road 22, is excellent day-use park with good fishing. Padre Island Park, on Gulf side from Park Road 22, has bathhouse, sandy swimming beaches, overnight camping facilities, fishing pier, and small Beachcomber's Museum in park office with nautical and unusual items found along beach. Port Aransas Park, at northeast end of Mustang Island on Gulf side, has similar facilities.

**Pirates of the Gulf**—Family theme park featuring 18-hole championship miniature golf course complete with waterfall. Open daily Mar. - Labor Day and weekends during winter months. 2901 W. Surfside; 361/884-4774.

**Playland at the Beach**—Outdoor family park featuring Supertrack Grand Prix go-cart races, bumper boats, bumper cars, children's playground, and largest redemption game room in South Texas. Open Mar. - Labor Day; closed during winter. 3001 Seagull Blvd. Tel. 361/879-0312.

**Port of Corpus Christi & Harbor Bridge**—Port is sixth busiest in nation with ships from nearly every country in the world. Major cargoes are oil and

refined products, grain, cotton, and chemicals. The harbor entrance is spanned by an impressive bridge (U.S. 181) that arches 235 feet above the water. Pedestrian walkway on bridge has spectacular views of harbor and city. Beneath the bridge is an observation platform offering close-up views of ships entering and leaving the port.

**Selena Museum**—With fans from around the world showing up at the family business, Abraham Quintanilla decided to build a museum honoring his daughter's memory to please her fans. The museum displays outfits and dresses Selena wore at concerts and award shows, which were designed by her. There is also a newspaper clipping of her as the fifth-grade spelling bee champion. Other exhibits include music awards, a "Selena" movie script and other personal memorabilia. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m. No cameras allowed. In the Q Productions recording studio at 5410 Leopard St. For information, call 361/289-9013.

**South Texas Institute for the Arts**—Strikingly designed building directly on bay houses changing exhibits of a wide variety such as photography, murals, hand crafted pieces, as well as historical paintings. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd. Admission. 361/825-3500.

**Treasure Island Golf and Games**—Family park on Padre Island with 18-hole uphill and downhill course and two 50-ft. caves. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Closed Christmas. 14041 South Padre Island Dr. Tel. 361-949-1769.

**U.S. Naval Air Station**—Home of U.S. Navy's Air Training Command. On peninsula at southeastern edge of city, naval air activities share site with Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), one of the world's largest helicopter repair facilities. Call for tour information: CCAD, 361/939-3600, and NAS at 361/939-2674.

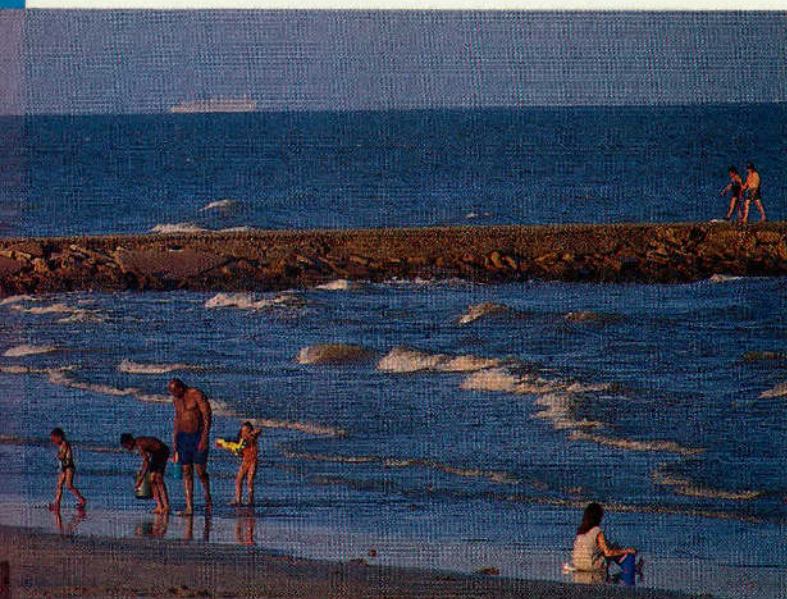
**USS Lexington Museum on the Bay**—Vintage wartime aircraft carrier is floating naval museum. Commissioned in 1943, *USS Lexington CV-16* served longer and set more records than any carrier in the U.S. Navy. During World War II, the "Lady Lex" saw action from Tarawa to Tokyo and was first U.S. carrier to enter Tokyo Bay after treaty was signed with Japan in 1945. Tours include the hangar deck, foc'sle, commanding officer/admiral quarters, sick

## Buried Treasures, Just Below The Surface.

Dig for seashells. Dance on the beach. Run in the surf. Linger over a fresh from the Gulf seafood dinner. Kick back. Coast. Explore the decks of the USS Lexington Museum. See the Gulf from the bottom up at the Texas State Aquarium. Or, better yet, relax and do nothing at all.

**Corpus Christi**  
PADRE ISLAND

FOR INFORMATION VISIT [www.corpuschristicvb.com](http://www.corpuschristicvb.com) or call 1-800-766-BEACH (2322)



Michael Murphy/TXDOT

**Beaches around Corpus Christi**

bay, galley, flight deck, and bridge. You can visit the starboard aft gun tub getting a close look at the Quad 40 millimeter antiaircraft guns that were one of the aircraft carrier's primary defense weapons during WWII. Also open is one of the Arresting Gear Rooms showing how planes were recovered on the flight deck. Static displays include a fully-restored F-14 fighter jet and Hucy Cobra helicopter.

Other exhibits include the "Above and Beyond," which is an overview of the last-ditch Kamikaze campaign waged by the Japanese, and a high-tech flight simulator for those who want to experience the sensation of flight.

Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (extended hours during summer; closed Christmas. Adjacent to aquarium, 2914 N. Shoreline Blvd. (Surfside Exit from U.S. 181). Admission. For additional information, 361/888-4873 or 1-800-LADY-LEX.

**Visitor Centers**—For information on city attractions, accommodations, and events, visit the area visitor bureau, 1823 N. Chaparral St. during business hours; the Tourist Information Center in Nueces River Park at the Nueces River crossing of I-37 at west edge of city, open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., or Visitor Information Center at 14252 Padre Island Dr., open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. You can also visit the Web site at [www.corpuschristi-tx-cvb.org](http://www.corpuschristi-tx-cvb.org).

**CRYSTAL BEACH**

**Pop. 787 (est.)** **Alt. 7** **Map R-22**

**General**—Crystal Beach, originally known as Patton, stretches about seven miles along Texas 87 on Bolivar Peninsula. Patton was a railroad stop until the trains stopped operation in the early 1940s. At that time, the name was changed to Crystal Beach. It's the largest residential and commercial community on the peninsula. Main industry is shrimping and oystering, and tourism. Summer visitors swell population where miles of sandy beaches offer many recreational activities.

Birding is exciting during the springs and fall migrations. The fields, bushes, trees and marshes are alive with colorful and rare species. Many northern species winter here.

Ferries operate every 20 minutes between Galveston and Port Bolivar, Texas 87. The ferries are part of the Texas transportation system, operated toll-free by the Texas Department of Transportation.

The old Bolivar Lighthouse, after 61 years of service, still stands near Texas 87. Although not open to the public, it is a symbol of mariner history along the Texas coast.

For information on accommodations, events, and dining opportunities, call the Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at 409/684-5940 or 1-800-FUN-SUN-3. Visit the Web site at [www.bolivar.com](http://www.bolivar.com).

**Fort Travis Seashore Park**—The peninsula has a long history of military fortifications. In 1898, with federal development of the Port of Galveston, Fort Travis was constructed and named for William B. Travis. The fort was completed in 1899. The fort sustained heavy damage in 1900 Storm. Repairs were well underway by 1903 to include the present seawall around the fort. During World Wars I & II, troops were stationed here to defend the shores. In 1930,

the first Galveston/Bolivar ferry landed on the Bolivar side and was in use until the 1950s. Today, the 60-acre park still has battery sites. It also has picnic areas, cabanas and campsites. It's part of the Galveston County Beach Park Board. Open 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. For information, call 409/766-2411.

**DEER PARK**

**Pop. 28,520** **Alt. 33** **Map Q-21**

**General**—Founded in 1892 by Simon West, was named for private park for deer in area. Railroad station established in 1892, and post office established 1893. Has grown from population of 100 in 1940, largely by establishment of industry along Houston Ship Channel. Population grew from 736 in 1950 to 12,773 in 1970.

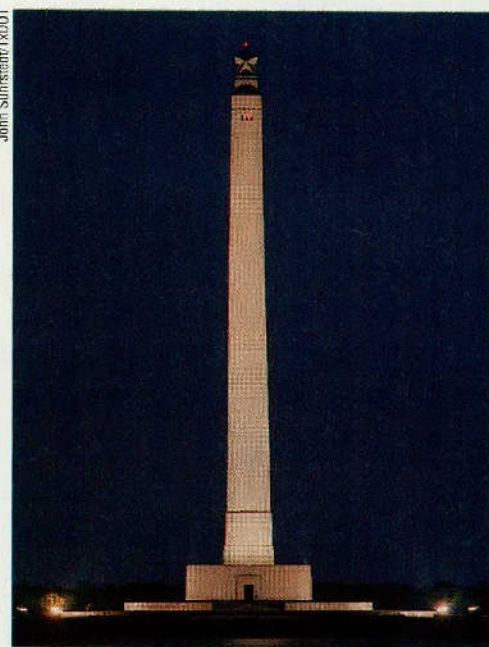
Battleground at Deer Park Golf Course offers a challenging 18-hole championship course, driving range, and three practice holes. Each hole along the course is named for some portion of Texas history, drawing on Deer Park's title as "The Birthplace of Texas." Unique, historic bridge purchased from the Texas Department of Transportation links clubhouse with course.

**Patrick Cabin**—Replica of cabin in which the peace treaty between Texas and Mexico was drawn up after the Battle of San Jacinto. Constructed in 1986, using building techniques of 1830, including hauling logs to site with horse team. Authentic furnishings, garden. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 3009 Center St.

**San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park**—Site where Texas won independence from Mexico on April 21, 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto. After retreats and disasters halfway across Texas, Sam Houston's small army turned on Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's superior forces and defeated them in just minutes. Commemorating the decisive battle, San Jacinto Monument rises 570 feet above flat coastal plain. Famous monument is constructed of reinforced concrete faced with Texas fossilized buff limestone. At base of shaft is San Jacinto Museum of Texas History; exhibits trace region's history from Indian civilization encountered by Cortez, to Texas as a state. "Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto" is a 35-minute history lesson reliving Texas history from the days of Spanish rule in Mexico to the expansion of the American West in 1848. The multi-image presentation utilizes 42 projectors. Show fee. Museum open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; elevator and observation deck open daily 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Elevator fee. Closed Dec. 24 & 25.

Another landmark of the park is Battleship *Texas*, moored in permanent slip at battleground. One of few monuments of its kind in the world, it is only survivor of the pre-World War I dreadnoughts. Battleship was presented to State of Texas by U.S. Navy. Commissioned shortly before World War I, the venerable warship served in that conflict and in World War II as flagship in 1944 D-Day invasion commanded by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a native of Denison, TX. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. East of downtown Houston 22 miles via Texas 225, Texas 134. Admission.

John Suhrens/TXDOT



**570-foot San Jacinto Monument marks site of final battle for Texas independence**

**EDNA**

**Pop. 5,899** **Alt. 72** **Map S-19**

**General**—Built on Robert Guthrie League granted by Mexican government through Stephen F. Austin in 1824. As commissary for Italian laborers on the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway, town was first called Macaroni Station. Today seat of Jackson County, commercial center for rice, cotton, corn and milo, livestock, and oil and gas.

## GALVESTON

Pop. 57,247

Alt. 20

Map R-22

**General**—When first explored by Europeans, island was Akokisa Indian site. The Karankawa Indians used the island for hunting and fishing. Pirate Jean Lafitte established a settlement in 1817. During the Texas Revolution the harbor served as the port for the Texas navy. Following the war, a group of investors obtained ownership of land at the harbor to found a town in 1838, and the following year the Texas legislature granted incorporation to the city of Galveston. Early years gave city many firsts in Texas: first Roman Catholic convent, first electric lights, and first medical college. Disastrous Galveston storm of 1900, when entire island was inundated during a hurricane, claimed 5,000 to 7,000 lives. A seawall begun soon afterwards, presently 10 miles long, has proved its staying power several times.

Galveston Island offers 32 miles of beach and also is a treasure trove of things historically Texan. Details from Visitor Information Centers.

Many city parks, picnic areas and recreation centers offer playground equipment, athletic fields, tennis courts, and golf courses.

Seat of Galveston County, major port, tourist, and convention center. Home of Univ. of Texas Medical Branch, Texas A&M Univ. at Galveston, and Galveston College.

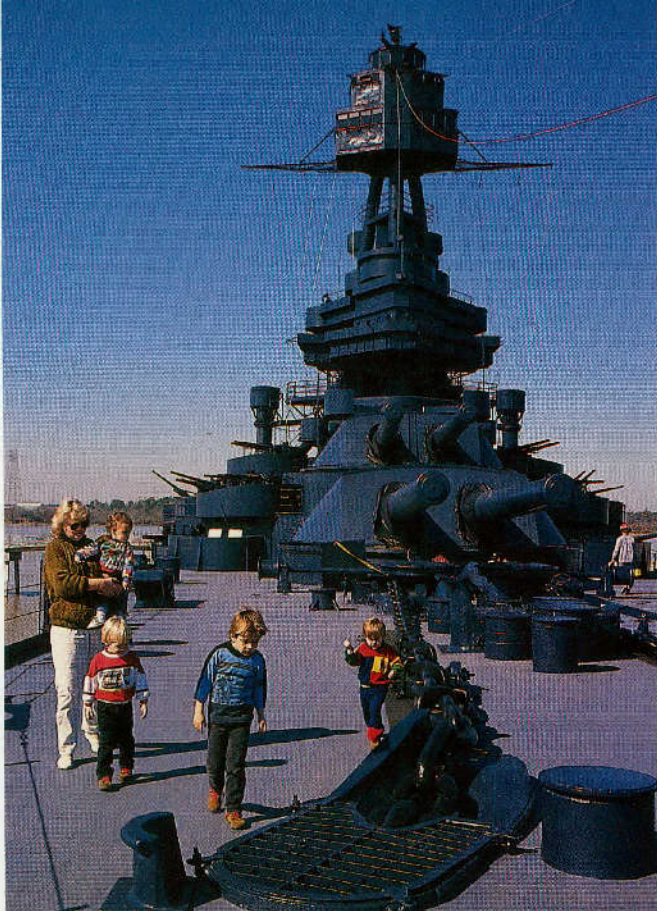
**Center for Transportation and Commerce (Railroad Museum)**—On once-active tracks are over 35 vintage railroad cars and steam engines; historic Santa Fe depot restored to 1932 art deco style, HO-gauge working model of Port of Galveston with tracks, ships, and port activities. A People's Gallery with dozens of life-sized figures (some of which "speak" to visitors) re-create a busy depot scene of the 1930s. Six multimedia theaters present history of Galveston shipping, railroading, and commerce. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Rosenberg St. at foot of the Strand. Admission.

**Churches, Historic**—*First Lutheran Church* was founded in 1850; original church building was rebuilt in 1915. At 25th and Winnie sts.

*First Presbyterian Church*, magnificent Gothic structure, houses what is believed to be oldest church organization in Galveston, dating from Jan. 1, 1840. Present church building constructed 1873. At Church and 19th sts.

*Grace Episcopal Church*, founded as a mission of Trinity Church in 1874, parishioners moved into present structure in 1895. Gothic-style building designed by architect Nicholas Clayton. Many original furnishings including stained glass, hand-carved reredos and altar. At 36th and Avenue L.

**Galveston's Historic Strand offers a variety of shopping, dining and attractions.**



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

### Battleship "Texas" at San Jacinto Battleground State Park near Houston

Edna lies along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which extends from Brownsville to north of Beaumont. The trail offers bird watchers to observed birds intersecting along two major migration flyways. Information on the birding adventure, as well as events, accommodations, and restaurants is available from the chamber of commerce at 317 W. Main St., or by calling 361/782-7146.

**Lake**—Texana. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Texana State Park**—575 acres on Lake Texana offer water-oriented recreation including boating, fishing, water skiing, and swimming; picnic facilities, camping with water and electrical hookups, rest rooms, showers, boat ramp. East 6.5 miles via Texas 111 south; admission.

**Otto Lawrence Children's Museum**—Museum is a hands-on experience for children of all ages. It opens doors to the past into an old country school-room, country store and post office. Vintage clothes available to spark young imaginations and homemade games add to the fun. In historic Jackson County jail at the corner of Cypress and Ed Linn sts. For information, call 361/782-5431.

**Texana Museum and Old Jail House**—Exhibits include artifacts, art items, and documents pertaining to early life in area. Exterior of museum is adorned with murals depicting early Jackson County history. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 403 N. Wells (Texas 111 north).

## EL CAMPO

Pop. 10,945

Alt. 110

Map S-19

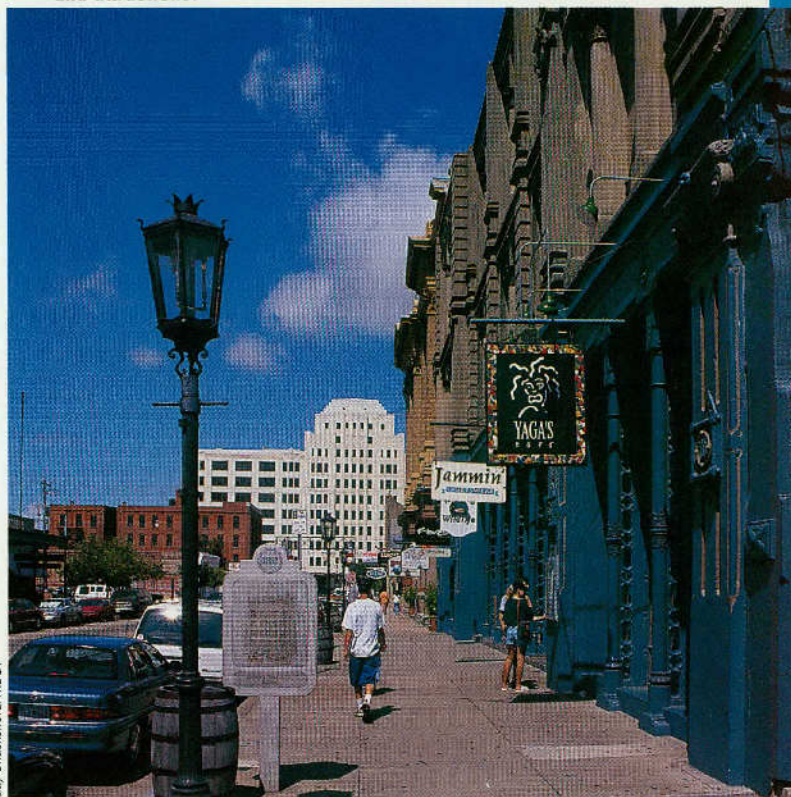
**General**—Railroad reached area in 1880s, and Mexican cowboys who brought cattle herds to railhead called the site "el campo" (the camp). When the cowboys bedded down they could see the lights of a little village called Prairie Switch. They said it looked like a "pearl on the prairie." When incorporated in 1905, city fathers used the Spanish words in naming city, and the city still refers to itself as pearl of the prairie. Now a center for agriculture (largest rice-producing county in state), oil, gas, manufacturing. Excellent hunting and fishing.

Some 20 historical murals are painted on buildings throughout the town where shoppers find antique and craft shops.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining, call the El Campo Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at 979/543-2713.

**El Campo Museum of Art, Science & History**—Features big-game trophies from five continents displayed against huge murals and in natural settings. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Located in civic center at 2350 N. Mechanic (Texas 71 & F.M. 2765).

Gay Shackleford/TXDOT



*Sacred Heart Catholic Church*, founded 1884 was designed by Jesuit priest in 1904 after original church was destroyed in 1900 storm. Opposite Bishop's Palace at Broadway & 14th St.

*St. Mary's Cathedral*, first Catholic cathedral in Texas, retaining original splendid architecture, built in 1848. 21st and Church sts.

*Trinity Episcopal Church*, built in 1857 to serve parish that was organized in 1841. Traditionally repaired and put in use immediately after any hurricane damage, never missing a service. 22nd at Winnie sts.

**Colonel, Excursion Boat**—Modern triple-deck paddle wheeler recaptures the romance of 19th-Century river steamboats on daily 1-hour sightseeing cruises, morning and afternoon, of Galveston Bay and port; evening dinner cruises, and moonlight dance cruises on Sat. nights. Sightseeing trips include interpretive narration, live band, buffet on dinner cruises, rooms for private parties, and charter cruises available. The *Colonel* departs from Moody Gardens at One Hope Blvd. Cruise fee. Phone 409/740-7797.

**Ferry Rides**—Diesel ferries operate every 20 minutes between Galveston and Port Bolivar, Texas 87. Ferries are part of Texas highway system, operated toll-free by the Texas Department of Transportation.

**Fishing, Deep-Sea**—Exciting varieties of food and game fish are found in Gulf waters off Galveston Island. Fishermen may join one of the many party boats for bay or offshore action. Many free public and commercially operated launching ramps and marinas for private craft available. Offshore species are sailfish, marlin, ling, wahoo, king mackerel, bonito, pompano, red snapper, warsaw, dolphin, and other "big league" species. Reservations at Piers 18, 19 and Galveston Yacht Basin.

**Fishing Piers**—Surf fishermen try their luck almost anywhere along beach; free municipal jetties and rock groin piers are along Seawall Blvd. at 10th, 17th, 30th, 37th, and 61st sts. Commercial fishing piers are on Seawall Blvd. at 25th, 61st, and 90th sts., and at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island. Flanking ship channel between Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula are South Jetty (extreme east end of Galveston Island), and North Jetty (from Bolivar Peninsula). Fishermen take flounder, speckled trout, redfish, croaker, tarpon, sheephead, catfish, and other species.

**Galveston County Historical Museum**—Displays from one of Texas' most historic cities plus variety of changing exhibits. Housed in former private bank building of W.L. Moody, Jr., circa 1919; especially impressive interior. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. (Extended hours Memorial Day - Labor Day.) 2219 Market St. Donations requested.

**Galveston Harbour Tours**—Board the *M/V Seagull* for a 45-minute, narrated boat tour of the Port of Galveston. Get a close-up look at the working waterfront and local marine life. Special bird-watching cruises available. Departs from Pier 22 at the north end of 22nd St. Schedule varies. Fee charged.

**Galveston Island Beach**—Thirty-two miles of sand beach washed by Gulf of Mexico. Within city, beach is edged by hotels, condos, restaurants, and amusement attractions. Camping is permitted in designated areas and commercial facilities only, and at Galveston Island State Park. Parking fees are charged at certain beach recreation areas; free parking available elsewhere along the 32-mile beachfront.

**Galveston Island Outdoor Musicals**—1,700-seat outdoor theater in Galveston Island State Park alternates Broadway musicals nightly except Sun. from early June through late Aug. Shows 8 p.m.; free park admission for theatergoers. Six miles south on F.M. 3005 at 13 Mile Rd. 409/737-3440. Admission.

**Galveston Island State Park**—Spanning Galveston Island from Gulf to bay, the 1,935-acre park includes much salt marsh, rich in bird life. Viewing from elevated boardwalks and observation platforms. Campsites with hookups, dump station, screened shelters, rest rooms and showers. Picnicking, fishing, swimming, and nature trail. From early June through late August outdoor musicals are presented nightly except Sun. Six miles south on F.M. 3005 at 13 Mile Rd. Admission.

**Galveston Yacht Basin**—With complete marina services, the yacht harbor provides slips for hundreds of pleasure craft...an elegant sight! Boaters find gas, repair and mechanical services, fishing tackle and bait shops, radar weather reports, and 24-hour security guards.

**Garten Verein**—Octagonal structure, circa 1870, still in use as city recreation building. Victorian accents evident in trim of two picturesque roof levels. City park at 27th St. & Ave. O.

**Great Storm, The**—Award-winning, multi-image presentation using historic photographs and special effects to re-create the aftermath of the 1900 hurricane which devastated Galveston. The 27-minute program shows on the hour: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun. - Thurs.; 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat. Pier 21 at north end of 21st St. Admission.

**Historic Homes and Buildings**—As Texas' earliest prominent city, literally scores of fascinating historic structures were built by sea captains, merchants, businessmen, and prominent officials. Among most notable are:

**Ashton Villa**, showplace of Galveston Historical Foundation in restored 1859 Italianate house-museum reflecting opulence of era in carved moldings, elaborate mantel-work, and lavish furnishings. Guided tours include the ornate Gold Room and elegant family quarters upstairs. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. 2328 Broadway. Admission.

**Bishop's Palace**, probably Galveston's most celebrated landmark, is state's only structure on list of nation's 100 outstanding buildings by American Institute of Architects. "Palace" was built as private home by Col. Walter Gresham in 1886, purchased 1923 for the bishop of Galveston-Houston Diocese. Showplace furnishings include mantel that was first-prize winner at 1876 Philadelphia World's Fair, Venetian crystal chandelier, damask wall coverings from London, and grand staircase of rosewood, satinwood, and mahogany. Open daily noon - 4 p.m. during winter; summer hours Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., noon - 5 p.m. 1402 Broadway. Admission.

**Fort Crockett** was a primary artillery defense installation built 1897. Closed 1947, several buildings remain in use by Galveston College, Texas A&M Univ. at Galveston, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Massive coastal artillery bunkers can still be seen, but most have been incorporated into the foundation of the nearby hotel and conference center. Seawall Blvd. between 45th and 53rd sts.

**Grand 1894 Opera House**, a performing arts hall built in 1894. Multimillion-dollar restoration returned the ornate structure to its original grandeur. Theatre has showcased such theatrical icons as John Philip Sousa, Helen Hayes, and most recently, Gregory Hines. 73rd Legislature named it the "Texas Official Opera House." Stage productions frequently scheduled; open for self-guided tours. 2020 Post Office St.

**Menard Home**—Galveston's oldest home, the Michel B. Menard Home, was built in 1838 by Galveston's founder in the days of the Republic of Texas. It was host to the city's first Mardi Gras celebration. The mansion has been restored and furnished with an outstanding collection of Federal and Ameri-

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J. Gillis Smith/TOOT

### Moody Mansion and Museum in Galveston

can Empire antiques. Open weekends, but hours vary. Call ahead for information at 409/762-3933. At 1605 33rd St. Admission.

**Moody Mansion and Museum**—Historic home built, circa 1892, is prime example of transitional Victorian architecture. It is the former home and center of the business empire of Texas entrepreneur W.L. Moody, Jr. from 1900 until his death in 1954. With a steel frame, construction is of red brick, Texas limestone and terra cotta tile. The interior includes stained glass, custom-designed carved woods, tile work, fancy plaster work, and stencils in 42 rooms covering 28,000 square feet. Collections include antiques, silver, photographs, and other works of art. Gift shop. Self-guided tour. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed on Mon. Jan. - Mar. At 2618 Broadway. Admission.

**The Strand**, once the "Wall Street of the Southwest," is one of the finest concentrations of 19th-Century iron-front commercial buildings in the U.S. Lined with gaslights, now restored and readapted. The Strand features art galleries and studios, specialty shops, restaurants, pubs, delicatessens, historical exhibits, and even an old-fashioned candy factory within a 36-block area. Often site of annual city festivals, especially Dickens on The Strand each Dec. and Mardi Gras celebrations in early spring. National Historic Landmark District is on Strand and Mechanic sts. between 20th and 25th sts. The Strand Visitors Center rents (for a fee) tape players with recorded, one-hour walking tours describing the history and architecture of the historic district. Start tour with information from Strand Visitor Information Center.

**Lone Star Flight Museum**—The golden age of aviation is recalled by more than two dozen vintage aircraft, from a meticulously restored B-17 Flying Fortress to spindly liaison aircraft. There's a "razorback" P-47 Thunderbolt, a P-38 Lightning, a Spitfire, plus other bombers, trainers, and wartime "executive" aircraft, all in flying condition. There's also the Conoco Hall of Power, with historic engines, photos, air combat memorabilia, and wartime vehicles. Open daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. except for major holidays. 2002 Terminal Dr. (at Scholes Field Municipal Airport). Admission.

**Mardi Gras Museum**—Colorful exhibits use historic costumes, crown jewels and memorabilia to tell the story of Galveston's carnival celebrations. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 2311 Ships Mechanic Row.

**Moody Gardens**—156-acre eight phase project of Moody Foundation. Existing now are:

**Aquarium Pyramid** has more than 100,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and nearly two million gallons of water to showcase the ocean waters of the North Pacific, Edge of the Antarctic, the tropical Pacific's Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea, and the colorful Caribbean. Visitors view the ocean habitats from two levels, one providing a shoreline view from above the water, and the other submerging the visitor into the depths of the exhibit waters. Walk-through exhibits, demonstrations, and educational opportunities lets visitors learn about marine creatures with whom we share our planet.

**Rainforest Pyramid**, rising 10 stories, represents rain forests of Asia, Africa, and South America. Experience the exotic rain forest; butterflies abound among waterfalls, cliffs, caverns, Mayan Colonnade, and an ever-changing array of tropical plants. Clear, blue pools are filled with tropical fish; quiet ponds with exotic wading birds. Bat Cave turns night into day so visitors are able to see 60 fruit bats behind large glassed-in cave. Open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Labor Day through Memorial Day; daily 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. during summer. Admission.

**Discovery Pyramid** is the second in a trilogy of unique glass pyramids. NASA's Johnson Space Center and the non-profit Moody Gardens teamed up to bring all the wonders of space into amazing focus for guests of Moody Gardens. This pyramid also has three IMAX Ridefilm Theaters, offering visitors a thrilling motion-based space film they won't soon forget. Space travelers strap themselves into their seats and hold on for a moving shaking ride across the cosmos, their senses heightened by the 180-degree wraparound screen and sparkling IMAX sound. Admission.

**IMAX Theater/Visitor Center** projects 3D films on a 6-story screen. Within complex is Visitor Center and Gardens Restaurant overlooking Gulf waters and a nightly presentation of Dancing Waters.

**Palm Beach**, Texas' only white sand beach with freshwater swimming lagoons, whirlpools, volleyball, a 400' pier/dock, and paddleboats. Yellow Submarine and Octopus Slide features 30-ft. submarine with fully operational periscope, water gun, and dive horn. Open weekends in May, daily mid-May - Labor Day. Admission.

**Galveston Island Convention Center**, a multipurpose convention/conference center set in tropical surroundings. Adjacent to Moody Gardens Hotel.

Formal gardens, Japanese Garden of Life, the Vietnam Memorial, Hope Rose Garden, Horticulture Terraces, the Vineyard, plus nature/walking trails. For information, call 1-800-582-4673.

**Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum**—The Offshore Energy Center operates a state-of-the-art facility giving the visitors a better understanding of how oil and gas is produced offshore. You can tour the refurbished jackup and learn about the drilling procedures and production, marine transportation, and environmental protection. It's a museum, educational facility, and drilling rig all rolled into one. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., till 4 p.m. in winter. Adjacent to Pier 19 on Harborside Dr. For information, call 409/766-STAR (7827). Admission.

**Parks**—Largest is Stewart Beach Park on Seawall Blvd. at Broadway, offering pavilion, beach service, bath houses, restaurants, concessions, with attractions such as mini-golf and water slides.

*Note: No alcohol is permitted along most of the beachfront along Seawall Blvd., on Stewart Beach, Dellanera, or the pocket parks.*

R. A. Apffel Park, east of Stewart Beach at Boddecker Dr., is wide beach with boat launching, jetty and surf fishing, bath house, concessions, and rest rooms.

Dellanera Beach Park offers beach activities, RV hookups, showers, rest rooms, picnic area, grocery store, and laundry room. West of Seawall on F.M. 3005.

Three "pocket" parks are along F.M. 3005 and offer beachfront picnic areas, rest rooms, and playgrounds. They're at 7 1/2 Mile Rd., 9 1/2 Mile Rd., and 11 Mile Rd.

**Pelican Island**—Just across channel from Port of Galveston, island is site of industrial and recreational development. Todd Shipyards Corp. and Texas A&M Univ. at Galveston on south edge. On northern point is Seawolf Park where port's federal quarantine station once stood. Scenic location edged by palms and banks of oleanders with picnic facilities and excellent fishing.

**Port of Galveston**—First major port in Texas, was commercial link of Texas Republic with rest of world; for years was state's largest city. Modern port handles ships from throughout world. Unique in operation, it is nation's only port where all facilities, from railroad switching to crating and labeling of individual items, are coordinated under one management. So successful is operation that Galveston is only major port facility in United States not supported by public funds. Visitors will be fascinated by Fisherman's Wharf area along Ave. A between 17th and 23rd sts. Fish markets, seafood restaurants, and charter/group boat docks.

**Rosenberg Library**—Texas' first free public library, contains many original manuscripts and letters of Samuel May Williams, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and other prominent figures in Texas history. Rare books, artifacts, art collection. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Aug. - May. Closed Sun. Jun. - Jul. 2310 Sealy Ave.

**Seawolf Park**—Picturesque location provides close look at ocean-going vessels entering and departing port and yacht basin. Excellent fishing from

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- Dellanera RV Park, 10901 San Luis Pass Rd.
- Seawolf Park, Pelican Island
- Birding Tours, call 1-866-505-4456

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### Discover year-round treasure with Galveston Historical Foundation

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Galveston County Historical Museum  
Pier 21 Theater

"Dickens on the Strand" each December  
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Clear Lake CVR photo

**Galveston Bay**

commercially operated pier. Striking three-level pavilion with snack bar; picnic facilities and children's playground. Main attraction is naval exhibit featuring tours of WW II submarine *USS Cavalla*, destroyer escort *USS Stewart*, Navy jet, and military vehicles. Open daily on Pelican Island. Admission.

**Texas Heroes Monument**—Gift to State of Texas by Galveston philanthropist Henry Rosenberg, commemorates great achievements of men and women of Texas. It is 74 feet high, 34 feet square, with four monolithic granite columns rising to support 22-foot bronze figure of "Victory." Erected in 1900, stands at intersection of Broadway and Rosenberg Ave.

**Texas Seaport Museum**—Home of the *Elissa* square-rigged, 400-ton barkentine built in Scotland in 1877. A visitor to Galveston during her sailing/working days, *Elissa* has returned as a museum of 19th-Century maritime technology. Opened in 1982 after eight years of restoration. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (extended hours in summer). *Elissa* is sometimes away from Galveston sailing. Check locally for dockside schedule.

Museum also includes two wide-screen theater presentations on legends and lore of the sea and the restoration of the *Elissa*. Visitors also have access to computer database containing information on more than 130,000 immigrants who entered Texas through the Port of Galveston. Pier 21 at north end of Kempner (22nd) St. Admission.

**Tours**—Besides tours cited previously under Historical Homes and Buildings—Ashton Villa, and The Strand—other specialized tours for individuals and groups are available as follows; details from Visitor Information Centers.

Galveston Island Duck Tours, pickup locations at 2411 Strand (in summer) and 21st & Seawall Blvd. (year-round) is a one hour "fun family tour" through the Strand, Offats Bayou (in the water), and through the historic district. This special vehicle travels on land and in water. Visitors enjoy a humorous, informative tour by experienced captains. For information, call 409/621-4771.

Carriage and buggy rides are available throughout The Strand Historic District.

Treasure Isle Tour Train operates on regular schedule from 2106 Seawall Blvd., touring both old and new sites on Galveston Island in the little train with the fringe on top. Schedule varies, inquire locally.

The East End National Historic Landmark District and the Silk Stocking Historic District are both historic neighborhoods featuring 19th-Century Victorian homes. Information for a walking/driving tour of the East End District is available at the Strand Visitors Center.

Literature and directions for self-guided historical tours are provided free at Visitor Information Center and Strand Visitors Center.

**Trolley Cars**—Nostalgic trolley cars connect the beach at seawall to the historic Strand/Bay area. Replica 1900 vintage cars glide for 4 1/2 miles along tracks much like those in city's early days. Schedule posted along route.

**Visitor Information Centers**—Details on activities, events, tours, recreation facilities and historic sites; free maps and literature. At Moody Gardens at One Hope Blvd., and also in the Strand Historic District at 2016 Strand.

**HARLINGEN**

**Pop. 57,564**

**Alt. 36**

**Map Y-17**

**General**—Named for a city in The Netherlands; incorporated in 1905. From its beginning, city has been a transportation and distribution hub for the rich lower Rio Grande Valley. In the subtropical tip of Texas, visitors are lured by balmy temperatures throughout most of the year, landscapes edged by palm trees and flaming bougainvillea, the nearness of enchanting Old Mexico, and proximity to surf-washed Gulf beaches. There's almost always a harvest in progress: Peas, carrots, lettuce, spinach or cabbage, and, in winter, a bounty of oranges and prized Texas Ruby Red Grapefruit. In summer, tons of cotton, sugar cane and grain are harvested.

Visit the chamber of commerce at 311 E. Tyler St. The chamber also provides a brochure for a self-guided walking/driving tour of the city. The chamber is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 800/531-7346, or if visit the Web site [www.harlingen.com](http://www.harlingen.com).

Near the Valley International Airport is the Marine Military Academy, a prep school dedicated to U.S. Marine Corps traditions, and the Rio Grande campus of Texas State Technical College.

Harlingen is known worldwide as a tropical birder's paradise and home of the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Nov. Visitors spot colorful resident and migratory birds year round because of the location on the convergence of two major flyways. More than 480 species have been documented on refuges and other areas near here. Harlingen has several sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail co-sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation.

**Iwo Jima War Monument and Memorial Museum**—The original working model of the famous bronze statue at Arlington National Cemetery was donated by sculptor Dr. Felix W. de Weldon to the Marine Military Academy. It depicts the raising of the U.S. flag during World War II. A visitor center includes a museum, focusing on the battle and features a 30-minute film, "The Battle for Iwo Jima." Also, self-guided tours. More than 2,000 Iwo Jima veterans are included in the Hall of Fame — Iwo Jima Veterans. Military and Texas items available in gift shop. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Next to Valley International Airport at 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. For information, call 956/412-2207 or Web site [www.mma-tx.org/museum.htm](http://www.mma-tx.org/museum.htm).

**Jackson Street**—Harlingen's revitalized historic area features architecture from the 1920s. The palm-lined business district has restored storefronts, old-fashioned street lamps, sidewalk benches and colorful flowers. You'll find

**Texas Travel Information Center at Harlingen**



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

antiques, crafts, works of art, and much more. Tours available. Call the Downtown Improvement District at 956/427-8703 for more information.

**Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge**—See RIO HONDO.

**Los Indios Free Trade Bridge**—The bridge is centrally located about ten miles south of Harlingen/San Benito on F.M. 509 at Los Indios on the U.S./Mexico border.

**Parks**—The city boasts an extensive park system with recreational facilities for both visitors and residents. Among the city's 25 park sites are numerous playgrounds, gardens, nature trails, tennis courts, swimming pools and picnic shelters. Runners and walkers enjoy the Arroyo Hike and Bike Trail that connects the parks along the Arroyo Colorado. The popular 27-hole Tony Butler Municipal Golf Course at U.S. 77/83 at southwest edge of city is a golfers' delight. 956/427-8873.

**Port of Harlingen**—Barge facility on Arroyo Colorado primarily handling incoming cargoes of oil, gasoline, fertilizers, sand and gravel. Fishing excellent on Arroyo Colorado from port to Gulf. Off F.M. 106 about 5 miles east.

**Rio Grande Valley Museum**—Includes three historical structures, the Historical Museum with history and natural history exhibits, and a newer addition with changing exhibits, video theater and museum store. Compound includes Paso Real Stagecoach Inn, c. 1850, with period furnishings; original Harlingen Hospital with vintage medical equipment, dental and medical offices of the 1920s, and the Lon C. Hill Home, built by "father" of Harlingen. The Hill home has many original possessions of the family. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Located off Loop 499 at Boxwood and Raintree sts. For information, call 956/430-8500 or visit Web site [www.ci.harlingen.tx.us/museum](http://www.ci.harlingen.tx.us/museum).

**Texas Travel Information Center**—Trained, professional bilingual travel counselors offer free maps, literature about every part of Texas, and expert help in charting routes. Free tourism video shows, lavish tropical landscaping. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round, except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The center is operated by the Texas Department of Transportation. At intersection of U.S. 77/U.S. 83 in town.

**Valley Race Park**—Live greyhound racing Dec. - Apr. and simulcast racing from the nation's top greyhound and horse tracks 364 days a year. Food, beverage and private party rooms available. Open daily at 11 a.m. At 2601 S. Ed Carey Dr. For information, call 956/412-RACE, or visit Web site at [www.valleyracepark.com](http://www.valleyracepark.com). Admission.

## HEMPSTEAD

Pop. 4,691

Alt. 251

Map P-19/20

**General**—County seat of Waller County. Established in 1856 as railroad town when Hempstead Town Company offered lots and blocks to Houston and Texas Central Railroad as inducement for line to run through town. Because the railroad made it an important shipping and receiving area during the War Between the States, several camps were established in the vicinity. Long known as "Six Shooter Junction" because of an era of violence around the turn of the century that gave it a nickname. Most notable fight shocked the nation in 1905 when U.S. Congressman John Pinckney and his brother, and two others were gunned down in the courthouse while meeting with prohibitionists, recent victors in an election to ban booze. Heckling began, and in less than two minutes, four people were dead, and the Waller County Courthouse was riddled with 75 shots in the fight. Today, economy is primarily farms, ranches, oil and gas. The close proximity to Houston (52 miles) offers opportunity for cosmopolitan city activities.

For water fountains, yard statuary, or bird baths, stop by Frazier's Ornamental and Architectural Concrete on Business U.S. 290. They have acres of concrete products from estate-sized entry pieces to tabletop creations. Open daily, except Wed.

**Liendo Plantation**—Built in 1853 by Leonard Waller Groce, son of Jared Groce, who was one of largest land owners in Texas. Originally a Spanish land grant of 67,000 acres assigned to Justo Liendo, plantation's namesake. One of Texas' earliest cotton plantations. Liendo was occupied by sculptress Elisabet Ney and her husband, Dr. Edmond Montgomery from 1873 to 1911. Both are buried on the grounds. Liendo is a Texas historic landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Private residence; however, tours offered the first Sat. of the month at 10 & 11:30 a.m., & 1 p.m. F.M. 1488 NE approximately 2.5 miles to Wyatt Chapel Rd. Turn right to entrance. Admission. Not wheelchair accessible. Also, downtown is the plantation's tearoom. For information, call 1-800-826-4371.



J. Griffith Smith/TXDOT

Liendo Plantation in Hempstead

## HOUSTON

Pop. 1,953,631

Alt. 55

Map Q-20/21

**General**—Named after Sam Houston, general of Texas army that won independence from Mexico, and president of Republic of Texas. The city, largest in Texas and fourth largest in nation, has experienced phenomenal growth since a small riverboat landing was established on Buffalo Bayou by Allen brothers in August 1836. Today metropolis is industrial and financial hub for much of the state. It is one of nation's largest seaports, and headquarters of Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

Houston lies on I-10, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

Institutions of higher learning include Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Baptist Univ., Rice Univ., South Texas College of Law, South Texas Junior College, Texas Southern Univ., Univ. of Houston, Univ. of St. Thomas and Univ. of Texas Health Science Center.

Major annual events include the Texaco Grand Prix in the fall; Houston Industries' Power of Houston in the fall; and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in late Feb. and early Mar., largest livestock exposition in state with championship cowboys and popular entertainers. Houston International Festival each April celebrates the performing and visual arts with 10-day outdoor festival of multicultural music, dance, arts and crafts, and food.

Professional sports are presented throughout the year. Teams include the Houston Astros, baseball; Houston Rockets and the Houston Comets, basketball; and the Houston Aeros, hockey. Beginning in the Fall of 2002, the Houston Texans, the newest National Football League team, will make its debut and play its home games in the new Reliant Stadium, located nearby Reliant Astrodome (see *Reliant Park listing*).

For full details about Houston's abundant attractions and events, stop at the city's Visitor Information Center in City Hall at 901 Bagby St.

**Adventure Bay**—12 acres of water highlighted by Houston's only Master Blaster, a water coaster that defies gravity and sends its riders uphill! Explore Pirates Cove children's area with its huge interactive pirate ship. Brave the waves in Paradise Bay wave pool, or relax and unwind in Rio Lento, the laziest of rivers. For the daring, there are plenty of thrills in the Lost Falls Speedslides and Slidewinders Tube Rides. Relax at the Galley and full service food and beverage court. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day. At 13602 Beechnut on the corner of Beechnut and Eldridge in southwest Houston. For information, 281/498-SWIM (498-7946).

**Alkek Velodrome**—Site of 1989 Texas Track Championships. The 33.334 meter track is banked nine to 33 degrees. Bicyclists may ride Mar. - Oct. Tues., Thurs. 5 - 9 p.m., Sat., Sun. 4 - 8 p.m.; Nov. - Feb. Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 - 9 p.m., Sat., Sun. 2 - 6 p.m. In Cullen Park at 19008 Saums Rd.

**Allen's Landing; Old Market Square**—Park on Buffalo Bayou where Allen brothers arrived in 1836 to promote new real estate venture: Houston. General area, now Old Market Square, became center of new city. Several important 19th-Century buildings restored; now devoted to dining and entertainment, including great restaurants and a quaint bar in Houston's oldest commercial building. Bounded by Travis, Milam, Congress, and Preston sts.

**American Funeral Service Museum**—Nation's largest collection of funeral service memorabilia, including two dozen vehicles: horse-drawn hearses, a funeral sleigh, 1941 hearse/ambulance, and of special interest, a 1915 Packard "mourning bus" that carried the casket, pallbearers, and 20 mourners at a top speed of 15 mph. Also displayed are Civil War cast iron caskets, and turn-of-the-century embalming artifacts, plus video presentations. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. I-45 north; take Richey Rd. Exit; cross over I-45 due west on Richey Rd. to Ella Blvd. Turn left on Ella Blvd. and go three streets to Barren Springs Dr. 415 Barren Springs Dr. For information, call 281/876-3063. Admission.

**ArtCar Museum**—Custom decorated cars feature whimsical motifs—a Honda motorcycle in "The Red Stiletto," a woman's red high-heel shoe, or a VW diesel known as "Rex Rabbit,"—a giant polyester bunny. Many of the cars participate in the annual Art Car Parade. Open Wed. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. At 140 Heights Blvd. For information, 713/861-5526.

**Battleship Texas**—See DEER PARK.

**Bayou Bend Collection**—Operated as branch of Houston Museum of Fine Arts; 28-room Latin Colonial structure was home of the late Miss Ima Hogg, daughter of James Stephen Hogg, first native-born governor of Texas. The collection consists of more than 4,800 works from colonial period to early 19th Century, including furniture, paintings, metals, ceramics, glass, and textiles. The gardens consist of 14 acres bounded on three sides by Buffalo Bayou. They are made up of natural woodlands and eight cultivated formal gardens with imported and native plants. The collection is open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (mornings reserved for school and group tours); Sat. 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Tours of the house open to children 10 and above accompanied by an adult. Admission. Gardens are open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Admission. 1 Westcott St. For more information, call 713/520-2600.

**Brown, George R., Convention Center**—Located in the heart of downtown, the facility features 500,000 sq. ft. of meeting and convention space. It also features a plush telescopic seating arena and a first-class ballroom. For information, call 713/853-8000.

**Burke Baker Planetarium**—See Houston Museum of Natural Science.

**Celebration Station**—Youngsters love the entertaining games and amusements that include go-carts, bumper boats, and lots more. Challenging miniature golf course. Food court. Usually open daily; however, hours vary with the seasons. Call to verify hours. Two locations: 6767 Southwest Frwy., 713/981-7888; or I-45 at Rankin Rd., 281/872-7778.

**Christ Church Cathedral**—Founded 1839, is Houston's oldest church on original site. Contains hand-carved woodwork and fine stained-glass windows including one designed by Tiffany. Open by request. Noon Eucharist in Golding Chapel. 1117 Texas Ave.

**Downtown Houston Theater District**—Houston's revitalized central district is seeing a surge in entertainment opportunities and is home to the city's world-renown Theater District and beautiful city parks. Covering 17 blocks, the Theater District is home to eight performing arts organizations and has more than 12,000 seats, second only to New York City. This doesn't count theaters outside downtown.

**Alley Theater**—This is one of the oldest resident professional theater companies in the country. Recipient of the 1996 Special Tony Award, Alley premieres have included "Jeckyll and Hyde" and the "Civil War." For information, call 713/228-8421.

**Bayou Place**—Houston's newest downtown entertainment option. Bayou Place sits in the heart of the Theater District, making it a natural stop for visitors. Bayou Place features Aerial Theater for live music, the Angelika Film Center and its eight theaters, several popular restaurants offering everything from barbecue to sushi, and Slick Willies for billiards. At Texas Ave. and Smith sts.

**Jesse H. Jones Hall for Performing Arts**, Louisiana and Capitol sts., houses both offices and performances of Houston Symphony Orchestra. Dramatic grand lobby features Richard Lippold's "Gemini II" sculpture floating in gleaming curve toward 66-foot ceiling. Open only during scheduled events.

**The Heritage Society**—Project of Harris County Heritage Society, a monument to early history of Houston; 19-acre park features eight restored historic buildings ranging from oil field pioneer Henry T. Staiti's 17-room house built in 1905 to the 1823 Old Place, depicting early life in Harris County. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. For more information call 713/655-1912 or visit the Web site [www.heritagesociety.org](http://www.heritagesociety.org).

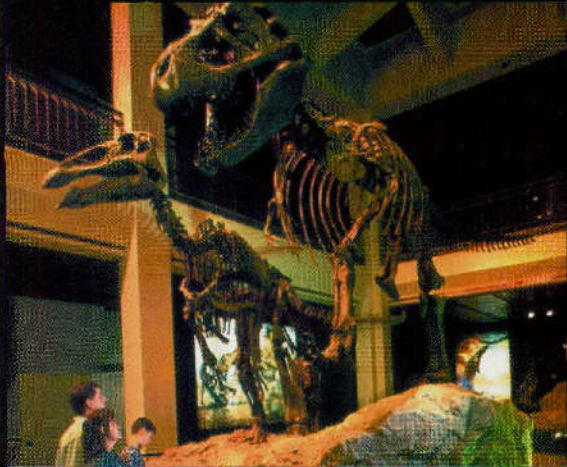
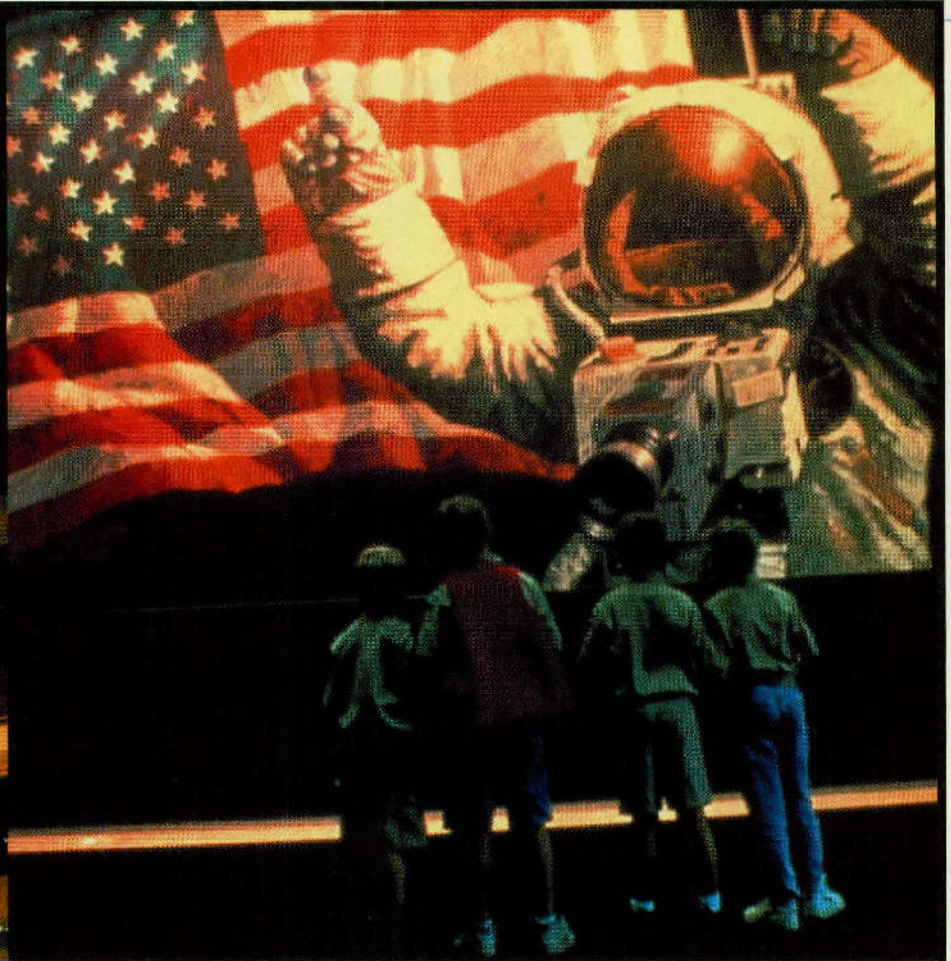
**Museum of Texas History** is sampler of Heritage Society's collection, covering Lone Star history since 1519. Frequently changing exhibits range from Spanish treasure to space exploration. Housed in the adjacent building is the Long Row, a reconstruction of a shopping strip built in 1837 that houses gift shop and tearoom that's open for lunch Mon. - Fri. Across from Texaco Heritage Plaza at 1100 Bagby.

**Sesquicentennial Park**, on Buffalo Bayou, is adjacent to the Wortham Theater. Three-story pavilion is surrounded by cascading waterfall to pool at monument's base. Hike and bike trails switch back from lower bayou waterfront boat landing to street level promenade. Gardens of azaleas and crape myrtle trees accent magnificent view of Houston's striking skyline.

Tranquility Park in Houston's Civic Center



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No matter what the goal, Houston is the answer. As an international **business** leader and a great place for fun and **entertainment**, the Bayou City is the place for it all. For your next big meeting or a **relaxing getaway**, your destination is Houston.

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**Children's Museum in Houston**

**Tranquility Park**, bounded by Smith, Rusk, Bagby and Walkter sts. Commemorates Apollo flights with two-block-long, 32-level fountain and towers resembling rockets. Bronze plaques in 15 languages tell the Apollo story. Restful oasis; occasional outdoor events.

**Wortham Center** contains two theaters for home to the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet. It also hosts productions of the Society for the Performing Arts, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Texas Chamber Society, and others. The Grand Foyer, a 12,000-square-foot public space is actually built above Prairie St. The 3.2-acre site is bounded by Texas, Smith and Preston sts. and Buffalo Bayou.

**Enron Field**—Home for the National League Houston Astros. Games generally played from Apr. - Sept. The stadium, complete with retractable roof and a natural grass playing surface, is at the corner of Crawford and Texas sts., adjacent to historic Union Station and near the George R. Brown Convention Center. For schedule and ticket information, call 713/259-8000.

Tours of the complex are offered Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m., noon, 2 and 4 p.m. on non-game days. If game scheduled, no tours after 2 p.m. Sat. tours 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. No tours on Sat. if that is a game day, and no tours on Sun. For groups of 25 or more, please call for reservation. Tour information, 713/259-TOUR (8687). Admission for tours.

**Ensemble Theatre**—The oldest and most distinguished professional theater in the Southwest devoted to the African-American experience. The Ensemble boasts two stages and a full season of productions. At 3535 Main St. For information, call 713/520-0055.

**FunPlex**—Indoor complex includes a roller rink, bowling, miniature golf, arcade areas, rides, three movie screens, and food in air conditioned comfort. Hours vary; call for information 281/530-7777. 13700 Beechnut.

**Gulf Coast Railroad Museum**—The museum, operated by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, preserves and displays a collection of equipment, artifacts and memorabilia related to the history of railroading in and around Houston, Texas, and the U.S. Some of the items on display include a multi-bedroom sleeping car, two functional cabooses, and a Texas-Mexican railroad locomotive. The museum's visitor center is housed in former Santa Fe baggage car. A railway post office car houses a HO-scale model railroad layout. A colorful Southern Pacific neon sign that once could be seen atop the Southern Pacific building downtown is also on display. Open Mar. - Nov. Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. At 7390 Mesa Rd. For information, call 713/631-6612. Admission.

**Gulf Greyhound Park**—See TEXAS CITY-LA MARQUE.

**Houston Arboretum and Nature Center**—155 acre nature sanctuary with over five miles of walking trails winding through woodlands, ponds, and a demonstration meadow. Interpretive Center contains Discovery Room with interactive exhibits, aquariums, touch screen monitors, and a 15-ft. tall tree model. Grounds open daily 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Building hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Discovery Room open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Located four miles west of downtown Houston at 4501 Woodway Drive. For information, call 713/681-8433.

**Houston Fire Museum**—Visitors see evolution of fire fighting, from "bucket brigade" to modern fire-fighting vehicles. Collection includes late

19th-Century hand-drawn and operated pumper and hose reel, 1892 steam fire engine, early 20th-Century motorized pumper, and other memorabilia. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. In former Houston Fire Dept. Station No. 7 at Milam and McIlhenny sts. Admission.

**Houston Underground**—A 7-mile system of underground pedestrian tunnels and skywalks that includes a variety of shops and more than 100 restaurants. Connects 65 buildings with three hotels in the downtown area. The underground area is usually open Mon. Fri. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is wheelchair accessible. Tours available at Visitor Information Center, open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 901 Bagby. For more information, call 713/222-9255

**Kuumba House**—A non-profit, multi-cultural arts center hosting theatrical, musical and dance productions. At 2600 South Loop, Suite 4758. For information, call 713/524-1079.

**Lake**—Houston. See LAKES listing.

**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**—Visit headquarters of America's manned space program, the famous "Mission Control" that guided pioneering astronauts, and directs the Space Shuttle project. Located 20 miles southeast of downtown, 3 miles east of I-45 on NASA Road 1. See Space Center Houston.

**Mitchell Pavilion, The Cynthia Woods**—See THE WOODLANDS.

**Museum District**—In one of Houston's most scenic areas, the Museum District is home to 11 institutions, restaurants and beautiful green spaces such as Hermann Park. The Mecom Fountain and the Sam Houston statue are must sees. Museums in the area include:

**Byzantine Fresco Chapel**—This museum features 13th Century frescoes from the island of Cyprus. One of the ancient frescoes depicts the Virgin Mary. Another fresco, a dome fresco that took four years to restore, depicts Christ as the ruler of all things. Francois de Menil, son of Houston philanthropist Dominique de Menil, designed the chapel located at the corner of Branard and Yupon sts. a few blocks from the Menil Collection. For information, call the Menil Collection at 713/525-9400.

**Children's Museum of Houston**—Variety of hands-on exhibits for children four months to 14 years in areas of science, history, culture, and the arts. Other features include outdoor discovery garden and greenhouse. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 1500 Binz. Admission.

**Contemporary Arts Museum**—A non-collecting museum dedicated to bringing the cutting edge of contemporary art to the city through its nine exhibitions yearly. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 5216 Montrose Blvd. 713/284-8250.

**Holocaust Museum Houston**—Facility is designed to be a living testimonial to those who died, a place to honor those who survived, and a source from which the vital education of generations now and in the future can begin. Included is a permanent exhibit, memorial, classrooms, changing exhibit gallery, theater, library, an interactive learning center, and archives repository. Open Sun. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. noon - 5 p.m. At 5401 Caroline St.

**Cockrell Butterfly Center at Houston Museum of Natural Science**



Gay Shacketford/TXDOT



tat for the zoo's primates. In Hermann Park, zoo is open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission.

**Japanese Garden**—Designed by Ken Nakajima, world-renowned Japanese landscape architect who designed gardens in Moscow, Montreal, and Rome. Features Yukimi Stone Lantern, Azumaya (Tea House), and waterfalls amid winding paths and lush exotic plants. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. In Hermann Park. Admission.

**Menil Museum**—Collection of John and Dominique de Menil includes contemporary, surrealist and 20th-Century art, antiquities, Byzantine and medieval art, and tribal art. Housed in architecturally significant 100,000-sq.-ft. building designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano of Italy. Open Wed. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. 1515 Sul Ross.

**Miller Outdoor Theatre**—Performances feature a variety of entertainment from grand opera to jazz, ballet to Shakespeare, musical comedy to symphonic concerts. Outdoor theatre in Hermann Park seats 1,750 under unusual polygon roof; additional seating on grass hillside.

**Museum of Fine Arts**—The city's finest collection of art objects, paintings and sculpture, visited by more than a half-million people each year. Accredited by American Association of Museums. Among superb displays is Finnigan collection of ancient art from Egypt, Greece and Rome. Straus collection features Renaissance paintings and bronzes. Noted Kress collection displays High Renaissance art from Italy and Spain, and the Beck collection includes master paintings from impressionist, postimpressionist and early modernist periods. Visitors will find Indian art of Southwest, plus Frederic Remington's robust masterpieces. Native arts from Africa, Australia and South Pacific, plus special Junior Gallery with changing exhibits of appeal to youngsters. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 12:15 - 6 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Closed Mondays. Restaurant open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1001 Bissonnet. Fee. **The Cullen Sculpture Garden**, displaying fine sculpture outdoors, is across from the museum. Open 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Rothko Chapel**—Interfaith chapel houses canvasses of the late Mark Rothko. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 3900 Yupon.

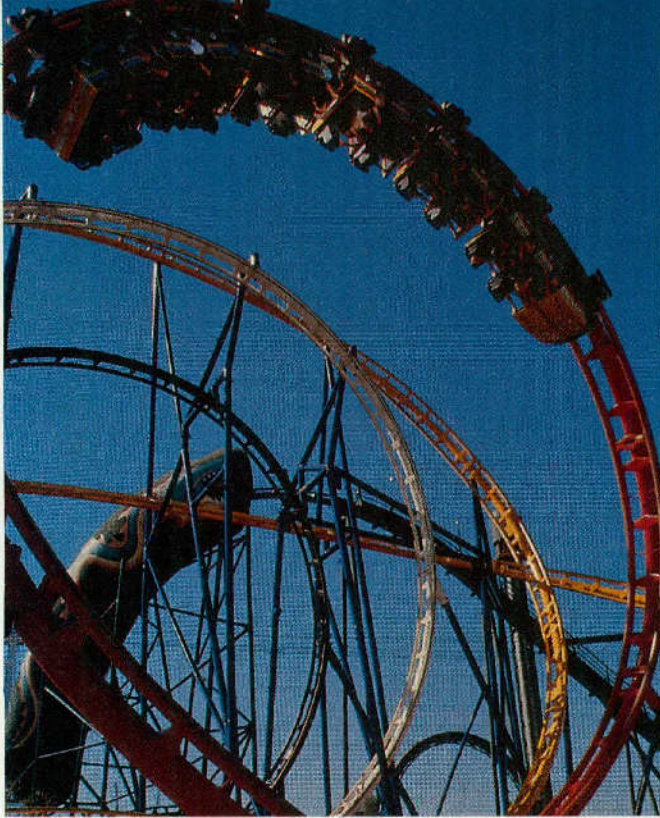
**Museum of Printing History**—From the earliest cuneiform tablets to current headlines, the museum shows visitors how written communication has influenced the course of history. The galleries contain hundreds of rare printing artifacts. One gallery features historical headlines documenting events from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1324 W. Clay St. Tel. 713/522-4652. Admission.

**Oil Ranch**—Day ranch activities include pony rides, hayrides, petting zoo, picnicking, swimming, and much more. Take U.S. 290 30 miles northwest. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. hours seasonal. Reservations recommended. 281/859-1616.

#### Japanese Garden in Hermann Park, Houston



Six Flags AstroWorld photo



#### The Texas Tornado roller coaster at Six Flags AstroWorld in Houston

**Houston Garden Center**—Garden trails, rose garden and center headquarters. Building open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; trails and gardens open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (8 a.m. - 8 p.m. summer) Sat., Sun. and holidays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (10 a.m. - 8 p.m. summer). North edge of Hermann Park, 1500 Herman Dr.

**Houston Museum of Health & Medical Science**—This museum is a hands-on experience for all ages. With its walk-through design of the human body, the museum allows visitors a chance to understand the body's inner workings and how one area influences the next. The museum also features changing exhibits throughout the year. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At 1515 Hermann Dr. For information, call 713/521-1515. Admission.

**Houston Museum of Natural Science**—Exhibits feature space science plus geology, archaeology, and natural history. In Hermann Park. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 1 Hermann Circle Dr. Admission. Of special interest are:

**Burke Baker Planetarium**—Called most sophisticated science-teaching device in the world, 232-seat planetarium can reproduce celestial patterns as they would be seen from any point on earth or in space. Fly into a black hole! Zoom through constellations faster than the speed of light! Celestial shows (fee) Mon. - Fri. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.; Sat., Sun. every half-hour 1 - 3:30 p.m. Weekend evenings feature entertaining rock and roll laser shows (fee). Planetarium also houses an array of scientific exhibits. For ticket and show information, 713/639-4629.

**Cockrell Butterfly Center**—A six-story glass cone houses some 2,000 live butterflies flying freely amid a tropical rain forest. Visitors can stroll within the 25,000 square-foot area to view flowers, medicinal plants, giant trees, a 40-ft. waterfall, and scores of exotic butterflies. Open daily. For information, 713/639-4600.

**Lillie and Roy Cullen Gallery of Earth Science**—Displays the Sams Collection of more than 600 rare mineral specimens and hundreds of gemstones which are among the finest specimens in the world. Also the Cockrell Hall of Minerals with some of the world's best examples of gems and minerals from around the globe. There's a Hall of Fluorescent Minerals, and a Hall of Gems and Jewelry.

**Wortham IMAX Theatre**—Features exciting films projected onto six-story-tall screen. Shows are hourly Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun., noon - 8 p.m. Information, 713/639-4629.

**Hall of Health**—Transparent anatomical mannequin displays various organs: lungs, heart, teeth, etc.; hands-on exhibits, audio explanations.

**Houston Zoological Gardens**—One of most unusual zoos in U.S., features Tropical Bird House resembling Asian jungle with more than 200 exotic birds flying freely through aviary rain forest; hippo-dome; large cat facility housing rare white tigers; small cat facility; large collection of reptiles, and vampire bats. Wortham World of Primates is a 2.2-acre rain forest and naturalistic habi-

Gay, Shackelford/TXDOT

**Orange Show**—Virtually impossible to describe, the construction of a Houston eccentric over 26 years. A labyrinth of outdoor and indoor passages, stairs, and platforms amid astonishing whirligigs, wrought-iron gewgaws, colored tiles, folk antiques, junk, and naive art embellished with odd mottoes and parables. Colorfully bizarre! Open Mar. - Dec. noon - 5 p.m. Sat. & Sun.; Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2402 Munger St. Admission. 713/926-6368.

**Port of Houston**—Among top three seaports in the United States, sixth largest in the world in total tonnage. The port is connected to Gulf of Mexico by 50-mile-long ship channel. Nearly 5,000 ships and 40,000 barges transit the channel yearly. World Trade Center Building is hub of Houston's international commerce and location of many foreign consuls assigned here. Visitors may view famous Houston Turning Basin from observation deck reached through Gate 8 at 7300 Clinton Dr. Observation deck open daily 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Reef, The**—20-acre, spring-fed lake and water-based family park offering facilities for scuba diving, swimming, fishing, kayaking/canoeing, picnicking and much more. Open May 15 - Sept. 15, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sept. 16- May 14, Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 4800 Schurmier Rd. For information, call 713/991-3483.

**Reliant Park**—Complex includes the brand new Reliant Stadium, the impressive Reliant Astrodome, Reliant Hall (formerly known as Astrohall), Reliant Center and Reliant Arena (formerly known as Astroarena).

Reliant Stadium is the dazzling \$367 million facility that's home to the newest NFL team, the Houston Texans. The Texans make their debut in August 2002 and will play their home games in this 69,500-seat stadium that features a retractable roof and natural grass field. For more information, call 713/336-7700. Parking and admission fees.

Superlatives are required to describe Reliant Astrodome. An 18-story building would fit inside the Astrodome. It is world's first air-conditioned domed stadium for baseball and football, and also accommodates basketball, boxing, conventions, rodeos, and almost any other entertainment or sporting event. Reliant Hall is one of the world's largest exhibition centers and the Reliant Arena contains 6,000 theater-type seats. Reliant Center, expected to open in Spring 2002, will offer more than 700,000 square feet of single-level contiguous exposition space and 72 meeting rooms. To reach Reliant Park, take Kirby Dr. at Loop 610 South. For tour information telephone 713/799-9544; or write PO Box 288, Houston 77001-0288.

**Saint Arnold Brewing Company**—A microbrewery that produces Kristall Weizen beer, an Amber Ale and Brown Ale. Brewery tour and tasting is Sat. at 1 p.m. At 2522 Fairway Park Dr., just outside Loop 610 near U.S. 290. For information, tel. 713/686-9494.

**Sam Houston Race Track**—Class I race track offers pari-mutuel wagering on live thoroughbred and Quarter Horse races and on off-track races simulcast from other tracks. Beautiful 30,000-capacity grandstand incorporating luxury suites, a private Jockey Club, and track-view dining. Racing season: Thoroughbreds, usually Jan. - Apr. and Nov. - Dec.; Quarter Horses, usually Jul. - Sept. On the Sam Houston Tollway (toll road) near F.M. 249. For information, call 281/807-7223.

**San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park**—Site is adjacent to city's northeast city limits. Four historical markers on Battleground Rd. (Texas 134) within city attest to city's claim as "Birthplace of Texas." See DEER PARK for park description.

**Six Flags AstroWorld**—Part of Six Flags family and one of nation's great amusement centers, Six Flags AstroWorld features 32 rides, including 11 heart-pounding roller coasters. "Serial Thriller" is the only suspended looping coaster of its kind in the Southwest, taking riders through seven inversions. The "Texas Tornado" is the steepest four-loop coaster in the world. "Dungeon Drop," Texas' tallest scream machine, lifts guests more than 20 stories into the air before plummeting back to earth.

Other rides that remain favorites: the "Texas Cyclone," a taller, faster version of the famous Coney Island roller coaster; "Thunder River," a simulated white-water raft ride; and "Ultra Twister," where visitors dive 92 feet straight down before making a 360-degree rotating turn forward, then backwards. Covered with moss and patches of overgrowth, a 70-ft. temple holds an exciting thriller ride—the "Mayan Mindbender." This roller coaster takes riders on an indoor adventure through an ancient temple where state-of-the-art lighting and sound effects stimulate the mind and senses. "Batman: The Escape" takes guests through the Batcave, Arctic Park, and Gotham City before sending them on the ride of a lifetime: Texas' only stand-up roller coaster, which travels through a 360-degree loop, tight hairpin turns, and a tunnel. Children will enjoy Looney Tunes Town, a cartoon city designed just for kids.



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

**Forbidden Gardens in Katy**

The park also has seven restaurants, including Pinuzzo's Italian Kitchen, a first-class facility with an exciting menu. Plus, guests enjoy all the great shops, games, and family-oriented shows.

Six Flags AstroWorld is open on weekends in spring and fall; daily in the summer. Located at Loop 610 at Kirby Dr. For additional information, call 713/799-1234, or visit the Web site at [sixflags.com/astroworld](http://sixflags.com/astroworld). Admission.

**Six Flags WaterWorld**—Houston's premier waterpark, Six Flags WaterWorld is located next door to Six Flags AstroWorld. Cool off with the "Big Kahuna," a family raft ride; "Reef Runner," a six-lane water speed slide; and "Hook's Lagoon," a five-story interactive water treehouse. The entire family will enjoy Hurricane Bay, a 30,000 sq. ft. wave pool. Little ones will have a blast at Lil' Buccaneer Bay, a special activity center for guests 48 inches and under.

The park is located at Loop 610 at Kirby Dr. and is open weekends in spring and fall; daily in the summer. For additional information, call 713/799-1234, or visit the Web site at [sixflags.com](http://sixflags.com). Admission.

**Shell Oil Company Museum**—Museum covers the history of Shell Oil Co. in the United States, from the early 1900s through today's petrochemicals. Displays include early gas station memorabilia, models of offshore drilling rigs, and more. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of Shell's corporate headquarters at 900 Louisiana St. For information, call 713/241-4900.

**Space Center Houston**—Put on your space helmet and blast off to the most exciting, fun adventure on Earth. Space Center Houston is a spectacular journey into America's space program—from the past...all the way into the future. Out-of-this-world family fun at NASA's official visitor center includes live shows and presentations, interactive exhibits, IMAX theater, behind-the-scenes tours to the Johnson Space Center and much more.

See actual spacecraft, like Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo capsules, and watch astronauts train for upcoming space shuttle missions. Try on space helmets, touch a moon rock, or land the shuttle and try a space walk on state-of-the-art simulators. Live satellite links to NASA facilities provide up-to-date information about current space flights and astronaut training activities.

Kids of all ages can jump on the moon, man the space station, drive a lunar rover, command the space shuttle, build and launch a rocket and lots more at the exciting Kids Space Place—with 40 interactive play stations to explore and experience the excitement of space!

Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (extended hours during summer); Sat., Sun., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Closed Christmas day. Located 20 miles southeast of downtown Houston, 3 miles east of I-45 on NASA Road 1. For information, 281/244-2105, or 1-800-972-0369. Admission.

**Texas Air Aces**—See SPRING.

**Texas Medical Center**—Organized in 1945, an immense complex of hospitals, medical and nursing schools, and research institutions whose purpose is total coordination of health education, patient care and research. More than 100 buildings occupy 650 acres in southwest Houston south of Hermann Park. Major units now operating at Texas Medical Center include Albert B. Alkek Institute of Biosciences and Technology of Texas A&M Univ., Baylor College of Medicine, City of Houston Health and Human Services, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Hermann Hospital, Harris County Psychiatric Center,

The Hospice at Texas Medical Center, Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, Houston Community College System's Health Services, Houston ISD's High School for Health Professions, Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, Institute of Religion, Harris County Medical Examiners' Office, LifeGift Organ Donation Center, Methodist Hospital, Prairie View A&M College of Nursing, Ronald McDonald House, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Shriners Hospitals, Texas Heart Institute, Texas Woman's Univ. Houston Center, Univ. of Houston College of Pharmacy, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center (which includes Dental Branch, Division of Continuing Education, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Medical School, School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, and Speech and Hearing Institute), Univ. of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, and the YMCA Child Care Center in the Texas Medical Center.

Free tours; for information and reservations call 713/790-1136. Assistance Center in Texas Medical Center is at 1155 Holcombe, just east of Fannin.

**Texas Rock Gym**—It's fun! It's challenging! Learn how to rock climb indoors on more than 6,000 square feet of simulated rock terrain. Climbing routes for all skill levels. Private and group lessons available, as well as a forum for speakers on related topics. Open Mon. - Thurs. noon - 10 p.m.; Fri., noon - midnight; Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight; Sun. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. At 9716 Old Katy Road, Suite 102. For information, call 713/973-7625. Admission.

**Traders Village**—The largest flea market on the Texas Gulf Coast! Over 800 dealers every Sat. and Sun. year-round. It's everyone's favorite marketplace where shoppers come for bargain hunting and also for special events and festivals like the Indian Pow-Wow, chili and barbecue cookoffs, Cajun festival, car shows and auto swap meets. Discover great restaurants. It's fun for the whole family, with rides for the kids. You'll also find an on-site RV park. Free admission; nominal parking fee. Market open every Sat. & Sun.; RV park open daily. 7979 N. Eldridge. For information, 281/890-5500.

**Visitor Information Center**—Maps, brochures, literature and schedules of Houston events available at visitor center operated by the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau in City Hall. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 901 Bagby St. Tel. 713/227-3100 or 1-800-4-HOUSTON or visit Web site at [www.houston-guide.com](http://www.houston-guide.com).

## HUMBLE

Pop. 14,579

Alt. 96

Map Q-21

**General**—Just east of Houston Intercontinental Airport, town was named after founder, postmaster and Justice of the Peace, P. S. Humble in 1886. In 1904, oil was discovered; by 1905, town was a "boom town." In 1909, local feed store owner Ross Sterling along with a few others founded Humble Oil & Refining Co. (now Exxon).

Drilling for oil in 1912, artesian water was discovered. The precious water was used in bathhouses for oil field workers and piped to nearby houses.

Today site of historic Lambrecht Town & Artesian Well.

**Humble Historical Museum**—Features oil field equipment, farming tools; home furnishings and clothing of early families; historic photographs. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thurs. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at 219 Main St.

**Lake**—Houston. See LAKES listing.

**Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**—214-acre facility featuring formal gardens, arboretum, picnic area and five miles of garden and nature trails. Open daily 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Closed Christmas. 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.

## INDIANOLA

Pop. 125 (est.)

Alt. 6

Map T-19

**General**—From what she was, she's the biggest ghost of them all, but not to the eye. At the terminus of Texas 316 south of Port Lavaca, all is clean tranquility—a deception. Sea and desert have defeated many towns. The sea is more ruthless—implacable until every trace is scoured away, until all is virgin sand where the footprints of men apparently never trod.

The prints of 6,000 and more did tread here, when concrete and stout-timbered structures lined what was considered the finest harbor on the Gulf of Mexico. Piers thrust into the bay for half a mile, funneling rich cargoes to and from great ships. In the 1840s German colonists landed, led by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (see NEW BRAUNFELS). In the 1850s an army depot supplied the frontier forts of all Texas. Here two shiploads of Arabian camels landed, beginning that imaginative experiment of Jefferson Davis. Warehouses stored ice, winter-cut on the Great Lakes, prized during Texas summers.

The bustling, prosperous town survived shelling, capture and recapture during the Civil War, yellow fever epidemics, and a storm thought severe in 1866. But all were only prelude to Sept. 17, 1875. The sea that had created and nourished Indianola rose in monstrous salty gray hummocks, lashed by shrieking winds—hurricane! Nine hundred perished, and three-fourths of the city lay in matchbox shambles. Disaster on an unimagined scale.

But Indianola was too prosperous, too vital to quit because of one freak tragedy. Larger warehouses were raised; new piers of heavier pilings sprouted. Eleven years passed before a brutal fact was driven home: that earlier black September was no freak. An even more savage storm sounded the city's death knell.

Indianola was literally gone. Even wreckage was scarce. The few citizens who somehow survived did not return. The county seat, in name, was moved to Port Lavaca for there was really nothing left to move.

Today the tide laps at a few stones of the courthouse foundation. Inches above the smooth sand, outlines of a few shattered concrete cisterns remain. Some fishermen's homes have come of late, and the state has erected an historical marker.

One thing more, appropriately: a solitary rose granite statue of Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle. The French explorer was first to leave a bootprint on the sands of Indianola more than 300 years ago. Today his stone likeness surveys the same featureless, unmarked sands.

## KATY

Pop. 11,775

Alt. 145

Map Q-20

**General**—First settled in 1872, the town square was laid out in 1895. The city was named for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. William Eule introduced rice farming to the dry-land farmers in 1901, and rice replaced cotton, peanuts, and corn. Today, Katy is still renowned as a rail and rice farming center and is also known for one of the largest gas fields in the state. Katy's city limits are in three counties—Harris, Waller, and Fort Bend. Proximity to Houston provides the city with all the benefits inherent to a big city, yet allows



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## Humble

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Michael Amador/TXDOT

**King Ranch Museum in Kingsville**

residents to enjoy the community life of a small hometown. Numerous parks provide recreational opportunities throughout the city.

The Katy Heritage Society restored the old MKT Depot and is open by appointment only.

Shoppers find bargains at Katy Mills mall and the Bass Pro shops at I-10 and Katy - Ft. Bend Rd.

The area on the Katy Prairie is excellent for hunting, bird watching, and nature study. The chamber of commerce can provide additional information at 281/391-2422.

**Forbidden Gardens**—This unique museum is the only one of its kind in the U.S. Two large exhibits recreate the Forbidden City and the tomb of the first emperor of China, Emperor Qin, on 40 acres. The outdoor museum is designed to educate the public on Chinese history. Visitors are led to a 1:20-scale replica of the Forbidden City, home and office for 24 emperors from the 14th through the early 20th Centuries. Buildings, landmarks, and monuments of the walled-in capital re-create the mysterious past of the Middle Kingdom. Open Wed. - Sun. and most holidays 10 a.m. - dusk. At 23500 Franz Rd. Take the Grand Parkway exit off I-10. For information, call 281/347-8000. Admission.

**Heritage Park**—Restored historical buildings, including the Wright Museum, Featherston House, and old Post Office. Open first Sat. of the month from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. At 814 East Avenue. For information, 281/391-8122. Admission.

**Veterans Memorial Museum**—“The G.I. Joe Museum” in V.F.W. Park features exhibits of every foreign conflict involving the U.S. It also recalls the careers of the 130-VFW group, which includes men and women from every branch of the armed forces who served in combat. Open weekends noon - 5 p.m. At 6202 Sixth St. For information, call 281/391-8387. Contributions appreciated.

**KINGSVILLE**

Pop. 25,575

Alt. 66

Map W-16/17

**General**—Established on Fourth of July 1904 with arrival of first train over St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railroad; land for townsite, in the heart of the King Ranch, was donated by Mrs. Henrietta King. Mrs. King was interested in the settlement of the region between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. She also constructed the First Presbyterian Church building, donated land for Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches, built a high school and presented it to the town, and provided land for South Texas State Teachers College (now Texas A&M Univ.-Kingsville). Kingsville became Kleberg County seat in 1913.

Today the city is center for agriculture, oil and banking. Kingsville is also home of Naval Air Station Kingsville.

Visitors find an array of boutiques and antique shops downtown in historic buildings featuring handmade crafts, home-baked goods, crafts, jewelry, and much more!

**Ben. P. Bailey Art Building Gallery**—Displays of student and faculty art works, along with traveling exhibits. Open long term Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; summer (mid-May through mid-August) Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. On Texas A&M Univ.-Kingsville Campus. 361/595-3901.

**John E. Conner Museum**—Hall of South Texas History has displays of Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and pioneer Texan cultures; ranching and agriculture equipment, railroads, and land promotion. Gallery of changing exhibits.

**Kleberg Hall of Natural History** features plants and animals of South Texas in natural habitats; Discovery Area has specimens for “hands-on” examination. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Next door is Peeler Hall of Horns (open Mon. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.) featuring 264 mounts of North American game.

Santa Gertrudis St. on campus of Texas A&M-Kingsville just west of Armstrong St. 361/595-2810.

**King Ranch**—National Historic Landmark established in 1853 when Capt. Richard King purchased 75,000 acres that had been Spanish land grant called Santa Gertrudis. Upon King’s death, Mrs. Henrietta King inherited the estate along with a \$500,000 debt. Through her leadership, the debt was cleared and the ranch increased in size. Holdings today comprise some 825,000 acres spreading over Nueces, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. Robert J. Kleberg, attorney and legal counsel for early ranch, married Captain King’s youngest daughter; King-Kleberg descendants still control gigantic enterprise. Famous Running W brand known worldwide; however, origin not known. Originally based on Texas Longhorns, ranch led in introducing purebred cattle such as Hereford, Shorthorn, and Brahman. Now-famous Santa Gertrudis breed, first strain of beef cattle originating in Western Hemisphere, was developed here.

Ranch tours vary during seasons; call for tour times.

Visitor center features informative video on the Ranch’s more than a century operation. Visitor center hours are Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m.

Special Interest Tours and Nature Tours are also offered. Please call the ranch’s visitor center for information at 361/592-8055. Entrance is immediately west of Kingsville off Texas 141. Admission.

**King Ranch Museum**—In restored downtown ice plant, museum features excellent ranch photos by award-winning photographer, Toni Frissell. Also collections of antique coaches, vintage cars, saddles, and other historic ranch items. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 405 N. Sixth St. Admission. 361/595-1881.

**King Ranch Saddle Shop**—Unsuccessful in purchasing quality saddles and leather goods in the marketplace, King began operating his own saddlery shop more than 120 years ago for use of his men, the “Kineños.” Through the years, the shop has outfitted governors, presidents, and foreign heads of state. Today shop offers a variety of leather goods. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. In historic Raglands Building, downtown, 201 E. Kleberg. 361/595-5761 or 1-800-282-KING.

**Parks**—City parks include swimming pools, tennis courts, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Dick Kleberg Park, 211 acres in grove of trees beside a lazy creek, features picnic tables, grills, swimming pool. Loop 428 near south edge of city. 361/595-8591.

J.K. Northway Exposition Center/Park has tennis courts, ball fields, and playground. Off U.S. 77 at south edge of city.

Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Park & Sea Wind RV Resort, Riviera Beach, and Loyola Beach are saltwater recreational areas on upper reaches of Baffin Bay southeast of Kingsville. Baffin Bay opens into Laguna Madre along Gulf Coast, renowned for saltwater trout and red drum fishing. Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Park & Sea Wind RV Resort has boat ramp, 134-unit campground, recreation room, swimming beach, picnic shelters, tables, grills, playground, fishing pier, and other amenities (361/297-5738). Fishing pier and bait-tackle shop also available at Riviera Beach Park. From U.S. 77 south, access to parks via F.M. 628 and F.M. 771.

**Visitor Centers**—For information on city attractions, accommodations, and events, visit the area visitor bureau, U.S. 77 at Corral St., Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 1-800-333-5032 or 361/592-8516, or visit our Web site at [www.kingsvilletexas.com](http://www.kingsvilletexas.com).

**LA PORTE**

Pop. 31,880

Alt. 28

Map Q-21/22

**General**—Given its name “The Door” by French settlers in 1889 when the city was founded on upper Galveston Bay. Deep-water port and petrochemical industries coexist in harmony with pleasant residential environment and bayshore resorts.



Stark Museum of Art photo

### Stark Museum of Art in Orange

Home of Houston Yacht Club, second oldest yacht club in the U.S.

Details about events, free maps, directions, literature, accommodations and dining information provided daily by the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, 712 W. Fairmont Pkwy. Telephone 281/471-1123.

**Parks**—City parks offer several swimming pools, athletic complexes and a rodeo arena. Little Cedar Bayou park, on 8th St., has picnicking, sports fields, and swimming pool with 6-foot-deep wave pool with 10-minute intervals of wave action.

**Sylvan Beach Park**—32-acre county park at site of famous resort/dance pavilion of the 1920s-30s. Modern air-conditioned pavilion overlooks Galveston Bay; fishing pier, launch ramp, playground, picnic areas for families or large groups. At park entrance, caboose and depot from old Houston-Galveston-San Antonio railroad serves as Heritage Society's showcase for memorabilia of city and area. Depot open 2nd Sun. of month 2 - 5 p.m.

## LOS FRESNOS

Pop. 4,512

Alt. 31

Map Z-17

**General**—Located in south central Cameron County, the town was named for the *fresnos* (ash) trees scattered in the woods and along streams. In 1912, Lon C. Hill, an early land owner, formed a company to develop a canal system which would use the Rio Grande River to irrigate land for farming. Railroad construction in the early 1900s began to bring settlers to the area, and by 1915 a post office was established. Because of the fertile, irrigated land, farm products increased and with the long growing season in the Valley, farming flourished. Today the city is still surrounded by fertile farm/ranch land. Major crops are cotton, sugar cane, sorghum, and citrus.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, and other area happenings, contact the Los Fresnos Area Chamber of Commerce at 956/233-4488.

**Little Graceland**—Contains large collection of Elvis Presley memorabilia, including photos, posters, watches, and more. The owner served in the U.S. Army with Elvis while stationed in Germany. At times during the year there are Elvis impersonator contests. Usually open weekends; otherwise by appointment. West Ocean Blvd. (Texas 100) downtown. For information, write Rt. 1, Box 94, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. For information, 956/233-5482. Admission.

## MATHIS

Pop. 5,034

Alt. 161

Map U-16/17

**General**—Established in 1885, town is commercial center for agricultural area featuring livestock and cotton, also producing large quantities of grain sorghum, flax, and varied truck crops. San Patricio County has extensive oil production, many petrochemical plants. Mathis is major gateway to Lake Corpus Christi and to a popular state park on its shores.

**Lake**—Corpus Christi. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Corpus Christi State Park**—On the southeastern shore of the 14,000-acre lake, the state park offers a wide variety of land and water recreation. Facilities on 350 acres of parkland include utility-equipped campsites, rest rooms and showers, and screened shelters. Visitors enjoy fishing, swimming, and boating. Park Road 25 off Texas 359 about 6 miles south of Mathis. Admission. 361/547-2635.

**Wayne's World Safari**—More than 50 acres provide a sanctuary for some 300 animals in this wildlife park. Tigers, bears, lions, zebras, monkeys, and more roam the coastal prairie land. There is a petting zoo, pony ride, and tram tours. Facilities also include gazebos and a pavillion for parties and group outings. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - dusk; Sun. noon - dusk; closed Christmas. Take Exit 36 off I-37; 1.5-miles east on Texas 359. For information, call 361/547-0035. Admission.

## MONT BELVIEU

Pop. 2,324

Alt. 48

Map Q-22

**General**—Located on a salt dome in Chambers County, the community was established in 1849 known as Barbers Hill. Postal authorities suggested a name change to Mont Belvieu to avoid confusion with other offices of similar names. The community lay quietly as a center for farming and cattle-raising until oil was discovered in 1916. Though this early discovery was of limited dimensions, land lease speculators quickly grabbed up leases, buying and selling at a frenzy. In 1926, wildcatter Mills Bennett tapped into the first gusher production. The salt-dome storage capabilities were initiated in the 1950s and expanded. Today products processed through the grand underground caverns are shipped worldwide, providing the life-blood for nearly all of the petrochemical industry. On I-10, the city is closely tied to the Houston-Baytown area.

**Mont Belvieu-Barbers Hill Museum**—Located in the city complex and built around a topographical exhibit depicting Barbers Hill as it might have been in the 1920s and 1930s. Featured in the many displays are photographs and artifacts from early settlers, the ranching days, the oil industry, and much more. Open Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. From I-10, take exit 800 north on F.M. 3180 to the city complex at the corner of F.M. 565 and F.M. 3180. For information, call 281/385-1706.

## NEDERLAND

Pop. 17,422

Alt. 25

Map P/Q-23

**General**—In the late 1800s, Arthur Stillwell, owner of the Port Arthur Townsite Company, constructed a railroad from Kansas City to Lake Sabine and gave many of the towns along the way Dutch names because of financial backing in Holland. It was his hope that Nederland become a transplanted Dutch settlement. While many Dutch did settle here, people also came from other parts of Texas and the United States. On December 24, 1897, Robert Gilham, civil engineer, filed a certificate describing the finished survey for the Nederland townsite. Rice farming, truck farming, and dairy farming played an important role in the settlement. But growth began in earnest with discovery of the Spindletop Oil Field, just seven miles north, in 1901. See BEAUMONT.

For information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Nederland Chamber of Commerce at 1515 Boston Avenue, or call 409/722-0279.

Visit the Web site at [www.nederlandtx.com](http://www.nederlandtx.com).

**La Maison des Acadiens Museum**—Soon after settlement began, many French came to the area from South Louisiana. The museum pays tribute to those early French settlers, and was built as a replica of early Acadian homes. Open Tues. - Sun. afternoons Mar. - Labor Day; rest of year open Thurs. - Sun. afternoons. In Tex Ritter Park in the 1500 block of Boston Ave.

**Windmill Museum**—Built to preserve Dutch heritage; 25-foot blades revolve. Artifacts dating from city's founding exhibited on three floors; also mementos of famed country/Western singer, Tex Ritter, who lived in Nederland during part of his boyhood years. The 1952 Olympic Gold Medal won in Finland by native son W.F. (Buddy) Davis is also displayed. Open Tues. - Sun. afternoons Mar. - Labor Day; rest of year open Thurs. - Sun. afternoons; in Tex Ritter Park in 1500 block of Boston Ave. For information, call 409/723-1545.

## ORANGE

Pop. 18,643

Alt. 20

Map P-24

**General**—Texas' easternmost city on the Sabine River boundary with Louisiana; established 1836, the year of Texas' independence. Named for landmark of wild orange groves on banks of the Sabine, as cited by early French and Spanish boatmen. Today Orange is both a recreational and industrial portal to Texas. Abundant fresh- and salt-water fishing; hunting and bird-watching in vast coastal marshes.

Mileage marker 880 in Orange County, Texas, is the highest numbered in the nation.



**Library in the W.H. Stark House at Orange**

A walking tour map of downtown, available from the chamber of commerce at 1012 Green Ave., visits such sites as the central fire station where an antique fire engine and fire-fighting memorabilia are displayed, plus other historic or interesting structures.

For additional information on the city's accommodations, dining facilities, and events, call 409/883-3536, or visit the Web site at [www.org-tx.com/chamber](http://www.org-tx.com/chamber).

**Brown Center of Lamar Univ., The**—Built as family residence for oilman Edgar Brown, whose wife wanted a Southern Plantation house like "Linden" in Natchitoches, La. Brown re-created the house where the family resided. The property was given to Lamar Univ. by the Brown family where it is used as a conference center today. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Group tours by appointment only.) 4205 Park Ave. Tel. 409/883-2939. Admission.

**Chemical Row**—Miles-long complex of modern plants producing myriad products derived from petroleum. An impressive drive day or night on F.M. 1006 south and southwest.

**Community Playhouse**—Excellent 200-seat little theater with several productions a year; summer children's theater. Inquire locally for schedule. 700 Division St.

**Farmer's Mercantile**—Fabulous browsing among incredible variety of farm, ranch and agricultural items on display, from horse collars and 19th-Century cream crocks to modern hybrid seeds and pH soil testers; 6th and Division sts. For information, call 409/883-2941.

**First Presbyterian Church**—Its opalescent glass dome and stained-glass windows are worth visiting. The modified Greek Revival architecture is striking. The exterior is native Texas pink granite; lampposts are bronze, Napoleonic Second Empire Period. At 902 W. Green Ave. Tel. 409/883-2097.

**Heritage House Museum**—Large, rambling, two-story structure built as home in 1902; listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Changing historical exhibits plus authentic room settings with period furnishings. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed holidays. 905 W. Division St. Tel. 409/886-5385. Admission.

**Lake**—Sabine. See LAKES listing.

**Lutcher Theatre for the Performing Arts**—The 1,500-seat theater of spectacular modern design showcases concerts, musical comedies, opera and drama. Inquire locally for current schedule; 7th and Front sts. downtown. For information, call 409/886-5535.

**Piney Woods Country Wines**—Specializing in wines from locally grown fruits, berries, and Muscadine grapes, takes name from location in the piney woods. The winery is set among park-like woods, orchards, and vineyards. Usually open for tasting year round Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Some weekend and vacation closings, call ahead for confirmation 409/883-5408.) Group tours by appointment.

**Port of Orange**—Deep-water terminal 42 miles inland at junction of Sabine-Neches and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Port not open to casual visitors, but views available along Border St. from downtown.

**Stark Museum of Art**—Facility created to showcase outstanding collections. Changing exhibits plus paintings of Taos School of New Mexico, works of Audubon, Remington bronzes, Steuben crystal, porcelain sculpture, Indian art and artifacts. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 712 Green Ave. Tel. 409/883-6661. Web site [www.starkmuseumofart.org](http://www.starkmuseumofart.org).

**Super Gator Airboat Tour**—Travel through the beauty of the swamplands with giant cypress trees, Spanish moss, swamp flowers, and bird life. Minimums apply. Tours available May - Sept. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Oct. - Apr. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 106 E. Lutcher, 409/883-7725. Fare.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—This information center is right on the Blue Elbow Swamp, more than 3,000 acres of Southeast Texas swampland. A 650-foot boardwalk stretches out into the swamp where visitors see otter, alligators and other wildlife. It's a great spot for photographers and birdwatchers.

The Orange Texas Travel Information Center is one of 12 centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in State Capitol complex, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Staffed by uniformed, trained travel counselors, services free to all visitors include information, maps, literature about every part of state and expert help in charting routes. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. At Texas-Louisiana state line, I-10 three miles northeast of downtown; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**W.H. Stark House**—Opened in 1981 after 10-year restoration, the 15-room, 1894 Victorian mansion is a distinctive example of the era's architectural elegance. Period furnishings accented by displays of superb cut glass, rare porcelains, imported bronzes and Oriental antiques. Visitation by tour only (includes stair climbing); reservations advisable. Tours start at carriage house; no children under 14; each child 14 and over the responsibility of one adult. Tours Tues. - Sat. at 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m., 1, 2, & 3 p.m. 610 W. Main St. at Stark Civic Complex. Tel. 409/883-0871. Admission.

## PALACIOS

Pop. 5,153

Alt. 17

Map T-19

**General**—Founded 1903, in area named by shipwrecked Spaniards who supposedly saw a vision of tres palacios (three palaces) as they swam to shore. Fishing is dominant industry, both sport and commercial, along with seafood processing plants. The port is home to the largest fishing fleet on the Texas Gulf Coast.

An attractive bayfront park that stretches along Tres Palacios Bay offers palm trees, picnicking facilities, and a spectacular 1.5-mi. railed walkway at water's edge. Other features include a pier with covered pavilion, fishing jetty, and boat ramps.

**Historic Inn—Luther Hotel**—Built 1903; a recorded Texas historic landmark; served as headquarters for early land developers. During heyday, formally attired orchestra played at mealtimes along rambling front porch (since razed), then said to be the longest in Texas. Still accepting guests on bayshore between 4th and 5th sts.

**Marine Fisheries Research Station**—Research facility where studies include adaptability of saltwater species to freshwater. Tours are of interest to those with knowledge of marine biology. Appointment advisable. West 7.5 miles on Texas 35, south 5.5 miles on Well Point Rd.

**Parks**—Free, lighted fishing piers, public boat ramps, paved seaside walkway, playgrounds, birding observation decks, and a (commercial) camping area along the bayshore drive.

**Tourist Information**—Palacios Chamber of Commerce, 312 Main St., 361/972-2615. Email [palcoc@wcnet.net](mailto:palcoc@wcnet.net).

## PASADENA

Pop. 141,674

Alt. 35

Map Q-21

**General**—Name is Spanish for "Land of Flowers," chosen for blooming meadows along Vince's Bayou. Bayou figured prominently in Battle of San Jacinto. Now a residential community closely tied to the petrochemical and shipping industries along the Houston Ship Channel. Town became a rural post office in 1900, mushroomed into bustling residential suburb and continued to grow with rise of Houston. Home of San Jacinto Junior College and Texas Chiropractic College. Northeast is site of capture of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna at Battle of San Jacinto.

**Armand Bayou Nature Center**—2,500 acre nature preserve in southeast Harris County at the southern end of city, very close to Space Center

Houston. The preserve is in the Central Flyway which is the largest migratory bird route in North America. Over 220 species of birds may be seen at the Nature Center and over 350 species of wildlife. The preserve encompasses three major ecosystems: hardwood forest, tall grass prairie and the estuarine bayou. Visitors may enjoy a bird blind with interpretive material, over five miles of trails and a turn-of-the-century farm site. Weekend visitors may enjoy demonstrations, and guided walks. Open Wed. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. & Tues. and major holidays. 8500 Bay Area Blvd. (7 mi. east of I-45.) Call 281/474-2551.

**Historical Museum & Strawberry House**—Museum features local history from pioneer times to present; displays of industrial development, changing exhibits. Open Wed. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. - 5 p.m. Strawberry House: Historic 8-room house features furnishings from 1890s to mid-1940s. Open Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. In Pasadena Memorial Park, 201 Vince St. (Texas 225 at Richey St. exit.) Phone 713/477-7237.

## PEARLAND

Pop. 37,640

Alt. 55

Map R-21

**General**—First established as Mark Belt in 1893 in northern Brazoria County; named changed to Pearland for abundance of pear trees in the area. Although growth was slow, city survived the 1900 Galveston hurricane. Oil and gas discoveries nearby helped swell the population in 1934. Its proximity to Houston has paralleled growth in the area. The city is 15 minutes equidistantly between the Houston Medical Center and the Johnson Space Center, and 45 minutes from Galveston Beach, but maintains its country-style living. It was named a 1999 All-America City by the National Civic League.

For additional information on accommodations, events, and restaurants, contact the Pearland/Hobby Chamber of Commerce at 3501 Liberty Drive, or call 281/485-3634.

**Cole's Antiques and Flea Market**—Covers more than 40 acres with more than 600 dealers from across the state. Open six days a week 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed Wed.). Located at 1014 N. Main St. (Texas 35), just south of Beltway 8.

**Sri Meenakshi Temple**—Rising from the flat, coastal plains in Brazoria County, this Texas Hindu temple resembles the way temples look in southern India. It provides a spiritual base for many Houston-area Hindus. For tour information, call 281/489-0358, or visit the Web site at [www.temple@meenakshi.org](http://www.temple@meenakshi.org). At 17130 McLean Rd.

## PORT ARANSAS

Pop. 3,370

Alt. 20

Map V-18

**General**—On Mustang Island, reached by causeway and free, 24-hour ferry service; one of the most popular tourist destinations on Gulf Coast. English settler built ranch house on site 1855; later developed as fishing village. Summer visitors swell population by thousands. Hotels, motels, resorts, bait and tackle shops, superb open beaches, shrimp boat port, U.S. Coast Guard Station.

Port Aransas lies along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which extends from Brownsville to Orange along the Texas coast. The trail is cosponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation.

**Birding Center**—Texas has four of the country's top 12 bird watching sights, and the Port Aransas-Rockport area is one of the best. Local and migrating birds find the wetlands a perfect habitat. Vegetation pockets in the Center are designed to attract hummingbirds as they migrate in the spring and fall. A brochure is available from the Port Aransas Visitor Center listing species of birds likely to be viewed. In addition to bird and plant life, the Center is home to "Boots," a six-foot alligator, who is occasionally seen basking in the sun. It's also home to a family of nutria. Open daily. Center is off Cut-Off Rd. on Ross Avenue.

**Fishing**—Advertised as place "where they bite every day," each season offers variety of species to tempt anglers. Free fishing available from beaches, south jetty, and Station Street Pier; catches may include redfish, red snapper, tuna, shark, speckled and sand trout, sheepshead, flounder, croaker, skipjack, and drum. Group boats provide bay and deep-sea fishing; charter cruises available for offshore sport seeking tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and others. For boat owners, docking facilities and several free launching ramps.

Series of fishing tournaments span calendar from Jun. to Sept., including tarpon, billfish, and surf fishing tournaments.

**Historic Inn—Tarpon Inn**—Vintage wooden structure dates from 1886; still popular and now 80 percent restored. Famous guests have included Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Duncan Hines who spent his honeymoon here. Seafood restaurant; 26 rooms with baths. 361/749-5555.

**Mustang Island State Park**—3,474 acres of sand dunes, sea oats, and beach morning glory with five miles of Gulf beach frontage offering the best of seaside camping, surfing, fishing, swimming, and shell collecting! Multiuse campsites with hookups plus large beach area for primitive camping. Other facilities include picnic arbors, rest rooms, showers, and dump station. Rewarding bird-watching for abundant shore and migratory birds. Fourteen miles south of Port Aransas on Texas 361; admission.

**University of Texas Marine Science Institute**—Research facility with visitor center which includes aquariums with Gulf marine life and plants. Movies shown at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. Center also has fascinating oceanographic poster displays. Along ship channel between Mustang and San Jose Islands. Open weekdays 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. For more information, see the Web site at [www.utmsi.utexas.edu](http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu). 361/749-6806.

**Visitor Center**—For additional information for accommodations, dining, events, and area facilities, stop by the Port Aransas Convention & Visitors Bureau at 421 West Cotter, or call 1-800-452-6278, or visit our Web site at [www.portaransas.org](http://www.portaransas.org).

## PORT ARTHUR

Pop. 57,755

Alt. 18

Map Q-23

**General**—On northwest shore of Sabine Lake nine miles from Gulf of Mexico, site of settlement known as Aurora in 1840. City named after Arthur E. Stilwell, Kansas City financier, who was instrumental in building railroad to edge of townsite. Home of Lamar State College (formerly Port Arthur College). Queen of Peace statue and Oriental gardens at 801 9th Ave. are especially beautiful when decorated with 700,000 lights at Christmas.

Port Arthur comes alive during Mardi Gras. This pre-Lenten celebration is growing in the Cajun city and it's family oriented. Call the convention and visitors bureau at 409/985-7822, or 1-800-235-7822, or stop by at 3401 Cultural Center Dr. (9th St. exit from Texas 73) for information on events, accommodations, and other area attractions. Visit the Web site at [www.portarthurtexas.com](http://www.portarthurtexas.com).

City is year-round fisherman's destination. Average temperature varies from 55 degrees in winter to 82 in summer. Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau has an area Waters Guide showing many excellent locations to catch more than 25 varieties of freshwater and saltwater fish, along with charts, marina, fuel and services information.

Cargo tonnage, annually averaging about 23,000,000, justifies the claim "We Oil the World," because nearly a million barrels of crude oil are refined in area daily.

### Beach Activities in Port Aransas



J. Griffin, Smith/TXDOT



AP/WIDEWORLD

**McFaddin Wildlife Refuge near Port Arthur contains one of the densest populations of American alligators in Texas**

**Lake**—Sabine. See LAKES listing.

**Museum of the Gulf Coast**—In former bank building downtown, the museum is outstanding. Note the striking murals on walls. Exhibits depict great strides made in the span of Port Arthur's history. Relics from Battle of Sabine Pass, mortgage note issued by Santa Anna (\$500 mortgage bond issued by Mexican general on his personal property to raise funds for his army), and an Edison Talking Machine.

**Southeast Texas Musical Heritage Room** features memorabilia of rock star Janis Joplin. Joplin's painted psychedelic Porsche sits on top of a spinning gold record. Some two dozen other are musical stars are also featured, including J.P. "Big Bopper" Richardson, Jr., Richard Valens, and Tex Ritter.

The museum is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. It's at 700 Proctor St. 409/982-7000.

**National Wildlife Refuges**—McFaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges are to the south on the Gulf along Texas 87. At Sabine Pass is Texas Point Refuge, once called Sea Rim. As with other Gulf Coast refuges in the state, tremendous concentrations of waterfowl are seen as well as a great variety—more than 60,000 snow geese (along with white-fronted and Canada geese) use the marsh; 23 species of ducks are represented and the number on the refuges reaches 100,000. The mottled duck, the only resident waterfowl species, uses the marsh for its summer nesting habitat. The McFaddin Refuge contains one of the densest populations of American alligators in Texas. Public activities include wildlife observation, photography, waterfowl hunting, fishing and crabbing. For directions and information contact refuge headquarters in Anahuac at 409/267-3337 or write PO Box 278, Anahuac, TX 77514; or visit McFaddin Refuge office on Shell Oil Company road off Texas 87.

**Pleasure Island**—Connected to city by M. L. King-Gulfgate Bridge that arcs 138 feet above ship channel; access from island via Texas 82 causeway to Cameron Parish, LA. Island is in Sabine Lake, 100-square-mile lake which opens into Gulf of Mexico. Disc golf course, marina, lakeside RV park, boat ramps and miles of free roadside fishing levees from which anglers take red-fish, drum, speckled trout, croakers and other species; excellent crabbing year round. Fun Island Depot playground is on the island and is a replica of city's old railroad station.

**Pompeiiian Villa**—Built for Isaac Ellwood, "Barbed-wire King," in 1900; sold to president of Diamond Match Co. who traded it for Texas Company (Texaco) stock worth \$10,000. Stock's value now would exceed hundreds of millions of dollars. House on National Register of Historic Places. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1953 Lakeshore Dr.

**Port of Port Arthur**—From an observation deck view the harbor and "Big Arthur"—the largest gantry crane on the Gulf coast. Port tours by appointment: 409/983-2029. At east end of Houston Ave. and Lakeshore Dr.

**Rainbow and Veterans Bridges**—A high, graceful arc on Texas 87 spans the Neches River joining Orange and Bridge City on the north with Port Arthur to the south. The two-lane, vintage Rainbow Bridge, completed 1938, spans salt marshes and industrial river channel for 1.5 miles including approaches. The bridge's 176-foot clearance height resulted from requirement

that any U.S. Navy ship could pass under; tallest ship of the Navy's 1938 fleet was a dirigible tender that never sailed up the Neches.

Veterans Bridge was completed in 1991; with 143-foot navigation clearance, it is first cable-stayed bridge on Texas highways. Park at south end has playground, picnicking, and good view of bridge and ships in the intracoastal waters.

**Sabine Pass**—Laid out in 1836 by Sam Houston and Philip A. Sublett. Name changed to Sabine Pass in 1839. At one time population numbered around 6,000 but storms in 1886, 1900 and 1915 took heavy tolls. Historically significant event was Battle of Sabine Pass during War Between the States. City was annexed by Port Arthur in 1978.

**Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park**—Site of astonishing Civil War battle of Sept. 8, 1863, a Union attempt to invade Texas at Sabine Pass. Union fleet numbered some 20 vessels and 5,000 men; Confederate defense was small earthwork, six cannon, and 42 men under Lts. Richard W. Dowling and N.H. Smith. Confederate fire so devastating that three Union gunboats were crippled in 45 minutes, two captured. Federals lost 65 men killed, wounded and missing, 315 taken prisoner by the Confederates who suffered no casualties. Remaining Union force retired to New Orleans. Dominating today's park is a statue of Dick Dowling on base of Texas pink granite. Boat ramp, fish-cleaning shelter, rest rooms, picnic facilities with water and grills. Fine view of ships entering and leaving Gulf of Mexico. South 15 miles on F.M. 3322 off Texas 87. Day-use only.

**Sea Rim State Park**—With a 5.2-mile coastline and 4,000 acres of marshland, the park offers a variety of recreational opportunities. From the visitors center, a boardwalk nature trail acquaints the visitor with marsh ecology. Boat trails provide access to the marsh. Camping in designated areas (with hookups), along beach, or on platforms in marsh area. Abundant wildlife. Fishing, swimming. Canoes available for rent; airboat tours offered by reservations. On Texas 87. 409/971-2559. Admission.

**Texas Artists Museum**—Primarily exhibits work by artists in or originally from Jefferson and Orange counties. Once a month, usually the second Sun., the museum offers a cultural/entertainment program featuring area musicians, singers, dancers, actors, and artists. This enables residents and visitors to experience all types of art. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At 3501 Cultural Center Dr. For information, call 409/983-4881.

**White Haven**—Victorian elegance fills this Southern Greek Revival mansion in the city's Historical District. Porcelains from the 18th and 19th Centuries, unique candelabra from Persia, historic furniture pieces. For tour information, call Lamar Univ. Port Arthur at 409/984-6101.2545 Lakeshore Dr. Donations.

**Sea Rim State Park, Port Arthur**



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT



historic lighthouse re-creating the past; however, this cottage is home to the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. The center has information on area attractions, events, and accommodations. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 956/943-7602.

**Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site**—Built 1853, remained in use until 1905. Always a popular subject with photographers. Visitors may climb spiral staircase to top, overlooking the flat coastal plain, with a fine view across Laguna Madre to South Padre Island. Off Texas 100 downtown. Admission.

## PORTLAND

Pop. 14,827

Alt. 40

Map V-17

**General**—In southeastern San Patricio County on bluff overlooking Nueces and Corpus Christi Bays. Town was dream of John G. Willacy who effectively merged the New England Land Co. of Portland, Maine, New England Real Estate Co., and Portland Harbor and Improvement Co. of Wichita, Kansas, into working unit and purchased 1,920 acres of land from Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. in 1891. Post office authorized on March 9, 1891; incorporated in 1949. City forms almost perfect triangle with Portland, Maine, and Portland, Oregon.

**Indian Point Park and Pier**—55-acre city park attracts both nature lovers and anglers. 720-ft. pier with 280-ft. T-head over Corpus Christi Bay featuring some of the best saltwater fishing grounds in the Coastal Bend. Two raised boardwalks extend more than one thousand feet into wetlands; home to 36 bird species, 33 sea creatures, and 35 plant species, several listed as endangered. Wade fishing area, picnic area. Concession building with restaurant, rest rooms, live bait and other fishing necessities (361/643-5483). Admission to pier; no fee for use of park. Open 24 hours. On U.S. 181, northbound side. 361/643-6501.

**Parks**—More than 188 acres of city parkland with playing fields for soccer, baseball, and softball, and tennis and volleyball courts.

## PORT LAVACA

Pop. 12,035

Alt. 19

Map T-19

**General**—Seat of Calhoun County, on a bluff overlooking Lavaca Bay; important center for commercial and pleasure fishing, ranching and agriculture; port facilities and diversified industries. Miles of nearby swimming beaches, abundant bait and tackle shops, boat ramps. Waterfowl hunting during season.

Golfers enjoy the challenging course at Hatch Bend Country Club. Open to the public Tues. - Sun. On Texas 35 south of the city. For tee-time and information, call 361/552-3037.

**Calhoun County Museum**—Relics, artifacts and mementos of early days in area. Housed in courthouse annex. Open Mon. - Fri. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. 201 W. Austin St.

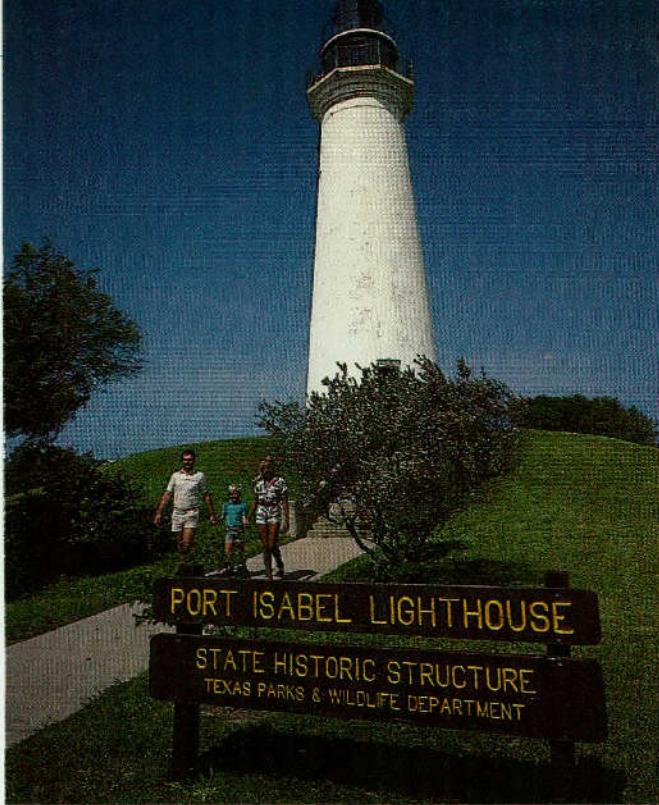
**Halfmoon Reef Lighthouse**—Established 1858 on Matagorda Bay. Kept dark during War Between the States for benefit of blockade runners, was reactivated in 1868. Severely damaged in 1942 hurricane, but keeper kept light operating. Condemned following storm and moved in 1943 from location on WW II bombing range to Point Comfort. Moved again in 1979 to site next to chamber of commerce, Texas 35 Bypass near causeway.

**Indianola County Historic Park**—At site of old Indianola town. Down through history many ghost towns have dotted the Texas landscape, but none lived longer, thrived more successfully—nor died more tragically than Indianola on Matagorda/Lavaca Bays. For details, see INDIANOLA. Picnicking, fishing, boat ramp, camping (with hookups); 13 miles southeast via Texas 238 and 316.

**La Salle Monument**—Erected at site of Indianola to commemorate where La Salle is thought to have first landed in Texas in 1685. Entire memorial is of Kingsland pink granite, 22 feet in height. Highway rest area is adjacent to monument; about 14 miles south on Texas 316. See INDIANOLA.

**Lighthouse Beach & Bird Sanctuary**—Beautiful sandy beach, waterfront camping sites, along with swimming pool and playgrounds makes this a fun place to visit. Birders find many species here. The Formosa Wetland Walkway and Alcoa Bird Tower, made completely out of recycled plastic, provide visitors a place to watch the birds.

**Port Lavaca Causeway State Recreation Park**—Old highway causeway, replaced by modern span, now popular lighted fishing pier extending 3,202 feet into Lavaca Bay. Swimming, boating and saltwater fishing. Facilities include snack bar, bait stand and rest rooms. Port Lavaca City Park at base of pier has boat ramp, picnicking and recreational vehicle facilities. Fee for pier use. Alongside Texas 35 causeway.



Richard Stockton

Visitors can climb spiral staircase to top of Port Isabel Lighthouse, overlooking the flat coastal plain

## PORT ISABEL

Pop. 4,865

Alt. 15

Map Z-18

**General**—Small, picturesque village on Laguna Madre, the body of water between the Texas mainland and Padre Island. Seaside atmosphere with accommodations, RV parks, and shrimp boat fleet. The area was supply base for Gen. Zachary Taylor's army in Brownsville during the Mexican War, 1846-48. In 1848-49, port saw flow of gold seekers from the East, landing here to begin overland trek to California.

**Fishing**—In Port Isabel-Padre Island area, anglers can fish from beach, piers, and jetties where catches may include redfish, speckled and sand trout, sheephead, flounder, croakers, skipjack, and drum. Group boats provide bay and deep-sea fishing for half and full days; charter cruisers are available for offshore sport. Offshore species may include tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and others. Marinas provide fuel, bait, tackle, launching ramps, and boat rentals. Small boats with guides available for bay fishing.

**Historic Inn—Queen Isabel Inn**—Opened in 1906 as the Point Isabel Tarpon & Fishing Club to serve tourists and businessmen traveling on the Rio Grande Railroad. As the Point's first and only hotel for more than 20 years, the hotel was the site for many significant events in the town's history, including President-elect Warren Harding's vacation in November, 1920. The hotel was also the birthplace and headquarters for the Rio Grande Valley Fishing Rodeo started in 1934 by the hotel's manager, Dr. J. A. Hockaday. The rodeo is now the Texas International Fishing Tournament. Hurricanes in 1933 and 1967 changed some of the building's exterior features. Storms, modernization, and ownership are reasons for some floor and name changes of the hotel over the past 90 years. At 300 Garcia St. For information, 956/943-1468.

**Padre Island**—See SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.

**Port Isabel Historical Museum**—Housed in the historic Charles Champion building, the museum shares its grounds with a water well used by Zachary Taylor's troops when Port Isabel served as a supply depot during the U.S./Mexican War. Built at the turn of the century, the structure served as a general store, post office, railroad depot, and at one time, the source of the only telephone in town. Nationally known for its fish mural painted in 1906. Exhibits include hands-on displays, audiovisual film interactives, original artifacts, rare documents, and vintage photographs that tell the story of Port Isabel and area. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 317 Railroad Ave. For information, 956/943-7602.

**Port Isabel Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage**—When lighthouses were built in the early days, people who manned them lived in a small house beside the lighthouse known as the Keeper's Cottage. A new cottage stands beside the

## PORT MANSFIELD

Pop. 415

Alt. 11

Map Y-17

**General**—Until 1948, the little-used highway from Raymondville to point on Laguna Madre called Redfish Bay was traveled by occasional fishermen going to deserted beaches. No community marked the road's end at the water's edge. People of Willacy County, employing own financing, set about creating port. They built wharves, docks and turning basin; laid out townsite, and called it Port Mansfield. Ship channel completed 1962, slicing across shallow Laguna Madre, through Padre Island into deep waters of Gulf of Mexico.

Port Mansfield's surrounding salt flats and small spoil islands support an amazing variety of resident and migratory birds. The nearby Laguna Madre area is well-known among bird watchers.

The town is also home to U.S. Weather Bureau and U.S. Coast Guard Stations.

Contact the chamber of commerce office for additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities at 956/944-2354.

**Boating and Fishing**—Launching ramps, marine supplies, docking facilities, and both wet and dry storage available. Fishing by boat or from piers in Laguna Madre; fishing and beachcombing on Padre Island; deep-sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico; charter boats available. Depending upon season, fishing location and proverbial luck, catches may include redfish, speckled and sand trout, sheephead, flounder, croakers, skipjack, drum, tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and others.

## PORT O'CONNOR

Pop. 1,184 (est.)

Alt. 15

Map T-19

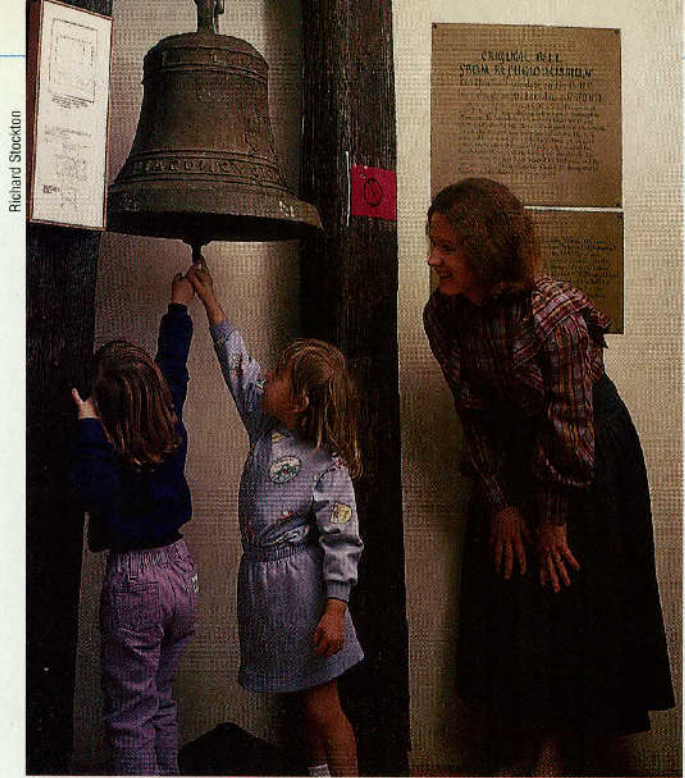
**General**—Closely tied to the sea, the town is home port to commercial fishing and shrimp boats, plus charter boats and a fishing pier. A wide variety of sea birds draws birders to this colorful community. The coastline and bays were first mapped by Alonzo de Piñeda in 1519; he called the mainland "Amichel"—the earliest recorded designation of what was to become Texas.

**Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management Area**—For several years, beginning in 1942, a portion of Matagorda Island was used for practice bombing by the U.S. Air Force. Now, as a state park, the 7,325-acre area has largely returned to its natural state as a haven for migratory water fowl and deer. The park is seven miles south of Port O'Connor, separated from the mainland by Espirito Santo and San Antonio Bays. Facilities include primitive beach campsites, dockside campsites, pit toilets and outdoor showers. Picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming, beachcombing, and nature study. Birding is very popular; more than 300 species of migratory birds have been spotted here. Among most noted birds that migrate to the island are whooping cranes, which spend winter on portions of the island across from Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Accessible only by charter or private boat.

### Prairie View A&M University campus



Gay Stueder/UTDPT



Richard Stockton

Refugio County Historical Museum

## PRAIRIE VIEW

Pop. 4,410

Alt. 250

Map P/Q-20

**General**—Named for plantation home of Col. Jack Kirby; later became a girls' school. Property deeded to state in 1876; legislature established college for black youths on the site, now Prairie View A&M Univ.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**—Simple frame building (c. 1870), first Texas Episcopal Church north of Houston; furnished with original hand-hewn pews made by first congregation. Moved from Hempstead in 1958 to campus of Prairie View A&M Univ.

## RAYMONDVILLE

Pop. 9,733

Alt. 40

Map Y-17

**General**—Willacy County seat is commercial center for grain sorghum, cotton, citrus, vegetables and corn. Favorable summers and winters allow 300-day growing season. Recreation includes municipal swimming pool, golf course, city park, Downtown Pocket Park and saltwater fishing in Laguna Madre and Gulf of Mexico at Port Mansfield. Several RV parks are available for either short- or long-term stays. Additional information on area available from Chamber of Commerce, 142 South 7th, or call 956/689-3171, or check out the Web site at [www.raymondvillechamber.com](http://www.raymondvillechamber.com).

Inquire locally about a boot-making family who still crafts boots by hand. Their boots are worn by Texas Rangers, cowboys and royalty. Over the years, word of mouth and a hand-lettered sign on U.S. 77 is all the advertising the family has needed to attract hundreds of devoted customers.

**Lake**—El Sal del Rey. See LAKES listing.

**Raymondville Historical & Community Center**—Local history, art, underwater artifacts from coast, and natural history. Farm & Ranch Museum has cypress fence and gate through which stagecoaches passed in 1866 from Corpus Christi to Brownsville. Open Wed. 2 - 4:30 p.m., Fri. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 427 S. 7th St.

## REFUGIO

Pop. 2,941

Alt. 43

Map U-17/18

**General**—(Re-FURy-o) Founded 1834 at site of Mission Nuestra Señora del Refugio, relocated here from swamps of Calhoun County in 1795. Town today is seat of Refugio County, commercial center for oil-producing, ranching, farming region. Public parks offer picnicking, playgrounds, tennis courts, and municipal swimming pool. Fishing and water sports on nearby coastal bays; hunters seek migratory waterfowl, deer, wild turkey, and wild boar.

**Aransas National Wildlife Refuge**—About 38 miles east of Refugio. See ROCKPORT.

**Refugio County Museum**—Local and pioneer history; bell from original mission, also exhibits of science, art, archeology and prehistory. Open Mon. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 102 West St.

## RICHMOND

Pop. 11,081

Alt. 104

Map R-20

**General**—County seat of Fort Bend County on the Brazos River southwest of Houston. Earliest settlement 1822 by members of Old Three Hundred (Stephen F. Austin's colony). City established in 1837 by Robert Eden Handy and his business partner, William Lusk and named for Richmond, England. Before the Civil War, the area became a center for ranching and cattle as herds were shipped north to the market centers. When the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway extended its tracks through the area, it bypassed Richmond. Post-Reconstruction era brought "Jaybird-Woodpecker War" with heavy casualties among rival political factions 1888-90. Carrie Nation's crusade against "demon rum" began in Richmond. Silver-domed Fort Bend County Courthouse dates from 1908 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; historical markers on grounds.

Growth has paralleled nearby Houston and Harris County. Fertile coastal plains are devoted to farming and ranching. Industries include oil, salt, sulphur production, steel fabrication and diversified manufacturing.

Morton Cemetery contains graves of many early pioneers of Texas.

The chamber of commerce offers information on historic sites and recreation throughout area as well as information on accommodations and dining facilities at 4120 Avenue H, or call 281/342-5464.

**Decker Park**—Historic buildings include 1901 railroad depot, and the McNabb House, c. 1850, (Carrie Nation's daughter's home) located adjacent to the 1896 county jail. The county jail houses the Richmond Police Dept. and is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque revival style of high Victorian architecture. 500 block of Preston, Richmond.

**Fort Bend Museum**—Cited as one of state's best small museums. Walk through galleries representing the 1821 settlement of Spanish Texas by Anglo-American colonists and the role of Stephen F. Austin in that settlement; the Texas Revolution — its causes and the role of Fort Bend County in the encampment of the Mexican Army during the battle of San Jacinto; the plantation era; the Civil War; the ranching era; and the importance of the sugar and cotton industries. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 500 Houston St. For more information, call 361/342-6478.

**Long-Smith Cottage**—Built in the 1840s, home originally on land owned by Jane Long, the Mother of Texas, whose land grant covered most of present-day Richmond. Tour available through the Fort Bend Museum. 500 Houston St.

**McFarlane House**—Built in 1882-83 by merchant Isaac McFarlane, the restored house houses the Fort Bend Museum administrative offices. The historic building played a significant part in the 1889 Jaybird/Woodpecker clash. 410 Jackson St., Richmond.



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT



Texas Air Museum, Rio Hondo

**Moore Home**—Home built in 1883 by John M. Moore for his bride, Lottie Dyer. The neo-classical home built by architect Thomas Culshaw, native of Liverpool, England, was remodeled in 1905 from its original Victorian design. Tour available through the Fort Bend Museum. On grounds of Fort Bend County Historical Museum, 500 Houston St., Richmond.

## RIO HONDO

Pop. 1,942

Alt. 35

Map Y-17

**General**—Situated on eastern bank of Arroyo Colorado; land promoters divided lots for town in 1910 and sponsored contest to name townsite. Rio Hondo selected, which means "deep river;" incorporated in 1927. City is part of very fertile farmland in the Rio Grande Valley with cotton and grain principal crops. Mild Valley temperatures lure many winter visitors.

One of two lift-span bridges in Texas is in Rio Hondo. Built in 1953, bridge allows barge and boat traffic to make their way to port at Harlingen.

**Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park**—The popular park on the Laguna Madre is operated by Cameron County and is located within and surrounded by the huge Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Facilities include lighted fishing piers, picnic areas, a playground, boat ramp, nature trail, and 35 RV sites with full hookups. Take F.M. 106 east 3.1 mi. to F.M. 2925; north 14.8 to park entrance. For information and reservations, call 956/748-2044.

**Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge**—46,000-acre refuge at southern end of Central Flyway, includes 7,000 acres of marshland, and salt-

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge near Rio Hondo



and freshwater. Thousands of waterfowl winter here. Resident species include many kinds of gulls, least grebe, Harris' hawk, kiskadee flycatcher, and painted bunting. Other wildlife include coyote, bobcat, javelina, and white-tailed deer. Foot and driving routes. Visitor Center features wildlife exhibits, bird and animal lists; picnic area; access (some 7 miles east) to intersection F.M. 106/ F.M. 1847. Open daylight hours except federal holidays. Saltwater fishing on Harlingen Ship Channel at West Side Recreation Area, access from Arroyo City. Admission.

**Texas Air Museum**—More than 100 individuals with a common interest in aviation formed museum with goal to present aviation history with exhibits dedicated to past and present aviation in Texas, including the Eastern Front during WW II (campaigns in Norway), Korea and Vietnam. Among planes exhibited are a Russian Yak-3, a Focke-Wulf 190 F-8, "Huey" UH 1H, and a T-6, the original aerobat 1A. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Museum sponsors fly-ins first Sat. of May and Sept. At Texas Dusting Service on F.M. 106, 1 mi. east of city. Tel. 956/748-2112.

## ROCKPORT-FULTON

Pop. (Comb.) 8,938

Alt. 20

Map U-18

**General**—Although separate municipalities, towns share heritage, business, and recreational areas. Abundant access to saltwater recreational opportunities; on peninsula between Copano Bay and Aransas Bay, sheltered from Gulf of Mexico by St. Joseph Island.

Rockport established 1867 as shipping point for wool, hides, bones, and tallow. Became seat of Aransas County in 1871; today important commercial fishing area. Tourists, boaters, and anglers gather to enjoy mile-long swimming beach.

Fulton settled in 1866 and named for George Ware Fulton, who built a French Second Empire style house in the mid-1870s in north Rockport. Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. ranched in area and promoted efforts toward a deep-water pass and railroads in order to market their beef; now a tourist community.

Rockport-Fulton lies along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which extends from Brownsville to Orange along the Texas coast. The trail is cosponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Chamber of Commerce office at 404 Broadway St. in Rockport has information for local events, accommodations, dining, and points of interest. Self-guided historical driving tour available; audiocassette tape can be rented to accompany tour. For additional information, call 1-800-242-0071.

**Aransas National Wildlife Refuge**—Famed as principal wintering ground for near-extinct whooping crane, refuge is on broad peninsula about 12 miles across bay northeast of Rockport. Passenger boats carrying from 25-90 people are narrated by self-taught ornithologists who will intrigue you with sightings

### Fulton Mansion in Rockport



Kevin Stillman/100T



Michael Amador/100T

### Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport

and identifying birds along the way. Administered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as refuge for protection and management of various species of wildlife inhabiting this coastal area. Some 300 species of birds—Canada geese, pintail and baldpate ducks, sandhill cranes, and more have been recorded. Other inhabitants include alligators, white-tailed deer, javelinas, and raccoon. Sight-seeing, nature observation, hiking, and photography permitted along designated public-use roads, trails, and at observation towers; also picnic areas. Most rewarding time to view wildlife is Nov. through Mar., when greatest numbers of species are at refuge (including whoopers). Refuge is open daylight hours. Wildlife Interpretive Center features mounted specimens, slide show on whooping cranes, literature. Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. At refuge headquarters, about 35 miles north-east of Rockport via Texas 35 north; F.M. 774 east, and F.M. 2040 south. 361/286-3559. Admission fee.

One of the best ways to view wildlife, especially whoopers, is from boats in the Intracoastal canal. From early November through early April, boats from the Rockport Yacht Basin and Sandollar Marina cruise past tidal flats and salt marshes (where many species may be seen) into the whoopers' habitat. Fares vary.

**Bird Garden and Wetlands Pond**—Community project to promote understanding of functions and values of plants as a natural resource worthy of protection and survival, and to promote development of low cost, low maintenance landscapes that provide food for birds, in particular, hummingbirds. Includes 19-stop nature trail. Great place to picnic. In Texas Department of Transportation's rest area on east side of Texas 35 N. in Rockport.

**Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary**—Trails designed to protect the wildlife habitat lead nature lovers to select spots where they most likely might see resident and Neotropical migrant birds. Self-guided tours on property where renowned Texas bird-watcher Connie Hagar lived and learned from her feathered friends. Open sunrise to sunset. At First and Church sts.

**Copano Bay Causeway State Park**—Former highway causeway across bay north of Rockport (replaced by a modern span); now excellent fishing piers administered by Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. Piers extend from north and south sides (not connected); total length of both over mile and a half. Concessions on both sides provide tackle, bait, food; public boat ramp south side. Near the present Texas 35 causeway. Modest fee.

**Fishing**—Jetty sheltering Rockport Yacht Basin is popular spot for bay fishing; dawn hours generally most productive. Many hotels and motels on bayfront maintain private fishing piers for guests. Depending upon season of the year and proverbial luck, catches may include redfish, sand and speckled trout, croaker, sheepshead, flounder, and drum. Group-boat bay fishing available at yacht basin. Offshore species may include tarpon, sailfish, marlin, ling, wahoo, king mackerel, bonito, pompano, red snapper, warsaw, grouper, and others. Public fishing piers are the Fulton Harbor Pier and public piers at north and south ends of Rockport Beach Park and Copano Causeway Pier. Make navigating shallow bay waters a fun experience by chartering a fishing trip. Choose from an array of some 40 professional fishing guides.

**Fulton Mansion State Historical Structure**—Completed in 1876 after four years of construction at cost of \$55,000, the ornate four-story house was a showplace of its time. Included many innovations: central air conditioning, forced air heating, hot and cold running water. Restored house and grounds open Wed. - Sun.; tours 9, 10, and 11 a.m. and 1, 2, and 3 p.m. (Groups of ten or more need to call in advance, 361/729-0386). Grounds and facilities available for weddings, portraits, and reunions. Fulton Beach Rd. just south of Fulton. Admission.

**Goose Island State Park**—307 acres on peninsula between Copano and St. Charles Bays, restrooms, showers, picnic sites, open shelters, children's play area, fishing pier, fish cleaning table, boat ramp. Tent and trailer camping permitted; unsupervised bay swimming beach. Site of "Big Tree," an immense live oak certified as largest in Texas, estimated 1,000 years old. About 12 miles north of Rockport; Texas 35, Park Road 13. Admission. 361/729-2858.

**Memorial Park**—42 acres with tennis and basketball courts, playground, picnic sites and shelters, soccer and baseball fields, walking/jogging trail with exercise stations, restrooms, open area. 1301 N. Live Oak.

**Paws and Taws Recreation Hall**—Waterfront facility offering square dances, arts and crafts shows, and other activities for winter visitors and area residents. On Fulton Beach Rd. in Fulton. For information, call 361/729-2388.

**Rockport Center for the Arts**—Rockport has been listed as one of the best 100 small art towns in America, and the ace up its sleeve is the Rockport Center for the Arts. Housed in a restored 19th Century home, the Center is the hub for all areas of the arts, including visual, performing, and literary. Gallery exhibits, workshops and classes, summer day-camp programs, quarterly concerts, an annual art festival, and gift shop are offered by the Center. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 902 Navigation Circle, at Rockport harbor, in the Museum District. 361/729-5519.

**Rockport Harbor**—Situated on Aransas Bay, the harbor offers transient slips with electricity, showers and restroom facilities. Fishing boats feature the day's catch for those wanting the freshest seafood. The harbor is close to Rockport Beach Park, attractions, restaurants, laundry and groceries.

**Saltwater Pavilion**—Waterfront meeting facility offering seating for 250, audio-visual support, ample parking, and a covered patio overlooking the ski basin. Easy access to restaurants, lodging and attractions on a mile long sandy beach at Rockport Beach Park. For information, call City/County Parks and Recreation at 361/729-2213, Ext. 134.

**Texas Maritime Museum**—Experience the rich maritime heritage of Texas from Spanish exploration to the search for offshore oil and gas. With changing exhibits, interactive displays and educational public programming, visitors experience how Texas has relied on the sea. Located across from picturesque Rockport Harbor. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1202 Navigation Circle at Rockport Harbor. Admission. 361/729-1271.

**Zachary Taylor Park**—In 1845, Gen. Zachary Taylor was sent to claim Texas as the 28th state. The flag claiming such was placed at St. Joe Island.

Gen. Taylor then led his troops inland and camped under some live oak trees. That campsite today is a city park with a gazebo, pond and butterfly garden. Located at Pearl and Bay Streets in Rockport.

## ROSENBERG

Pop. 24,043

Alt. 106

Map R-20

**General**—The city is in central Fort Bend County southwest of Houston. The area was originally settled by Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred around 1823. When the railroad bypassed Richmond and built west of that city, it established a station at the junction of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe and the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railroads. Rosenberg was named for Henry Rosenberg, president of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway in 1883. In the 1920s oil was discovered in Fort Bend County and the city became a boomtown. Economy based upon a strong mineral petroleum industry, as well as agribusiness. Growth has paralleled nearby Houston and Harris County.

The city's historic downtown district offers an abundance of shopping opportunities, including antique shops and an old-fashioned soda fountain shop.

The Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center offers information on historic sites and recreation throughout area as well as information on accommodations and dining facilities. Tel. 832/595-3520, or visit the Web site at [www.rosenbergtourism.com](http://www.rosenbergtourism.com).

**Brazos Bend State Park**—4,897 acres of Gulf Coastal Plain includes Brazos River bottomlands, beautiful live-oak woodlands draped by wild grape vines and Spanish moss, oxbow lakes and marsh. Abundant wildlife includes white-tailed deer, coyotes, Russian boar, migratory waterfowl, shore- and wading birds, and large population of American alligators. Tent and RV camping, picnic sites, screened shelters, rest rooms, showers, dump station. Fishing pier, hike and bike trails, wildlife observation platforms. Tel. 979/553/5101. Access via F.M. 762, 20 miles south. Admission.

**George Observatory**—Located within Brazos Bend State Park, this facility is a joint project of Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., the George Foundation, and Houston Museum of Natural Science. There are three domed telescopes here, the largest a 36-inch Gueynard Research Telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the nation open to the public on a regular basis. It is open for public viewing on Sat. evenings, and is available by reservation on Fri. nights for groups of 30 or more.

The Observatory houses the *Challenger* Learning Center for Space Science Education, which takes participants on simulated space missions, replete with mission control. This center is a living memorial to the seven *Challenger* astronauts who lost their lives in 1986. Access via F.M. 762, 20 miles south. For information, call 713/639-4629 or visit the Web site at [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

**George Ranch Historical Park**—484-acre living history site where visitors stop back in time and experience Texas history. Guests visit the 1820s Jones farmstead, tour 1890s Victorian mansion, and see cowboys working cattle in 1930s working ranch area. Open year-round 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. weekends. On F.M. 762 eight miles south of Rosenberg. Call 281/545-9212 for group tours, special events or more information.

### Sailing at Port Isabel and South Padre Island



Richard Stookton



Richard Stockton

**South Padre's beach is great for building sand castles**

**Liberty Theater**—Historic movie house circa 1917 featured movies in its heyday starring Clark Gable, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and John Wayne. It's now home to the Fort Bend Opry featuring country and Western music every Fri night. For information on performances, call 281/341-7899. At 903 3rd St.

**Railroad Museum**—When the railroads purchased land in 1883 and laid out the town site, railroads help build the area. Visitors see the history of the railroad through a collective display of artifacts, memorabilia, rolling stock equipment and exhibits. At 1879 Avenue F. For hours and information, call the chamber of commerce.

**Seabourne Creek Park**—164-acre park is home to many species of birds and a large wetland area, including a four-acre lake fully stocked. A 700-ft. boardwalk lets visitors get a closer look at wildlife. Other features include hiking and biking trails and rest room facilities. Take U.S. 59 south and exit on Texas 36.

**SAN BENITO**

**Pop. 23,444** **Alt. 31** **Map Z-17**

**General**—City is know as the "Resaca City." A picturesque resaca, 400 feet wide, flows through the city, which is the main canal of a large irrigation system. Only 8 miles from the Mexican border, city was first named Diaz, for Mexico's president, because the people of the area were predominantly of Mexican ancestry. Anglo settlers didn't arrive until 1906, after the completion of the first irrigation system. Prior to this, the region was an arid, mesquite-cactus-brush covered wilderness. As a result of irrigation, the city, as well as all of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, developed an extensive agribusiness. The mild winter climate allows crops to grow year round, not to mention the colorful flowers and native trees. A birder's paradise!

Note the name of the streets, particularly in the central part of town. Generally, north-south streets are named after Texas heroes; east-west streets for early community leaders. In other areas of the city, streets are named after landmarks and notable figures in Mexican and American history.

Col. Sam A. Robertson, founder of the city, promoted and built the San Benito and Rio Grande Valley Railroad to provide efficient transportation system for shipping farm products. Because of the intricate network of lines and spurs, the railroad was commonly known as the "Spiderweb Railroad."

Hay rides offered year around every weekend at 1220 West Business U.S. 77. For schedule and information, call 956/399-7888. Historical markers are found within the city and area. For information on events, accommodations, and dining, contact the chamber of commerce at 210 E. Heywood, or call 956/399-5321.

**Los Indios Free Trade Bridge**—The bridge is centrally located about ten miles south of Harlingen/San Benito on F.M. 509 at Los Indios on the U.S./Mexico border.

**Narcisco Martinez Cultural Arts Center**—Dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and development of Mexican heritage in visual arts, music, theater, dance, film, and literary works. Named for Narcisco Martinez, who is considered the "Father of the Texas Mexican Conjunto" music. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At 225 E. Stenger. For exhibit/event schedule, call 956/361-0110.

**SINTON**

**Pop. 5,676** **Alt. 48** **Map U-17**

**General**—San Patricio County seat established 1885 as station on San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad. Greatest population surge came in 1909 when several large ranches divided into smaller farms; resulting diversity of agriculture still apparent. Small downtown park with picnic area. 300-acre Rob and Bessie Welder Park with playground, golf, tennis, swimming pool, and small lake; east of U.S. 181 north.

**Welder Wildlife Refuge**—Largest privately endowed wildlife refuge in world; provisions for sanctuary made in rancher Rob Welder's will. Acreage and large administration-museum building occupy portion of Welder Ranch established from Spanish land grant more than 150 years ago. Tours on Thurs. 3 p.m. Group and special tours may be requested from tour director, 361/364-2643. Refuge north of city off U.S. 77.

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

**Pop. 2,422** **Alt. 5** **Map Z-18**

**General**—Incorporated in 1973, small resort town is on southern tip of storied Padre Island just across Laguna Madre, the bay separating island from mainland. Access via free causeway on Texas 100. Visitors find wide range of accommodations from campgrounds and family motels to high-rise luxury hotels and condo rentals, marinas and seaside cottages. Restaurants feature fresh seafood harvested daily from the Gulf.

South Padre is known for its water sports, including jet skiing; bay, surf, and deep-sea fishing; parasailing, sailing, dolphin cruise, and windsurfing. Other island activities include bicycling, tennis, shelling, and horseback riding on the beach. The popular Laguna Madre Nature Trail for nature enthusiasts and bird-watchers is north of the city next to the convention center.

The South Padre Island Visitors Center provides detailed information about accommodations, activities and events related to boating, sailing, fishing, and seashore recreation. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. a half-mile north of the causeway at 600 Padre Blvd. Telephone 956/761-6433, or 1-800-SOPADRE (767-2373) U.S. and Canada.

**Casino Padre**—Casino Padre is a 200 ft. entertainment casino that departs the island in the Gulf of Mexico. The vessel has more than 200 slot machines on two gaming floors, with all the popular table games. Every cruise features a huge buffet along with sounds provided by a DJ or live performing local artists. There is also a front and back observation area to catch the beautiful

**Treehouse Island Adventure at Splashtown Waterpark, Spring**



Splashtown Waterpark photo

sunsets or watch the dolphins play. For sailing times, call 956/761-7770.

Admission.

**Fishing**—Available from beach, piers and jetties where catches may include redfish, speckled and sand trout, sheepshead, flounder, croakers, skipjack, and drum. Group boats provide bay and deep-sea fishing for full or half days; charter cruisers available for individual or small-party offshore sport. Offshore species may include tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and wahoo. Marinas provide fuel, bait, tackle, launching ramps, and boat rentals. Small boats with guides available for bay fishing.

**Island Equestrian**—Take a romantic horseback ride along secluded beaches while savoring the beauty of miles of sand dunes encrusted with sea oats and beach morning glory along the Gulf of Mexico and Laguna Madre. Horses usually available from sunrise to sunset. Just north of town on Padre Blvd.

**Jeremiah's**—Fun for all ages awaits visitors to this small water park featuring seven water slides, a pollywog pond, and a video arcade; includes snack bar. Open daily Memorial Day - Labor Day; weekends April - May. Call for hours; 956/761-2131. 100 Padre Blvd. at Gulfpoint. Admission.

**Padre Island**—The long, narrow sand island sweeps in a golden arc north some 110 miles to Corpus Christi. Modern hotels and motels edge several miles of the Gulf at the island's southern tip. Farther north, the island is entirely natural—sand dunes, sea oats, and beach morning glory. (There is no bridge or ferry between South and North Padre.) Beautiful, gently sloping beaches are perfect for swimming and surf fishing. Beachcombers will find bright shells, perhaps floats from the West Indies, driftwood, and occasionally flint points of Karankawa Indians who roamed area.

**Univ. of Texas - Pan American Coastal Studies Laboratory**—Marine life and representative examples of the region, both from the Gulf and Laguna Madre; fish, mollusks, plants; extensive seashell collection. Open Sun. - Fri. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.; closed Sat. and major holidays. In Isla Blanca Park at south tip of Padre Island.

**Parks**—*Isla Blanca Park*, on the southernmost tip of the island, features more than a mile of clean, white beach along the Gulf of Mexico, for waterfront recreational facilities. The park includes picnic and playground areas, two beachfront pavilions, fishing jetty, restaurants and clubs, a full-service marina with daily charters, a water park, a 1,000-foot sea walk, and boat ramp. Camping facilities include more than 600 RV sites with full hookups. Open 6:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. For information and reservations, call 956/761-5493. Admission.

*Andy Bowie Park*, just north of the city limits, features beachfront picnic pavilions, children's playground, and a ranger station. Open 7:30 a.m. - half an hour before sunset. For information and reservations, call 956/761-2639. Admission.

**Sea Turtle, Inc.**—Living museum of the "Turtle Lady," Ila Loetscher. Educational shows featuring endangered sea turtles given year-round on Tues. and Sat. at 10 a.m. Note: call before attending a show to confirm that they are open. Tel. 956/761-1720, or visit the Web site at [www.seaturtleinc.com](http://www.seaturtleinc.com). Admission.

## SPRING

Pop. 36,385

Alt. 101

Map P-21

**General**—Settled by German immigrants in 1840. Served as a railroad center in early 1900s, but population thereafter declined until caught in the surging growth of Houston in the present day.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, or events, call the Greater Montgomery County Convention & Visitor Bureau at 1-800-207-9463.

**Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center**—Nestled in heavily wooded area; 5-mile hiking trail meanders through woods across boardwalks over pond, ending at sandy shores of Spring Creek. Programs and exhibits on plant and animal life and special children's program in Nature Center building. Open daily, except Christmas, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (8 a.m. - 7 p.m. daylight saving time).

**Pioneer Homestead Museum** developed to accurately represent 1830s pioneer homestead and Indian homestead. Buildings include log cabin, smoke house, root cellar, corn crib and shed, log barn, and other facilities one would find on typical homestead. Two dwellings represent Akokisa Indian homestead. Dwellings open Wed., Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. At 20634 Kenswick Dr. off F.M. 1960 east. 281/446-8588.

**Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**—A 214-acre facility with formal gardens; arboretum with picnic area, garden and nature trails. Open daily except Christmas, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. At 22306 Aldine Westfield.

**Old Town Spring**—Restored railroad village of early 1900s with some 180 shops featuring antiques, art, crafts, museums, and restaurants. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. I-45 at Spring Cypress Road, Exit 70A,

one mile east. From Hardy Toll Road, take F.M. 1960 and stay on frontage road north. For information, 281/353-9310.

**SplashTown Waterpark**—One of the largest and most popular waterparks with more than 50 rides, slides, and attractions, live entertainment and special events throughout the season. From the incredible Wild Wave Pool, Tree House Island Adventure and Kids Country, to the thrilling Texas Freefall, SplashTown Waterpark is truly a family attraction. Open daily June - Aug.; weekends in Apr. and Sept. On northbound I-45 at Louetts Rd. For information, call 281/355-3300. Admission.

**Spring Historical Museum**—Historical documents, photos, and other memorabilia tell the story of Spring and surrounding area. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At Spring Cypress Rd. and Gentry sts.

**Texas Air Aces**—Wannabe pilots, ages nine to 99, can try their hands in air combat. It's the real thing, not a simulator. Amateur "aces" fly in the front seat of T-34A Mentor aircraft while an air combat instructor supervises the mission from the rear seat. Aircraft feature infrared laser gun systems, gunsights, threat-detection/warning systems, and a four-camera video recording system. Video of the "mission" included. Flight experience not required; must be at least 4-ft. 8-in. to fly. Reservations required. D.W. Hooks Airport, 8319 Thora Lane #A-5. Call 281/379-ACES (2237) or 1-800-544-ACES (2237).

## SUGAR LAND

Pop. 63,328


Alt. 82

Map Q-20

**General**—Town built around sugar industry on land granted to Samuel M. Williams in 1828. Williams' brother, Nathaniel, purchased the land in 1838 and with a third brother, Matthew, operated Oakland Plantation growing cotton, corn and sugarcane. In 1853, Benjamin Terry and William J. Kyle purchased the plantation. Terry is known for organizing Terry's Texas Rangers during the Civil War and for naming the town. Upon the deaths of Terry and Kyle, Col. E.H. Cunningham bought the 12,500-acre plantation soon after the Civil War

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Kim Pook

**Gulf Greyhound Park in La Marque**

and developed town around sugar refining plant. In early 1900s refinery was sold and named Imperial Sugar. Sugarcane is now imported. Primarily a company town until incorporated in 1959; today the city has a diversified economy base. Growth parallels the huge growth of Houston and Harris County.

**Imperial Sugar Co.**—Visitors observe sugar manufacturing process in one of few cane sugar refineries in the U.S. The company, Imperial Holly Corp., is the parent company for Imperial Sugar and Holly Sugar Corp. in Colorado. Tours conducted daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For information concerning tours, call 1-800-727-8427 (72 SUGAR) and ask for tour information. One Imperial Sq.

**Museum of Southern History**—Museum recalls history of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County. Memorabilia exhibited include an extensive handgun collection from the War Between the States; a bell from the Union Ship, *USS Harriet Lane*, captured during the Civil War's Battle of Galveston; furnishings and clothing from the antebellum era; exhibit of Terry's Texas Rangers; medical supplies and surgical instruments, and authentic Confederate uniforms. Traveling exhibits throughout the year. Library has unusual and rare books. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. At 14070 Southwest Freeway. For information, call 281/269-7171.

**TAFT**

**Pop. 3,396** **Alt. 34** **Map U-17**

**General**—Established in early 1900s on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass RR in east central San Patricio County. Town named for Charles Taft of the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. for which the station was a shipping point. Other partners in the enterprise were named Mathis, Fulton, and Sinton—all of whom have towns named for them also. Today's economy is based on agriculture and diversified industries.

**Taft Blackland Museum**—Housed in building once headquarters of the giant Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. Exhibits range from antique farm and ranch equipment to personal and household items of early settlers. Museum also contains valuable memorabilia from the Taft Ranch. Open Thurs. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 301 Green Ave. 361/528-2206.

**TEXAS CITY-LA MARQUE**

**Pop. (Comb.) 55,203** **Alt. 12** **Map R-22**

**General**—Although separate communities, twin cities share heritage, business and living areas. Texas City was originally called Shoal Point; real growth began in 1891 when financiers from Minnesota purchased site for real estate, rail, and port development.

La Marque was originally known as Highland; name changed in 1882 when port office was granted. It became a station on the International-Great Northern Railroad in 1896.

Today the two cities between Houston and Galveston are both a pleasant residential area and site of major industrial and port facilities. Industries include tin smelter, oil refineries, metal fabrication and chemical plants. Port ships grain, cotton, sulfur, petroleum and chemical products. Location of College of the Mainland.

Recreational opportunities include boating, fishing, swimming, sailing and picnicking; municipal golf course and all-weather municipal shooting range.

Shoppers find bargains at the Lone Star Factory Outlet Stores on I-45 at Delany Rd. in La Marque. An information center inside the mall provides information on area attractions.

For a list of special events, dining opportunities, or additional information for both cities, visit the chamber of commerce office Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 8419 Emmett F. Lowry Expwy., Suite 105, or call 409/935-1408 or 281/280-3917.

**College of the Mainland Art Gallery**—Exhibits of art by regional and national artists. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. during exhibitions. 8001 Palmer Highway. For information, 409/938-1211, ext. 348.

**Dike and Marina**—Texas City Dike extends five miles into Galveston Bay with 600-foot fishing pier beyond tip of dike. Pier offers the deepest water for pier fishing in state where anglers often take speckled trout, redfish, flounder, and tarpon. Visitors also find beach, boat launching and service facilities, bait, camping, and motel accommodations.

**Frank B. Davison Home**—1897 Victorian structure with period furnishings and archives dating back to Karankawa Indians and Jean Laffite's pirates.

Tours 1st Sun. each month, 2 - 5 p.m. 109 Third Ave. N. Admission.

**Gulf Greyhound Park**—Greyhound racing year round. Air-conditioned grandstand facility features four levels, each offering dining and viewing options. Evening racing Tues. - Sun. with post time at 7:30 p.m. Matinee racing is Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. with post time at 1:30 p.m. Gates open 30 minutes prior to post time. One block west of I-45 South at Exit 15 in La Marque. For racing information, 409/986-9500 or 1-800-ASK 2 WIN (275-2946) outside 409 Area Code.

**Parks**—Twelve municipal parks offer playgrounds, 2 swimming pools, baseball diamonds, tennis courts and picnic grounds.

**Visitor Center**—Gateway Visitors Center, operated by Galveston County, offers information on events, accommodations, dining and points of interest for Galveston County. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 13001 Delany Rd., Exit 13 off I-45 in La Marque. Tel. 409/938-0772.

**TOMBALL**

**Pop. 9,089** **Alt. 196** **Map P-20**

**General**—Small town in northern Harris County named for Thomas H. Ball, prominent Houston attorney and U.S. Congressman from Texas at turn of the century. On May 27, 1933, an oil gusher erupted near the city causing the area to experience an oil boom. Community experiencing growth from expanding population of Houston.

David Wayne Hooks Airport is state's largest privately owned airport. Numerous antique shops dot the downtown along with other shopping opportunities.

The city's medical facilities include a regional hospital as well as a sports medicine facility. Home to Tomball College.

For information on accommodations, dining facilities, events or more on area attractions, contact the Tomball Chamber of Commerce at 281/351-7222.

**McNamara Historical Museum in Victoria**



Genna Sutphen



Germany before 1860; park also features Southern Pacific oil-burning locomotive. E. Commercial and De Leon sts.

## WHARTON

Pop. 9,237

Alt. 111

Map R-20

**General**—On Colorado River, established as Wharton County seat when county organized in 1846. Home of Wharton County Junior College and Gulf Coast Medical Center. Rice, corn, cotton and grain grown in the fertile farmland makes Wharton one of the major agriculture producers in the state. Veterans Memorial Monument in Monterey Square, downtown, bears the names of service personnel who died in combat in World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam and Lebanon. A soothing riverside park, Riverfront Park, overlooks the winding Colorado River with benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment. Just 1 block west of courthouse.

The downtown area is known for its quaint antique shops, as well as the surrounding historical areas of Glen Flora and Egypt.

For information on accommodations, dining facilities, and events, contact the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture office at 225 N.

Richmond Rd. or call 979/532-1862, or e-mail [bjones@wcnet.net](mailto:bjones@wcnet.net).

**Dickson Monument**—Granite shaft honors Sheriff Hamilton B. Dickson, killed in 1894 during attempted capture of murder suspect. Lawman was so widely respected, trains were chartered from distant points to accommodate huge attendance at funeral.

**Wharton County Museum**—Excellent area museum details heritage as well as economic background of county. Displays include wildlife trophies as well as county artifacts and photographs dealing with ranching, agriculture, archeology, medicine, and local sulfur mines. Also on the grounds is the home of Dan Rather, CBS News Anchor and Wharton native. Tours of this facility are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. during museum hours. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch 12 - 1 p.m.), Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 3615 N. Richmond Rd. 979/532-2600.



### Nave Museum in Victoria

**Community Museum Center**—Twelve structures include a Victorian home with furnishing of 1860, a mid-1800 furnished farmhouse, an early 1900 church with original furnishings, pioneer country doctor's office with original equipment and instruments, a large farm building with implements which include a 100-year-old two-story cotton gin, a one-room schoolhouse, corncrib, and an outhouse. Open Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Sun. afternoons. For information, call 281/255-2148. At 510 North Pine St. Donations accepted.

**Parks**—City Parks include Juergens Park and Matheson Park which encompass 17 acres for recreational use featuring tennis courts, basketball, jogging/walking path, picnic areas, volleyball and soccer.

Harris County Parks include Burroughs Park, at 9738 Huf Smith, which features open-air pavilion; a boardwalk and observation deck overlooking spring-fed lake, playgrounds and ball fields, and picnicking facilities.

Matthews County Park, at 11603 Kuykendahl, offers a covered basketball court and community building. Spring Creek County Park, offers picnicking facilities, overnight camping area, lighted covered basketball pavilion, tennis courts, ball fields, and more.

## VICTORIA

Pop. 60,603

Alt. 93

Map S-18

**General**—Scattered Anglo-American settlers lived in area when Don Martin de Leon founded townsite with 41 Spanish families in 1824. Named for Gen. Guadalupe Victoria, who became Mexico's first president. Historical markers and graves in Evergreen Cemetery (Red River and Vine sts.) cite the de Leon family, prominent in early Texas colonization. Was one of the first three towns incorporated by the Republic of Texas. Today a major industrial and agricultural crossroads of South Texas; home of Victoria College and Univ. of Houston at Victoria.

**McNamara Historical Museum**—Collections of Texana, documents and artifacts from Spanish, Mexican and Texan historical eras, plus antique furnishings in the charming 1876 Victorian homestead. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 502 N. Liberty St. For information, call 361/575-8227.

**Nave Museum**—Named for Royston Nave, Texas artist who achieved distinction in New York art circles in 1920s, and who painted extensively in and around Victoria. Greco-Roman hall built by his widow in 1931 houses Nave's paintings. Also features contemporary art, sculpture and traveling exhibits. Open Wed., Thurs. & Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 1 - 8 p.m. 306 W. Commercial St. For information, call 361/575-8227.

**Riverside Park**—400 acres of woodland bordered by Guadalupe River; 200 picnic areas with tables and barbecue pits; several locations provide playground equipment. Beautiful trees border fairways of 27-hole Riverside Golf Course.

**The Texas Zoo**—Devoted exclusively to native Texas species; displayed in natural environment with no cages. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (till 7 p.m. Sat. & Sun. May - Sept.). In Riverside Park. Admission. For information, call 361/573-7681.

**Victoria Memorial Square**—Landmark is old grist mill; hand-shaped logs fastened by wooden pegs and homemade nails of early German farmers. South Texas winds once turned giant blades, grinding corn into feed for livestock, or cornmeal for family table. Mechanical parts of mill brought from

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200,000 sf of upscale Main Street shopping & eateries

750,000 sf of Class A office space

1.4 acre plaza for concerts, art exhibits & gatherings

Fort Bend Convention & Visitors Services • 281/491-0800

[www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com)



include a moon rock and a seven-eighths scale replica of the Oval Office in the White House. On the southern edge of the city, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center focuses on educating people throughout the world about native wildflowers and natural vegetation, a project close to the heart of the former first lady. The spacious and attractive facilities offer exhibits, garden displays, and walking trails on some 42 acres of native flowers and grasses.

Perhaps one of Austin's most unusual attractions centers around the Congress Avenue Bridge across Town Lake. On spring and summer evenings (late summer seems the best viewing time), about 1.5 million bats thrill hundreds of onlookers by exiting their roosts on the underside of the bridge and swirling column by column into the darkening skies.

To enjoy a different kind of bat-mania—as in *baseball* bat—head to Round Rock, just north of Austin, where you can watch the Round Rock Express (a team whose owners include pitching great Nolan Ryan and his son Reid Ryan) battle others in the AA Texas League. At nearby Georgetown, you can visit the intriguing underground cave (no bats included) of Inner Space Cavern.

Follow Interstate 35 south through Austin to San Marcos, home of attractive parks, historic buildings, [a house peopled with thousands of dolls,] and an airport hangar bursting with vintage World War II aircraft. You can stroll the lush grounds of Aquarena Center and board a glass-bottom boat on Spring Lake for an underwater view of the burbling springs that produce up to 150 million gallons of water a day. South of town, you can shop for bargains in the dozens of stores that form Texas' largest factory outlet complex.

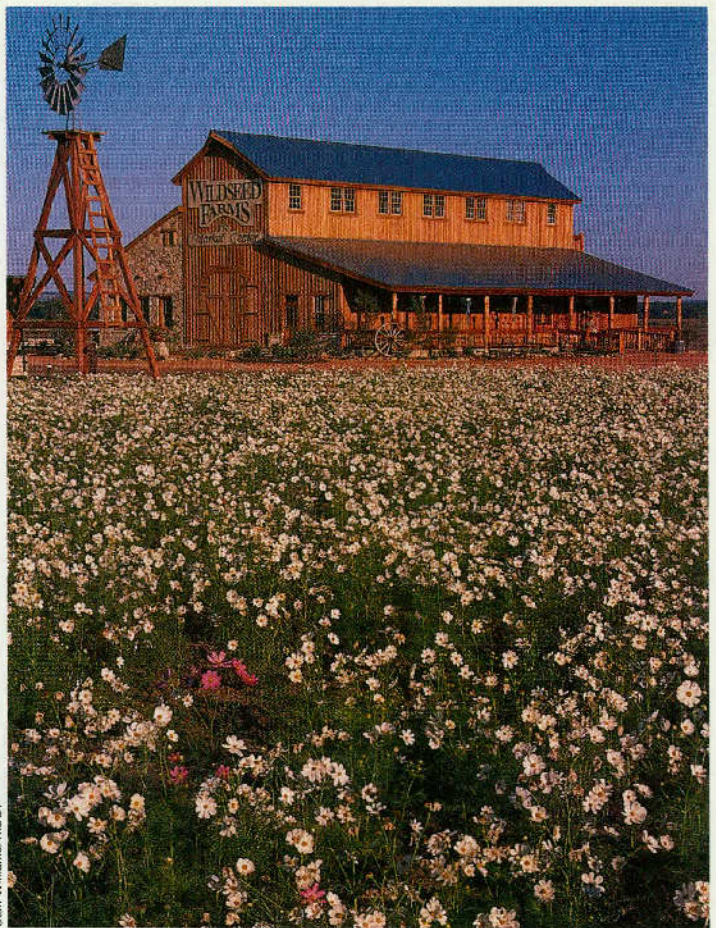
A short drive west on R.M. 12 takes you into the hills to Wimberley, a scenic resort town where art galleries, quaint shops, swimming holes, and a re-created Western town vie for your attention.

Back along I-35, south of San Marcos, lies New Braunfels, a bustling town with a proud German heritage. You can swim away an exuberant warm-weather day here at popular Schlitterbahn, the state's largest water park, and at spacious city-owned Landa Park, with its spring-fed, short-but-sweet Comal River (great for tubing).

To gain insight into the town's founding and settlement by German immigrants, visit the intriguing Sophienburg Museum and tour the historic buildings in Conservation Plaza.

Spend an hour or a day at New Braunfels' historic district of Gruene (pronounced "green"), a captivating village replete with antique stores, arts and crafts shops, restaurants, and Gruene Hall, which claims to be "the oldest dance hall in Texas." Sit a spell and sip a long-neck (beer in the bottle).

At Gruene and New Braunfels during warm weather months, you can rent inner tubes and float the cool, clear waters of the Guadalupe River as it courses southward. For an incomparable look at the scenic river, lined with majestic



Sean Williams/TXDOT

**Wildseed Farms, Fredericksburg**

cypress and oak trees, drive westward along the River Road that wanders from New Braunfels to Sattler.

Castroville, southwest of New Braunfels and west of San Antonio, blends yet another European ancestry into the Texas cultural mix. Known as "The Little Alsace of Texas," the town preserves its distinctive Alsatian ancestry in sites such as the Landmark Inn, a state historic structure, where overnight guests enjoy ceiling fans and rocking chairs, but no television. An old gristmill and other historic structures enhance the inn's grounds.

### **The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum— The Story of Texas in Austin**



J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT

## CENTRAL

Some of the region's most scenic and varied terrain lies within the central segment of the Hill Country. Here, you can treat yourself to outdoor adventures with a real Texas flair. Water ski on a massive reservoir one day, then saddle up and ride horseback into the hills the next.

Bandera, about 65 miles west of New Braunfels, ropes you in gently, but firmly, with a whole passel of Western-style pastimes. In fact, if you've ever hankered to experience the "Old West," you've come to the right place. Here, dude ranches introduce you to cow-puncher pleasures such as roundups and rodeos, cowboy breakfasts and chuckwagon dinners, and hayrides and trail rides. Even if you've never so much as *seen* a horse before, you won't stay a dude for long in Bandera.

Visit the town's Frontier Times Museum with its many Western and Indian artifacts, then spend the evening kicking up your boot-heels to the strains of catchy country-western tunes at a local honky-tonk.

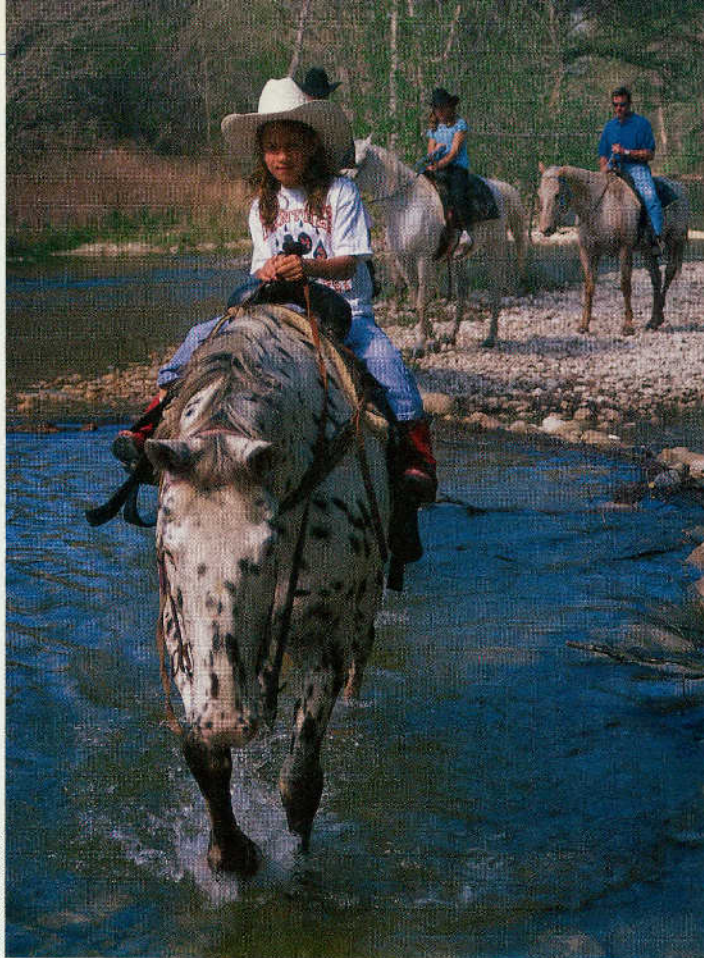
Blessed with a mild climate and panoramic vistas, Kerrville boasts a variety of lodgings, including resorts and bed and breakfast accommodations. It is also home to the Cowboy Artists of America Museum and to James Avery Craftsman, a renowned designer of silver and gold jewelry. If you roll into Kerrville around Memorial Day you'll have lots of company. During that time the town hosts thousands of folks attending the Texas State Arts and Crafts Fair and the Kerrville Folk Festival.

Head west to Ingram, which offers "Old Ingram," an area of art studios, galleries, antique shops, and restaurants. Then, follow Texas 27 and Texas 39 about six-and-one-half miles west to Hunt and two miles along F.M. 1340. Don't blink. That startling scene before you does not mean you've been transported to Salisbury Plain in England. What you see is Stonehenge II, an eye-popping replica of those marvelous megaliths of Great Britain.

Meander northward from the Kerrville area through the hills to Fredericksburg, a charming town that was settled by German immigrant families in 1846. Fredericksburg brims with bonuses for visitors, including some 300 bed and breakfast and guest house lodgings, shops galore (how about a handcrafted dulcimer or a jar of preserves made from local peaches?) and abundant eateries that often feature tasty German food and delicious breads and pastries. During harvest season, many orchards in this peach-growing center invite you to pick your own—for a price, of course.

The town's strong German heritage plays a role in several popular annual events, especially Oktoberfest in the fall and Kinderfest and Weihnachten during the Yuletide season.

For an insightful look at the part played by the United States Navy and by native son Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in the Pacific during World War II, explore the National Museum of the Pacific War, with life-size and lifelike exhibits that include Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, and guns. Then, for a change of pace, tour the peaceful, aromatic gardens at Fredericksburg Herb Farm. Be sure, too, to visit Wildseed Farms a few miles east, where fields blaze



J. Griffin Smith/XDOT

### Horseback riders cross Medina River near Bandera

with vivid floral blooms in springtime and you can buy a wildflower seed mixture for your own patch of the planet in any season.

Do you remember the Willie Nelson-Waylon Jennings country classic, "Luckenbach Texas," from 1978? Well, the song memorializes a tiny hamlet southeast of Fredericksburg. Here sits Luckenbach, with its rustic beer tavern and rural dance hall. Sunday afternoons you might find banjo pickers, guitar pluckers, and fiddle players and singers aplenty performing an impromptu concert.

As you travel from Fredericksburg to Johnson City, you're in LBJ country. Here, on land alongside the Pedernales River, the late president was born, spent his early years, and returned as often as he could during his decades of public service. He died at his ranch in 1973.

National and state parks at Stonewall mark the site of the LBJ Ranch, once known as the "Texas White House," as well as LBJ's birthplace and his

### Scenic drive near Junction



Stan A. Williams/XDOT

grave in the small family cemetery. (Be sure to take the National Park Service bus tour of the ranch.) LBJ State Park encompasses a comprehensive visitor center and the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead, where costumed interpreters demonstrate rural Texas life in the early 1900s. At nearby Johnson City, the National Park Service also maintains the LBJ Boyhood Home.

In the spring, few areas of Texas prove quite so "flora-fied" as this section of the Hill Country, especially around Marble Falls, Llano, and Burnet. Most years, hosts of vibrant bluebonnets, red Indian paintbrushes, and golden coreopsis blanket roadsides and weave trails beside granite outcroppings along highways such as Texas 29 from Llano to Burnet, F.M. 1431 from Marble Falls through Kingsland, and a stretch of county road near Willow City.

Marble Falls also provides a view of Granite Mountain, the source for the stunning red and pink granite used in the construction of the state capitol. A few miles to the north, Burnet harbors an air museum, where World War II aircraft and memorabilia form interesting exhibits. The town serves as the western terminus for the steam-engine-driven *Hill Country Flyer* excursion train, a two-hour ride from Cedar Park near Austin.

Both Marble Falls and Burnet are great starting points for any visit to the Highland Lakes, a chain of six impoundments that begin with Lake Buchanan on the north and stairstep along the Colorado River southward to Austin. Each lake offers its own special characteristics, but all provide wonderful fishing and boating. Canyon of the Eagles on Lake Buchanan serves as home port to the Vanishing Texas River Cruise, an ecological tour that affords guests a view of rugged cliffs and canyons along the Colorado River and, November through March, possible sightings of the American Bald Eagles that winter here.

Two state parks in the area, Inks Lake and Colorado Bend, prove popular with campers, fishermen, and seekers of splendid scenery. In Colorado Bend State Park, time your stay so that you can join a weekend tour to lovely Gorman Falls, its rivulets sparkling midst ferns and moss-kissed cliffs.

To the west, Llano offers several city and county parks, as well as lodging in two historic inns, the Badu House and Dabbs Railroad Hotel. A short drive south takes you to Enchanted Rock State Park, where you can marvel at an immense, 500-foot-high dome of solid granite once revered by Indians and always admired by all.

Hunters particularly prize the area around Llano and nearby Mason, famed for its abundance of white-tailed deer and wild turkeys. North of Mason, the town of Brady is also a favorite of hunters and holds the distinction of being near the geographical center of Texas.

## WESTERN EDGE

The western Hill Country's inner reaches shelter canyons carved by the Frio and Nueces rivers, limestone cliffs that gleam in the sun, and hills crowned by massive trees whose leaves glow crimson and amber in the fall. Cattle, sheep, and goats range over thousands of ranch acres, and one of the most beautiful caverns in the world lies near Sonora.

Here, too, you see traces of the Old West. Menard, west of Mason, served as a stop along the old cattle trails of the late 1800s. Today, a park on the San Saba River marks the site of the old livestock crossing. The town celebrates its western heritage each June with Jim Bowie Days and the musical drama *Song of Silver*, staged in a natural amphitheater.

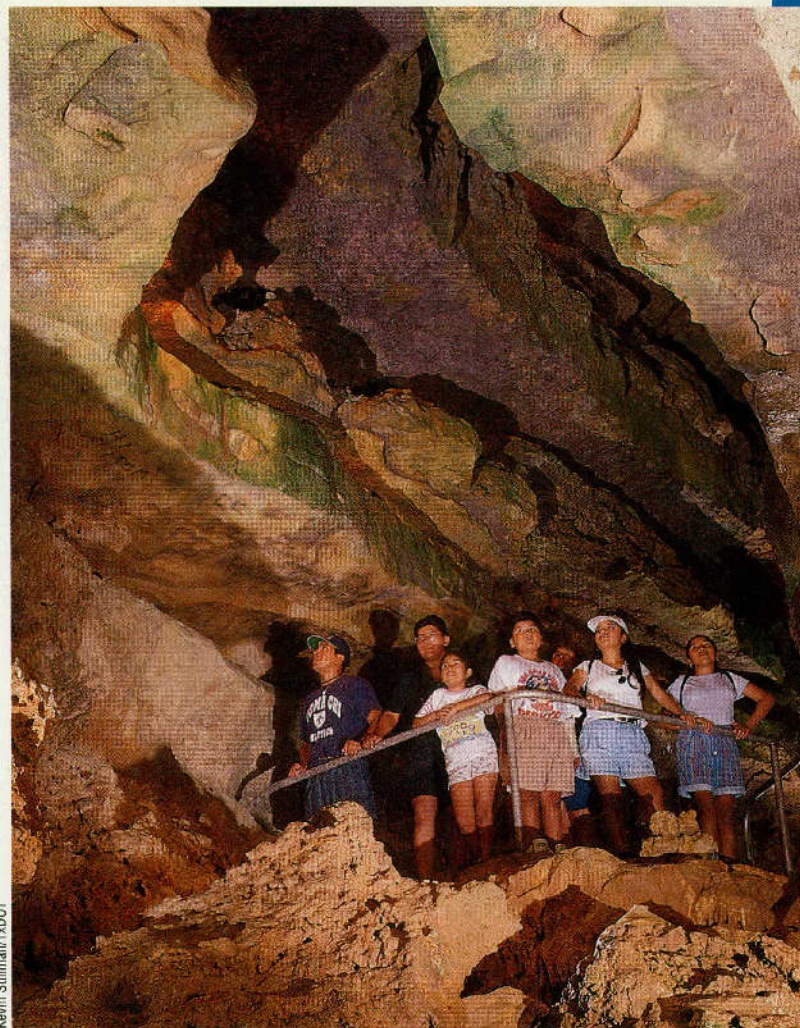
Travel west toward Eldorado and you know you're in wool and mohair country. Stop for a shopping spree at the Eldorado Woolen Mill, which weaves fabrics from virgin wool and mohair produced on Texas ranches. West of Eldorado, Ozona markets more than two million pounds of wool annually, making the area one of the top wool producers in the nation.

From Ozona, turn eastward toward Sonora and the fabulous Caverns of Sonora, where crystalline formations adorn ceilings, walls, and floors. Each summer, Sonora's Covered Wagon Dinner Theater presents performances that recall the area's early days.

About an hour's drive to the east, Junction, too, is a major player in wool and mohair production and is the county seat of Kimble County, which boasts more flowing streams than any other Texas county. The area offers good fishing and seasonal hunting for deer, wild turkey, and other game birds.

South of Junction, as you drive to Rocksprings, Camp Wood, Leakey, and Vanderpool, you are surrounded by some seriously stunning scenery. Rocksprings, with an elevation of 2,450 feet, is in the highest area of the Edwards Plateau. The region boasts cool, dry summers, and mild, sunny winters, making it a great destination for camping, picnicking, hiking, rock collecting, hunting, and fishing.

Vanderpool, on the Sabinal River, is a gateway to Lost Maples State Natural Area, where big-tooth maples enrapture visitors each fall with a leafy



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

## Earthquake-formed Wonder World Cave in San Marcos

extravaganza of radiant red and gold. The park also offers 11 miles of hiking and backpacking trails, enhanced by some 350 plant species, abundant birdlife, and three state champion trees.

Near Concan, 1,420-acre Garner State Park borders the clear, chilly Frio River (*frio* is Spanish for cold). An immensely popular park, Garner provides stone and timber cabins, shaded campsites, with swimming and miniature golf in the summer, fishing, boating, hiking and nature study. South of the park, at a vantage point on F.M. 2690, you can watch the sunset flight of millions of bats as they emerge from a nearby cave. Nature puts on amazing shows in these magnificent hills.

Uvalde and Brackettville anchor the Hill Country's southern rim. In Uvalde, the Garner Memorial Museum, once home of John "Cactus Jack" Garner, honors the former congressman and vice president under Franklin D. Roosevelt, while the Briscoe Art and Antique Collection provides a look at works by artists including Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Melvin Warren, and Porfirio Salinas Jr.

Brackettville, to the west, bids you linger at Fort Clark Springs resort, complete with 18-hole golf course and spring-fed swimming pool. Fort Clark, established in 1852 and deactivated in 1944, once served as headquarters for military luminaries such as Ranald S. Mackenzie, George Marshall, Jonathan Wainwright, and George S. Patton Jr.

Once upon a time, nearby Alamo Village was the movie set for John Wayne's 1959 film, *The Alamo*. Complete with an adobe replica of the real Alamo, the site now hosts visitors at Old West-style buildings that include a cantina, trading post, and old-time jail. Sometimes "desperadoes" shoot it out with the "sheriff." The good guys always win.

So, there's your quick tour of the Texas Hill Country, just a small sampling of the treats that await. Whether you seek a return to the adventurous Old West, a restful sojourn amidst glorious scenery, or the warm welcome of a friendly town, when you "head for the hills" in Texas, you'll find a spot meant just for you.

## AUSTIN

Pop. 656,562

Alt. 550

Map P-17

**General**—In 1839 five mounted scouts ranged over a broad area of wilderness seeking a site for a new capital city for the Republic of Texas. Location on north bank of Colorado River was chosen, where rich blacklands meet scenic hills. Site occupied at the time by a four-family settlement called Waterloo. Name honors Stephen F. Austin, the “Father of Texas.” About first of Sept. 1839, archives and furniture of Texas government were transported from Houston to Austin by 50 ox-drawn wagons.

Institutions of higher learning include Austin Community College, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Concordia Univ. at Austin, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Huston-Tillotson College, St. Edward’s Univ., and The Univ. of Texas at Austin.

Major annual events include South by Southwest Music & Media and Film and Multimedia conferences in the spring.

Austin is starting point for the Presidential Corridor via U.S. 290, Texas 21 to Texas 6 in Bryan/College Station connecting the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin.

The city bills itself as the “Live Music Capital of the World.” Austin has it all—blues, country/Western, reggae, jazz, conjunto, Tejano, swing and rock. Performed in various clubs around city and at night spots along Sixth Street.

Speaking of hot things on Sixth Street, stop by O’Shucks Tamales. It’s become a hot sauce museum. OK, it’s a shop, too, but it features more than 300 varieties of hot sauces, salsas, marinades, etc., with a huge choice of heat levels!

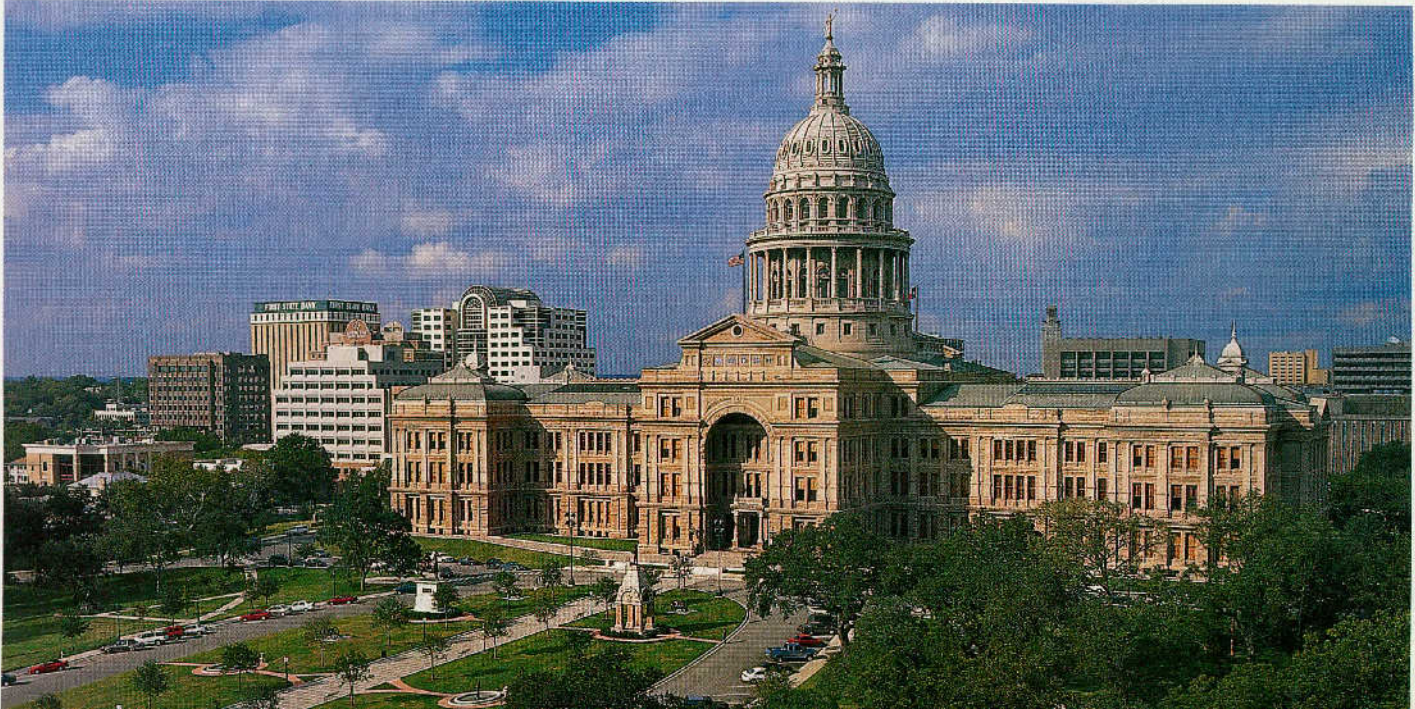
High tech and up beat, that’s Silicon Hills. Austin is home to many computer chip makers and other computer industries. The city is home to nation’s largest urban bat colony found under the Congress Ave. bridge during the summer. A kiosk on north shore of Town Lake’s hike-and-bike trail near Four Seasons Hotel and one on the south shore inform visitors when and where to watch for the nocturnal mammals.

The Greater Austin Area offers more than 20 bed and breakfast establishments. For information, contact the Austin Visitor Center.

**Austin Children’s Museum**—Children of all ages can touch, play, and climb to their hearts’ content. Museum activities relate to three themes: how different people live, the human body, and everyday science and technology. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. W. 2nd St. at Colorado St. For information, 512/472-2499. Admission.

**Austin City Limits Tour**—Although tickets are hard to come by, fans of the popular television show can tour Studio 6-A at station KLRU on the University of Texas at Austin campus. The tour includes a short video on the history of the show and Hall of Fame photos of the artists who have appeared over the years. Visitors are encouraged to bring their cameras and have their pictures taken on the stage where Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Lyle

## State Capitol Building, Austin



J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT



## Austin Nature and Science Center

Lovett, the Dixie Chicks, Garth Brooks, and many more talents have graced the show. Tours every Fri. at 10:30 a.m.; closed on holidays. In the Jesse H. Jones Communications Building B at the corner of Guadalupe and Dean Keeton sts. For information, call 512/471-4811.

**Austin Duck Adventures**—Tour historic and scenic streets of Austin and then in the very same vehicle, splash into Lake Austin for a leisurely cruise in its crystal clear waters. Tour usually includes the State Capitol, Governor’s Mansion, UT-Austin campus, Sixth Street, Congress Ave. and Lake Austin. Daily tours. For information and departure times, call 512/ 477-5274, or visit the Web site at [www.austinducks.com](http://www.austinducks.com). Tours depart from the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Visitor Center at 201 East Second St. Admission.

**Austin Museum of Art - Downtown**—The facility on Congress Ave. more than quadruples the space at the original location at Laguna Gloria. It also consolidates the museum’s efforts to bring everything under one roof, including a gift shop. Changing exhibits throughout the year. Open Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Thurs. 9 p.m.); Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 823 Congress Ave. For information, call 512/495-9224.

**Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria**—In Italianate villa on shore of Lake Austin at site first chosen by Stephen F. Austin for his home. Changing art exhibitions; classes, films and lectures. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. 9 p.m.); Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 3809 W. 35th. Admission. Tel. 512/458-8191.

**Austin Nature & Science Center**—Exhibits of science, natural history and botany. Wonderful hiking, nature trails right in the heart of the city. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 301 Nature Center Dr. Tel. 512/327-8180.

J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT

**Austin Visitor Center**—For details about events and city attractions stop by the visitor center operated by the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau at 201 E. 2nd St. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Call 1-800-926-2282 or 512/478-0098 for information, or visit the Web site at [www.austintexas.org](http://www.austintexas.org).

**Austin Zoo**—This delightful children's zoo in southwest Travis County offers children of all ages hands-on encounters with many different animals. Pony rides, train rides and picnic area. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Call for extended summer hours. Also information on the web at [www.austinzoo.com](http://www.austinzoo.com). Take U.S. 290 west to Circle Dr.; right on Circle Dr. to Rawhide Trail; right at ranch entrance. 10807 Rawhide Tr. 512/288-1490 or 1-800-291/1490. Admission.

**Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge**—Primary purpose of the refuge is to preserve the nesting habitat of the migratory endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. The Warbler may be seen on hiking trails at Warbler Vista and Doeskin Ranch public use areas. The vireo may be seen at Shin Oak Observation Deck, which is open from the end of April to mid-March. The Deck and Doeskin Ranch are closed during the weekends from mid-November through mid-December during deer hunting season. The Refuge is a sponsor of the Texas Songbird Festival in May 2002 and National Wildlife Refuge Week during the first two weekends in October. From U.S. 183, take E.M. 1869 approximately 9 miles to the observation deck. For information, call 512/339-9432.

**Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum—The Story of Texas**—This state of the art museum features exhibits and interactive experiences that trace Texas history from before European exploration to the early 1970s. Artifacts such as an AT-6 Texan airplane and Stephen F. Austin's List of Land Titles will be displayed on a rotating basis. A 400-seat IMAX® Theatre features 2D and 3D films. The Texas Spirit Theater's "Star of Destiny" presentation is a brief history of the Lone Star State, including three-dimensional images, special lighting and sound effects, as well as shaking seats as visitors witness a gusher from a Texas oil derrick and the takeoff of a Saturn V rocket. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 6 p.m. IMAX® Theatre open til 9 p.m. daily. Corner of MLK Blvd. and Congress Ave. Underground parking garage available; call the museum for information on where to park buses, RVs and other large vehicles. Tickets are \$5, \$4.25 for seniors over 64, and free for 18 and under. A separate admission charge is required for both the IMAX and Texas Spirit Theaters. For information, call 512/936-8746, or visit the Web site at [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museum**—Owned and operated by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas since the 1890s, the museum features traditional and hands-on exhibits about Texas history. The eclectic displays include important collection of Republic and early statehood artifacts. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 510 E. Anderson Lane (at the corner of I-35 and U.S. 183). 512/339-1997. Admission.

**Dougherty Arts Center**—Offers a variety of visual and performing arts programs, as well as a fine arts school with multi-disciplinary classes and workshops. Gallery features works in all media and subject matter. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1110 Barton Springs Rd. For performance information, 512/397-1472.

**East Sixth Street (Old Pecan Street)**—Before the Capitol was built and shifted the center of commerce to Congress Avenue, Old Pecan Street was Austin's main street. Neglected for years, it's been reborn with restaurants, clubs, shops and art galleries occupying the Victorian and native-stone buildings. Carnival atmosphere especially apparent on weekends. National Register District. Seven blocks between I-35 and Congress Ave.

**Elisabet Ney Museum**—National Historic Site and studio of famed German sculptress who immigrated to Texas in the 1870s. Her works stand in European palaces, the Texas and National Capitols, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art. Largest collection at her studio here; open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5:00 p.m. 304 E. 44th St. Tel. 512/458-2255.

**Farmer's Market**—Central Texas farmers offer fresh produce during spring, summer, and fall. Market features numerous events throughout the year. At 6701 Burnet Rd. For information, call 512/454-1002.

**French Legation**—Built 1840 by Comte Alphonse de Saligny, French charge d'affaires to the Republic of Texas; a gem of Creole architecture with a superb collection of period furnishings. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 802 San Marcos St. Admission. Tel. 512/472-8180.

**George Washington Carver Museum**—Changing exhibits of black history and culture of Austin and Travis County; photos, artifacts, folk craft and art.

Open Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. noon - 5 p.m. 1165 E. Angelina St. by Carver Library. Tel. 512/472-4809.

**German Free School**—Serves as headquarters for the German-Texan Heritage Society and German Free School Guild. Located in the heart of downtown adjacent to Waller Creek, it was originally built as a school in 1857 by German immigrants. One of the earliest teachers of the school, Julius Schütze, became the first resident of the building. Displays include Schütze family photographs and personal effects; MeiBen porcelain and Delft pottery; Victorian era antiques. At 507 E. 10th St. Open Thurs. 1 - 4 p.m.; other times by appointment. For information call 512/482-0927.

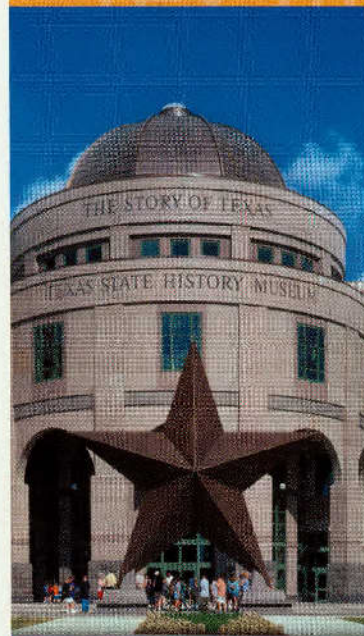
**Golfsmith**—Tours of the golf club making facility are available. Visitors see the manufacturing area where clubs are assembled and repaired. Facilities also include learning and practice center, practice greens, and golf clinics. Tour times Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Showroom open daily. At 11000 N I-35 (Exit 243 at Braker Lane). For information, call 512/837-4810.

**Governor's Mansion**—Dignified white-columned mansion built 1856. The Governor occupies a private second-floor apartment. Other elegant rooms and antique furnishings may be seen on public tours Mon. - Fri., every 20 minutes, 10 to 11:40 a.m. Groups and official functions control schedule. 1010 Colorado St. Tour information, 512/463-5518.

**Hamilton Pool Preserve**—Long a treasured swimming hole for Austinites and Univ. of Texas students, this grotto-like pool is one of Texas' most beautiful. 60-ft. waterfall spills into a deep, jade-green pool. (Note: Water quality carefully monitored and swimming not allowed when bacteria too high. Call ahead.) Other activities include picnicking and nature study. Guided nature tour by reservation. No drinking water available; no pets, glass containers, fires or cooking allowed. Take Texas 71 west approximately 16 miles to E.M. 3238, south 13 miles. For additional information, call 512/264-2740. Admission.

**Haynie Chapel United Methodist Church**—This is the oldest Methodist Congregation in Travis County, founded in 1839 by the Rev. John Haynie.

## For everyone in Texas and the Texan in everyone.



Discover a place in Austin dedicated to the passion, perseverance and plain old gumption that define the spirit of the Lone Star State. With three floors of exhibits, the special effects of the Texas Spirit Theater and Austin's only IMAX® Theatre, The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is a remarkable tribute to all the stories of Texas. Including yours.



Featuring Austin's only IMAX® Theatre.

For information call (512) 936-8746 or visit [www.TheStoryofTexas.com](http://www.TheStoryofTexas.com).  
Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am ~ 6 pm • Sunday 12~6 pm • Free parking after 6 pm  
Call for IMAX Theatre evening hours, 936-IMAX (4629)  
At the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. and N. Congress Avenue in Austin

Cemetery across the road bears the same name. Usually on Thursdays you will find ladies of the church quilting. The quilts are auctioned at the fall festival on the third Sat. of Oct. Located approximately eight miles east on Texas 71 near Garfield. Escorted tours Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and of course you're welcome on Sun. mornings. For information, 512/247-4454.

**Hill Country Flyer**—See CEDAR PARK.

**Horseback Riding**—Several ranches in the area offer horseback riding activities. Be sure to call ahead for directions, appointments, and charges for the trail rides.

**Valley Creek Stables** at 8601 Bluff Springs Rd. features a weekly trail ride Wed. evenings at 5:30 p.m.; otherwise, hourly guided trail rides by appointment. Children as young as six are allowed to ride along. For information, call 512/282-6248.

**Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm**—Outdoor museum recalls story of rural life in central Texas. Help pick cotton and see it spun into yarn, or gather around the fire and sing old time favorites played on pump organ. Costumed interpreters share the past as they do the work of early Texans. Open Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. year around; Sept. - May Mon. - Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Jun. - Aug. Mon. - Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. 11418 Sprinkle Cutoff Rd. From North I-35, take Exit 243 east to Dessau Rd; turn left 1/2 mile on Sprinkle Cutoff and right to farm. 512/837-1215. Admission.

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**—Founded by Lady Bird Johnson in 1982, the Center moved in 1995 from a former hay field to a 42-acre site in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. The spacious facility includes a 240-seat auditorium and five classroom-sized meeting areas. The grounds include numerous research display gardens, landscaped areas, and themed gardens. The Center is the only national nonprofit research and educational organization committed to the preservation and re-establishment of native plants in planned landscapes. Visitor center with museum quality exhibits. Especially colorful during spring. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (extended hours during April). In southwest Austin; from I-35, take Slaughter Ln. Exit 227 west to Loop 1; south .8 mi.; left to 4801 La Crosse Ave. Tel. 512/292-4200.

**Lake Cruises**—**Capital Cruises**: Excursions on Town Lake and Lake Austin for family outings, sunset cruises, bat-watching excursions, or private getaways. Catering available. Also, pontoon, paddle boat, canoe, and kayak rental. Open Mar. - Oct. Mon. - Fri. 3 p.m. - dusk; Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - dusk; (Nov. - Feb. as weather permits by reservation). Reservations recommended. Departs from Hyatt Regency dock on Town Lake, 208 Barton Springs Rd. Cruise/rental fees. Call 512/480-9264.

**Lone Star** paddle wheeler offers sight-seeing excursions on Town Lake from Mar. - Oct. (charter cruises year round). Departs from dock between Hyatt Regency Hotel and South First Street Bridge on Town Lake; 1.5-hr. cruise under city bridges, past mouth of Barton Creek and Zilker Park, "wilderness" scenery of limestone cliffs, huge bald cypress and native pecan trees, waterfowl and great blue herons. Tour fee. Call 512/327-1388 for schedule.

**Lakes**—Austin, Town, Travis, Walter E. Long. See LAKES listing.

**Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum**—Archives/museum relating to LBJ and office of presidency in general; colorful highlights of political campaigns. Exhibits include gifts from foreign heads of state, a moon rock, replica

## Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum, Austin



Stan A. Williams/FOX007



## Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin

of Oval Office and changing exhibits. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 2313 Red River St. Tel. 512/916-5136.

**McKinney Falls State Park**—At confluence of Onion and Williamson creeks with quiet pools, occasional rapids and waterfalls. Excellent visitor center, hiking and interpretive trails, campsites, playground, ruins of homestead of Thomas F. McKinney, one of Stephen F. Austin's original 300 colonists. Situated about 13 miles southeast of downtown: From U.S. 183 south, take Scenic Loop Rd. west to park entrance; admission.

**Manor Downs**—Quarter Horse pari-mutuel racing is usually held during spring and fall just minutes from Austin. Take U.S. 290 east to Manor and Manor Downs Rd. For racing information, 512/272-5581.

**Mexic-Arte Museum**—Permanent exhibits include Mexican masks and photographs. Exhibitions feature works by Latin American artists throughout the year. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. At 419 Congress Ave. For information, call 512/480-9373.

**Moonlight Towers**—Austin's beloved street lighting system began in 1895 when the first of the original 31 towers was mounted. From a height of 165 feet, a cluster of six carbon arc lamps (now mercury vapor) casts a glow over a radius of 3,000 feet. Only 17 towers remain, and Austin is the U.S.'s only city with a tower system still intact. For locations, contact the Austin Visitor Center.

**Mount Bonnell**—At western edge of city overlooking Lake Austin; dramatic views of city and Hill Country. Mount Bonnell Rd. reached via W. 35th or Old Bull Creek Rd. (RR 2222).

**Neill-Cochran House**—Domicile of National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Texas. Greek Revival architecture circa 1853. Antique furnishings and historic documents. Open Wed. - Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Closed holidays and Aug. 2310 San Gabriel St. Admission. Tel. 512/478-2335.

**O. Henry Home**—Residence of William Sydney Porter, eminent short story writer who signed his works "O. Henry." Porter lived in Austin 1885-95. Desk, writing materials and other furnishings of the period. Open Wed. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 409 E. 5th St. Tel. 512/472-1903.

**Old Bakery and Emporium**—Built as bakery by Swedish immigrant Charles Lundberg in 1876; now craft shop selling handicrafts and baked goods by senior citizens. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Summer and Dec., Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1006 Congress. Tel. 512/477-5961.

**Parks**—Nine major park areas of more than 7,753 acres, including five municipal golf courses, 75 playgrounds, 44 swimming pools, 70 tennis court areas and four tennis centers, 15 community recreation centers and 172 athletic fields.

**Emma Long Metropolitan Park**, beside Lake Austin about 17 miles north-west via R.M. 2222. Offers rugged mountain bike trails, swimming, fishing and camping; admission.

**Walter E. Long Lake and Metropolitan Park** include all lands around 1,300-acre lake; fishing, sailing. About 5 miles east of downtown, Blue Bluff Rd. off Webberville Rd.; admission.

**Fiesta Gardens on Town Lake**; displays of exotic flora and lagoon. **Mayfield Park** recalls the cottage gardens of England where the landscaping, the home, and the boundary walls interact to create the setting. Mary Mayfield Gutsch created more than 30 raised flower beds separated by narrow paths while her husband, Dr. Milton Gutsch directed the building of the

Geoffrey/Agoda



stone walls, ponds, and other garden features. Peacocks roaming the grounds are descendants of those given to the owners in 1935. Historic 1870s cottage and grounds available for parties. The park is open daily. At 3801 Old Bull Creek Rd., next door to Austin Museum of Art-Laguna Gloria. For information, call 512/480-3036.

**Zilker Park** in southwest Austin includes popular Barton Springs swimming pool (open late Mar. - Oct. 31; fee). **Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer** is a hands-on exhibit for kids and adults that explains how the aquifer is recharged and how the creeks and rivers in the Austin area are monitored for pollution. Visitors see the evolution of how rain in the city makes its way to the Gulf of Mexico and back in the form of rain clouds. Very educational and entertaining. In the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. For tour information, call 512/327-8181.

Other attractions within the park include Zilker Hillside Theater and Austin Area Garden Center. Free Zilker Hillside Theater presents shows under the stars, early June - Aug. Austin Area Garden Center is a free, beautiful showcase of flowers, shrubs and trees; Japanese Garden and Rose Garden; also a pioneer log cabin furnished in the frontier style. For information, 512/477-8672.

Other popular facilities of Austin parks are hike and bike trails in scenic areas along Barton Creek, Town Lake, Shoal Creek and Blunn Creek.

**Pseudo-Rock Indoor Rock Climbing**—More than 6,000 sq. ft. of sculpted climbing surface awaits kids of all ages from six to 60. Facilities feature corners, cracks, laybacks, arêtes, slabs, roofs, and caves; routes modified weekly. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. At 200 Trinity St. across from the Austin Convention Center. Tel. 512/474-4376. Admission.

**River City Flyer**—The Austin Steam Train Association, which operates the *Hill Country Flyer* in Cedar Park, also runs a train ride through the city. The nostalgic train leaves Trinity Brush Square at 4th and Trinity sts. downtown at 1 p.m. on Sun. Mar. - Oct. For additional schedule and information, call 512/477-8468. Admission.

**Slaughter Leftwich Winery**—Native stone facility, built in tradition of early Texas architecture, transforms grapes grown at vineyard near Lubbock into award winning wines. Tours of winery Thurs. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. (Sept. - Jun. on weekends only 1 - 5 p.m.); wine tasting room open daily 1 - 5 p.m. Has panoramic view of Lake Travis and the Hill Country. From Austin, R.M. 2222 west to R.M. 620, south past Mansfield Dam 1 mile to Eck Lane. For information, 512/266-3331.

**State Capitol Complex**—The Capitol itself, a massive, classic statehouse of famous Texas pink granite, dominates the 46 acre, park-like area. The handsome building underwent a major renovation during 1993 -1994 when it was restored to original splendor. Included in the renovation is a new underground Capitol extension. Daily tours begin at 8:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. on weekends) and include both facilities. Striking state office buildings surround the Capitol.

Capitol Visitors Center is housed in the renovated General Land Office building constructed around 1857, the oldest state office building. Exhibits include a pictorial history of the Capitol's renovation and a 23-minute informational video, plus the history of the Texas General Land Office. One gallery features rotating exhibits. Gift shop.

Information about points of interest in the Capitol, city, and entire state is available at the Travel Information Center operated by Texas Department of Transportation also in the old General Land Office. Professional travel counselors offer free maps and literature on travel destinations throughout the state. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 112 East 11th St.

**Texas Military Forces Museum**—Camp Mabry was established in 1892 as a summer base for the Texas Volunteer Guard and continues its military tradition as home to the Texas National Guard. Museum features artifacts, dioramas, aircraft, weapons, and vehicles. Open Wed. 2 -6 p.m.; Thurs. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed holidays. West 35th St. and MoPac Freeway (Loop 1). For information, 512/406-6967.

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(toll-free U.S., Canada & UK)  
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Michael Anderson/7A00T

**Texas State Cemetery in Austin**

**Texas State Library**—Documents and books dealing with all phases of Texas history. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except genealogy research which is open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. Just east of State Capitol.

**Texas State Cemetery**—The “Arlington of Texas” where monuments mark resting places of nearly 2,000 patriots, statesmen, and heroes of Texas, including tombs of Stephen F. Austin and Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston (See walking tours). E. 7th and Navasota sts. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Theatre**—Austin’s blessed with live theatre year round at local playhouses. The restored Paramount Theatre on Congress Ave. features stage productions, musicals, and classic films throughout the year. Other prominent stages include Zachary Scott Theatre, Live Oak Theatre, St. Edward Univ.’s Mary Moody Northern Theatre, Univ. of Texas Performing Arts Center, and Hyde Park Theatre. Be sure to check out “Esther’s Follies” musical comedy revue on Sixth St. For information on these and other theatres, visit Austin Visitor Center or check with each theatre. For information, call the Circle of Theatres Hotline at 512/320-7168.

**Umlauf Sculpture Garden**—One of world’s few exhibits devoted to a single sculptor; museum displays some 150 examples of works by Charles Umlauf, nationally acclaimed sculptor. Indoor exhibits in modern museum; others scattered along walks throughout tree-shaded garden. Open Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4:30 p.m. 605 Robert E. Lee Rd. (near Zilker Park). Tel. 512/445-5582 or visit their Web site, [www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org). Admission.

**University of Texas, The**—From its original 40 acres near the State Capitol, the school has grown to become a major institution known nationally for the quality of its academic programs, research, and public service. Today, it has a main campus of 357 acres and some 120 buildings. Information Center in Sid Richardson Hall, adjacent to the LBJ Library and Museum, provides information and maps for campus attractions. Open weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art**—Museum’s permanent collection includes more than 13,000 works that span the history of Western civilization—from ancient art to the most recent contemporary works. The Blanton’s stellar reputation rests on its collections, including three distinguished collections: The Contemporary Latin American Art Collection, the Mari and James A. Michener Collection of 20th-Century American Painting, and The Prints and Drawings Collection. The exhibitions of the Blanton are displayed in two locations on campus. Temporary exhibitions are displayed in the Art Building at 23rd and San Jacinto. The permanent collection is displayed on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Harry Ransom Center at 21st and Guadalupe. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 23rd and San Jacinto sts.

**Harry Ransom Center**—Contains a Gutenberg Bible printed in 1455, exhibits of photography, and theater arts. Art exhibits from the Archer M.

Huntington Art Gallery displayed on the 1st and 2nd floors. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On Univ. of Texas campus, 21st and Guadalupe.

**Texas Memorial Museum**—Historical, archaeological and geological collections. Includes the fossil remains of the largest flying creature ever found, a Pterosaur, with a wingspan of more than 40 feet that lived in Texas 65 million years ago. Other exhibition items range from gems and minerals to fossils to antique firearms, meteorites, and American Indian artifacts. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. Free. 2400 Trinity St. 512/471-1604. Web site [www.texasmemorialmuseum.org](http://www.texasmemorialmuseum.org).

**Veloway**—This popular landmark has a 3.1 mile surface that is great for biking and in-line skating. Located next to the National Wildflower Research Center. For information, call 512/480-9821.

**Walking Tours—Congress Avenue Tour:** Stroll down the avenue with informed guides and hear interesting tales of what went on behind the limestone and brick facades. The 1 1/2-hour tour also includes Sixth Street, the popular entertainment district. Tours available Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; leave from south steps of the State Capitol promptly at 9 a.m. Thurs. - Sat.; Sun. 2 p.m. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.

**Bremond Block Tour:** The Bremond Block Historic District is a rare collection of homes in the midst of downtown where an entire block of houses belonging to members of a single family have survived. Tour includes a walk by the Governor’s Mansion. Tours available Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; the 1 1/2-hour tour leaves from the south steps of the State Capitol (weather permitting) on Sat. & Sun. promptly at 11 a.m. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.

**The Driskill Hotel**, built in 1886 by cattle baron Col. Jesse L. Driskill, offers a tour through the beautiful corridors and spaces. Learn about myths, legends, and facts about Driskill and his family while walking through the property. At Sixth and Brazos sts.

**Hyde Park Tour:** Self-guided tour; Victorian and bungalow-style homes along tree-shaded streets in historic neighborhood. Elisabet Ney built her studio here. Hyde Park is just north of downtown and the Univ. of Texas, roughly between 38 1/2 St. and 45th St.

**Texas State Cemetery:** Self-guided tour. Begins in the middle of Road Spur 165, the shortest state highway in Texas. Seven blocks east of I-35 at East Seventh and Navasota sts.

A step-by-step booklet is available from the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau for these self-guided tours. Tours free. 512/478-0098.

**Westcave Preserve**—30-acre natural area home to many rare and endangered plants; also sanctuary for golden-cheeked warbler and other birds. Two ecosystems: Upper half grassland savannah with wild flower meadows and stands of ashe juniper and live oak; lower half created millions of years ago by collapse of roof of an immense limestone cave now flourishing as a natural terrarium canopied by giant cypress trees. Weather permitting, tours are Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m.; noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Tours limited to first 30 visitors; no reservations. About 45 minutes west of Austin. Take Texas 71 one mile past Bee Cave; left on F.M. 3238 17 miles. First gate on right after crossing Pedernales River. 210/825-3442.

**Wild Basin Preserve**—Scenic Hill Country wilderness west of city. The 220-acre preserve is home to two endangered bird species: Golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. Four miles of hiking trails and a special trail for the mobility impaired. Open daily sunrise to sunset. On Loop 360, 1.25 miles north of Bee Cave Rd. (R.M. 2244). For special guided tours, call 512/327-7622.

**Women and Their Work**—Works by local and nationally known women artists. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun., 10 - 4 p.m. At 1710 Lavaca St. Telephone 512/477-1064.

**BANDERA**

Pop. 957

Airt. 1,258

Map Q-14

**General**—Founded 1852 as a cypress shingle camp, and site of a Mormon colony established 1854. One of the oldest Polish communities in the U.S. An authentic Western town surrounded both by working and guest ranches; bills itself as “Cowboy Capital of the World.” Rodeos are held at least twice weekly from Memorial Day through Labor Day; check with the convention and visitors bureau for schedule. Horseback riding available, plus swimming in resort pools or clear Hill Country lakes and rivers. Fine year-round fishing; hunting in seasons for wild turkey and white-tailed deer; camping, hiking, rodeos, horse races, two 18-hole golf courses, and country/Western dances.

Contact Bandera Convention & Visitors Bureau for details on horseback riding, guest ranches, and ranch tours, as well as historic sites, area attractions

and special events at 1808 Texas 16 south ; phone 830/796-3045 or 1-800-364-3833.

**Dude Ranches**—Whether you call them guest ranches or dude ranches, Bandera has plenty. Some are rustic; others are equipped with all modern conveniences. Check with Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**Frontier Times Museum**—Old West relics, Western art and antiques, plus Indian artifacts. Variety of items range from centuries-old Chinese temple bells to Buffalo Bill Wild West Show posters. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Sun. 1 - 4:30 p.m. Admission.

**Hill Country State Natural Area**—Minimum development characterizes this 5,369-acre park in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Primitive camping is permitted in a 20-acre designated site. Horseback riding, backpacking, and hiking are popular activities. On F.M. 1077, 10 miles west.

**Historical Tours**—Walking or driving tours of Bandera County are available. See the original jail and county courthouse and some of the oldest buildings in the county along historic Eleventh St. Also, watch saddle makers and blacksmith. You can also tour a working Longhorn ranch. Information on self-guided tours can be picked up at the convention and visitors bureau.

**Lake**—Medina. See LAKES listing.

**Polly's Chapel**—Built in 1882 by José Policarpo Rodríguez, this picturesque church still stands in the tree-covered hills of Bandera County on Privilege Creek. Rodríguez, known as "Polly," was born in Mexico and came to Texas with his father as a child. He became famous as a scout for the U.S. Army, an Indian fighter, a guide, a hunter, and a minister. He joined the Methodist Church and was licensed as a Methodist preacher. He built this tiny chapel with his own hands. Just a short distance from the chapel is a well-tended graveyard where Polly is buried. Chapel usually open. Off Texas 16 about six miles southeast of city.

**St. Stanislaus Catholic Church**—Built 1876, serves Polish settlement dating from 1855, one of oldest Polish parishes in U.S.

**Scenic Drives**—Beautiful Hill Country landscapes in almost any direction: Texas 173 north winds through scenic vistas to Camp Verde and Kerrville.

Texas 173 south rolls to southern edge of hills and enters lower South Texas Plains. Texas 46 east explores steep-shouldered scenery through community of Pipe Creek to German-accented town of Boerne. Texas 16 and E.M. 470 west is one of the best—dramatic blue hills enfold small green valleys threaded by sparkling creeks.

**BIG LAKE**

Pop. 2,885 Alt. 2,678 Map N-10

**General**—Community developed with building of Orient Railroad in 1911; served as marketing and retail center for surrounding cattle and sheep ranches. The Univ. of Texas owned much of rather arid grazing land around Big Lake where, in 1923, a large oil pool was discovered with the Santa Rita No. 1. The discovery made the Univ. of Texas one of the richest schools in nation. Today Big Lake is seat of Reagan County; name derived from large, shallow depression to the south that forms a broad, shallow lake during rare wet seasons.

**Hickman Museum**—Features memorabilia on Big Lake and Texon. Texon was developed by Texon Oil and Land Co., developers of Big Lake Oil Field. Museum features artifacts of the Santa Rita No. 1, and other oil related relics. Also houses the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Office. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon. 609 Main St. For additional information on museum and city, call 915/884-2980.

**Old Courthouse**—Northwest about 12 miles, among flat tablelands and low hills, two-story building of native stone in community of Stiles, county seat at turn of the century. When large landowner refused to let railroad cross his property, the line built through Big Lake and Stiles withered.

**Reagan County Park**—Large park area with community center, pool, picnic shelters, camping (with hookups), replica of Santa Rita No. 1. North of city via Utah Ave.

**Santa Rita No. 1**—Actual well site with oil derrick and some of the original equipment used during gusher of May 28, 1923; 8,525-ft. well productive until 1990. Historical marker outside fenced site gives more details about the famous well that brought an era of prosperity to West Texas. Four miles west of town on U.S. 67.

**BLANCO**

Pop. 1,505 Alt. 1,350 Map P/Q-15

**General**—Settled 1853 by pioneer stockmen who had to fortify homes against hostile Indians. Named Blanco (Spanish word meaning white) for the Blanco River. Centerpiece of town square is the Old Blanco County Courthouse, fine example of Second Empire style architecture. Town was Blanco County seat from 1858 to 1891, when moved to centrally located Johnson City. Now popular tourist and resort area of Hill Country. Town square joined to state park by two-block City Park, with nature trail featuring Xeriscape garden. Sunny climate attracts campers, anglers, and hunters. Hill Country streams offer game fish; hunters take white-tailed deer, wild turkey, quail, and dove during seasons.

Antique stores, art galleries, flea markets, restaurants, and artisans occupy the historic buildings around the old courthouse. The courthouse and 37 other buildings on or near the square are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Blanco State Park**—110-acre park, in scenic Blanco River Valley, lies largely within city limits. Camping, trailer sites, picnicking, screened shelters, group pavilion, fishing, swimming, pedal boats, children's play area, rest rooms, showers. On U.S. 281. Admission.

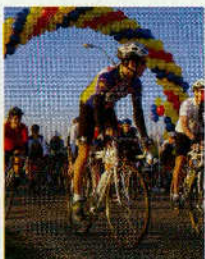
**Lake**—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

**Scenic Drive**—R.M. 32 from U.S. 281 two miles south of Blanco. Portions of drive toward San Marcos follow a ridge called "The Devil's Backbone," a tract of Hill Country landscapes where white-tailed deer are often seen, especially early or late day.

**BOERNE**

Pop. 6,178 Alt. 1,405 Map Q-15

**General**—Boerne (BUR-nee) grew from village called Tusculum laid out in 1849; formally established by German pioneer settlers in 1851, and named for German political writer. Fishermen find fortune in Hill Country lakes and streams; hunters seek white-tailed and axis deer, wild boar, turkey, native and migratory game birds.



**HISTORY.**

The old round rock still marks the spot today where early pioneers forded the Brushy Creek in the mid-1800's.

**HOMERUNS.**

The Round Rock Express swings into action each spring at the Dell Diamond, where fans enjoy fantastic baseball.

**HAPPENINGS.**

Year-round festivals and special events provide excitement and entertainment for adults and children alike.

**ROUND ROCK HOTELS**

- Austin Marriott North
- Baymont Inn & Suites
- Best Western Executive Inn
- Candlewood Suites
- Comfort Suites
- Courtyard by Marriott
- Crossland Economy Studios
- Hampton Inn
- Hilton Garden Inn
- La Quinta Inn
- Red Roof Inn
- Residence Inn
- Rodeway Inn & Suites
- SpringHill Suites
- Staybridge Suites
- Super 8 Motel
- Wingate Inn



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Jack Lewis/DOI

### Alamo replica is centerpiece for Alamo Village in Brackettville

**Agricultural Heritage Center**—Indoor and outdoor exhibits of antique farm machinery, implements and equipment, including an 1896 threshing machine; operating blacksmith shop. Open Wed. and Sun. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., and upon request for tour groups (830/249-8000). Closed last 16 days of Dec. and first 15 days of Jan.; adjacent to city park on Texas 46 east.

**Cave Without a Name**—When the cave was opened in 1939 a contest to name it was won by a little boy who said, "This cave is too pretty to name." Stalagmites and stalactites, soda straws, and dozens of imaginative formations grow from the walls and dangle from the roofs of the several rooms in this 98% active cave. Open daily, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Northeast 6 mi. on F.M. 474; right on Kreuzberg Rd. 4.6 mi. Admission. For information, call 830/537-4212.

**Cibolo Wilderness Trail**—65-acre inner-city greenbelt with three separate and distinct ecosystems. Includes walking trails, estuary, and year-round offering of environmental awareness programs.

**Guadalupe River State Park**—1,900 acres of scenic Hill Country landscapes bisected by the beautiful, cypress-edged river that flows over natural rapids in the park. Wildlife includes white-tailed deer, coyotes, foxes, and armadillos; juniper thickets offer nesting habitat for rare golden-cheeked warbler. Tent and RV camping, rest rooms, showers, picnic sites. Fishing, canoeing, swimming, and hiking. Access via Texas 46, 13 miles east; admission.

**Kronkosky Hill**—Commanding the highest hilltop in Boerne; original home- stead of Albert Kronkosky family, built between 1911-17. Currently St. Albert's Early Learning Center (infant - 13 years, including kindergarten and pre-first) and convent for Benedictine Sisters. Most prominent structure is stone Kronkosky Tower, now the school library, superb lookout site over scenic Hill Country landscapes of the Boerne area. Visitors welcome on the grounds during daylight hours.

**Kuhlmann-King Historical House**—General history exhibits in historic building. Open Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. and upon request for groups; 830/249-2030. 402 E. Blanco St.

**Sister Creek Vineyards**—In the scenic Texas Hill Country, this vineyard and winery is headquartered in an historic 1885 cotton gin. Visitors see artifacts of the gin as well as the vineyard and wine-making area. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon blend, and other wines are produced here. Tours and tastings daily from noon - 5 p.m. (Groups of 15 and more need to call in advance.) Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. From I-10, take Exit 542 to Bus. 87 in Boerne, then F.M. 1376 north 12 miles to Sisterdale. Tel. 830/324-6704.

**Ye Kendall Inn**—Stagecoach inn built in 1859; Texas historic landmark listed on National Register of Historic Places. Served as gathering place for lawmen, army officers, cattle drovers, and frontier celebrities. Today offers elegant bed and breakfast accommodations, and includes dress shop, boutique, restaurant, courtyard and meeting hall. Downtown plaza.

## BRACKETTVILLE

Pop. 1,876

Alt. 1,110

Map R-12

**General**—Established as supply village for adjacent Fort Clark in 1852. Fort was one of the most historic military posts in Southwest. Over the years, many infantry regiments and most of Army's cavalry units saw duty at Fort Clark. Deactivated in 1944, property is now resort development. Town also became trade center for surrounding ranches and irrigated farms. Seat of Kinney County. Hunting in area for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, javelina, and upland game birds.

**Alamo Village**—Western family recreation center built around movie set for John Wayne's "The Alamo," filmed in 1959. Set was one of the largest and most complete ever constructed in the U.S. The Alamo replica, built by adobe craftsmen from Mexico, overlooks a complete frontier village of the 1800s. Operated by Shahan Angus Ranch, set includes a cantina-restaurant, trading post, Indian store, authentic stage depot, old-time jail, bank, saddle shop, and other typical Old West structures. This is a working ranch; don't be surprised to see cattle or hay placed in buildings during the off season. During summer months visitors see regular country/Western shows, often interrupted by shoot-outs between frontier lawmen and desperados. Set still used for movies, television, and commercials. Open daily at 9 a.m.; 7 miles north on R.M. 674; admission. 210/563-2580.

**Fort Clark Springs**—Site of Fort Clark, established in 1852. Notable military officers who served here include Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, Generals George C. Patton and George C. Marshall. Fort deactivated in 1944. Today a resort-retirement community open to public offering motel, restaurant, RV park, 18-hole golf course and giant spring-fed swimming pool. For reservations call 210/563-2493 or 1-800-937-1590 (U.S.).

**Old Guardhouse Museum** has local and pioneer history exhibits. Museum open Sat., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Operated by Fort Clark Historical Society of Kinney County.

**Historic Buildings**—Several in area are of historical interest. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church dates from 1878; Masonic Lodge Building, c. 1879, was original county courthouse. It stands next to present courthouse, and is dated by outside staircase.

**Scenic Drives**—Two highways lead north into scenic landscapes of the Hill Country, rich in wild game and beautiful vistas. Among sheep, goats, and cattle in rocky pastures, travelers may catch glimpses of white-tailed deer or wild turkey, especially in late afternoon. Several views of West Nueces River winding among steep cliffs and hills. R.M. 674 north to Rocksprings or R.M. 334 northeast to intersection with Texas 55.

**Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery**—Dating from frontier era, scouts descended from slaves stolen from plantations by Florida Seminoles. Moved to Oklahoma after Seminole War, many scouts migrated toward Mexico. Army hired 150 as scouts to follow trails of raiding Indians. A group settled in Brackettville around Fort Clark. Descendants remain as farmers and ranchers, and maintain old cemetery on county road about 3 miles south. Graves include four Medal of Honor winners.

## BRADY

Pop. 5,523

Alt. 1,670

Map N-14

**General**—Settled mid-1800s, became seat of McCulloch County 1876. At edge of Hill Country on former Dodge Cattle Trail. Fourteen miles southwest, community of Calf Creek is site of Indian battle where James and Rezin Bowie, with a small party, were besieged for eight days by Tawakoni Indians. The fierce Bowie brothers fought their way free.

Historical markers note the geographical center of Texas: one is on the picturesque courthouse square, and another, some 15 miles north on U.S. 377, is five miles southeast of the exact center of Texas. Those markers have been superseded by an exact pinpointing of the center point by the Texas Association of Professional Surveyors. A third marker in place on private land was dedicated in March, 1997. In straight-line distance it's 437 miles to the Rio Grande beyond El Paso, 401 miles to the Rio Grande below Brownsville, 412 miles to the Panhandle border beyond Texline, and 341 to the Sabine River near Burkeville.

The longest fenced cattle trail in the world once extended from a railhead at Brady to Sonora.

The town is nestled around a picturesque courthouse square that features unique craft and antique shops. It offers excellent parks, city-owned lake and golf course, and fishing year round. Hunting during seasons includes white-tailed deer, wild turkey, dove, and quail.

**BUDA**

Pop. 2,404

Alt. 716,

Map Q-16

**General**—The city was formally established on April 1, 1881, when Mrs. Cornelia Trimble donated land for a townsite at an International-Great Northland Railroad depot there. The area had earlier been settled as part of a Mexican land grant. Common explanation for name is that it derives from the Spanish word, *viuda*, meaning widow. The town had gathered a reputation as a popular eating stop for rail travelers and the name may refer to a pair of widows who cooked at the establishment in the late 1800s. Only 17 miles from Austin on I-35, the town's growth has paralleled Austin's growth since the 1980s. Many original buildings along Main St. now house antique shops and related businesses, including a popular Farmers Market (May - Nov.).

For information on events, restaurants, and accommodations, call the City of Buda at 512/295-6331.

**Jardine Foods**—Visitors here will see food production for authentic Texas recipes like barbecue sauce, salsa, dips, jalapeño jelly, and more. Gift shop. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Take Exit 221 (Loop 4) from I-35 west 1.1 mi. just past the Jardine Ranch sign. For information, 512/295-4600.

**BURNET**

Pop. 4,735

Alt. 1,319

Map O-16

**General**—Seat of Burnet County, town grew around frontier Fort Croghan, established 1849. One of the most ancient geological areas of the world. Features outcropping of granite and famous Longhorn Cavern. Nearby White Bluff characterized by beautiful formations created by running and dripping water; on F.M. 2341 off Texas 29, about 15 miles northwest.

Year-round tourist destination. Named Bluebonnet Capital of Texas by 67th Texas Legislature; known for beautiful display of wild flowers each spring. Antique shopping on historic square. Camping facilities and excellent fishing on nearby Highland Lakes. Hunters take deer, wild turkey, and dove in season.

Delaware Springs Golf Course is an 18-hole municipal golf course on U.S. 281 south of town. Open daily from daylight to dark. 512/756-8471.

For information on attractions, accommodations, and special events, call the chamber of commerce at 512/756-4297. Information on the Internet is at [www.gobsl.com](http://www.gobsl.com); e-mail address: [bchamber@tstar.net](mailto:bchamber@tstar.net).

**Black Rock Park**—About 18 miles west on Lake Buchanan. See BUCHANAN DAM.

**Cave tour at Longhorn Cavern State Park near Burnet****Inks Lake State Park**

For information on events, accommodations, dining, or sports events, call the chamber of commerce at 915/597-3491.

**Heart of Texas Historical Museum**—Early ranch and home exhibits, farm implements, pioneer weapons, vintage photos, and memorabilia. Housed in restored county jail, circa 1910, still exhibiting cells and prisoner hardware. Open Sat., Sun., and Mon. afternoons. Corner of High and Main sts., one block west of town square.

**Lake**—Brady Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Santa Fe Center**—Restored depot serves as art gallery and studio. Depot and N. Bridge sts.

**BUCHANAN DAM**

Pop. 1,688

Alt. 1,025

Map O-15

**General**—Small resort and retirement community that grew at construction site of dam whose name it bears; popular center for extensive tourist activity on and around Lake Buchanan.

**Black Rock Park**—Public facility on western shore of Lake Buchanan with camping, swimming, fishing, and boating. On Texas 261 north from Texas 29.

**Buchanan Dam Visitor Center**—Spectacular view of largest of Highland Lakes; in building near dam; telescopes. Houses local chamber of commerce, and museum that features construction of Buchanan Dam, dedicated in 1937 and one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. Living history videotape, old photographs, exhibits on area history, Xeriscape garden. Visitors enjoy feeding huge school of fish that congregate below observation deck. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 512/793-6588.

**Fall Creek Vineyards**—A 65-acre estate winery on the northwest shore of Lake Buchanan in Texas Hill Country. French tradition combined with California technology creates premium, award-winning wines. Open for complimentary tours and wine tasting, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sat. noon - 5 p.m. Open mid-Mar. - mid-Nov. on Sun. noon - 4 p.m. for tasting and sales only. Take Texas 261 to Bluffton, then F.M. 2241 northeast, 2.2 mi. past Tow. 512/476-4477.

**Highland Lakes Golf Course**—Beautiful nine-hole course on shore of Inks Lake, Inks Lake State Park.

**Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery**—Thousands of fish bred in scientific facility's ponds. Lakes from across the country are stocked from here. Of interest regarding aquaculture, but limited sight-seeing; no aquarium exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed weekends. Take Texas 29 east to Park Road 4, then south on Park Rd. 4, follow signs. 512/793-2474.

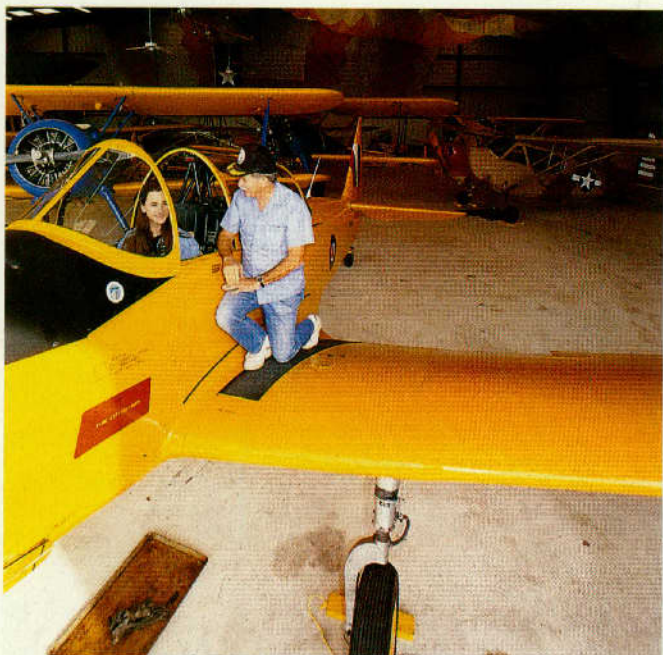
**Inks Lake State Park**—2,000 acres on Inks Lake southeast of Buchanan Dam. Camping, shelters, trailers, rest rooms, picnicking, groceries, fishing, swimming, boats, golf, nature study, hiking. Access via Texas 29 east, south on Park Road 4. Admission.

**Lakes**—Buchanan, Inks. See LAKES listing.

**Longhorn Cavern State Park**—About 12 miles southeast. See BURNET.

**Silver Creek Water Wagons**—Water taxi service, see BURNET.

**Vanishing Texas River Cruise**—See BURNET.



Gay Shackett/1X001

**Highland Lakes CAF Air Museum at Burnet Municipal Airport**

**Burnet County Park**—Excellent fishing camp on east side of Lake Buchanan. Access via Texas 29 west, R.M. 2341 north.

**Canyon of the Eagles**—A 900-acre joint nature park with 64-room lodge and conference center. Features miles of sandy beaches and hiking trails, including the "Bird and Butterfly Trail." **Eagle Eye Observatory**, designed and built in cooperation with the Austin Astronomical Society, is one of few public access observatories in the country. Facilities include several large 22-inch telescopes, as well as pedestals and decks for public's use in setting up own scopes; offers star parties and programs. **Vanishing Texas River Cruise** tours depart from here. Camping facilities include 25 sites with full RV hook-ups, 25 drive-in sites, 14 drive-to and walk-in overnight campsites, and 20 primitive overnight sites. Take R.R. 2341 from Texas 29. For reservations and information, call 1-800-977-0081.

**Fort Croghan Museum**—Restored powder house, stone and log buildings. Exhibits, restored carriages, old guns, furniture, and relics depicting local frontier days. Open Apr. - Aug. Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Texas 29 west. For information, call 512/756-8281.

**Highland Lakes CAF Air Museum**—Headquarters for Confederate Air Force Hill Country Squadron. Features WWII fighter planes, firearms, photographs, and memorabilia. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At Burnet Municipal Airport, south on U.S. 281; 512/756-2226. Admission.

**Highland Lakes Golf Course**—On shore of Inks Lake. See BUCHANAN DAM.

**Hill Country Flyer**—Steam excursion train runs through Hill Country from Cedar Park City Hall near U.S. 183 and R.M. 1431 near Austin to Burnet. Train pulled by Engine No. 786, a 75-year-old steam locomotive once displayed in downtown Austin. Ride is two hours through scenic countryside. Two-hour return trip following short layover in Burnet for dining and shopping. Departures are Sat. and Sun. at 10 a.m. For information: 512/477-8468. Fare.

**Inks Lake National Fish Hatchery**—About 10 miles west. See BUCHANAN DAM.

**Inks Lake State Park**—About 12 miles west. See BUCHANAN DAM.

**Lakes**—Buchanan, Inks. See LAKES listing.

**Longhorn Cavern State Park**—Two miles of underground fantasy; home of prehistoric cavemen, site of secret gunpowder manufacturer for Confederate armies, later an outlaw hideout. Cave tours supplemented by nature trails; snack bar. Museum displays Indian artifacts, frontier and Civil War items. Open daily except Christmas and Christmas Eve. About 11 miles southwest via U.S. 281, Park Road 4. Admission. For tour information, call 512/756-6976.

**Scenic Drives**—Among best is Texas 29 west and R.M. 2341 northwest, a beautiful route to Spider Mountain, which according to legend, was Indian burial ground. Below landmark is Bee Bluff, noted fishing spot.

R.M. 2342 offers excellent landscape views, especially at turnout near confluence of Llano and Colorado Rivers.

**Silver Creek Water Wagons**—Two 18-ft. water crafts ply Lake Buchanan waters to destinations like the Vanishing Texas River Cruise. Fall Creek Winery, the city of Tow, Buchanan Dam, and public parks adjacent to the lake. As with any taxi, one way, round trip, and group fares vary by destination. Ground transportation to lake from train station for those arriving on the *Hill Country Flyer*. Take Texas 29 west to County Road 2341; turn north on the county road to Silver Creek Dr. Follow road until it ends at waters edge at Silver Creek Lodge and Marina. Taxi service runs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For reservations, call 512/756-4854.

**Vanishing Texas River Cruise**—Ecological tour of the rugged Colorado River Canyon on Lake Buchanan in the Texas Hill Country. Wildlife and scenery viewed from the all-weather decks of the *Texas Eagle II*, a 70-ft. enclosed three-deck, 200 passenger vessel. Apr. - Jun. visitors see colorful Hill Country wildflowers, birds, and sheer cliffs along the rugged river. Nov. - Mar. is a wonderful time to see one of the largest colonies of American Bald Eagles that migrate to the state. Mar. - May is a combination scenic wilderness cruise with a tour of Fall Creek Winery. (Sept. and Dec. cruises Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 11 a.m.)

Call regarding additional seasonal and holiday tours, and to make reservations for all cruises; 1-800-4RIVER4 (474-8374), or 512/756-6986. At Canyon of the Eagles Nature Park on Lake Buchanan. Drive west three miles on Texas 29; northwest 20 miles on R.M. 2341. Cruise fee.

**CAMP VERDE**

**Pop. 41 (est.)** **Alt. 1,800** **Map Q-14**

**General**—Small community in beautiful Hill Country area at approximate site of Camp Verde, U.S. Army frontier post which was established July 8, 1855, as headquarters for the famous Army camel experiment. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis promoted experiment to use camels for overland communications and transportation across the rugged, often arid country to the west, terminating at Fort Yuma, CA. Taken over by Confederates in 1861; regarrisoned by Federals in 1865; abandoned, 1869. Only remaining structure is now main ranch house of local ranch, not open to the public.

A roadside park on bank of Verde Creek and an old-fashioned general store/post office are enjoyed by visitors. On Texas 173 at F.M. 480 intersection, about 12 miles south of Kerrville.

**CAMP WOOD**

**Pop. 855** **Alt. 1,450** **Map R-12/13**

**General**—Community grew around U.S. Army post of same name established 1857. Site was abandoned location of Spanish mission San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz, founded by Franciscan missionaries 1762. Army abandoned post in 1861, but Texas Rangers used facilities for a number of years following Civil War. Historical markers just north of city on Texas 55 give details of fort and mission. Town is at edge of Nueces River Canyon in area of Hill Country camps, sparkling streams.

Additional information on the city and area attractions can be obtained from the Nueces Canyon Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 369, Camp Wood, TX 78833, or by calling 830/597-6241.

**Lake Nueces Park**—On picturesque Lake Nueces; offers camping facilities, some with full hookups, swimming, boating (two boat ramps), and fishing. Take Texas 55 south 3.5 miles.

**Scenic Drives**—A series of highways in a loop to the northeast span some of most spectacular scenery in Hill Country—a land of massive timbered hills, steep cliffs, small secluded valleys and streams: North on Texas 55 and F.M. 335, east on Texas 41, south on F.M. 336 and U.S. 83 to Leakey, then west on F.M. 337 back to Camp Wood. That last leg on F.M. 337 is a sample of the route's continuing grandeur all the way east to Medina.

**CANYON LAKE AREA**

**Pop. (Comb.) 29,000 (est.)** **Alt. 720** **Map Q-16**

**General**—This popular recreational area developed since the mid 1960s when Canyon Lake was built by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Nestled among the scenic hills of the Texas Hill Country, growth has paralleled that of nearby San Antonio, New Braunfels and Comal County. The area includes the communities of Cranes Mill, Hancock, Sattler, and Startzville around the popular lake. The lake and the Guadalupe River offer an abundance of water-related activities—fishing, sailing, boating, canoeing, rafting, kayaking, tubing, swimming, and lots more.

For information on dining, lodging and area events, contact the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce at 800/528-2104, or visit the Web site at [www.canyonlakechamber.com](http://www.canyonlakechamber.com).

**Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country**—This museum is dedicated to preserving the memory and spirit of Native American Indians, the early pioneers who settled the area, and the development of Canyon Lake Dam. It sits on the site of the former Dinosaur Flats where hundreds of dinosaur tracks were discovered in the early 80s. Open Thurs. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. at 4831 F.M. 2673 between Sattler and Startzville. For information, call 830/964-4542. Admission.

**Lake**—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

## CASTROVILLE

Pop. 2,664

Alt. 760

Map R-14

**General**—“The Little Alsace of Texas” rich in European appearance and traditions, founded in 1844 by Henri Castro, an empresario of the Texas Republic who brought a group of Alsatian settlers. Today in this quaint Texas village, past and present intermingle within a curve of the Medina River. Watch especially for examples of German-style country cottages, whose roofs are unequally pitched (usually on the back side) in a manner similar to lean-to design. Some buildings and houses are registered as historic. Center for agribusiness, widely known for genetic research and artificial breeding of livestock.

Castroville Regional Park on Medina River has picnicking, swimming pool, fishing, athletic courts, and camping with hookups (fee). South off U.S. 90 at west edge of city; 830/931-4070.

**Lake**—Medina. See LAKES listing.

**Landmark Inn State Historic Structure**—Tranquility of the past preserved at inn that first served stagecoach travelers; restored to 1940s era with ceiling fans, rocking chairs on galleries, no radio or TV intrusion. All rooms air conditioned. Interpretive center, exhibit of artifacts found in restoration, old water-powered grist mill, other structures. Limited rooms for rent; advance reservations advisable; reservations, 512/389-8900. Open daily from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Park information, 830/931-2133. Florence and Florella sts. just off U.S. 90.

**Mt. Gentilz/Cemetery**—Known as Cross Hill, the hill above cemetery offers a panoramic view of the Medina Valley. Buried in cemetery is Amelia Castro, wife of the founder of the city. U.S. 90 and Alsace St.

**St. Louis Catholic Church**—The “new” church was built in 1868-70. Nearby still stands a tiny chapel built by the colonists themselves as the first community project of the Alsatian pioneers. The chapel is on grounds of adjacent Moye Retreat Center, former convent and boys’ military school. St. Louis Day church festival is celebrated yearly, usually on closest Sunday to Aug. 25. Visitors welcomed. U.S. 90 and Angelo St.

**Landmark Inn dates from stagecoach days in Castroville**



Gay Shackelford/TXDOT



**Historic Comfort Common Inn in Comfort**

## CEDAR PARK

Pop. 26,049

Alt. 950

Map P-16

**General**—Like many towns and cities in Texas, Cedar Park was originally settled in the late 1800s and owed much of its past growth to the development of the railroad. In 1881 a narrow gage railroad running through Cedar Park, connecting Austin to Burnet, was used to haul granite for rebuilding the state capitol and establishing Cedar Park as a permanent settlement under the name of Brueggerhoff, taking its new name from one of the railroad company officials. The community was also known as Running Brushy after a heavy-flowing spring.

In 1973, a prehistoric archeological site six miles east of the city was discovered by the Texas Department of Transportation as they were excavating for the expansion of F.M. 1431. More than 150 fireplaces and campsites were uncovered and in 1982, archeologists discovered the skeleton of a human female, 10,000 - 13,000 years old, that became known as the “Leanderthal Lady.” The significant archeological find is located by a historical marker.

The city voted to incorporate in 1973. Growth has paralleled Austin’s growth to the northwest along U.S. 183.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining areas, contact the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce at 512/260-4260, or visit the Web site at [www.cedarparkchamber.org](http://www.cedarparkchamber.org).

**Hill Country Flyer**—Drawing on the heritage of central Texas, the popular vintage steam train is based here and offers numerous excursions through the Texas Hill Country. In 1990 the Austin Steam Train Association rebuilt a 1916 vintage 143-ton Southern Pacific locomotive, No. 786, which had seen four decades of service in Texas and Louisiana. It is matched with Pennsylvania Railroad coaches and post-World War II lounge and parlor-sleeper cars. Departures are Sat. and Sun. at 10 a.m. Mar. - Nov. and 10 a.m. Sat. in Dec. For information on *Twilight Flyer* excursions at night in Sept., Oct. and Dec., call 512/477-8468. Admission.

**Lake**—Travis. See LAKES listing.

## COMFORT

Pop. 2,358

Alt. 1,437

Map Q-14

**General**—Established by German settlers 1854. Wearied by their journey from New Braunfels, small group was so pleased by picturesque site and pure water that they named it “Camp Comfort.” With its abundance of vintage structures, much of midtown Comfort is on the National Register of Historic Places. Today a popular tourist area with numerous camps along Guadalupe River operated by various civic organizations. Visitors enjoy fishing, swimming and camping during summer months, hunting during fall and winter; interesting shops and art gallery year round.

Jack Lewis/TXDOT

## HILL COUNTRY

An historical marker recognizes the 1930 art deco Comfort Theater, scene of live theater.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings. Many of these accommodations in the area are booked through the Comfort Central reservation service at 830/995-4501.

**Historic Inns—Comfort Common**—Restored 1880 Ingenhuett-Faust Hotel with nine guest rooms, all with private baths and furnished with period antiques. Air conditioned, TV in sitting rooms. Guests may choose rooms or two-room suites, or one of the cottages just behind the hotel. On National Register of Historic Places. Lower floor and nearby buildings house antique dealers' co-op. Visit their Web site at [www.bbhost.com/comfortcommon](http://www.bbhost.com/comfortcommon). At 717 High St. For information, call 830/995-3030.

**Meyer House on Cypess Creek**—An historic Texas inn with nine units, most built late 1800s. One block from historic downtown Comfort at 944 High St. 830/995-2304.

**Nueces "Treue der Union" Monument**—Near high school campus, recalls Civil War hostilities that wracked the nation. Predominantly German settlers of Comfort were openly sympathetic with Union cause. Friction developed with Confederate forces, and some 65 men led by Fritz Tegener determined to leave area and go to Mexico. Group was surprised and attacked by mounted Confederate soldiers on west bank of Nueces River about 20 miles from Fort Clark. Nineteen settlers were killed and nine wounded. Confederate losses were two killed and 18 wounded. The nine wounded settlers were captured and executed a few hours after battle. Monument commemorates the Unionists killed in this tragic episode of a violent era. One of only six National Cemeteries permitted to fly the U.S. flag at half-staff in perpetuity.

## CONCAN

Pop. 490 (est.)

Alt. 1,260

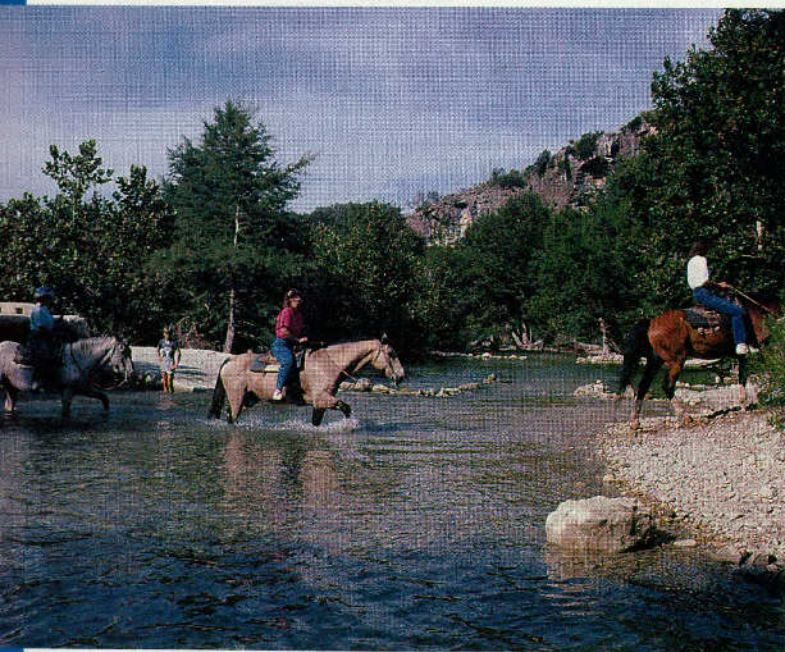
Map S-13

**General**—Settled about 1840 in the rugged hills of north Uvalde County, supposedly named for "coon can," a Mexican gambling game. On U.S. 83 in scenic Frio River Canyon, an area of numerous dude ranches and resort camps.

For additional information on accommodations, events, and dining facilities, call the Texas Hill Country River Region at 1-800-210-0380 or visit the Web site at [www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com).

**Garner State Recreation Park**—1,420 acres on the Frio River, an exceptionally scenic Hill Country area; long a very popular family-oriented recreational park. Accommodations for 2 to 6 people in comfortable stone and timber cabins. Camping area provides shaded sites for tents, trailers and screened shelters. Rest rooms with showers, grocery store for supplies. Other facilities include snack bar and restaurant in summer season, pedal boats, miniature golf course, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, and nature study. Located 10 miles north of Concan off U.S. 83 on Park Rd. 29. Admission.

Horseback riders cross Frio River near Concan



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT



Ruins of Fort McKavett

**Scenic Drives**—Explore Frio River Canyon along U.S. 83, F.M. 1050 and Texas 127—all routes offer exceptional scenery.

**Sunset Bat Flight**—One of the largest populations (estimated 17 million) of Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from nearby cave and make their ascent into the evening sky. F.M. 2690, 4.5 mi. from U.S. 83 and Texas 127 highways. For guided tour and reservations Mar. - Oct. call 830/966-2320.

## DEVINE

Pop. 4,140

Alt. 670

Map S-14

**General**—Created as station on International & Great Northern RR in 1881 although scattered settlement dates from 1840s (Indian raids persisted until 1870s); named for Thomas Jefferson Devine, a San Antonio judge; trade center for irrigated district of the Medina Valley, a diversified agricultural region. Major peanut shipping center, nurseries, extensive honey production. Municipal golf course, swimming pool.

**Bigfoot Wallace Museum**—Honors famed frontiersman and Texas Ranger. Housed in replicas of his log-cabin home and Texas Independence Hall. Artifacts of Wallace's activities in Texas War for Independence, Mexican War and Indian fights. Open by appointment; inquire locally in Bigfoot, 6 miles southeast via Texas 173 and F.M. 472.

**Stroud Blacksmith Shop**—In continuous operation since 1903; traditional blacksmith shop; hundreds of cattle brands burned on shop doors from branding irons handmade in the shop. 103 Herring St.

## DRIPPING SPRINGS

Pop. 1,548

Alt. 550

Map. P-16

**General**—In northern Hays County, the community was established about 1875, although a settler named Fawcett had located on Barton Creek about 1849. Today the town is largely a ranching area and a bedroom community for Austin.

**Lakes**—Marble Falls, Travis, and LBJ. See LAKES listing.

**New Canaan Farms**—Features display of turn-of-the-century kitchen with all the equipment. A large oak tree on property site is where Lyndon B. Johnson made first political speech when he was 22 years old. Gift shop features jams, jellies, salsas, and Hill Country gifts. Business hours Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. On U.S. 290. For information, call 512/858-7669.

## ELDORADO

Pop. 1,951

Alt. 2,410

Map O-11

**General**—Seat of Schleicher County, established 1895. In scenic, rugged Hill Country of West Central Texas, city is center for oil field service and supply firms, and is headquarters for large ranching area, especially sheep and goats. Heavy concentration of white-tailed deer makes entire county popular with hunters each fall and winter.

**Eldorado Woolen Mill**—Founded in 1939, this is the only woolen mill in Southwest weaving fabrics from virgin wool and mohair produced on West Texas ranches. The machines in the mill date from the 1880s and early 1900s.

J. Gerrits Smith/TXDOT



Originally built to turn Texas wool and mohair into blankets, rugs, and similar products, its efforts were focused to produce blankets for the military during World War II. Today, the mill's philosophy is as much about preserving history and it is producing wool and mohair blankets, rugs and pillows. The mill's showroom is open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; tours available. For information, call 915/853-2541. At 409 SW Main St.

**Schleicher County Museum**—The museum is housed in historic stone 1930 Hill Hardware building. It has the largest collection of children's shooting marbles, as well as vintage room settings, kitchen and household utensils, rustic farm and home furniture, saddles, branding irons, and barbed wire. Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Thurs., Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. At 607 Murchison St. on U.S. 190 just east of U.S. 77.

**X Bar Ranch**—Tucked away in these rolling hills is a guest/working ranch offering horseback riding, hiking and biking trails, birding, or a place to just relax. At 5 North Divide. For information/reservations, call 915/853-2688, or 1-888-853-2688.

## FORT MCKAVETT

Pop. 45 (est.)

Alt. 2,155

Map O-12

**General**—The rural community in west Menard County occupies the site of a frontier Army fort founded in the mid-1800s as protection for settlers from Indians. On F.M. 864 just south of U.S. 190 (west of Menard).

**Fort McKavett State Historic Site**—Fort established 1852 as Camp San Saba; later named for Capt. Henry McKavett, killed at Battle of Monterrey in Mexican War. Abandoned during the Civil War; reoccupied by Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie in 1868. By 1876 there were stone barracks for eight infantry companies, 12 officers' quarters, a hospital, guardhouse, magazine, bakery, post office, large headquarters building, storehouses and stables. Importance declined after 1874 when Army offensive against Indians produced several major victories, the most significant in Palo Duro Canyon (see CANYON). Post abandoned in 1883. Extensive restoration of ruins. Interpretive exhibits in original hospital feature historical photos, dioramas, and some 200 artifacts. Open Wed. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## FREDERICKSBURG

Pop. 8,911

Alt. 1,743

Map P-14

**General**—Settled by immigrant families from Germany in 1846, led by John O. Meusebach. Although settlement was on Comanche frontier, Meusebach-Comanche Treaty of following year established lasting peace. Many older buildings retain traditional German styles; several units comprise National Historic District. German is still spoken occasionally, and old customs are regularly observed: Easter Fires, *Schuetzenfests* (marksmanship tournaments), Oktoberfest, Weihnachten, and Kinderfest. Visitors attracted by scenic beauty, European atmosphere, historic landmarks, excellent fall and winter hunting, and famous bread and pastries. Birthplace of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

For nearby points of interest, also see LUCKENBACH, STONEWALL, and JOHNSON CITY.

**Bed & Breakfast**—Nearly 300 homes and buildings (many of them historic) have been transformed into bed and breakfasts or guesthouses (unhosted). The Convention and Visitors Bureau offers a printed listing or check their Web site at [www.fredericksburg-texas.com](http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com). Many of these accommodations are booked through lodging services, which include Bed and Breakfasts of Fredericksburg 830/997-4712; Be My Guest at 830/997-7227; Fredericksburg Traditionals at 1-800-494-HOST; Gastehaus Schmidt Reservation Service, 830/997-5612, and Hill Country Lodging Reservation Service, 830/990-8455 or 1-800-745-3591.

**Dulcimer Factory**—Oldest original American stringed instrument made from a variety of woods in factory. Tours and history of the dulcimer conducted by owner. Factory open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Retail store open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Factory, 715 S. Washington St.; retail store at 155 E. Main St.

**Easter Fires**—An unknown pioneer mother more than 100 years ago told first Easter Fires story to quiet fears of her children—a charming tale of Easter rabbit who lit and tended hillside fires to boil traditional eggs. In reality fires were those of Indians awaiting outcome of peace talks with settlers; agreement was reached and the two groups lived in peace in the Pedernales Valley. The cherished tradition remains today; hillside fires still glow each Easter eve while pageant retells the story.

**Enchanted Rock State Park**—Massive dome of solid granite famed in Indian legend; said to be site of human sacrifices, some tribes feared to set foot on it; others used height as rallying point; all held it in awe and reverence. Indians believed ghost fires flickered on crest on moonlit nights. A National Natural Landmark, the dome about 640 acres; 500 feet high. Open year round. Hiking, rock climbing and rappelling, picnicking, primitive camping in designated areas (reservations accepted). *Note: Because of its popularity, the number of daily visitors is being limited. The park is experiencing erosion problems, soil compacting, and tree loss due to root exposure caused by the thousands of visitors in the park. Therefore, visitation is being limited to protect the natural and cultural resources. Once the park reaches capacity during heavy use periods, such as weekends, holidays, and spring break, it will temporarily close for the day and reopen at 5 p.m. for those who have camping reservations.* For park information, call 915/247-3903. Eighteen miles north off R.M. 965. Admission.

**Fort Martin Scott**—Site of first Federal fort established in Texas, 1848, (three years after Texas joined the U.S.) to guard the frontier from Indians. But German settlers had already arrived and established a treaty of friendship with the Comanches. Perhaps unique among Indian treaties, it was never broken by either side. With mutual trust, fort became a center of commerce between settlers, Indians, and soldiers.

Fort with 21 buildings served until 1853. The only original structure still standing was the post guardhouse, now restored. Visitor center exhibits model of the fort and plans for extensive restorations.

Also on display are artifacts, documents, and fascinating details about trade in bear grease, sugar, rice, and coffee. Beef was four cents a pound. Operated by Fredericksburg Heritage Foundation; two miles east on U.S. 290. Open Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Admission.

**Fredericksburg Brewing Company**—Located at 245 E. Main St. in an 1890s restored rock building, this is the largest brew pub in the area. The true German brewing tradition is utilized. Open Mon. - Thurs. from 11:30 a.m. -



## A Vacation Reason For Every Season

Whether you seek colorful wildflowers in the spring, crystal-clear river tubing in the summer, brilliant foliage in the fall or wildlife watching in the winter...we have it all! The reason to visit this enchanting southwest corner of the Texas Hill Country changes with the season, but our quaint accommodations, Texas-style hospitality and exciting events are offered year-round! Simply pick a season and contact us for your FREE visitor guide.

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## HILL COUNTRY

9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.; and Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tours welcome with advance notice. For more information, call 830/997-1646.

**Fredericksburg Butterfly Ranch**—Historic Loeffler-Weber House, built in 1846, is home to this active working butterfly ranch. The Ranch specializes in native Texas butterflies and plants, all featured in a 1,500-square ft. walk-through house. Gift shop offers novelties. Open seasonally - (Mar. - Nov.) Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. (closed Mon.). Guided group tours available with advance notice. 508 W. main. For more information, call 830/990-0735 or visit Web site [www.livebutterfly.com](http://www.livebutterfly.com). Admission.

**Fredericksburg Herb Farm**—Organic herb garden featuring rows of carefully tended flowering, culinary, and ornamental herbs harvested for gourmet vinegar, olive oils, seasonings, teas, blossom potpourris, wreaths, natural bath potions and body fragrances. Hundreds of herb varieties, country store, tea-room with herbal desserts, and bed and breakfast. Open Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Tours and herbal luncheons welcome with advance notice. 402 Whitney St., six blocks south on Milam, off Main Street; 830/997-8615.

**Gish's Old West Museum**—See how the "real cowboys" lived with this display of Old West relics. Exhibits include collections of saddles, badges of legendary lawmen and old guns. Items in this collection date from 1870 - 1920. Call 830/997-2794 for hours. At 502 N. Milam St.

**Horseback Rides**—**Quiet Hill Ranch** offers trail rides along scenic trails in the Texas Hill Country. For reservations, call 830/669-2253.

**Fredericksburg Western Adventures**—Enjoy the rolling hills, natural springs, canyons, and scenic overlooks on this working ranch. Guided trail rides and camera tours. For reservations, call 830/644-2770.

**Lady Bird Johnson Park**—Excellent 190-acre municipal park features fully equipped RV sites (lacs), 18-hole golf course, swimming, tennis, volleyball, badminton. Shaded picnic areas with grills, group pavilions. Small lake for boating, canoes, fishing, and pedal boats. Texas 16, 3.5 miles south. For tee times, call 830/997-4010 or 1-800-950-8147.

**National Museum of the Pacific War**—(formerly the Admiral Nimitz Museum) Consists of (1) the restored Nimitz Steamboat Hotel, famous frontier hostelry (c. 1852), which houses the history of Fredericksburg and the story of Admiral Chester Nimitz, who was born here in 1885; (2) the George Bush Gallery of the National Museum of the Pacific War, with lifesize and life-like exhibits from American and Japanese battles during the War in the Pacific; (3) Garden of Peace, gift from the people of Japan; (4) the History Walk, lined with rare aircraft, tanks and guns; (5) the Memorial Wall; and (6) the Plaza of the Presidents, which recognizes 10 U.S. presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to George Bush who served in the military during World War II.

At 304 E. Main St., open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except Christmas. For information about the museum and for special events help throughout the year, call 830/997-4379 or visit the Web site [www.nimitz-museum.org](http://www.nimitz-museum.org). Admission.

### Shopping in downtown Fredericksburg



J. Griffin Smith/TP001

### National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg

**Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area**—The wildlife management area is open nightly from June - Oct. for a spectacular emergency of 1.5 to 2 million Mexican free-tailed bats from an abandoned tunnel of the old San Antonio, Fredericksburg and Northern Railway Co. which operated from 1913 to 1917. The upper viewing deck is free. Every Thurs. and Sat. guided tours are given to the lower observation deck with a fee and reservation. Bats emerge around dusk. For information and reservations for the tour, call 830/644-2252.

**Pioneer Memorial Library**—Housed in restored structure that was Gillespie County courthouse from 1882 to 1939. Library includes documents and books brought by early German settlers. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wed. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 115 W. Main. Tel. 830/997-6513.

**Pioneer Museum Complex**—Operated by Gillespie County Historical Society, complex centers on eight-room furnished pioneer home and store, built 1849, wine cellar and *stein-hof* (stone yard); a Victorian-style home; barn and blacksmith shop; smokehouse; an authentic Sunday House; log cabin; wagon shed; one-room school house; and fire museum with early Fredericksburg fire-fighting equipment. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 830/997-2835. 309 W. Main St. Admission.

**Sunday Houses**—Tiny houses built by early settlers for use on weekends. From their farm and ranch homes miles away from town, early residents would journey into Fredericksburg for Saturday marketing and church on Sunday. Several of the small houses remain today, marked by historical medallions. (Private residences, open only on occasional tours. Some now serve as bed & breakfast.)

**Verains Kirche Museum**—Reconstructed "coffee mill church," eight-sided structure was first public building in city, serving as house of worship for all denominations, school, and meeting hall. Now holds archives, and rotating displays of photographs and archaeological items. Market Square on W. Main St., midtown. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. For information, call 830/997-2835. Admission.

**Visitor Information**—Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau is at 106 N. Adams. Open 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.; 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. Sat., and 1 - 5 p.m. Sun. Free information, maps, walking tour guide of historic district. 830/997-6523 or 1-888-997-3600.

**Wildseed Farms**—The nation's largest working wildflower farm is approximately seven miles east of the city on U.S. 290. Wildflowers bloom from early spring through late fall. The market center offers wildflower seeds for all parts of the country. Sandwiches, snacks, ice cream and beer available in the Brew-Bonnet. Open daily 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information on flowers currently blooming, call 830/990-1393.

**Wineries**—**Becker Vineyards**—See STONEWALL.

**Bell Mountain**—Operation began in 1974 with vineyards planted in abandoned fields; old-world-type buildings house winery. Complimentary tours, tasting of Chardonnays, Rieslings, and Pinot Noir. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. from March till mid-Dec. On Texas 16, 14 mi. north. 830/685-3297.

**Fredericksburg Winery**—Operation began May 8, 1996, with a special rosé wine to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fredericks-

Gay Stenckelhorst/TP001

burg. The winery includes a tasting room and gift shop. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. At 247 W. Main St., one block west of the courthouse. Tel. 830/990-8747.

*Grape Creek Vineyard*—See STONEWALL.

## GEORGETOWN

Pop. 28,339

Alt. 750

Map O-17

**General**—Established 1848 as trade center for agricultural region. Seat of Williamson County at edge of black, fertile farmland and Hill Country ranch lands. Participation in Main Street Project has resulted in preservation and restoration of downtown Victorian commercial architecture. Site of Southwestern Univ., prestigious Methodist school founded in 1840.

Visitors may tour a factory that produces more than a thousand kinds of colorful, decorative candles.

**Family Playscape**—Towers, bridges, tunnels, pathways, and skyways give children the opportunity to play in an imaginative and creative environment. Designed by children and built by the families of Georgetown, the playscape provides recreational opportunities for everyone. In San Gabriel Park by beautiful San Gabriel River.

**Historic Districts**—City is home to three National Register Historic Districts, showcasing more than 180 homes and buildings. They include the Williamson County Courthouse District, the Belford National District, and the University Avenue/Elm Street District. Walking and driving tour information available at the visitor center.

**Horseback Riding**—*Kelly's Kids-Windsong Farm* has hour-long trail rides for a minimum of three people and children as young as three or four are allowed to ride with a guide. Call 512/863-7649.

**Inner Space Cavern**—Texas' newest and most accessible cavern; subterranean beauty of stalactites, stalagmites and flowstones plus remains of prehistoric mastodons, wolves and Ice Age animals. Creative lighting and acoustics dramatize the natural beauty. Average temperature, 72 degrees year round. On I-35, one mile south. Admission.

**Lakes**—Georgetown, Granger. See LAKES listing.

**Sun City Georgetown's Legacy Hills Golf Course**—Tee-up to gently rolling hills and beautiful babbling creeks when you play this course. The par 72 course is designed by Senior PGA Pro Billy Casper golf course architect Greg Nash. Although the course is located in Sun City Georgetown, it is open to the public and also features a 10-acre practice range and clubhouse with restaurant and pro shop. For information, call 1-800-833-5932. Located five miles west of I-35 at the Lake Georgetown exit.

**Visitor Center**—For information about events, attractions, shopping, restaurants, and lodging, stop by the center at 101 West 7th St. The center can also arrange guided tours for a nominal fee. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 1-800-436-8696 or visit the Web site at [www.georgetown.org/tourism](http://www.georgetown.org/tourism).

Inner Space Cavern lies beneath I-35 in Georgetown



Sloan A. Williams/1x00T



Stonehenge in the Hills in Ingram

## GOLDTHWAITE

Pop. 1,802

Alt. 1,580

Map M-15

**General**—Established 1885, seat of Mills County. Trade center for agricultural products including wool, mohair, fruits, cattle, turkeys and pecans. Area was long plagued by Indian raids; in fact, Comanches and Apaches often fought over area before first white settlers arrived. White-tailed deer popular with hunters each fall and winter season; fishing excellent in nearby Colorado River and Pecan Bayou all year.

Goldthwaite lies on U.S. 183, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

The city park offers many recreational activities, including swimming, playground equipment and picnicking areas. It is at the intersection of U.S. 183 and Texas 16. The municipal golf course is nine holes and open year around.

For information for events, accommodations, or restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 915/648-3619.

**Mills County Museum**—Features replicas of pioneer rooms, general exhibits, local history and photographs. Open afternoon Mon., Wed., Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. Third & Fisher sts.

**Regency Suspension Bridge**—This popular bridge is the one seen on "Texas Country Reporter". It is one of the few swinging bridges in use in the state today. The bridge spans the Colorado River, dividing Mills County from San Saba County. Approximately 20 miles west off F.M. 574.

## HONDO

Pop. 7,897

Alt. 927

Map R-14

**General**—County seat of Medina County, established in 1880s on Southern Pacific Railroad. Takes name from Hondo (Spanish for "deep") Creek. Economy is based on agriculture, ranching, and light industry. City is trade center for western half of Medina County. Hunting for deer and upland game birds popular in season. Public golf course, swimming pool. Be sure to check out the 'unique' welcome signs at either end of the city on U.S. 90.

Quihi, Yancey and D'Hanis are small communities rich in history near Hondo. For information on them or accommodations, events, restaurants, and hunting, call the chamber of commerce at 830/426-3037.

**Medina County Museum**—Housed in restored 1897 Southern Pacific Railroad depot, features pioneer artifacts and exhibits of Medina County history. Several other old buildings from the area form the complex covering one city block. Open Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 2 - 6 p.m. 2202 18th St.

**777 Exotic Game Ranch**—Historic ranch offers sportsmen from around the world access to the best in year-round hunting and fishing and wildlife photography. The ranch introduced wild game from Africa, India, Europe, and the Orient some 30 years ago, and these animals now flourish in well established breeding herds. In addition to some 40 species of introduced antelope, deer, oryx, and gazelle, the ranch also has native game like white-tailed deer, elk, bison, and javelina. Hunts conducted safari style by paying daily rate for meals, lodging, and guide, plus trophy fee for game taken.

777 Ranch has more than 30 lakes and ponds that were developed through an extensive water conservation program. In addition to providing fresh water for the 3,000-plus wild game animals, it also grows some exceptional large-

Bob Parahin/7x00T

mouth bass. All fishing is done on a catch-and-release basis, ensuring future anglers bigger and better fish.

One of the most recent movies shot on the ranch was the movie "Ace Ventura-When Nature Calls" with actor Jim Carrey. The African villages built for the movie remain on the ranch and guests can see these as well as other movie sets on the property. Reservations required; call 830/426-3476. Access via U.S. 90 two miles west of Hondo city limit; turn left on Richter Lane and follow signs to ranch headquarters.

**INGRAM**

Pop. 1,740 Alt. 1,600 Map Q-14

**General**—On north bank of Guadalupe River, city founded 1883 by J.C.W. Ingram who built a store and conducted church services. "New" section was started in 1936 following a disastrous flood. A trade center for surrounding camps, vacation and retirement homes.

**Hill Country Arts Foundation**—This visual and performing arts facility, founded in 1958, provides a cultural atmosphere for the Hill Country. The campus is nestled on the banks of the Guadalupe River and includes an art gallery, four studios, gift shop, and indoor and outdoor theaters. An array of art and theater workshops is offered for students of all ages and abilities. Famous artists conduct classes; theater directed by top professionals. Gallery exhibitions, theater productions and educational classes are conducted year round. Just west of city on Texas 39. For information on exhibits and theater productions, call 830/367-5121.

**Old Ingram**—Business buildings of old section of town now house art studios and galleries, antique shops, boutiques and restaurants. On loop off Texas 39 and Texas 27.

**Stonehenge in the Hills**—Far from the Salisbury Plain in England, replica of the famous megaliths rises in rural setting two miles west of Hunt on F.M. 1340. Stonehenge II, as it's called, is 60 percent as tall as the original, and 90 percent as large in circumference. Along with the replica of Stonehenge are Easter Island-type statues. Texas 39 to Hunt.

**JOHNSON CITY**

Pop. 1,197 Alt. 1,197 Map P-15

**General**—Seat of Blanco County, named for pioneer Johnson family, ancestors of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Retail center for farm and ranch area.

**Captain Perry Texas Ranger Museum**—The museum is the former home of Captain Cicero Rufus Perry, an early Texas Ranger who, at age 13, served as a courier for General Sam Houston in the Texas Army. Perry's legend comes from his survival of an Indian attack while a Texas Ranger. Located west of Johnson City on Hwy. 290 at 404 W. Main St. Open regular

business hours. For more information, contact the chamber of commerce at 830/868-7684.

**Exotic Resort Zoo**—Bring your camera and board one of the zoo's vehicles for a guided tour and close encounter with animals from around the world, such as the Greater Kudu, from Africa, whose horns can grow over five-feet long. Other sightings might include the Nilgai (Blue Bull) from India, the Eland, Scimitar (White Oryx), or the North American Bison (buffalo). Resort is on 137 wooded acres. There is a petting area where young animals love all the attention they get from kids and grown-ups, too. Perfect for birthday or group parties. Open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Apr. 1 - Oct. 31; Oct. 31 - Mar. 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Usually open during major holiday week. For information, call 830/868-4357. On U.S. 281 four miles north of city.

**Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park**—Located two blocks south of U.S. 290 between Avenues F and G. Visitor Center features information, exhibits, bookstore, and audiovisual programs unique to facility, as well as ranger talks and monthly guest lectures. Down the street, with guided tours daily, is frame structure nearly 100 years old where Lyndon Johnson lived while attending public school. Furnishings include Johnson family household items and period furniture restored to the 1920 era. Tours of the home are given on the half hour. One block west, via a nature trail, is old ranch complex called Johnson Settlement, owned by President's grandfather and great-uncle 1867-72, and gathering point of seven-county area for cattle drives. The rustic 1856 dog-trot cabin, 1880 stone farm buildings, exhibit center, and pastures with grazing Texas Longhorn cattle reflect the frontier heritage. Operated by National Park Service, open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. (See STONEWALL.) For information, write to PO Box 329, Johnson City, TX 78636, or call 830/868-7128, ext. 231 or 244.

**Pedernales Falls State Park**—4,800 scenic acres preserving natural beauty of the area; features picturesque waterfalls, abundant animal and bird life, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study. About 8 miles east via F.M. 2766. Admission.

**Texas Hills Vineyard**—The soil here is much like the Tuscan countryside in Italy. Vineyard's planted vines include Pinot Grigio, Sangiovese, Moscato, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Chenin Blanc. Winery tours, gift shop and tasting room. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. One mile east of city on Ranch Rd. 2766. For information, call 830/868-2321, or visit the Web site at [www.winc@texashillsvineyard.com](http://www.winc@texashillsvineyard.com).

**Visitor Information**—Johnson City Visitors and Tourism Bureau is at 406 West Main. Open year round, seven days a week (except on major holidays). An after-hours information kiosk is available as well. On premises are the Native Heritage Walking Gardens and the Captain Perry Texas Ranger Museum. For more information call 830/868-7684 or visit the Web site [www.lbjcountry.com](http://www.lbjcountry.com).

**JUNCTION**

Pop. 2,618 Alt. 1,710 Map P-13

**General**—Established 1876 with formation of Kimble County. Today a trade and retail center of scenic, sparsely populated area nationally noted for production of fine wool and mohair. Camping, fishing, canoeing and hunting are popular in area. More flowing streams than any other Texas county; year-round fishing. Hunters find wild turkey, deer and game birds during season, squirrels throughout year; exotics also found in area.

Schreiner (city) Park on Lake Junction has swimming pool, basketball courts, baseball fields and free overnight camping.

**Kimble County Historical Museum**—Documents, tools and other relics from days of early settlers, and military artifacts. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - noon, 2 - 5 p.m. Weekends by appointment. At 4th and College sts. For information, call 915/446-4219.

**O. C. Fisher Museum**—Duplicate of Washington office of long-time Congressman from this district displays memorabilia and gifts received. Open weekdays in Kimble County Library, 208 N. 10th St.

**Scenic Drives**—Although several are scenic, one of most impressive is U.S. 377 southwest as it travels along the South Llano River. An exceptional overlook is about 22 miles south at a highway rest area.

**South Llano River State Park**—507-acre wooded park lies along winding South Llano River. Abundant wildlife include white-tailed deer, wood ducks, fox squirrels, rock squirrels, javelina, and the Rio Grande turkey. Note: The majority of the acreage is closed in fall and winter for resource management and protection. Check with park in fall and winter for specific dates. Campgrounds are available throughout the year. Facilities include camping, hiking,

Exotic Resort Zoo in Johnson City



Gay Shackerloff/TXDOT



Jack Lewis/TXDOT

### Cowboy Artists of America Museum in Kerrville

wildlife observation, and picnicking. Canoeing, tubing, and swimming in the spring-fed river. Adjacent to the park is the 2,123-acre Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area. Four miles south of Junction off U.S. 377. For information, 915/446-3994.

## KERRVILLE

Pop. 20,425

Alt. 1,645

Map Q-14

**General**—Seat of Kerr County, one of state's most popular health and recreation centers. Area believed by many to have most ideal climate in the nation. More than two dozen boys' and girls' camps, scores of hotels, motels, dude ranches and religious encampments attract thousands annually. Rugged cedar and live oak-covered hills, picturesque green valleys and beautiful streams edged by towering cypress. White-tailed deer so numerous that motorists are cautioned to be on the alert for them, especially at night.

Capt. Charles A. Schreiner, born in Riquewihir, France, was early, prominent Kerrville settler. He served with the Confederacy and as a Texas Ranger; established general merchandising business in Kerrville, 1869. The Charles Schreiner Co. owned more than 566,000 acres of land by 1910, extending some 80 miles northwest to Menard. Among Schreiner's philanthropies was establishment of Schreiner Institute (now Schreiner University).

Industries include Mooney Aircraft and James Avery Craftsman.

Major annual events include the Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair, Memorial Day weekend; the Kerrville Folk Festival Memorial Day weekend, and Music Festival on Labor Day weekend.

Major revitalization restored the downtown area to its original quaint charm. Visitors find antique shops, as well as contemporary galleries and boutiques.

**Cowboy Artists of America Museum**—Splendid showcase for contemporary cowboy artists including works by Joe Beeler, James Boren, Melvin Warren and others; permanent and rotating collections; special exhibitions; workshops by artists in residence; library, auditorium and museum store. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1550 Bandera Hwy. (Texas 173) south of town. Admission. For information, call 830/896-2553.

**Hill Country Arts Foundation**—See INGRAM.

**Hill Country Museum**—Hill Country antiques, artifacts and memorabilia in former home of Capt. Charles A. Schreiner. Handsome Romanesque stone structure (1879) features French crystal chandeliers, decorative accents. Open Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1 - 4:30 p.m. 226 Earl Garrett St. Admission.

**Kerr Arts and Cultural Center**—Founded in 1996 by nine artists, this organization is housed in the old Post Office building which has been refurbished and plays host to art exhibits in two galleries, a year-round youth art exhibit, a Gift Shop that features the works of local artists, and a speaker series on the first and third Sunday of each month. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Admission to the galleries and Gift Shop is free. At the corner of Earl Garrett St. and Main St.

**Kerrville-Schreiner State Park**—500 beautiful Hill Country acres on upper reaches of cypress-edged Guadalupe River. Camping, shelters, RV hookups, rest rooms, picnicking, fishing, swimming, nature study, hiking. South edge of city off Texas 173. Admission. 830/257-5392.

**Stonehenge in the Hills**—See INGRAM.

## KINGSLAND

Pop. 4,584

Alt. 856

Map O-15

**General**—At confluence of Llano and Colorado rivers, spot was popular for fishing even before area lakes were built; trains brought fishermen at turn of the century. The scenic area is still popular with fishermen and water-sports enthusiasts who enjoy convenient access to present Lake Lyndon B. Johnson.

Packsaddle Country Club offers 18 holes, 7,200 yds., par 72, rating 71.6; public play.

The small Hill Country town is at the north end of Lake LBJ on F.M. 1431.

**Historic Inn—Antlers Hotel**—Restored 1901 two-story railroad hotel on 15 acres on Lake LBJ. On National Register of Historic Places. Also cabins and three vintage cabooses, all with kitchens. For information, call 1-800-383-0007 or 915/388-4411.

**Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery**—Thousands of fish bred in scientific facility's ponds. Lakes from across the country are stocked from here. Of interest regarding aquaculture, but limited sightseeing; no aquarium exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (till noon on weekend). Take F.M. 2342 north-east 4.4 mi. to intersection with Park Road 4; Park Road 4 north approx. 1.5 mi.; watch for signs. 830/793-2474.

**Inks Lake State Park**—See BUCHANAN DAM.

**Lake LBJ's Lady**—Thirty-four foot excursion boat offers Hill Country sightseeing on Lake LBJ, the Llano and Colorado rivers. Two-hour narrated cruises point out Lyndon B. Johnson's former lake house, Packsaddle and Backbone mountains, wildlife including green and blue herons, cormorants, kingfishers, and white-tailed deer; views of marinas and luxury resorts like Horseshoe Bay. Cruises Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m. Also sunset and dinner cruises to lakeside restaurant. F.M. 1431 at Colorado River bridge; fare. Tel. 915/388-6339.

**Lakes**—Buchanan, Inks, and Lyndon B. Johnson. See LAKES listing.

**Packsaddle Mountain**—An area landmark that's of interest both to historians and geologists. Much of long, low mountain is 600-million-year-old sandstone in horizontal layers, which rests on even more ancient Packsaddle schist, exposed in Honey Creek at foot of the mountain off Texas 71. Intriguing traces of gold, silver and other minerals have been reported in sands of the creek. Mountain was site of a fierce battle with Apache Indians on Aug. 5, 1873.

### Hill Country Museum, Kerrville



Gay Shackelford/TXDOT



Ray Stachell/DFW

**Badu House in Llano**

**KYLE**

**Pop. 5,314**                      **Alt. 714**                      **Map Q-16**

**General**—Kyle is eight miles north of San Marcos in Hays County and 20 miles south of Austin and is the second largest city in the county. Here the Balcones Escarpment meets the blacklands prairie. The town was established on July 24, 1880, when David E. Moore and Fergus Kyle (for whom the city was named) gave 200 acres for a townsite to the International-Great Northern Railroad. Lots were first sold in October 1880, at an auction held beneath a live oak tree, now known as the Kyle Auction Oak. An 1895 election incorporated the town but voters discontinued the status two years later. It was incorporated again in 1906. Farming and ranching add to the economy of other businesses in this fast growing community.

**Claiborne Kyle Log House**—Claiborne and Lucy Bugg Kyle married in 1829 in Tennessee and moved to Texas in 1844. In 1850, they built this massive log house on a bluff overlooking the Blanco River where they, their eight children and one adopted son lived. Built of huge cedar logs, the four-pen, linear dog-trot house has four rooms, each about 16 feet square lined up, two on either side of the dog trot. The home has been restored and furnished by the Kyle Log House Commission. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places. On County Rd. 136 southwest of Kyle. Open first Sun. of the month Apr. - Aug. 2 - 5 p.m. For information, call 512/268-5341.

**Porter Museum**—This quaint museum is housed in the house where Katherine Anne Porter spent some ten years of her childhood. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author is probably best known for her novel, *Ship of Fools*, published in 1962 and later made into a movie. Museum contains Porter memorabilia and other Southwest writers, artists, and poets. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 508 West Center St.

**LAGO VISTA**

**Pop. 4,507**                      **Alt. 1,230**                      **Map P-16**

**General**—Originally a lakeside resort development with homes, condominiums, and golf courses; incorporated in 1984. Name in Spanish means “Lake View.” The community encompasses more than 15 miles of shoreline on Lake Travis. It is gateway to the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge which consists of 22 sq. miles dedicated to the protection of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo. Abundant white-tailed deer roam along the lakeshore and golf courses where there’s year-round golfing, boating, fishing, hunting, and tennis.

F.M. 1431 west offers exceptional scenery through Hill Country. Especially pretty during spring with bluebonnets and other wild flowers.

**Lago Vista Airpower Museum**—Dedicated to preservation of military aircraft and memorabilia. Collection includes more than 150 model aircraft of all nations from World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Aircraft include L-4 Grasshopper and RF-4C Phantom Jet. Also displays of uniforms, guns, diaries, medals, photographs, and books from 1914 through Desert Storm. Open Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. In Hangar 9 at Lago Vista Airport. From I-35, take Exit 256 (R.R. 1431) to Lago Vista, right at Bar-K Ranch Rd. to airport.

**Lakes**—Austin, Georgetown, and Travis. See LAKES listing.

**LAMPASAS**

**Pop. 6,786**                      **Alt. 1,025**                      **Map N-16**

**General**—Established as Burleson in early 1850s, name changed with creation of Lampasas County; made county seat. Sulphur springs, popular among Indians long before white settlers arrived, still flow hardly half a mile from native stone courthouse, which is on National Register of Historic Places. Historic structures include Keystone Hotel, early Texas landmark-stagecoach stop. Sportsmen find prime hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, quail, mourning dove, and excellent fishing in local creeks and nearby Lampasas and Colorado Rivers.

Lampasas lies on U.S. 190, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state’s heartland to coastal ports.

City is participant in Texas Main Street Project. Downtown buildings feature local limestone construction; several restored and others planned. Most originally built in 1880s. A historical driving tour is available at the Chamber of Commerce office at 512 E. Second St. For additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, and events, call the Chamber office at 512/556-5172.

**Keystone Square Museum**—Housed in an early frontier building, museum features variety of changing exhibits devoted to such subjects as Texas Rangers, early-day saloon items, Indian artifacts, ranch and home implements, tools, and old-fashioned crafts. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 304 S. Western St.

**Lake**—Buchanan. See LAKES listing.

**Parks**—Hancock Park, 109-acre municipal facility includes Hancock Springs, source of water for public baths a century ago. Picnic and playgrounds, swimming pool, pavilion and 18-hole golf course. Southwest, off U.S. 281.

W.M. Brook Park offers outdoor theater, picnic and playgrounds, gazebo. South side of city, off U.S. 190.

**LEAKEY**

**Pop. 387**                      **Alt. 1,609**                      **Map Q-13**

**General**—Small community (pronounced LAY-key) is in one of most scenic and picturesque areas of rugged Edwards Plateau. Elevations range from 1,500 to 2,400 feet with deep, dramatic canyons cut by Frio and Nueces rivers. Archaeological excavations show evidence of prehistoric civilizations in area. At time of first Spanish explorers, game-rich area was inhabited by Comanche, Apache and Lipan-Apache Indians. Ranching predominates today featuring cattle, sheep and goats. Flocks of registered Angora goats produce prized mohair. Camping and hunting are popular with visitors. Game birds and animals include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, mourning dove, quail, squirrel, javelina, rabbits, and raccoons.

During the spring and summer visitors enjoy tubing the crystal clear waters of the Frio River, and, in the fall, seeing the beautiful hues of red and gold of autumn leaves on the tree-covered hills.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the Frio Canyon Chamber of Commerce at 830/232-5222.

**Garner State Park**—10 miles south on U.S. 83. See CONCAN.

**Real County Historical Museum**—Historic items and articles displayed in period rooms depicting history of Real County area. Open Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Just off courthouse square. Admission.

**Scenic Drives**—F.M. 337 both east and west spans some of the Hill Country’s most spectacular scenery—wooded steepes and tiny secluded valleys. West to Camp Wood leads to river camps on the picturesque Nueces River. East to Vanderpool and north on F.M. 187 leads to beautiful Lost Maples State Natural Area.

U.S. 83 north skirts East Frio River; 12 miles north, a roadside park offers spectacular view and picnic facilities. Texas 39 east, along Guadalupe River to Ingram is another picturesque route.

**Wildlife Art Museum**—Features art of taxidermy, sculpture, paintings and carvings. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. On F.M. 337, 3 blocks east of U.S. 83.

## LLANO

Pop. 3,325

Alt. 1,029

Map O-15

**General**—Founded in 1855, on the clear, spring-fed Llano River, the town of Llano became the county seat in 1856. Well established by 1860 with stores, saloons and a hotel, there was no church in the rough frontier village. Llano courthouse dates from 1892.

The present farm-ranch community bills itself the “Deer Capital of Texas” and hosts many hunters seeking abundant white-tailed deer during fall-winter season. Year-round fishing in picturesque Llano River and nearby Highland Lakes. Entire downtown square is designated a National Historic District.

Llano has become home to many world champion team ropers and hosts rodeo events attracting participants and spectators from all around the state.

An entertaining and educational walking tour is sure to interest visitors. Information about the walking tour, as well as events, accommodations, hunting, and nearby area attractions around the Highland Lakes is available from the chamber of commerce office at 700 Bessemer, or by calling 915/247-5354.

**City-County Parks**—Camping and picnicking available at all. Some with RV hookups, lake and pool swimming, fishing, boat ramp, playgrounds, 18-hole golf course, hiking trails, and scenic views. Black Rock and Shaw Island parks on Lake Buchanan; Robinson City Park on Llano River; Llano County Community Center (park) on west edge of town. Details at the Llano County Chamber of Commerce, 700 Bessemer (Texas 16) north of the river bridge; open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 915/247-5354.

**Enchanted Rock State Park**—Massive dome of solid granite famed in Indian legend; said to be site of human sacrifices, some tribes feared to set foot upon it; others used height as rallying point; all held it in awe and reverence. Indians believed ghost fires flickered on crest on moonlit nights. Covers about 640 acres, 500 feet high. Open year round. *Note: Because of its popularity, the number of daily visitors is being limited. The park is experiencing erosion problems, soil compacting, and tree loss due to root exposure caused by the thousands of visitors in the park. Therefore, visitation is being limited to protect the natural and cultural resources. Once the park reaches capacity during heavy use periods, such as weekends, holidays, and spring break, it will temporarily close for the day and reopen at 5 p.m. for those who have camping reservations.* For park information, call 915/247-3903. South 22 miles via Texas 16, R.M. 965. Admission.

**Hill Country Wildlife Museum**—More than 700 mounted species reflect the collection of Charles K. Campbell, who was one of the first persons to collect all of the North American 27 big game animals. On the courthouse square at 826 Ford St. Open Thurs. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission. 915/247-2568.

**Historic Inns—Badu House**—Originally a small-town bank, c. 1891, restored as a country inn and restaurant. Marble-floored front room, quaint dining rooms, original fixtures, and antique furnishings; six rooms and one suite with baths. On Texas 71 north. 915/247-1207.

**Dabbs Railroad Hotel**—Once a part of a group of hotels located on the Llano River at the end of the tracks, this quaint hotel is the last standing rail-



Gay Shackleford/TXDOT

The town of Luckenbach, east of Fredericksburg.

road hotel of the Victorian era. This bed and breakfast has kept old-fashioned pleasures like sun-dried linens and homemade meals. At 112 E. Burnet St. 915/247-7905.

**Lakes**—Buchanan, Inks, and Lyndon B. Johnson. See LAKES listing.

**Llano County Museum**—General county historical displays housed in refurbished old-time drug store. Open Jun. - Aug. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. except Mon. Open Sept. - May Fri. - Sun. 1:15 - 5:15 p.m. North end of Llano River bridge, Texas 16. 915/247-3026.

**Llano Fine Arts Guild, Inc.**—Exhibit of work by local artists. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 503 Bessemer (Texas 16). 915/247-4839.

## LUCKENBACH

Pop. 25 (est.)

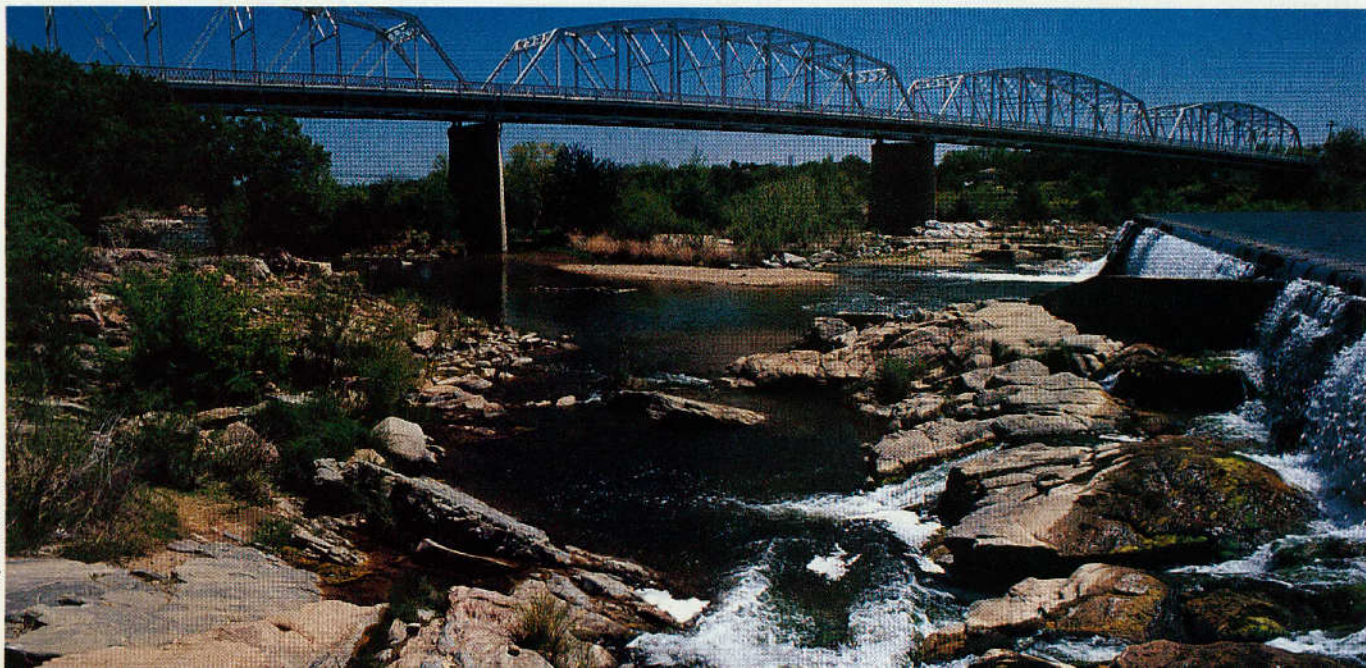
Alt. 1,561

Map P-15

**General**—Settled in 1850 by German pioneers, the tiny hamlet remained obscure until bought in the 1970s by the late Hondo Crouch, pixieish Hill Country humorist, writer, and authentic Texas character. An enormously popular country-western song made the name known virtually worldwide.

Luckenbach remains as it was—one unpainted general store that also serves as a beer tavern, a traditional rural dance hall, and a sometimes-used blacksmith shop. Sunday afternoons are often spontaneous “happenings.” Banjo pickers, guitar strummers, and fiddlers form impromptu groups beneath huge old live oaks. Whittlers ply their leisurely craft, and washer pitchers exercise deceptively simple skills.

## Llano River



Gay Shackleford/TXDOT

Luckenbach's bemusing ambiance, according to one writer, "is like Brigadoon; you're almost afraid to go back because it might not be there again."

It's there—east of Fredericksburg off U.S. 290, five miles south just off F.M. 1376. Don't count on signs; souvenir thieves swipe them as fast as they can be placed.

## MARBLE FALLS

Pop. 4,959

Alt. 764

Map O-16

**General**—Named for Colorado River waterfalls over marble outcroppings. Hunting, fishing and camping activities are popular. Native game fish abound in lakes and streams. Fall and winter hunting seasons offer plentiful white-tailed deer, wild turkey and excellent wing shooting of migratory and native game birds.

**Fox Memorial Marker**—A monument overlooking Colorado River and scenic Hill Country is dedicated to Oscar J. Fox, composer of the classic popular song, "Hills of Home." In roadside park on U.S. 281 just south of town.

**Granite Mountain**—Huge dome of high-quality pink and red granite, prized worldwide. Quarrying began in the 1880s for construction of the Texas Capitol. Unending flow of the superb material has continued ever since, yet bulk of the dome has hardly been diminished. View from roadside picnic area on R.M. 1431 just north of town; visitors not admitted to quarry area.

**Lakes**—Buchanan, Inks, Lyndon B. Johnson, Marble Falls, Travis. See LAKES listing.

**Scenic Drives**—R.M. 1431 offers breathtaking scenery both northwest and southeast over winding curves and hills, with frequent glimpses of Highland Lakes. Spring scenes are exceptionally beautiful.

Both R.M. 2147 (not shown on most maps) along western shore of Lake Marble Falls, and Texas 71 through Hill Country are routes to be remembered.

## MASON

Pop. 2,134

Alt. 1,550

Map O-14

**General**—Seat of Mason County, grew under protection of Fort Mason, one of series of Texas frontier forts. Noted for camping, hunting and fishing. White-tailed deer and wild turkey attract hunters each fall and winter; fishing in beautiful Llano River is year round sport. Historical interest centers around Indians who once roamed area, a bloody feud known as the Mason County War, and the fort. Many homes and businesses are constructed of original-cut sandstone blocks from old Fort Mason. Bluebonnets blanket surrounding hillsides and valleys during spring. Note picturesque rock fences stitched along scenic countryside. Topaz, the state gem, is found in Mason County's streambeds and ravines. For information about topaz hunts, contact the Mason County Chamber of Commerce.

Visit historic town square; quaint courthouse amid large pecan trees offers photo opportunity. The restored, historic Odeon Theater features movies and musical entertainment throughout the year.

For additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, events, and other area attractions, stop by the Mason County Chamber of Commerce at 108 Fort McKavett St. or call 915/347-5758. Visit the Web site

[www.masontxoc.com](http://www.masontxoc.com).

**Eckert James River Bat Cave**—One of the largest Mexican free-tailed bat colonies is found here. Open May - Oct. Thurs. - Sun. 6 - 9 p.m. Take U.S. 87 south to R.R. 1723. Go two miles and turn right on R.R. 2389. Follow signs to cave. Watch for cattle and wildlife on road after dark. For information, call 915/347-5970.

**Fort Mason**—An officers quarters reconstructed on crest of Post Hill marks location of fort that commanded a wide view. A number of crumbling foundations still show some sites of 23 original buildings that included barracks, officers quarters, storehouses, stables, guardhouse and hospital. Primarily a cavalry post, Fort Mason was duty station for such military figures as Albert Sidney Johnston, John Bell Hood and Robert E. Lee. Fort Mason was Lee's last command in U.S. Army—from here he was called to Washington where he refused command of Union army being prepared for the War Between the States. Briefly activated after that war, Fort Mason was abandoned in 1869. The reconstructed building is on original foundations; double fireplace foundations are original, and rock used was from original building materials of fort. Fort Mason is on the Texas Forts Trail. About five blocks south of courthouse.

**Fort Mason City Park**—125-acre park with picnicking facilities among large pecan trees, fully equipped RV camping sites, 9-hole golf course, rodeo arena, athletic fields, walking trails, and playscape. U.S. 87 1 mile south. For information and reservations, call 915/347-6449.



Gay Shuckelford/TxDOT

Reconstructed officers quarters at Fort Mason

**Mason County M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library**—In addition to books, magazines, and other items found in libraries, special areas highlight local literary celebrities. Fred Gipson, author of *Old Yeller* and *Savage Sam* is from Mason. Take time to look at the full exhibit on him in the library and stroll out from the library to see the "Old Yeller" statue. Other exhibits include information of the Eckert James River Bat Cave and genealogy information on early Mason families. Open daily, except Sun. just south of the square.

**Mason County Museum**—General collection of Mason County historical items is housed in old schoolhouse built in 1870s, largely from material from Fort Mason buildings. The original spring for the fort still flows just east of the museum, although not as profusely as when it served the fort. Open daily 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. 300 Moody St.

**Mason County Veterans' Memorial**—Granite memorial located on Courthouse Square inscribed with names of Mason County veterans. Project initiated and completed by Mason High School's Class of 2001 as a tribute to military service given by Mason County veterans.

**Sequist Home**—Constructed in 1880s; contains 17 rooms, 14 fireplaces; exhibits outstanding craftsmanship, unusual architecture, furnishings. Normally open for tours, but appointments advisable. 400 Broad St. For information, call 915/347-5413. Admission.

## MENARD

Pop. 1,653

Alt. 1,960

Map O-13

**General**—Established near ruins of ancient Spanish mission Santa Cruz de San Saba, which had been abandoned a century before. Town was early trading post and stop on north and west cattle trails; compound of an old Spanish mission just east of town served as corral, holding up to 3,000 cattle on way to market. Only a historical marker on F.M. 2092 recalls history of mission today. Currently, sheep and wool production are of primary importance, followed by beef cattle and Angora goats. Legends of lost silver mine still circulate in area.

**Historic Ditch Walk**—The Menard Irrigation Canal is locally referred to as "The Ditch." First dug in 1756 by early Spanish Padres for irrigation to the mission, it is still used today with modifications made during the years to supply water to members of the irrigation company. A walk along the canal through the downtown area passes by shopping and sightseeing opportunities. For more information, contact the chamber of commerce office.

**Menard County Museum**—Local history exhibits and frontier artifacts housed in small, vintage railroad depot at U.S. 83/ U.S. 190 (100 Frisco Ave.). For information, call the chamber of commerce at 915/396-2365.

**Parks**—The city's parklands provide excellent recreational facilities for residents and visitors. American Legion Park is a plaza surrounding the courthouse complex in the downtown area, complete with swimming pool. Stock Pens Crossing Park, just west of the city on the San Saba River, is on the site of the original livestock crossing. Facilities include a pavilion and picnic tables. San Saba River Park is a 12-acre river bottom tract on the north



side where the U.S. 83 bridge crosses the San Saba River. Facilities include picnic tables, swings, a half-mile walking/jogging track, and parking area.

**Ruins of Real Presidio de San Saba**—Spanish fort established 1751 to protect Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba. Mission experienced increasing hostility from Indians, and presidio commander urged missionaries to abandon their effort. They refused, and on Mar. 16, 1758, a strong force of Comanche and other Indians overran the mission, killed many occupants and burned the buildings. Only a few escaped. Small relief force of soldiers from this presidio were so fiercely attacked, they were unable to prevent mission destruction. In following years Indian depredations became so severe that supply columns and other activities outside the presidio came to virtual standstill. Presidio was abandoned in 1769. Ruins maintained as county park 2 miles west off U.S. 190.

**"Song of Silver"**—This musical drama is set in a beautiful natural amphitheater and recalls the historical account of the legendary Jim Bowie and his quest for the Lost Spanish Silver Mine. The performance is usually the third weekend in June, which coincides with the city's Jim Bowie Days celebration. Check with the chamber of commerce for additional information at 915/396-2365.

## MERTZON

Pop. 839

Alt. 2,184

Map N-11

**General**—Established 1910 as stop on Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad; named for a director of the line. Seat of Irion County, a rolling to hilly area devoted primarily to ranching. County is one of Texas' leading sheep producing areas.

**Irion County Museum**—Local history exhibits. Open Mon., Wed. Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tues. & Thurs. 1 - 5:30 p.m. Hours may vary; call 915/835-2704 for information. 1 blk. N of courthouse.

**Sherwood Courthouse**—One of best examples of early Texas courthouses still stands in Sherwood, a mile north and a mile east of Mertz. Community was seat of Irion County from 1889 until 1936. The courthouse now belongs to Sherwood Community Association.

## MOUNTAIN HOME

Pop. 96 (est.)

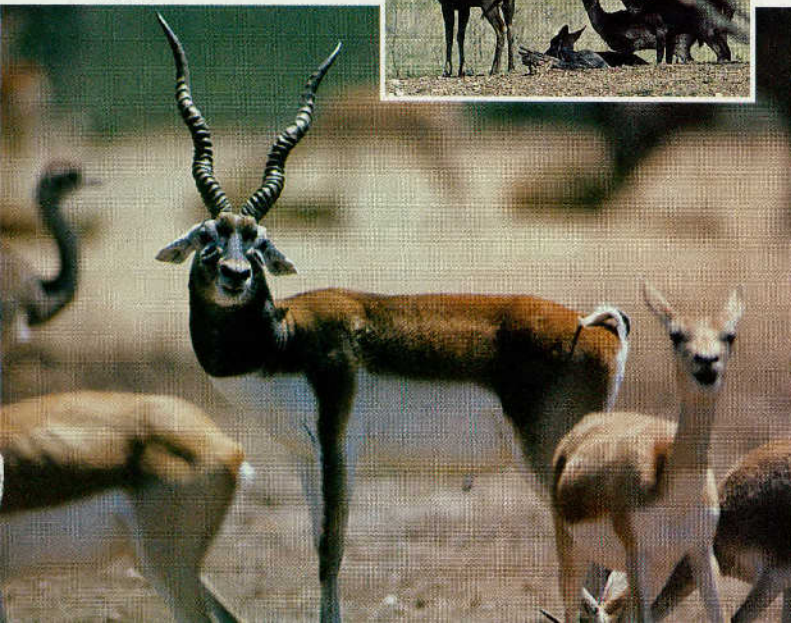
Alt. 2,135

Map P-14

**General**—Not really among mountains, but the setting is picturesque. Established 1890 by storekeeper Thomas A. Dowdy to serve surrounding ranchers with staple foods and supplies. Community in western Kerr County on Texas 27/41 (just south of I-10) still provides much the same service in a rather sparsely populated area of several very large ranches.

**Y.O. Ranch**—Established 1880 by Capt. Charles Schreiner (see KERRVILLE), the vast ranch is one of Southwest's largest deer and exotic game

**Animals not indigenous to Texas roam with native wildlife on Y.O. Ranch grasslands near Mountain Home**



Gay Shackerford/TXDOT



### The Children's Museum in New Braunfels

preserves, with some 35 species of foreign wildlife. Guided hunting tours throughout year (but only during seasons for native species) can produce such trophies as blackbuck antelope of India (the Y.O. has more blackbuck than remain in their native habitat in India), wild Corsican ram, East African oryx, Axis deer and aoudad sheep. Both resident and nonresident hunting licenses available at ranch. Hunting fee guarantees success, or no charge. Photo safaris year round, and summer adventure camp for youths; fees. Substantial herd of Texas Longhorn cattle. Several historic buildings are preserved on ranch, including stagecoach stop from 1850s; Wells Fargo office from near Boerne; pioneer cabin from near Fredericksburg, and pioneer schoolhouse. 2,110-foot sod airstrip. Daily tour (reservations required; 830/640-3222) at 10 a.m., includes lunch. Overnight accommodations; swimming pool, nature trails, horseback riding. Ranch entrance is 15 miles west of Mountain Home on Texas 41; ranch headquarters 8 miles north of entrance.

## NEW BRAUNFELS

Pop. 36,494

Alt. 720

Map Q-16

**General**—Seat of Comal County, established 1845 on Comal River by German settlers led by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. Successful farming, ranching, abundant water from large springs contributed to early prosperity of settlement. German influence in tradition, culture and language still prominent; famous for sausages, breads, and popular river resorts.

The Guadalupe and Comal rivers provide excellent water recreation for visitors. The Guadalupe, between Canyon Dam and New Braunfels, is famous for its exciting rapids and sparkling clear waters and very popular with tubers. Much of the land along the river is private. Please respect the property rights and also help preserve this natural resource. Strict enforcement of laws and regulations applies to the river areas.

New Braunfels Marketplace is one of state's first factory-direct shopping centers, with some 48 manufacturers represented. Open at 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily except 6 p.m. Sun. Exit 187 or 189 on I-35.

Wurstfest (Sausage Festival), 10 days early Nov., salutes the "best of the wurst." Features singing societies, traditional German bands, dancing groups and sausages of every description. Historical exhibits, art shows and special events.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Children's Museum, The**—Children of all ages enjoy hands-on exhibits, which include CMN-TV studio, a puppet palace, and other creative areas. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 183 I-35, McQueeney Exit (Exit 187). Admission.

**Clear Springs Aviaries and Zoological Gardens**—Visitors have a chance to walk through seven acres of a 35-acre park that is home to more than 200 species of exotic birds and animals. There is a two-acre lake, a duck pond, and more than 2,000 species of exotic plants. Self-guided tour through landscaped gardens. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (extended summer hours). Exit 182 on I-35 South. For information, call 830/606-6029. Admission.

Y.O. Ranch photos



Schlitterbahn photo

### Schlitterbahn water park in New Braunfels

**Conservation Plaza**—Owned by the New Braunfels Conservation Society, these priceless structures have been preserved. The *Baetge House* is a good example of fachwerk construction, two-story house was built in 1852 by German engineer Carl Baetge 26 miles northwest of city. The house was dismantled and rebuilt on the plaza in 1975. Furnishings include period pieces, mostly of Texas or German origin. Other structures include the *Rose Conservatory* and the *Star Exchange*, the *Lohse-Fischer Home*, the *Haelbig Music Studio*, the *Church Hill School*, the *Jahn Cabinet Shop*, and the *Jahn Home*. Conservation Plaza open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 1300 Church Hill Dr. Admission.

**Gruene**—(Pronounced “green”) German immigrants established village before 1850; now part of New Braunfels. Historic structures, both ruins and restored, include old homes, stores, art gallery, winery, ice cream parlor, and rustic beer hall, circa 1880, still popular for weekend dances.

If you're in Gruene during the summer, check out the Gruene Country Homestead Inn. The innkeepers at this bed and breakfast inn make their own molasses from sugar cane (grown on the property), actually using the cooker and sugar press obtained from Edwin Hanz, the prior owner of the fachwerk barn and property. For information, 830/606-0216. On Guadalupe River, Gruene Rd. off N. Loop 337.

**Historic Inns**—*Faust Hotel*—Restored 1920s hotel with ornate, decorative tile, ceiling fans, and candlestick telephones in each room. Veranda Restaurant features Texas and German-style fare; 62 rooms with baths. 240 S. Seguin St.

*Prince Solms Inn*—Small, plain-Texan exterior; exquisite antique furnishings, 14-foot ceilings, orange bronze hardware, garden, and patio flagged with huge stones from a 19th-Century prison. Wolfgang's Keller restaurant in basement. Eight rooms with baths and two suites. 295 E. San Antonio St.

**Lake**—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

**Landa Park**—Exceptionally scenic city park around crystal springs heading the Comal River. Towering trees, spring-fed swimming pools, tubing, picnicking, boating, bicycling, hiking and golf. Largest springs in state (more than 8 million gallons an hour) form state's shortest river—2.5 miles. Miniature train ride winds through park.

**Lindheimer Home**—Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer (1801-1879) was first to classify much of native Texas flora; more than 30 varieties bear his name. The

house, circa 1852, displays the fachwerk construction German settlers adapted to Texas cedar and limestone. Many original furnishings. Part of the collection owned by the New Braunfels Conservation Society. Open Memorial Day - Aug., daily except Wed., 2 - 5 p.m.; Sept. - Apr., Sat., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 491 Comal St. Admission.

**Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture**—Housed in historic (1858) Andreas Breustedt home; displays include dozens of furniture pieces hand-crafted in Texas during 1800s. English ironstone, pewter, and other artifacts from 1700s. One-room log cabin features furnishings and tools. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day, Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; Labor Day - Memorial Day, Sat., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 1370 Church Hill Dr. Admission.

**Natural Bridge Caverns**—Vast subterranean maze on ranch land some 17 miles west, designated a U.S. Natural Landmark. Gigantic rooms and corridors stretch more than a mile, leading to underground Purgatory Creek and awesome cave formations.

The Natural Bridge Mining Company Sluice lets visitors pan for gemstones as miners once did in their search for gold. Rather than dig through muddy sand, visitors pour a bag of rough mix (sand, rocks, minerals and gemstones) into a sieve over a trough of flowing water, searching for sparkling quartz, sapphire, ruby, topaz, emerald, crystal and a dozen other gems and minerals. A nature trail featuring native Texas plants and wildflowers meanders through the rolling hills around the cave. Take exit 175 on I-35; eight miles west on Natural Bridge Caverns Rd. (F.M. 3009). Open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's; tours every half-hour. Visit their Web site at [www.naturalbridgetexas.com/caverns](http://www.naturalbridgetexas.com/caverns). Admission.

**Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch**—African safari, Texas style! In the comfort of your own vehicle you can travel through hundreds of acres of picturesque, historical ranch land, viewing more than 50 species of animals from all over the world in a natural environment. Snack bar, picnic area. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with extended summer hours; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Exit 175 off I-35; seven miles on Natural Bridge Caverns Rd. For additional information, call 830/438-7400 or check out the Web site at [www.nbwildliferanchtx.com](http://www.nbwildliferanchtx.com). Admission.

**New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music**—More than 300 paintings and drawings by Sister M.I. Hummel are on display. Open daily, except for major holidays. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 199 Main Plaza. 1-800-456-4866 or 830/625-5636. Admission.

**River Camps**—River camps/resorts have been popular for decades. Clear, cool spring-fed pools, tubing chutes, rapids, and exceptionally scenic settings for family recreation. Family groups abundant during summer; visitors from northern states during winter. See Visitor Information for details.

**River Guides, Outfitters**—Several New Braunfels outfitters provide raft and canoe rentals, plus guided float trips. For information, contact Bezdek's Riverside Inn at 830/964-2244; Dos Rios Whitewater Rafting, 830/625-3375 or 1-888-88FLOAT ([rockinr@rockinr.com](mailto:rockinr@rockinr.com)); Gruene River Co., 830/625-2800 ([greuenervrco@gruene.net](mailto:greuenervrco@gruene.net)); Guadalupe River Station, 830/964-2850; Jerry's Rentals, 830/625-2036 ([jerrysrental@juno.com](mailto:jerrysrental@juno.com)); Maricopa River Rides, 830/964-2222 or 1-800-460-8891; Ole Mill Stream, 830/620-7600; R-B's Tube Rental, 830/625-5889; Rio Raft Co., 830/964-3613 ([rioraft@gvvc.com](mailto:rioraft@gvvc.com)); Riverbank Outfitters, 830/625-3037 ([riverbank@compuvision.net](mailto:riverbank@compuvision.net)); and Rockin' 'R' River Rides, 830/629-9999 or 1-800-553-5628 ([rockinr@rockinr.com](mailto:rockinr@rockinr.com)).

**Scenic Drives**—Any of several highways are scenic. R.M. 32, the “Devil's Backbone,” northwest of Canyon Reservoir is exceptionally beautiful, as is River Road from New Braunfels to Sattler along Guadalupe River.

**Schlitterbahn**—(Slippery Road) Water amusement park is the state's largest waterpark with over 65 acres of family fun. Nestled along the banks of the Comal River, Schlitterbahn has something for everyone including tube chutes, river rapids, water slides, pools, hot tubs, children's water playgrounds, and cool, shady picnic grounds. Also, award-winning high tech rides such as the “Boogie Bahn” surfing wave, and the “Dragon Blaster” and “Family Blaster” uphill water coasters. The park is open weekends in late Apr., May, and Sept.; daily mid-May - Aug. Free parking; picnics welcome (no glass or alcohol, please); 200 year-round riverside rooms. For hours, rates, and room reservations, call 830/625-2351. 400 N. Liberty St. Admission.

**Snake Farm**—Features more than 500 reptiles, as well as a variety of monkeys, birds, llamas and Texas longhorns. Open daily during summer 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; winter hours Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed Tues. Exit 182 on I-35 south of town. For information, call 830/608-9270.

**Sophienburg Museum**—On hilltop site where Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels built a log fortress. Displays many of the nobleman's personal

## ROCKSPRINGS

Pop. 1,285

Alt. 2,450

Map Q-12

**General**—Established 1891, named for springs prized as water source by wagon trains and Indians. In highest area of rugged, scenic Edwards Plateau. Climate is cool and dry in summer, mild and sunny in winter. Area is popular year-round vacation spot offering camping, picnicking, hiking, and rock collecting. During specified seasons hunters take white-tailed deer, wild turkey and upland game birds. Fishing on nearby South Llano and Nueces Rivers.

**Angora Goat Breeders' Association Museum**—Includes pictures, records and early history of Angora goat-raising industry. Only registry office for industry in the nation. Open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m. Austin St.

**Scenic Drives**—Most highways from Rocksprings are scenic routes through the rugged Hill Country, especially R.M. 674 south, U.S. 377 southwest and U.S. 377 northeast.

## ROUND ROCK

Pop. 61,136

Alt. 720

Map P-17

**General**—Established 1850, named for large round rock in bed of Brushy Creek. Site of historic St. Charles Hotel, built 1850. Best known as site of killing of notorious outlaw Sam Bass, now buried in Round Rock Cemetery. Bass's gang plagued stagecoaches, trains and banks in area and was object of intensive chase by Texas Rangers. An informer warned Rangers and Round Rock lawmen of planned raid on a local bank. Bass gang was ambushed there on July 18, 1878. Wounded in the gun battle, Bass died two days later.

**Lakes**—Austin, Georgetown, Granger, and Travis. See LAKES listing.

**Palm House Museum**—Restored home of founders Andrew and Caroline Palm on land purchased from the Swedish Immigration Agent east of Round Rock in the Palm Valley settlement. The house has authentic furnishings; elegant parlor, Swedish kitchen. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 212 E. Main St.

**Round Rock Express**—The Express is a AA Texas League affiliate of the Houston Astros and owned by the legendary Nolan Ryan, his son, Reid Ryan, and former Houston Astros' owner, Don Sanders. The stadium is 3.5 miles east of I-35 on U.S. 79, adjacent to Old Settler's Park. The multi-purpose facility is available for group meetings, concerts and other gatherings. For schedule and ticket information, call 512/255-BALL, or visit the Web site [www.roundrockexpress.com](http://www.roundrockexpress.com).

## SAN MARCOS

Pop. 34,733

Alt. 581

Map Q-16

**General**—In 1851, William Lindsey, Gen. Edward Burleson and Eli T. Merriman bought the Juan Vermendi tract of land along the river and laid out the townsite. Legend says Franciscan Monks paddling up the Guadalupe River discovered a clear river with large springs at its source and name the river San Marcos because the discovery was made on St. Mark's day. Gen. Burleson followed a bill through the legislature establishing Hays County in 1848 and San Marcos was designated county seat. The town was also a resting point in a three-day stagecoach trip from Austin to San Antonio. San Marcos has evolved from a gristmill, sawmill, and cotton farming town into a modern city.

The clear, cold San Marcos River rises from mammoth springs within town; noted for profusion of both plant and animal aquatic life, river is ranked among world's most fertile. White-tailed deer are numerous in Hill Country and fishing is enjoyed year round in the San Marcos and nearby Blanco Rivers.

The city is home to San Marcos Baptist Academy and the alma mater of Lyndon B. Johnson, Southwest Texas State Univ., whose campus commands an impressive view of city.

The historic downtown, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, features a quaint marketplace with art, gift shops and unique restaurants. In years past, these shops and restaurants on the square were grocery and clothing stores, doctors offices and bank buildings. Also in the center of town is the restored Hays County Courthouse.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic district.

The 1867 Charles S. Cock House is featured annually in the Tours of Distinction Event the first weekend in May. However, lunch is served in the cottage kitchen on Fri. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. throughout the year. At C.M. Allen Parkway and E. Hopkins St.

Shoppers find bargains on name brand labels daily at Prime Outlets and Tanger Outlet Center south on I-35 at Center Point Rd. at exit 200. It's home to the largest factory outlet complex in the state.



Statue of David Crockett in Ozona honors county's namesake

effects, Indian artifacts and household items of pioneer era. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 401 W. Coll St. at Academy Ave. Admission.

**Visitor Information**—Details and free literature about New Braunfels historic sites, river camps and river outfitters, accommodations, and current local events available at the Visitor Center at I-35 and Post Road on the north side of the city. Open daily. Tel. 1-800-572-2626. Visit the Web site at [www.nbcham.org](http://www.nbcham.org).

**Wagenfuhr Home and Buckhorn Barbershop Museum**—Part of the historic properties owned by the New Braunfels Conservation Society, this home is a "collector's paradise". It includes a 1900s barbershop; museum features hand-carved miniature circus animals, pictures made from rocks, dolls from around the world, hand-made jewelry, and many other items. Open daily Memorial Day through Aug. 2 - 5 p.m.; closed Wed. Winter, weekends 2 - 5 p.m. At 521 W. San Antonio St. Admission.

## OZONA

Pop. 3,436

Alt. 2,348

Map O-10

**General**—Seat of Crockett County, vast ranching and oil area of 3,000 square miles; city is only town in entire county. One of nation's top areas in wool production; more than two million pounds marketed annually. In Edwards Plateau region, hunters find white-tailed deer, javelina and upland game birds.

Large sculpture in the center of the town's square, "The Tie That Binds" is by artist Judy Black, a native of Crockett County. The sculpture is a memorial to the pioneer families that came to settle the land and to those who followed.

**Crockett County Memorial Fair Park**—Present location of Emerald House, oldest dwelling in county. Moved from town of Emerald when Ozona became county seat in 1891. Park offers playgrounds, picnic facilities. East edge of city.

**Crockett County Museum**—Frontier antiques, Indian relics, artifacts from Fort Lancaster, ranch implements and household items of the Western frontier. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 404 11th St.

**David Crockett Monument**—Statue in city park on town square honors legendary frontiersman and hero of the Alamo, for whom county was named.

**Fort Lancaster State Historic Site**—Established 1855 by 1st U.S. Infantry; large rectangle around parade ground was site of 25 buildings that housed two companies. Troopers on mules protected wagon trains on San Antonio-El Paso "lower road." The 2nd Texas Mounted Rifle Company of the Confederate Army occupied the fort from 1861-62. Site of a battle between the Indians and the 9th Calvary in December 1867. Modern visitor and interpretive center open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; otherwise, open Thurs. - Mon. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. West 33 mi. on Texas 290.

**Scenic Drive**—Lancaster Hill, west on Texas 290, overlooks Pecos River valley. A highway rest area provides an excellent spot for picnic lunch with panoramic view.

**Aquarena Center**—Take the famous glass-bottom boat ride, one of the most popular ways to view the bubbling springs and the Natural Aquarium of Texas. This ride introduces visitors to an excavation site from which artifacts dating as far back as 12,000 years have been recovered. The Endangered Species Exhibit gives visitors an up close look at the unique species that live only in the San Marcos River. With the entertainment venue of the park focusing on nature, Aquarena is becoming a new highlight for nature tourism. Open year round.

**Belvin Street Historic District**—One of two historic districts in the city; the other is the Downtown Historic District. Superb examples of 19th-Century homes along street shaded by huge live oaks. Well worth a drive or stroll (only a few blocks) in southwest San Marcos. All are private residences not open to public except during Tours of Distinction, first weekend in May.

**Confederate Air Force Central Texas Wing**—Located in the only remaining 1943 vintage wooden hangar at the San Marcos Municipal Airport. The Centex Wing houses two aircraft, a rare P-39 Bell Airacobra and a P-38 Lockheed Lightning. A Japanese “Kate” torpedo bomber replica, built for the movie “Tora, Tora, Tora” is also on display along with other privately-owned vintage aircraft. There is also a display dedicated to the Doolittle Raiders. Open Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At the airport, follow the Perimeter Road along the fence to the Centex hangar. Admission.

**Lake**—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

**Parklands**—23 city parks on 225 acres dot the city. Children’s Park, also known as Playscape, is a six-acre community built wooden playground located along the river.

**San Marcos’ Living History Trolley Tour**—View the town through the eyes of Gen. and Mrs. Edward Burleson, early founders of San Marcos, as they recall the history and beauty of the city. The guided tour passes by old mansions on tree-lined streets, the historic courthouse square, the San Marcos River, and Aquarena Center. Tours begin at 2 p.m. the first Sat. of the month at the Tanger Outlet Center Visitor’s Center. For information and reservations, call 512/396-3739. Admission.

**San Marcos River Walkway**—Unites five city parks along the picturesque river, accented by lush landscaping. Access from Juan Veramendi Plaza, C.M. Allen Pkwy. at Hopkins St.

**Scenic Drives**—R.R. 12 northwest to junction with R.R. 32, the winding ridge route called the “Devil’s Backbone,” offers exceptional views of Hill Country scenery.

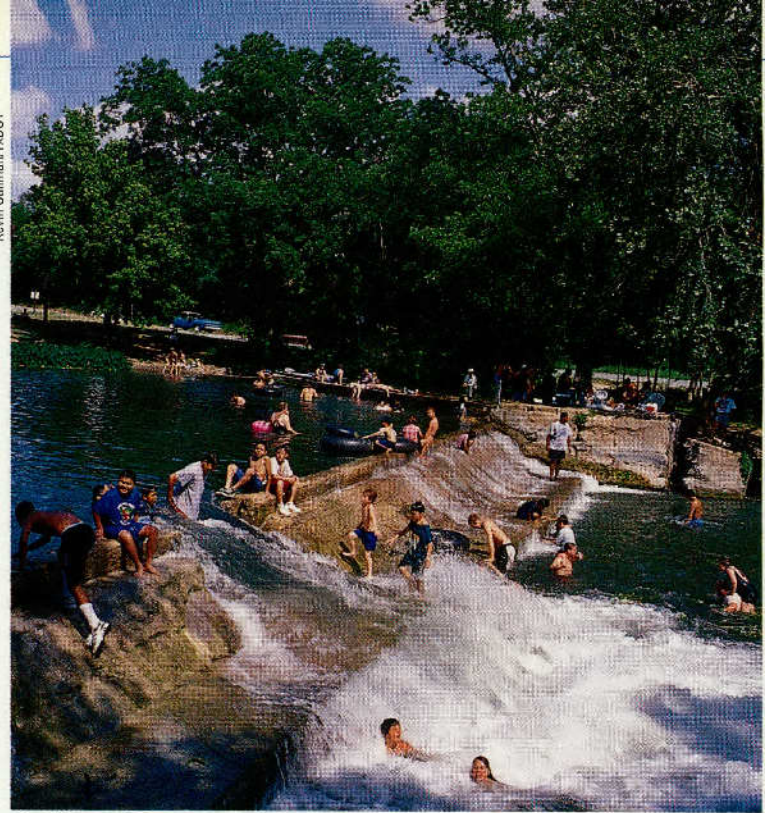
**Water Recreation**—Scuba, snorkel, fish, kayak, or tube the crystal clear San Marcos River. The water is 72 degrees year ‘round. Lions Club Tube Rental and River Taxi operates on weekends in the spring and daily Memorial Day to Labor Day in San Marcos City Park. For information, call 512/396-5466.

## Aquarena Center, San Marcos



Southwest Texas State University photo

Kevin Stillman/TXDOT



**San Marcos River water recreation**

**Wonder World**—Only earthquake-formed cave in the nation open to the public and offers a nature tourism experience focused on Texas’ geology and history. Unlike water-formed caves, this cave is not harmed by touch or light and visitors are encouraged to take photos and touch the cave. Highlight of tour visits dark room where minerals imbedded in the cave glow in various colors reflecting the properties of the rocks. The Tejas Observation Tower gives an aerial view of the Balcones fault line and the city of San Marcos, located on the edge of the Texas Hill Country. Also wildlife petting area, train ride, anti-gravity house, and gift shop. Open year around; summer hours 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; winter season, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Exit number 202 off I-35 to Wonder World Dr. For information, call 512/392-3760. If you can’t wait to visit the park, catch a preview on the Internet at [www.wonderworld-park.com](http://www.wonderworld-park.com). Admission.

**Visitor Center**—For additional information on San Marcos events, accommodations, and attractions, stop by the Convention and Visitors Bureau visitor center on I-35, exit 205, or give them a call at 512/393-5930 or 1-888-200-5620. The center is open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## SAN SABA

Pop. 2,637

Alt. 1,210

Map N-15

**General**—Settled 1854 and named for scenic river on which it is located. Seat of San Saba County, agricultural area producing wool, mohair, cattle, horses, hogs and poultry. City is also widely known for its pecan crops which are shipped worldwide. San Saba and Colorado Rivers are popular with campers and fishermen. During autumn-winter seasons, hunters take white-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrel, and native game birds.

Information on events, accommodations, and restaurants may be obtained from the chamber of commerce by calling 915/372-5141.

**Colorado Bend State Park**—Scenic settings along banks of Colorado River. Primitive camping, chemical toilets, hiking trails, and picnicking facilities. Fantastic fishing in river with fish cleaning site. (Vanishing Texas River Cruise offers trips up the Colorado River on Lake Buchanan. See BURNET.)

Gorman Falls, within the park, is by tour only. Participants caravan from park headquarters to the Gorman area and hike over beautiful terrain to the falls. The hike is a one-and-a-half mile round-trip. Substantial footwear with rubber soles is recommended. No pets allowed on tour. Also, no rest rooms or drinking water available in this part of the park. Tours to the falls are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sat., and 10 a.m. Sun. year round, weather permitting. Tour fee.

Take U.S. 190 east to F.M. 560 13 miles to Bend. Follow signs to park entrance. Camping is on a first-come basis. No reservations. Limit 300 vehicles in park. For information, 915/628-3240.

**Parks**—Mill Pond Park includes a small spring-fed lake, waterfalls, swimming pool, and picnic sites. More than five-million gallons of water flow up through

the rocks underneath the lake daily. Other facilities include baseball fields, pavilion, tennis courts, and playground equipment. Hookups for recreational vehicles is also available. Park is five blocks east of the courthouse.

Risien Park is bordered on one side by the San Saba River and offers picnic facilities, playground equipment, pavilion, volleyball courts, and an amphitheater, all beneath large, shady pecan trees. On east edge of city on U.S. 190. **San Saba County Historical Museum**—Items from ranch, farm, and Western life. Household relics and period clothing. Housed in two 100-year-old log cabins. Open Apr. - Sept. Sun. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. In Mill Pond Park, five blocks east of courthouse.

## SONORA

Pop. 2,924

Alt. 2,120

Map O/P-11

**General**—On western slope of the Edwards Plateau, began as trading post on Old San Antonio-El Paso Road with Anglo-American settlement beginning about 1890; was connected by stage to San Angelo until 1915, and Western heritage is reflected still. The Sutton County seat is a leading wool and mohair center; local firm produces garments, blankets and fabric from locally produced products. Hunters take deer and turkey during season.

The longest fenced cattle trail in the world once extended from a railhead at Brady to Sonora. Fort Worth & Rio Grande Railroad purchased 250-foot-wide right of way and fenced it for the 100-mile distance. Holding pastures and windmills were along route that operated profitably for decade—until another railroad completed a line to Sonora.

**Caverns of Sonora**—Fantastic caverns are called unbelievable by cave authorities. Formations called “impossible” grow in delicate crystal beauty and amazing profusion on ceilings, walls, and floors. A past president of the National Speleological Society said, “This is the most indescribably beautiful cavern in the world. Its beauty cannot be exaggerated, even by Texans!” Guided cave tours regularly each half hour cover about 1.5 miles under ground. (Rest stops provided, but tours are strenuous—equivalent to climbing several hundred steps.) West of Sonora about 8 miles, exit I-10 on Caverns of Sonora Road (R.M. 1989); drive south about 7 miles. Camping area with hookups available. Admission.

**Covered Wagon Dinner Theater**—Performed in small, natural amphitheater near the Caverns of Sonora. Costumed storytellers recall early days of area along with a variety of musical entertainment. Audiences sit at picnic tables or in lawn chairs for catered dinner and performances. Usually mid-Jun. - mid-Aug. For information, call the chamber of commerce at 915/387-2880. Admission.

## STONEWALL

Pop. 469

Alt. 1,512

Map P-15

**General**—The Central Texas village on U.S. 290 west of Austin was established 1870, named for Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Famed for delicious Gillespie County peaches, and location of LBJ Ranch, home of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson.

**Becker Vineyards**—Reproduction of a 19th century German stone barn houses the winery and tasting room. More than 24 acres of grapevines in production, including chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, ruby cabernet, and others. Especially pretty during spring when fields of wildflowers are in bloom. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. On Jenschke Lane, about a mile off U.S. 290 west of town. Tel. 830/644-2681.

**Grape Creek Vineyard**—Features antique roses, gift shop, tasting room and only fully underground wine cellar in Texas. Wines include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Fumé Blanc and Cabernet Blanc. Tours and tasting Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; group tours welcome with advance notice. On scenic South Grape Creek, 4 mi. west of Stonewall on U.S. 290; 830/644-2710.

**Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historical Park**—The LBJ Ranch rests along the banks of the Pedernales River where Hereford cattle, white-tailed deer, and turkey abound. In the spring and summer, wildflowers, so beloved by the former first lady, accent the picturesque countryside. Access to the ranch is by bus tours, operated daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; tour admission. The tour begins at the LBJ State Park Visitor Center and includes the reconstructed Johnson birthplace, the family cemetery and final resting place of the President, ranch show barn areas, the one-room Junction schoolhouse, the Texas White House, and a drive across the 600-acre ranch. Park Road 49, which leads to those sites, is open to all vehicles only from 5 p.m. until dark. Operated by National Park Service as part of National Historic Park that includes Johnson Boyhood Home (see

JOHNSON CITY). Access from U.S. 290 or Ranch Road One. For information, write to PO Box 329, Johnson City, TX 78636, or call 830/868-7128, ext. 231 or 244.

**LBJ State Park**—710-acre park (day use only) is boarding point for NPS tours. Visitor center open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. presents interpretive exhibits of storied Texas Hill Country. Picnic facilities, swimming pool, tennis courts, and nature trail. Wildlife displays include Texas Longhorns, white-tailed deer, and buffalo. Historic buildings include two restored dog-run cabins of area pioneers, furnished in frontier style, and the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead (open daily 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) where rural life of the early 1900s is interpreted by living history demonstrations. Open daily. U.S. 290 just east of Stonewall.

## TAYLOR

Pop. 13,575

Alt. 583

Map O-17

**General**—Originally named Taylorsville to honor Edward M. Taylor, an official of Houston Belt and Terminal RR when townsite laid out in 1876 in southeastern Williamson County. First public school in 1883, first water works in 1882 and first churches in 1878; incorporated in 1882. Today town is center for agribusiness and industrial area with plants making furniture, clothing, bedding and many other products.

Two municipal parks provide swimming pools, picnic areas, and other recreational activities. Mustang Creek Club's 9-hole golf course is open to the public.

A self-guided driving tour is available from the Taylor Chamber of Commerce. For additional information on accommodations, dining, and area events, give the chamber a call at 512/352-6364 (Taylor area) or 512/365-8485 (Metro), or visit their Web site [www.taylorchamber.org](http://www.taylorchamber.org).

For hikers and joggers, Bull Branch hike and bike trail crisscrosses the city ending in the southeast at Murphy Park.

Home to branches of Temple College and Austin Community College-Fire School.

**Lake**—Granger. See LAKES listing.

**Moody Museum**—Housed in restored birthplace of Texas governor, Dan Moody, who gained fame by prosecuting Ku Klux Klan in Williamson Co. Built in 1887, the Victorian house contains many original furnishings donated by the Moody family. Open Sun. 3 - 5 p.m. 114 W. Ninth St.

## UTOPIA

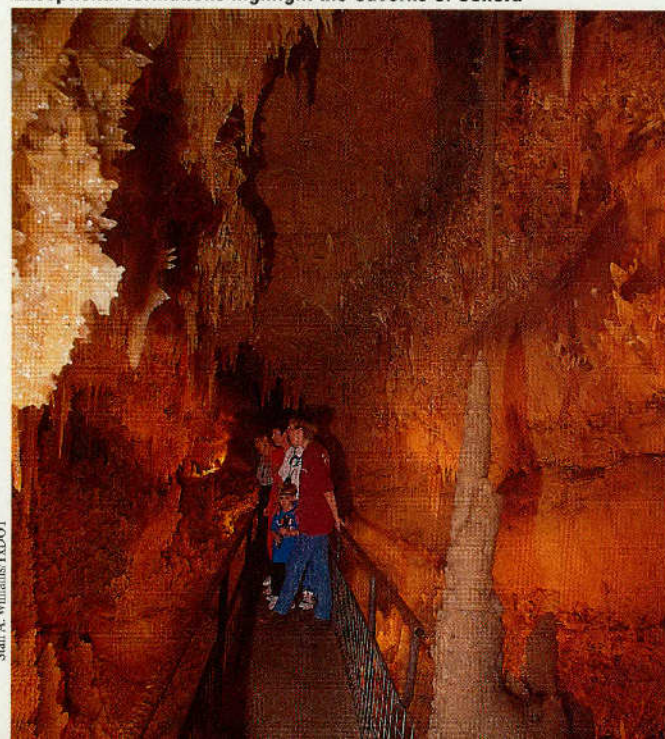
Pop. 241

Alt. 1,200

Map R-13

**General**—This small Texas Hill Country community was settled in the early 1850s in northeast Uvalde County. It is on the crystal-clear waters of the Sabinal River among rugged canyons shaded by Bald Cypress, live oak, and pecan trees 12 miles south of Lost Maples State Natural Area. The community

### Exceptional formations highlight the Caverns of Sonora



Stan A. Williams/TXDOT



Jack Lemke/TXDOT

“Living History” Farm in LBJ country at Stonewall

offers a wide range of outdoor activities including swimming, tubing, horse-back riding, hunting, hiking, cycling, and birding.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, call the Texas Hill Country River Region at 1-800-210-0380 or visit the Web site at [www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com).

**Sabinal Canyon Museum**—This museum exhibits pioneer farm implements and household items, Indian artifacts, geological exhibits, including fossils and minerals from the Sabinal River Canyon. There is also a World War II exhibit. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Call 830/966-3747.

**Scenic Drive**—Rolling hills spilling into secluded valleys make this area popular. Explore the Sabinal River Canyon along R.R. 187, F.M. 1050, and Texas 337.

## UVALDE

Pop. 14,929

Alt. 913

Map S-13

**General**—First settled 1853, and in 1855-56 known as Encina. Once domain of notorious frontier sheriff and outlaw, J. King Fisher. Historical marker on Fisher and graves of early settlers killed by Indians in Pioneer Cemetery, 500 block N. Park St. Today a retail center for extensive cattle, sheep and goat ranching, and truck farming. Industries include vegetable packing and processing, aircraft modifications, and garment making. City is at intersection of nation's two longest highways, U.S. 90 and U.S. 83. Home of Southwest Texas Junior College and Sul Ross State Univ., Rio Grande College.

**Aviation Museum of Texas**—Showcases a variety of aircraft including a PT-17 antique Stearman; Liaison-4; 1946 Ercoupe; a Fairchild; and a PT-19. Other exhibits include collection of Garner Field and WW II memorabilia. Site is at a former WWII training facility. Usually open Wed. - Fri. At Hangar No. 1 at Garner Field Airport.

**Briscoe Art and Antique Collection**—Extensive rotating collection of art and antiques collected by former Gov. and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe is displayed in the First State Bank. Highlighted masterpieces include works by Rembrandt and Gainsborough, as well as American Western artists Warren and Salinas. Tours available. Open. Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed most holidays. 200 East Nopal. St. For information, call 830/278-6231.

**Garner Memorial Museum**—Former home of John “Cactus Jack” Garner, vice president under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Miscellaneous historical material and special displays associated with Garner and area history. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. (Open Sun. Jun. - mid-Aug. 1 - 5 p.m.) Closed holidays. 333 N. Park St. Admission.

**Garner State Park**—North 31 miles via U.S. 83. See CONCAN.

**National Fish Hatchery**—One of the “top producing warm-water federal hatcheries in the nation” offers refuge to endangered fish species. Area is also

popular for bird watching, hiking, and picnics. Located one mile south on F.M. 481.

**Opera House**—Restored and refurbished, the Grand Opera House, c. 1891, was once the center of cultural activity in Southwest Texas. Today's performances are given in an original turn-of-the-century setting. Tours available through the box office Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information, call 830/278-4184. On the Plaza at 100 W. North St. Admission.

**Parks**—Fort Inge County Park is site of old U.S. Cavalry post built in 1849. Park features hiking trails, camping and picnic tables. Located along the scenic Leona River at the base of extinct volcano. Also noted for birding. On F.M. 140 1.5-miles south of city.

Jardin de los Heroes Park, “Garden of the Heroes,” honors Vietnam veterans and features playground equipment and picnic facilities. At 801 West Main St.

Uvalde Memorial Park & Recreational Complex is on the banks of the Leona River. Features include municipal golf course, lighted tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, covered pavilion, and walking trails. At 337 East Main St.

**Scenic Drive**—U.S. 83 north through Concan, past Garner State Park to Leakey, then west on F.M. 337 and south on Texas 55; or at Leakey, east on F.M. 337 to Vanderpool (near Lost Maples Natural Area), and south on F.M. 187 to Sabinal; some of the most spectacular scenery in Texas Hill Country. Take your camera!

## VANDERPOOL

Pop. 20 (est.)

Alt. 1,610

Map Q-13

**General**—Town received its name (from early settler L.B. Vanderpool) when a post office was granted in 1885. On the Sabinal River in the exceptionally scenic Hill Country of western Bandera County. Largely utilized for sheep, goat and cattle ranching, area is a favorite of deer hunters during season, and year-round gateway to popular Lost Maples State Natural Area.

**Lost Maples State Natural Area**—While they aren't really “lost,” the big-tooth maples for which the park is named are very selective in their habitat. Widely scattered over several western states and northern Mexico, this maple thrives only in small, protected pockets in mountainous regions where temperature and humidity are moderate, where moisture is retained, and solar radiation is minimal. Because of their shallow roots, the trees are susceptible to damage by soil compaction and visitors are cautioned to stay on prescribed paths to ensure continued vigor of the maple stands. Fall color is usually at its peak in early Nov. (Note: Usually crowded in autumn when fall foliage at peak; it's recommended to see scenery during weekdays. Reservations needed this time of year for overnight stays. Also, nature sometimes plays tricks and autumn colors don't always attain usual brilliance. For information call 830/966-3413.) For reservations, call 512/389-8900.

Other vegetation in the scenic Hill Country park includes more than 90 plant families with some 350 species recorded. Bird life is also abundant, including the rare golden-cheeked warbler. Of many mammal species in the park, native white-tailed deer are most numerous.

Park facilities include campsites with water and electricity, picnic areas, rest rooms, showers, and primitive camp areas reached by almost 11 miles of hiking and backpacking trails.

Three trees are State Champion Big Trees—an escarpment chokecherry, a Texas ash, and a Bigtooth maple. The chokecherry and Texas ash have been nominated to the American Forestry Assn. Big Tree program for consideration as national champs. Park is four mi. north on R.M. 187. Admission.

**Scenic Drives**—While the Hill Country is laced with scenic drives, the east-and-west route of F.M. 337 is unquestionably among the most spectacular—massive wooded steeps enfolding tiny, secluded valleys—beautiful! Remember to take your camera.

F.M. 187 north of Vanderpool climbs to the surface of the Edwards Plateau (2,300 ft.) as it joins Texas 39. Sinkholes, porous basins that feed rain-water into the deep Edwards Aquifer, abundantly dot the Hill Country. A textbook example lies immediately at the west edge of F.M. 187 exactly 8.9 miles north of Lost Maples State Park.

## VOLENTE

Pop. 400 (est.)

Alt. 1,231

Map FF-10

**General**—Volente is an unincorporated community in northwestern Travis County on Lake Travis. A post office was established in 1886, but later moved to Cedar Park in Williamson County. The area was partially submerged by



Glassblowing at Wimberley Glass Works

Lake Travis in the 1930s and residents had to relocate to higher ground. For additional information, visit the Web site at [www.volente.org](http://www.volente.org).

**Anderson Mill Museum**—The small museum contains memorabilia on area history and the mill Thomas Anderson built in the early 1860s. Tours offered the fourth Sun. of the month from 2 - 5 p.m. Mar. - Oct., weather permitting. At 13974 F.M. 2769 (Volente Rd.).

**Lake**—Travis. See LAKES listing.

**Volente Beach**—This five-acre water park in the hills of Lake Travis offers facilities for swimming, sandy beaches, three volleyball areas, two 40-foot water slides, a children's swimming playground, and a basketball court. Also, there is a restaurant and marina. Open daily Apr. - Labor Day 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Water activities closed Nov. - Feb. At 16107 F.M. 2769. For information, call 512/258-5109. Admission.

## WIMBERLEY

Pop. 3,797

Alt. 967

Map Q-16

**General**—Established 1848, the picturesque village today is a resort and retirement area on R.M. 12 north of San Marcos. Visitors are entranced by cool, shady pools beneath towering cypress trees, frothy cascades on Blanco River and sparkling Cypress Creek, green meadows and majestic hills; abundant white-tailed deer. Recreational communities, bed and breakfasts, vacation resorts and youth camps dot area. Climbing, hiking, fishing, swimming, boat-

ing, golf, tennis, arts and crafts, and camping are popular activities. Many artists and authors make their homes here.

**Arts and Crafts Galleries**—Hill Country scenes captured in oils; handicrafts, hobbies and souvenirs, all available in several quaint shops and studios clustered on and around Wimberley's "town square" at a casual joining of several roads.

**Blue Hole**—The popular cypress-lined water hole is fed by Cypress Creek. It provides a place for camping, swimming and picnicking. Open daily. Take County Road 173 east one-half mile; take a left onto Blue Hole Road. There is an admission charge. For information, call 512/847-9217.

**Central Texas Bonsai Exhibit**—More than 160 species of trees and more than 1000 containers of specimen trees in collection of Bonsai styles. Many feature the traditional trees (maples, elms, pines); however, majority of exhibit focuses on native trees to Central and South Texas. Located in Jade Gardens at 12404 R.R. 12 south of town. Tel. 512/847-2514, or visit Web site at [www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg](http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg).

**Devil's Backbone**—One of Texas' most scenic drives, officially R.M. 32, the "Devil's Backbone" is a winding, razor-backed ridge overlooking Hill Country vistas. Extends from R.M. 12 just south of Wimberley, west some 24 miles to near Blanco.

**Lake**—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

**Pioneertown**—A village of the Old West re-created at 7-A Ranch Resort on the Blanco River. Furnishings and details of saloons, general store, post office, hotel, opera house, log fort and other buildings. Medicine shows and old-time melodramas are regular summer fare. Art gallery features impressive collection of Remington bronzes and Western paintings. Open daily (except closed on Wed.) 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. summer; winter Sat. 1 - 5:30 p.m. 7-A Ranch Resort, one mile S. of Wimberley

**Visitor Center**—For additional information on accommodations, attractions, or dining opportunities, stop by the Chamber of Commerce visitor's center on R.R. 12 north of the square, or call 512/847-2201. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Visit the Web site at [www.wimberley.org](http://www.wimberley.org).

**Wimberley Glass Works**—Local artists provide free glassblowing demonstrations complete with information on the history of glass. For sale in the gallery are signed pieces of colorful glasswork—paperweights, tumblers, vases, goblets, and more. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's Day, and Easter; tour buses welcomed by appointment. From Wimberley's Village Square, take Ranch Road 12 south 1.6 miles and turn left at 111 W. Spoke Hill Dr. Signs will lead you to the shop on your left. For information, call 512/847-9348.

### Mother Nature touches Lost Maples State Natural Area in Vanderpool

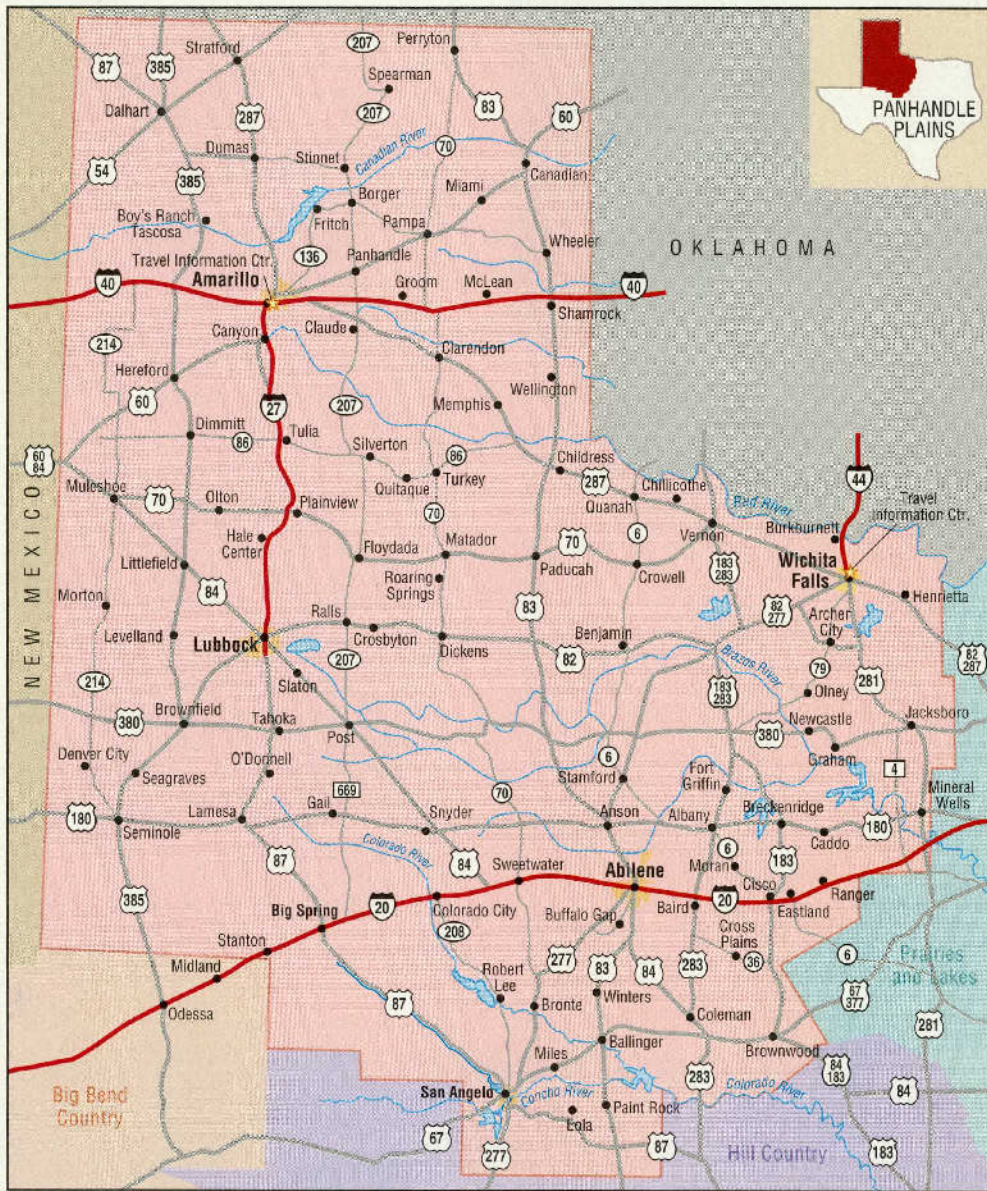


J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

Randy Green/TXDOT



# PANHANDLE PLAINS



**T**he Panhandle Plains. Some folks call this region of Texas gloriously flat, some say it's just plain glorious. These vast, open lands—like the overwhelming expanses of the ocean—often evoke superlatives and always excite the imagination. Artist Georgia O'Keeffe, who once lived here (in Amarillo and Canyon), reveled in “the beauty of that wild world” and portrayed the expansive luminosity of the Plains in her magnificent paintings.

Scenery? Ah, yes. Sunsets stretch scarlet and pink and golden across a seemingly endless horizon. Here lies the startling splendor of the Caprock Escarpment, whose 250-mile, north-to-south length marks the edge of the Llano Estacado (Spanish for “staked plains”). And rivers, like the Red and the Brazos, course across the rugged earth and carve out their own fascinating landscapes, producing splendid canyons, such as Palo Duro and Caprock, and scenic lakes such as Possum Kingdom and Meredith. In fact, lakes aplenty pepper these plains.

Throughout this section of Texas, you will find activities both enticing and entertaining. Many of them bring you the flavor of the Lone Star State's western heritage. You can relish a chuckwagon breakfast beside a colorful canyon and visit exciting old frontier forts. You can watch cowboys at work (this is, after all, cowboy country) and dance the night away to the strains of the

fiddle—or the jukebox. And you can browse for antiques, arts, and crafts in shops that range from rustic to elegant, in tiny towns and sprawling cities.

Yes, there are intriguing cities here, too. Amarillo anchors the Panhandle, while Lubbock forms the hub of the western plains, and San Angelo, Abilene, and Wichita Falls rim the east. For a whirlwind tour of this fascinating territory, read on.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

## THE PANHANDLE

Amarillo welcomes you to Texas in a big way. Start off with the friendly greeting of travel counselors at the Texas Information Center. Visit the antique and specialty shops along a section of old U.S. 66. Take the kids to Wonderland Park for an unforgettable ride on the double loops of the



“Texas Tornado” roller coaster, and enjoy the diverse attractions of the Don Harrington Discovery Center, where hands-on exhibits, an aquarium, planetarium, and botanical garden will intrigue the whole family for hours.

At the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum, exhibits showcase the equine elegance of the American Quarter Horse, while, at the Hollywood Museum, you can browse displays of movie memorabilia, such as the box of chocolates used in the movie *Forrest Gump* and the shower curtain from the notorious murder scene in *Psycho*.

If you have a big appetite—make that a *huge* appetite—Amarillo gives you a chance at a free meal. Go to the Big Texan Steak Ranch, wolf down a 72-ounce steak and all the trimmings (salad, bread, potato, and shrimp cocktail) within an hour, and the meal is on the house. Thousands have tried; some have succeeded. Bon appétit. The restaurant also serves tasty regular-size meals, of course, and exhibits a live rattlesnake safely behind glass for your viewing pleasure.

Just west of Amarillo, you’ll see a strange array of 10 upended classic Cadillacs, ranging in years from 1949 to 1963 and planted at a slant, hood-first all in a row. These mega-finned, graffiti-decorated vehicles form “Cadillac Ranch,” a display that originated in 1974.

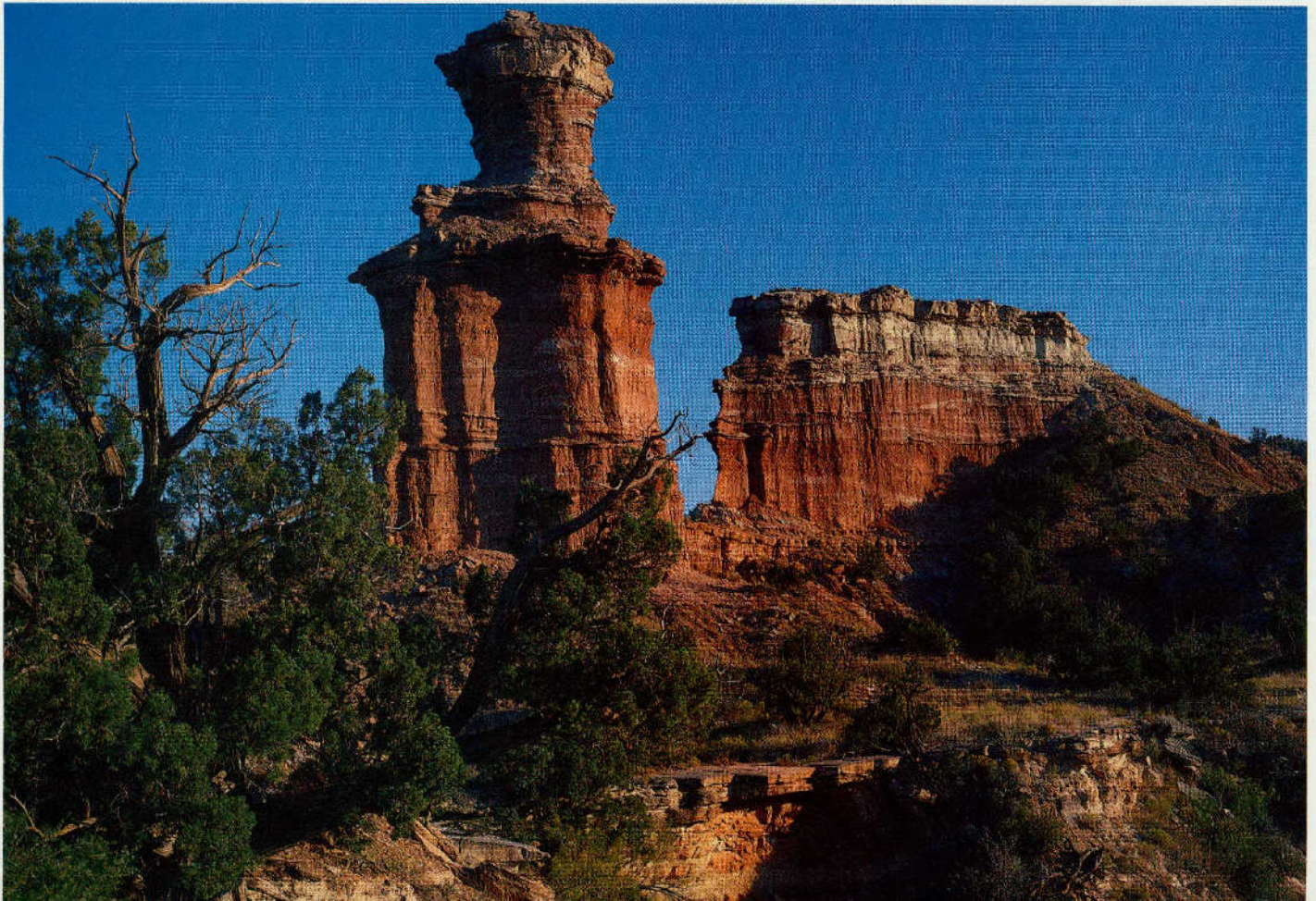
How about sipping a cup of coffee at the rim of Palo Duro Canyon, while the rising sun illuminates multihued canyon walls? Sign up for Cowboy Morning Breakfast and join other early risers for a chuckwagon meal in a setting unlike any other.

To experience cowboy life on a working ranch, spend some time at Bar H Dude Ranch near Clarendon. Here, you can help the cowboys with their chores, ride horseback across the prairie, and chow down on savory ranch fare. Best of all, you can stay here for a few hours or a few weeks.

South of Clarendon, the town of Turkey honors native son Bob Wills, the “King of Western Swing” in a big way with exhibits and memorabilia in the Bob Wills Museum. Stay in town awhile at the bed and breakfast facilities of the Turkey Hotel, a historic inn built in 1927.

At Shamrock, you can kiss a bit of the Blarney Stone (a fragment of the original stone from Blarney Castle, County Cork, Ireland) and at McLean, you can check out the Devil’s Rope and Route 66 Museum, dedicated to barbed wire, fencing, and relics from U.S. 66.

#### Palo Duro Canyon near Canyon



Pampa gives you 32 fine municipal parks and the Freedom Museum USA, where displays salute branches of the U.S. military. A historical marker in Childress’s city park honors the site of the Goodnight Trail, an extension of the Goodnight-Loving Trail over which thousands of cattle trudged to markets in the north.

In the northwestern corner of the Panhandle, Dalhart’s XIT Museum commemorates the massive three-million-acre ranch formed from land sold to build the state’s capitol in Austin. Visit Dalhart during early August and join in the XIT Rodeo and Reunion festivities. You’ll get to partake of the world’s largest free barbecue and watch one of the longest parades in these parts.

Be sure to tour the outstanding Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on the campus of West Texas State A&M University in Canyon. Excellent exhibits focus on the area’s western heritage, geology, and paleontology. A scale model of Palo Duro Canyon spotlights the Panhandle’s most exciting geological region.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park lies about 12 miles east of Canyon. The visual impact of this beautiful canyon, the second largest in the nation, stuns many a visitor. Etched by the waters of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, the banded layers of the canyon’s walls glow red, pink, orange, yellow, gray, white, and even lavender. Impressive, oft-photographed formations, such as the “Lighthouse” and the “Spanish Skirts,” abound.

In the 16,402-acre state park, you can camp, hike, ride horses, and enjoy a campfire breakfast. Summer nights ring with the sounds of the outdoor musical *TEXAS*, a tale of settling the Panhandle in the late 1800s, told with a top-notch cast and stupendous special effects.

Other favorite outdoor locales that showcase gorgeous Panhandle panoramas are Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, about 30 miles north of Amarillo, and Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway in the southern Panhandle, near Quitaque. At Caprock Canyons State Park you can see a large herd of buffaloes, shaggy reminders of the past.

#### WESTERN TEXAS PLAINS

Head south from the Panhandle toward Lubbock and Big Spring and you will parallel the Caprock Escarpment, the ridge that divides the High Plains on the west from the Lower Plains on the east. Communities throughout this region take pride in preserving their pioneering past and many offer interest-



J. Gillis Smith/2007

**Old West-style chuck wagon breakfast served at Cowboy Morning in Amarillo**

ing museums and historical sites. Spend time here and you will be met with warmth and welcome.

Start with Lubbock, the largest city on the Texas High Plains. Lubbock provides visitors with activities and entertainment that celebrate the town's youthful spirit as well as its Western heritage.

If you once bebopped to "That'll Be the Day" and other songs by Buddy Holly, you will want to pay tribute to the late musician at the Buddy Holly Center and at the statue and Walk of Fame dedicated to this legendary favorite son. Then, scoot on over to the Historic Depot District, where you can dance the evening away at night clubs featuring a variety of musical styles.

Set aside time to tour the extraordinary Ranching Heritage Center, part of the Museum of Texas Tech University. Here, you can immerse yourself in the yesteryears of Texas ranching. In grand array on 14 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds stand some 35 authentic structures, many of which graced the great ranches of Texas or belonged to their owners.

Pleasant walkways lead you to buildings such as the elegant Barton House, the Waggoner Ranch Commissary, the Masterson JY Bunkhouse, and Las Escarbas, once a division headquarters for the XIT Ranch. The buildings, moved here from their original locations, represent ranching in Texas from the late 1700s through the early 1900s.

In the mood for a taste of the grape? You're in luck. You can sample award-winning wines at area wineries such as Cap\*Rock, Pheasant Ridge, and Llano Estacado, one of Texas' largest. To appreciate another fruit that grows here, stop by Apple Country Hi-Plains Orchards, where you can pick your own apples, savor a little cider and a slice of German Apple Cake, and shop at the country store.

Visit Lubbock's Mackenzie Park for a close-up view of frisky little prairie dogs, who live in their own "Prairie Dog Town." You can also picnic here, play golf at a 36-hole course, and ride the water coaster and roller coaster at Joyland Amusement Park.

Many of the towns in the High Plains harbor hidden gems. One such town is Post, southeast of Lubbock, where the OS Ranch Museum dresses up for

certain holidays, with special exhibits of Fabergé, Waterford, and Lalique eggs during the Easter season, and displays of crèches and ornaments at Christmas. (By the way, the town got its name from cereal maker C.W. Post, who founded it in 1907.)

To the north, Plainview offers shoppers several locations for antique browsing in its historic downtown. To the west, Muleshoe provides a great photo opportunity at its National Mule Memorial, a statue honoring the sturdy animals that helped settle the West.

During a summer drive through the region, you may notice bright lavender flowers with vivid yellow centers. You're admiring Tahoka daisies (also known as prairie asters) named for Tahoka Lake, north of Tahoka, where they were first discovered.

South of Lubbock, the Plains brim with towns that offer an assortment of treats. Big Spring provides an eclectic mix of attractions, including the Heritage Museum, with the world's largest collection of Texas Longhorn steer horns; Hangar 25 Air Museum, a restored hangar that exhibits airplanes and artifacts commemorating a World War II bombardier school; and Big Spring State Park, 343 acres with picnic sites, nature trails, and a prairie dog town.

Snyder, Colorado City, and Sweetwater, which form a triangle east of Big Spring, each provide reasons to stop and explore. Snyder boasts the *White Buffalo* Statue, recalling a rare albino buffalo killed near the town, and the Wagon Wheel Ranch, a working dude ranch where trail rides might involve rounding up the ranch's Texas Longhorns. In Colorado City, you can explore the Heart of Texas Museum to see mementos and exhibits chronicling the early history of West Texas. Take an outdoor spin at nearby Lake Colorado City State Park, where you can fish, swim, and camp.

To the east, Sweetwater's Pioneer City-County Museum houses more than a dozen display rooms focusing on the lives of area settlers. The museum also contains an exhibit honoring the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASPs, who trained at Sweetwater's Avenger Field during World War II. A memorial marker citing their service stands at the old training site, now the grounds of Texas State Technical College.

### EASTERN TEXAS PLAINS

The Lower Plains east of the Caprock Escarpment encompass dozens of interesting small towns, as well as the three cities of San Angelo, Abilene, and Wichita Falls. Scenery here can captivate you, especially the rugged and ruddy terrain of Copper Breaks State Park, the rolling peaks of the Palo Pinto Mountains, and the craggy cliffs of Possum Kingdom Lake.

In this area, bounded on the north by the Red River and on the south by the Colorado and Concho rivers, you will discover a host of intriguing sites that spotlight the region's pioneering past.

The remains of frontier forts, such as Fort Belknap at Newcastle, Fort Richardson at Jacksboro, and Fort Griffin at Fort Griffin State Park, march across the Plains landscape. Few are as beautifully preserved as Fort Concho in San Angelo.

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark lies today within the modern city of San Angelo. Built in 1867 and abandoned in 1889, it served as one of the major frontier outposts protecting West Texans. You can visit more than 20 original and restored buildings, including barracks, officers quarters, the post hospital, and the schoolhouse/chapel, comprise the impressive complex. In early December, "Christmas at Old Fort Concho" brings the fort festively alive with history reenactments and special holiday entertainment.

San Angelo offers you a full slate of interesting and fun attractions. Check out Concho Avenue, with its antique, collectible, and gift shops. Stroll the pleasant River Walk and the El Paseo de Santa Angela, a heritage trail that connects a mall and marketplace with "Old Town," lined with historic homes. Be sure to seek out local artisans' displays of jewelry featuring the famous Concho River pearls. These amazing gems, which range in color from pale pink to regal purple, form in freshwater mussels found in the Concho River. Beautiful!

At Ballinger, which lies between San Angelo and Abilene, two distinctive monuments catch your eye. One, a massive, sculpted cross rises 100 feet from the prairie in graceful splendor alongside Texas 158. A grotto with a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe stands adjacent. Lights illuminate the cross at night, so that you can see it for miles. The other impressive monument stands on the Runnels County courthouse lawn in Ballinger. Famed sculptor Pompeo Coppini produced the work. It portrays a cowboy standing beside his horse and memorializes Charles Noyes, who died in 1917 at age 21 when his horse threw him. The touching memorial, commissioned by Noyes' father, beautifully captures the essence of the cowboy.



Kevin Sullivan/TxDOT

### American Wind Power Center in Lubbock

Cowboys loom large in these parts. In Stamford, the Texas Cowboy Reunion occurs each year around July 4, presenting the greatest amateur rodeo in the world. At Vernon, home to the headquarters of the huge W.T. Waggoner Ranch, you can learn about the ranch and about area history at the Red River Valley Museum. Abilene throws one of the state's largest celebrations honoring cowboys and ranchers annually in early May. Called the Western Heritage Classic, the huge event includes a rodeo, farrier competitions, recitations by members of the Cowboy Poet's Society, a "Stick Horse Rodeo" for little cowpokes, and many activities recalling early Western heritage. The city also boasts several attractions that tempt you to stay awhile, including the Abilene Zoo, the Grace Museum, and the splendid Paramount Theatre.

The Paramount, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, reflects the 1930s, when ornately designed movie palaces proved entertainment centerpieces. Visit here and you will find yourself in theater heaven. The restored theater's stylish Art Deco exterior envelops a "Spanish atmospheric" interior that boasts a ceiling complete with clouds and stars. Productions ranging from classic films to plays and concerts take place regularly at the Paramount. Plan to attend one; you'll be glad you did.

Buffalo Gap Historic Village, 14 miles south of Abilene, provides you with a chance to explore more than a dozen restored and furnished historic structures from the old frontier settlement of Buffalo Gap, where large herds of buffalo once roamed. If it's dinner time, stop by Perini's Steak Ranch in Buffalo Gap and sink your teeth into a great grilled ribeye. You won't go away hungry.

North of Abilene, the town of Albany welcomes you with a surprise or two. Head for the Old Jail Art Center (yes, it really was an old jail, circa 1878) and gaze upon artworks by Charles Umlauf, Henry Moore, Louise Nevelson, Amedeo Modigliana, and Pablo Picasso, then admire the exhibit of Chinese art from the Han, Wei, Sui, T'ang, and Ming dynasties. Also in Albany, the annual production of the fantastic Fort Griffin Fandangle occurs each June when 200-plus townsfolk reenact the settling of Fort Griffin. You watch this colorful, musical mix of history and tall tales under the stars at night, which, of course, are big and bright.

Head for Breckenridge, up near Possum Kingdom Lake, and you realize you are in oil country. Once a boomtown, this pleasant community celebrates its "black gold" past with a series of murals marking the days of the boom. Stop by the fine Swenson Memorial Museum and J.D. Sandefer Oil Annex to learn more about area history. Pick up a picnic lunch and head for the city's lovely municipal park for a leisurely outdoor meal.

In Cross Plains, you can visit the home of Robert E. Howard. The author of the *Conan the Barbarian* series, Howard lived here from 1919 until he died in 1936. At Cisco, say hi to the Mobley Hotel. Bought by Conrad Hilton in 1919, the Mobley became the first in the illustrious Hilton Hotel chain.

When you visit Mineral Wells, pick up some of the town's famous mineral water, once ballyhooed for its medicinal qualities. And be sure to tour Clark Gardens, created by Max and Billie Clark to replicate an English garden. The Clark's elaborate 83-acre Texas version displays a virtual sea of irises and other blooms, as well as a rose arbor.

In Eastland, you can pay homage to the remains of "Old Rip," the legendary horned lizard that supposedly lived for 31 years sealed in a courthouse cornerstone. When the county built a new courthouse and opened the old cornerstone, Old Rip reportedly was still alive. Believe it—or not.

On the northeastern border of this region of the Plains, Wichita Falls offers a variety of activities, events, and attractions. Stop by the hospitable Travel Information Center first. You will get great information.

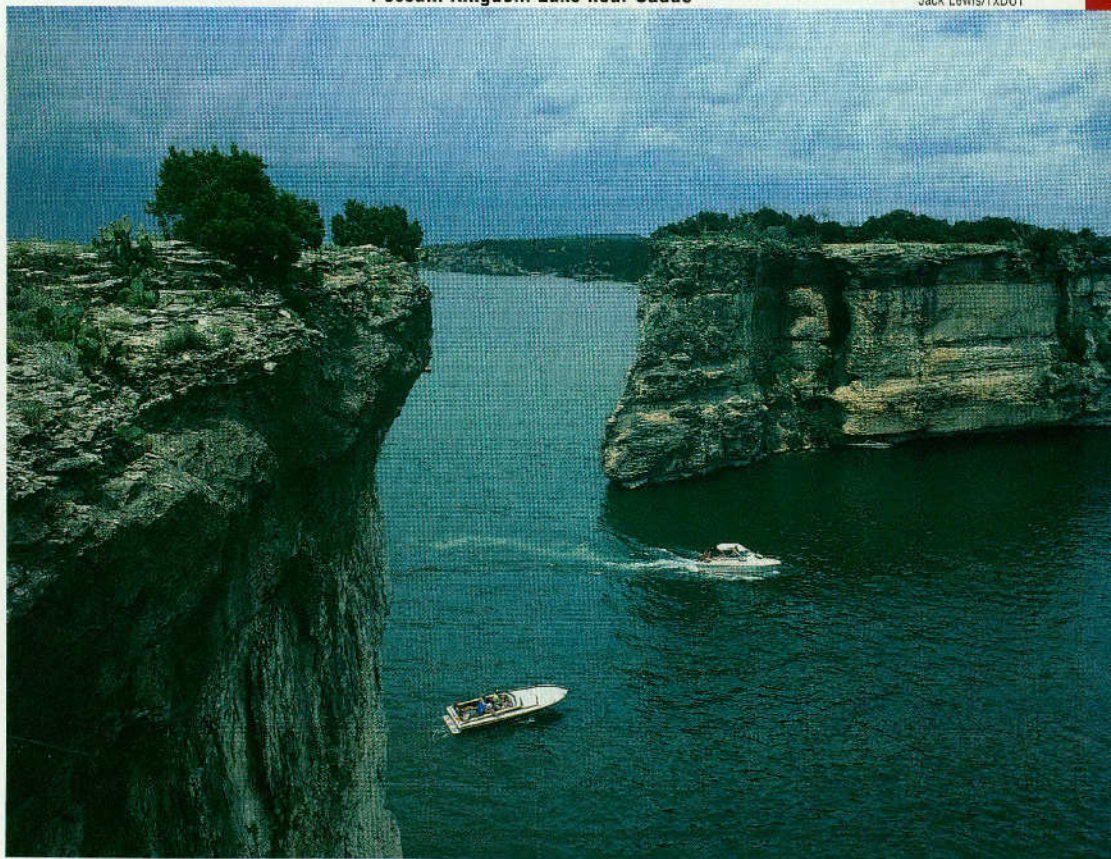
In Wichita Falls, you will find fun surprises: a 54-foot-high re-creation of the falls for which the city was named; the wildly popular Hotter 'n Hell Hundred Bike Race held each August; and Graham Central Station, where several clubs under one roof offer country/western, karaoke, Top 40, retro disco, and live entertainment. For a taste of the outdoors, stroll the pleasant paths of Lucy Park in town or head out to nearby Lake Arrowhead State Park, where you can camp, fish, and boat.

Take time to visit the city's elegant Kell House. The historic home, built in 1909 by a local business leader, contains seven fireplaces, hand-stenciled decorations, and original furnishings. In this and other sites, Wichita Falls preserves a proud heritage.

From ornate houses to historic ranches, from rugged canyons to placid lakes, and from trail rides to scenic drives, the Panhandle Plains promises to please. Come see for yourself.

### Possum Kingdom Lake near Caddo

Jack Lewis/TxDOT





JARL LEWIS/TXDOT

Ghostly ruins of Fort Phantom Hill near Abilene

## ABILENE

Pop. 115,930

Alt. 1,738

Map K-13

**General**—Established by cattlemen as stock shipping point on Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1881, named for Abilene, KS. The city later became major cattle producing area with diversified farming. In recent years oil has added great impetus to city's economy. When the city celebrated its centennial in 1981, the city set up a demonstration oil-drilling rig on the county fairgrounds just to illustrate the techniques of "making hole." By pure accident, it struck oil, not much, but enough for modest, profitable production. Cultural aspects influenced by Abilene Christian Univ., Hardin-Simmons Univ., and McMurry Univ., branches of Cisco Junior College and Texas State Technical College; community theater and a philharmonic association and fine arts museum.

Abilene is home to the Fords Trail Regional Office at 174 Cypress St. and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature at North 1st and Cedar sts. This one of a kind children's museum offers the best works of today's premier children's authors and illustrators, and it is home to the permanent collection of works by William Joyce.

The West Texas Fair, 10 days in mid-Sept., features exhibits and amusements reflecting early days of Abilene, plus modern attractions of West Texas.

The Western Heritage Classic in early May features ranch rodeo, campfire cook-off, sheep dog trials, farrier competition, Cowboy Poet's Society, Western art show, and many other activities recalling early Western heritage.

The first weekend in April features Celebrate Abilene, an outdoor festival held in the historic downtown area bringing the arts, history, railroad, and family entertainment into one fun-filled festival for the entire community.

Abilene lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports, as well as on U.S. 83, 277 and I-20.

**Abilene State Park**—621-acre park near Lake Abilene; camping, trailer facilities, picnicking, shelters, swimming pool, rest rooms and showers, hiking and fishing. Large grove of some 4,000 native pecan trees, now a favorite picnic area, was once a popular campground for Comanche Indians. About 15 miles southwest on F.M. 89. Admission.

**Abilene Zoo**—One of five largest in state; animals displayed in modern areas simulating natural habitat.

Discovery Center is a "zoo within a zoo," housing comparative habitat displays of invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, and small mammals from the Southwestern U.S. and Africa.

The zoo is in Nelson Park, about 3 miles east of city on Texas 36 across from West Texas Fairgrounds. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.) Memorial Day through Labor day; Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Labor Day to Memorial Day. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission.

**Buffalo Gap**—See BUFFALO GAP.

**Center for Contemporary Arts**—The downtown gallery showcases contemporary art, sculpture and photography in its three galleries. Exhibits by local, regional and national artist change monthly. The center also houses working artists studios. Open Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 220 Cypress.

**Dyess Air Force Base**—Home of Air Combat Command's historic 7th Wing. Currently flies B-1B Lancers and C-130H Hercules. The base's Linear Air Park contains 30 aircraft from World War II to the present. Aircraft displayed along Arnold Blvd., main base thoroughfare. Open during daylight hours. Visitors must stop at main entrance for a temporary pass. (Note: Base may be closed temporarily during occasional military exercises.) For extensive base tours to flight lines, reservations must be prearranged with Public Affairs Office, 915/696-2863. Loop 312 south of Business Loop I-20/U.S. 84.

**Fort Phantom Hill**—Established 1851 to protect frontier from Indians, the post suffered a series of hardships; was abandoned in 1854. Historians say desertions were frequent due to monotony and loneliness. The fort burned shortly after abandonment; chimneys and foundations are principal remainders along with the stone commissary, guardhouse, and powder magazine. Site offers interpretive signs. 10 miles north via F.M. 600.

**Grace Museum**—Comprised of the Fine Arts Museum, Abilene Historical Museum, and the Children's Museum, all are in the historic Grace Hotel, known as the Grace Cultural Center. Built in 1909, the Grace is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and portions are restored to its 1929 condition, while other parts of the building have been renovated to make it appropriate for the Museums' use. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., otherwise closed Sun., Mon., and major holidays. 102 Cypress St. Admission.

**Lakes**—Local Lake Kirby within city offers fishing and picnic sites. For information on Lakes Abilene and Fort Phantom Hill, see LAKES listing.

**Paramount Theatre**—An Abilene Historic Landmark, the Paramount Theatre is on the National Register of Historic Places. Inside the beautiful art deco building visitors will find slow, drifting clouds and twinkling stars on a

### The Old Jail Art Center, Albany



Gay Strickland/TXDOT

blue sky. Neon and incandescent cove lighting alter the brightness and coloring of the sky beyond the archways and bell tower with twin domed turrets. Weekend classic films, art film series, plays and concerts presented throughout the year. For schedule, 915/676-9620. 352 Cypress St.

**Parks**—26 spacious, green parks featuring picnic facilities, playground equipment and swimming pools.

**Shore Art Gallery**—Traveling exhibits and works of students and faculty displayed throughout year. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed May 1 - Aug. 31. In Don H. Morris Center on Abilene Christian Univ. campus.

**Visitor Information Center**—Housed in restored depot directly across from Grace Cultural Center. Information on local and West Texas area; events, attractions, accommodations, plus general information on Texas. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; closed Sun. and holidays. Corner of North First and Cypress sts. 915/676-2556. Web site [www.abilene.com/visitors](http://www.abilene.com/visitors).

## ALBANY

Pop. 1,921

Alt. 1,429

Map K-14

**General**—Seat of Shackelford County, was early supply point on Western Trail to Dodge City; still important as ranch land; beef cattle supply 90 percent of county's agricultural income. Also oil producing and oil well supply center.

Old MKT depot serves as the Albany Visitor Center, as well as the home for the chamber of commerce office, "Fort Griffin Fandangle" office, and the office of economic development. Open weekdays; #2 S. Main St. For additional information, call 915/762-2525, or visit the Web site at [www.albanytexas.com](http://www.albanytexas.com). "Fort Griffin Fandangle," presented last two weekends in June by more than 200 townsfolk under the stars of the West Texas sky. Musical reenactment of the settling of Fort Griffin—a colorful mixture of history and tall tales in song and dance.

**Fort Griffin State Park**—15 miles north of Albany. See FORT GRIFFIN.

**Georgia Monument**—Erected in 1976 to fulfill long-standing promise to honor the Georgia Battalion that volunteered in Texas' war for independence in 1836. Most were killed in the Goliad massacre; Dr. John Shackelford, for whom the county is named, was spared as useful to Mexicans. Flags of the State of Georgia, Texas Republic, and U.S. fly over the stone marker and fountain. Plaques detail the Georgians' contribution to the new republic. Near chamber of commerce at S. Main and S. First sts.

**Lake**—Hubbard Creek Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Ledbetter Picket House**—Restored frontier ranch structure with rustic period furnishings. House is a dog-run cabin built of slender upright poles (pickets). Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. during "Fandangle" production; other times check with chamber of commerce.

**The Old Jail Art Center**—Exceptional permanent art exhibits include works of Giacomo Manzu, John Marin, Charles Umlauf, Louise Nevelson, Henry Moore, Amedeo Modigliani, Pablo Picasso, and examples of Chinese art from the Han, Wei, Sui, T'ang, and Ming Dynasties. Also research facilities for artists, historians, critics, and scholars. Housed in restored county jail (c. 1878). Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.; closed major holidays. Second St. (Texas 6) one block east of courthouse.

## AMARILLO

Pop. 173,627

Alt. 3,676

Map D-9

**General**—Amarillo, which means "yellow" in Spanish, is the center of the Texas Panhandle, located at the edge of the Great Plains. It offers a true Western heritage, a unique geographical area with wide open spaces and breathtaking sunrises and sunsets. Amarillo is also gateway to Palo Duro Canyon, American's 2nd largest canyon. With its relatively mild climate, the city is rated as having some of the cleanest air in the country.

Indians, conquistadors, buffalo hunters, settlers, cowboys, adventurers, lawmen, gunfighters, and the railroad all contributed in many ways to the development and growth of the area. That heritage is still felt here, where "cowboy" is still an honorable profession. Here you can enjoy the very best of the Old and New West!

Today, the city features excellent accommodations, a spacious convention/civic center, symphony, ballet, little theater, opera, and is the home of Amarillo College.

Inquire locally about Big Texan Steak Ranch & Opry. Known nationwide for 72-oz. steak dinner offered free to anyone who can eat the entire meal in one hour. Outstanding country/Western performances every Tues. 7700 1-40 at

Lakeside.; open daily. Tel. 806/372-6000.

For additional information on area events, dining, and accommodations, call the Amarillo Convention and Visitors Bureau at 806/374-1497 or 1-800-692-1338. Web site address is [www.amarillo-cvb.org](http://www.amarillo-cvb.org).

**Alibates National Monument**—See FRITCH.

**Amarillo Livestock Auction**—This is one of the largest privately owned cattle auctions. More than 100,000 head of cattle sold in the auction ring each year. Auctions held Tues. 100 S. Manhattan. 806/373-7646.




**Amarillo Museum of Art**—This visual arts museum features a broad range of paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures and textiles from 20th Century artisans. Also includes Southeast Asian artifacts. Exhibits change frequently. 2200 Van Buren St., on the campus of Amarillo College. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 806/371-5050.


**Amarillo Zoo**—Zoo features a herd of bison grazing on a 20-acre range, plus other animals of the High Plains, and a special "Textotic" exhibit. It's fun for the entire family. Open year around Tues. - Sun. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. NE 24th St. at U.S. 287. 806/381-7911. Admission.

**American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum**—Museum features many hands-on and interactive exhibits, video presentations, artifacts, and live demonstrations on the history and significance of this unique American breed. Heritage Gallery traces chronology and development of the breed; Performance Gallery includes rodeos, ranching and racing aspects, and also features the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. Facilities also include research library, orientation theater, and meeting rooms. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I-40 at Nelson St. exit. 806/376-5181 or visit Web site [www.aqha.org](http://www.aqha.org).


**Big Texan Cowboy Palace**—Adjacent to the Big Texan Steak Ranch, this 350-seat theater is for concerts, musical reviews, special events and parties throughout the year. Tickets for all performances usually include dinner. For schedule and information, call 806/372-6000.

# Experience Abilene!

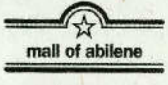
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: white;">Shopping</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: white;">History</p> 
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: white;">Hospitality</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: white;">Culture</p> <p style="color: white;">1-800-727-7704</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 0.8em;"><a href="http://www.abilene.com/visitors">www.abilene.com/visitors</a></p>




**ABILENE**  
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EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL




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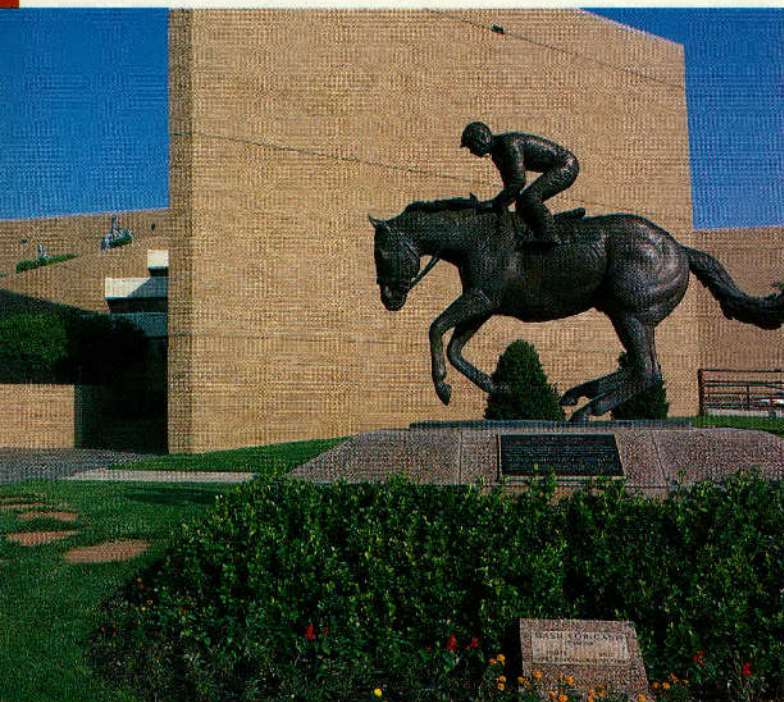
WESTERN HERITAGE  
CLASSIC



The GRACE  
MUSEUM



BUFFALO GAP  
HISTORIC VILLAGE



Kevin Sullivan/TX007

**American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum in Amarillo**

**Cadillac Ranch**—“Bumper crop” of ten Cadillacs buried nose down in field at same angle as Cheops’ pyramids. Represents Golden Age from 1949 through 1963. About 12 miles west of downtown between exits 60 & 62. Exit Arnot Rd. on south side of I-40.

**Cowboy Morning/Evening**—From Apr. 15 - Oct. 15 join groups for Old West-style chuck wagon breakfast on the open range at Figure 3 Ranch on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon—scrambled eggs, ranch sausage, sourdough biscuits, brown gravy, and campfire coffee. Dinner by special arrangement. Enjoy a wagon ride, watch real cowboys roping, and receive a souvenir brand. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; dinner usually at 6:30 p.m. For reservations call 806/944-5562 or 1-800-658-2613. Web site: [www.cowboymorning.com](http://www.cowboymorning.com).

**Don Harrington Discovery Center**—In a 51-acre park with lake and picnic area, this center offers a variety of attractions. The center hosts a diverse collection of special exhibitions on physical, earth, and life sciences each summer. There are more than a 100 permanent hands-on activities for kids of all ages and planetarium shows to learn about the stars, constellations, planets and the solar system. There’s also a 3,000 gallon aquarium with both saltwater and freshwater habitats for marine life and a Foucault Pendulum that rotates independently of the earth’s gravitational pull, and a helium technology exhibit. A weather watch area features popular displays such as the tornado machine, cloud ring machine, and turbulent orb.

**Botanical Garden**—A museum with a living collection. Botanical Garden features outdoor and indoor educational exhibitions with plant displays, butterfly, touch and smell, and other demonstration gardens.

**Helium Monument**—Six-story stainless steel time column erected 1968 commemorates the unusual natural element found near here in world’s greatest quantity.

All open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1200 Streit Dr. For information for the center and planetarium, call 806/355-9547 or visit the Web site at [www.dhdc.org](http://www.dhdc.org).

**Elkins Ranch**—Chuckwagon suppers, country/Western entertainment, and horseback riding await visitors at this ranch perched on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon. Check with the ranch about guided jeep tours, wagon rides, and cattle drives. For information and reservations, call 806/488-1200. Just 25 miles south on Texas 217 at Palo Duro Canyon.

**English Field Air and Space Museum**—The site of English Field is part of a plan by the Texas Aviation Historical Society, Inc. to create a superior aviation and aerospace facility in the Texas Panhandle. The field is rich in history from landings by Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, Wiley Post, Will Rogers, and Amelia Earhart. Exhibits include a C-7A Caribou, OV-10 Broncho, OV-1B Mohawk, F-100 Super Sabre, UH-1M (Huey) Iroquois helicopter, an extensive collection of thermo-nuclear weapons, Norden M9B Bombsight, and other air and space artifacts. Open Sat. and Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Group tours of

10 or more by appointment. Closed New Year’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For information, 806/335-1812. Donations accepted.

**FireWater Water Park**—This 14-acre water park offers cooling rides for summer visitors including a wave pool, speed slide, flume slides, a lazy river, arcade, kiddie pool area, and concessions. There are sand and grass volleyball courts. At I-40 and Whitaker Rd. For information, call 806/342-FIRE.

**Harrington House**—This 1914 neo-classical house reflects exquisite materials and workmanship, as well as fine French and English furniture, porcelain, crystal, silver, carpets, and fine paintings. Free guided tours with prior reservations Apr. - Dec. on Tues. and Thurs. mornings. Groups limited to four; minimum age, 14. Advance arrangements required; 806/374-5490. 1600 S. Polk St.

**Hollywood Museum**—Hundreds of items related to famous movie stars and their films are exhibited in this quaint facility. Included is the prop box of chocolates from “Forrest Gump” signed by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, as well as the baseball cap saying “Bubba Gump Shrimp” also signed by Hanks and Spielberg. Other items include the army helmet Hanks wore in “Saving Private Ryan,” the stickman from the “Blair Witch Project,” the show-er curtain and slip signed by Janet Leigh from “Psycho.” Costumes and items of Judy Garland, Joan Crawford, Spencer Tracy, Bette Davis, Clark Gable, and more are also featured. Open daily from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. At 8514 I-40 East at Lakeside (Loop 335). For information, call 806/358-9226.

**Lake**—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

**Palo Duro Canyon State Park and “TEXAS”**—See CANYON.

**Panhandle Plains Historical Museum**—See CANYON.

**Route 66 (Old San Jacinto)**—Get your kicks on Route 66! Amarillo was the largest Texas city on Route 66, and many Route 66 fan clubs have sprung up all over the U.S. and the world. Look for the “Old Route 66” highway signs installed by the Texas Department of Transportation marking the route through the area, making it easier for visitors to find that piece of Americana. One mile of antique and specialty shops, along with restaurants, await visitors along the historic route. Located between Georgia & Western sts. along 6th St.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of the centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in the State Capitol, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Information centers are operated 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily throughout the year except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors, free services to all visitors include information, maps, literature on every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. On I-40/U.S. 287 just east of Amarillo; operated by the Texas Department of Transportation.

**Wonderland Park**—One of Texas’ largest privately owned amusement parks with more than 25 rides and 32 attractions, including miniature golf, arcades, bumper cars, Big Splash log flume, Fantastic Journey spook house, Shoot the Chute water ride, Raging Rapids water slide, Texas Tornado double loop roller coaster, food concessions, more. Open daily Memorial Day to Labor Day; weekends Apr. - May. Off U.S. 287 north at River Road exit. Admission. 806/383-4712 or 383-0832. Web site [www.wonderlandpark.com](http://www.wonderlandpark.com).

**ANSON**

**Pop. 2,556**

**Ait. 1,750**

**Map J/K-13**

**General**—Seat of Jones County. Founded in 1881 and named for Dr. Anson Jones, last president of the Republic of Texas. Area is one of richest farming areas in Texas; cotton production can be observed from field to gin. Other primary crops include wheat, sorghum, hay, and oats. Cattle, oil, and gas extraction, and gypsum products add to the economy.

Each December since 1885, The Cowboys’ Christmas Ball is held in Pioneer Hall. Popularized by Michael Martin Murphey’s musical rendition of the “The Cowboys’ Christmas Ball,” a poem honoring ranchmen of Texas written in 1890 by William Lawrence (Larry) Chittenden after attending one of the balls. Check out the “Cowboy Dance” art by Jenne Magafan in the U.S. Post Office. It’s one of the best preserved Post Office murals authorized by the section of Fine Arts within the Treasury Dept. during Franklin Roosevelt’s administration.

For information about the ball, or on restaurants and accommodations, contact the Anson Chamber of Commerce at 1132 West Court Plaza, or call 915/823-3259.

**Anson Jones Museum**—In historic church building; artifacts include miniature reproduction of town square as it existed in 1904, a desk and chair used by Dr. Anson Jones in his medical practice, and other local memorabilia. Open Wed. - Sun. 2 - 4:30 p.m.; closed holidays. 1302 Avenue K. 915/823-3683.

**Opera House**—Built in 1907 by Albert W. Johnson; considered “fanciest” showplace between Fort Worth and El Paso. Once hosted musical and dramatic productions, public and civic activities, silent and talking movies, and even wrestling and bare-fist fighting events until the 1930s. Today used for stage productions and a country/Western musical usually the third Saturday of the month. On north side of square. Call 915/823-3542 for schedule.

**ARCHER CITY**

Pop. 1,848 Alt. 1,041 Map G/H-15

**General**—Established as Archer County seat in 1881. In early years was retail and shipping center for area ranches; still retail center for county. Agriculture includes cattle ranching, and wheat and dairy farming. Shallow oil wells drilled in 1920s still contribute to area economy.

Outdoor recreation includes 9-hole golf course, and city park with swimming, picnicking, and RV hookups. Hunting in season for dove, wild turkey, quail, and deer.

Booked Up, Inc. bookstore offers largest collection of antiquarian books in the U.S.; gathered over several years by native son Larry McMurtry, author of popular Western novel, “Lonesome Dove.” Rare and unusual books, and out-of-print publications. Occupies renovated buildings on both sides of Main St. 940/574-2511.

Also, site of two movies based on novels written by McMurtry; “The Last Picture Show” filmed in 1971, and “Texasville” in 1989.

**Archer County Historical Museum**—Frontier and pioneer items: dishes, pictures, ladies’ high-top shoes, dairy and farm implements. Has map of county’s historic sites. Open weekends Apr. - Nov., or by appointment for group tours by calling chamber of commerce; 940/574-2489. Housed in old jail, 400 W. Pecan.

**Lakes**—Arrowhead and Kickapoo. See LAKES listing.

**BAIRD**

Pop. 1,623 Alt. 1,708 Map K-14

**General**—Established 1880 with building of Texas and Pacific Railroad. A roundhouse, repair shops, and switches marked railroad division point named for Matthew Baird, railroad director who drove first stake on the T&P RR in 1875. Today seat of Callahan County and commercial center for farming and livestock area.

**Amarillo Route 66**



Texas Travel Information Center, I-40, Amarillo

Many antique and specialty shops in restored turn-of-the-century buildings, downtown. Officially recognized as Antique Capital of West Texas by Texas Legislature in 1993.

The Old Rock Jail at 100 W. 5th St. was moved from the former county seat, Belle Plain. Each block was numbered and the jail was rebuilt exactly as it had been. It’s used as a Boy Scout meeting place today.

Be sure to stop by Grumpc’s candy factory, one of only four candy factories producing lollipops for business advertising in the U.S., and one of only two that puts messages on both the stick and candy. At 206 Market St.

In season, hunters take wild turkey, deer, quail, dove, and wild hog. Golfers find a challenging and scenic 18-hole golf course inviting year round.

For information on area leases, attractions, and special events, inquire at chamber of commerce located in T&P Depot that houses Railroad Heritage Museum. 915/854-2003.

**Callahan County Pioneer Museum**—Pioneer farm and ranch implements, household items, clothing, barbed wire, and documents. In basement of Callahan County Courthouse, Market & Fourth sts. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 915/854-1718.

**Railroad Heritage Museum**—Railroad memorabilia, photographs, and books in historic 1911 depot. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 100 Market St.

**BALLINGER**

Pop. 4,243 Alt. 1,637 Map M-13

**General**—City established in 1886 as Hutchins City; present seat of Runnels County. County, cut by Colorado River, is predominantly agricultural with extensive beef, dairy cattle, sheep, and poultry, plus cotton, grain sorghum, and fruits. Minerals include oil and natural gas.

Carnegie Library, built 1909, is one of few in state in continuous use as library. Listed on National Register of Historic Places, library is open weekday afternoons.

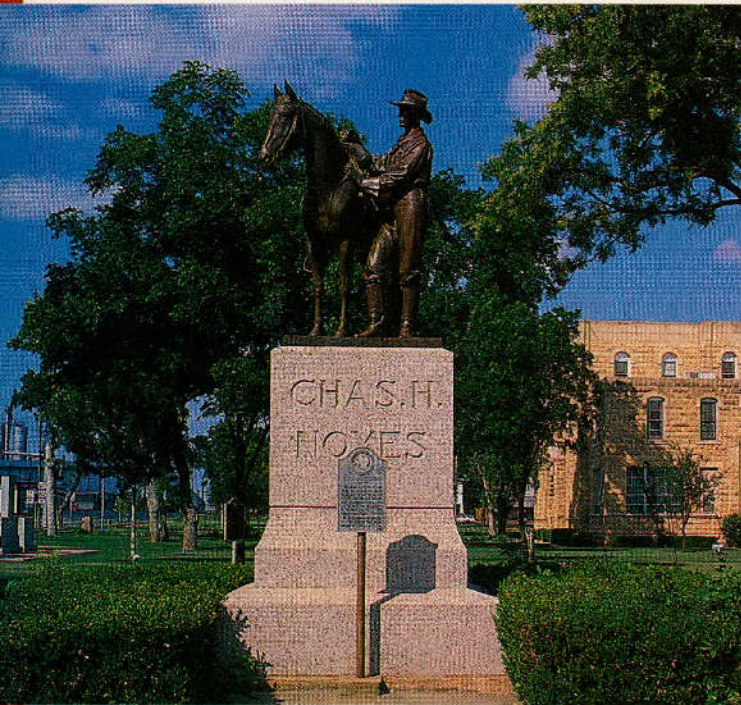
Downtown Pioneer Plaza honors pioneers; fountain, gazebo, and restored Star Tobacco sign, circa 1909.

For additional information on accommodations, events, or dining facilities, stop by the restored Santa Fe Depot at Railroad Ave. and Seventh St. which houses the chamber and city offices, or call 915/365-2333. You can also visit the Web site at [www.ballingertx.org](http://www.ballingertx.org).

**City Park and Lake**—10-acre park on Elm Creek features camping facilities, playground and picnic areas, swimming pool, and miniature golf course. Excellent fishing and water skiing on lake; about 5 miles west of city.

**Cowboy and His Horse Statue**—Honors Charles H. Noyes, local cowboy killed in range mishap. Noyes family commissioned work by world-famed sculptor Pompeo Coppini. On spacious courthouse lawn, intersection of U.S. 83/67.

**The Cross**—Rising 100 feet from the rolling prairie, The Cross was built by the Jim and Doris Studer family in 1993. It measures 70 feet from tip to tip on the arm, and the arms are 60 feet above ground. It is 10-ft. square, on diagonal 14 ft. and weighs 50 tons. Adjacent to The Cross is a grotto and statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For information on the non-denominational Easter services, contact the chamber of commerce at 915/365-2333. On Texas 158.



Kevin Sullivan/2001

Cowboy and His Horse Statue in Ballinger

## BENJAMIN

Pop. 264                      Alt. 1,456                      Map H-13

**General**—On divide between South Wichita and Brazos Rivers, city was established in 1884 when 12 houses were built with lumber hauled from Wichita Falls. Early center of cattlemen's activities, present seat of Knox County, still a major farming area for wheat, seedless watermelons, potatoes, and onions. Area is also known for wild hogs and was one of the first to post "wild hogs crossing" signs in the state.

Local lakes Benjamin, Davis, and Catherine offer abundant water activities.

**Knox County Museum**—Barbed-wire collection and other relics of early settlers. In county courthouse. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed holidays.

**Scenic Drive**—Thirty-six-mile loop northeast provides views of farm and ranch lands cut by South Wichita River brakes; fantastic shapes in layers of multicolored soils. North on Texas 6 to F.M. 1756, east to F.M. 267, south to U.S. 82, then west back to Benjamin. A pair of roadside parks on U.S. 82 provide impressive views north toward South Wichita River and south toward the Brazos. Parks are at a point called "the narrows" on a ridge line that separates the two major watersheds.

## BIG SPRING

Pop. 25,233                      Alt. 2,397                      Map L-10

**General**—Seat of Howard County; name derived from huge natural spring on Sulphur Draw that watered buffalo, antelope, wild mustangs, and Comanche and Shawnee Indians. First white men at site in 1849. Spring today is at center of city park.

City is home of Howard College and Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, and Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

Heritage walking tour features 26 historic buildings with antique and gift shops, Railroad and Train Display and memorabilia. From Railroad Plaza where Union Pacific railroad meets Main St.

**Big Spring State Park**—343-acre park contains dance pavilion, playground, picnic sites, jogging and nature trails, and prairie dog town. Regular and electric overnight camping facilities available. Scenic drive overlooks city. For information, call 915/263-4931; for reservations, call 512/389-8900. At south edge of city off F.M. 700; admission.

**City Park**—Home of spring that gave Big Spring its name; features 6,500-seat Comanche Trail Amphitheater. The 400-acre park offers swimming pool, 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, baseball fields, playgrounds, pavilions, and hike, bike and nature trails. On south edge of city; access from U.S. 87 and from F.M. 700.

**Hangar 25 Air Museum**—In 1942, Hangar 25 was constructed to support training of World War II bombardiers at the Big Spring Army Air Corps

Bombardier School. More than 6,000 cadets trained here before the base closed in 1945. The base reopened in 1955 as Webb AFB until it closed in 1977. The restored hangar features airplanes, exhibits and artifacts reflecting the bombardier school, a B-52 bomber nose, an A-10 hands-on training simulator, and model airplane collection. Various aircraft also featured. Museum also has rotating exhibits throughout the year and a gift shop. For additional information, call 915/964-2362 or visit the Web site at [www.hangar25.com](http://www.hangar25.com). At 1911 Apron Dr. Donations accepted.

**Heritage Museum**—Pioneer and Indian artifacts, art exhibits, and displays of local history and early West Texas. Houses the world's largest collection of Texas Longhorn steer horns. Unique to the Southwest is exhibit of 46 rare and unusual phonographs; late 1800s to 1920s models made by Edison, Victor, Columbia, and others. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 510 Scurry. Admission.

**Lakes**—E.V. Spence, J.B. Thomas, Moss Creek, Colorado City. See LAKES listing.

**Potton House**—Restored Victorian home of Joseph Potton family, circa 1901; listed in National Register of Historic Places; excellent showcase for turn-of-the-century furnishings. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. or by appointment with Heritage Museum. Second St. and Gregg. Admission.

**Vietnam Memorial**—Recognizes men and women who served the U.S. in Southeast Asia. Stone is same type used at National Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Accessible from F.M. 700.

## BORGER

Pop. 14,302                      Alt. 3,116                      Map C-10

**General**—Established following discovery of rich Panhandle Oil Field in 1926. In months, a boom town of tents and shacks sprang up, and population numbered more than 40,000. Orderly growth soon replaced the ribald oil boom days, and now Borger is a center for oil, chemicals, and cattle. Tanks and towers of oil and petrochemical plants dominate the skyline. Home of Frank Phillips College.

**Battle of Adobe Walls**—Site of two Indian battles. See STINNETT.

**City Parks**—16 parks offer extensive picnic facilities, tennis courts, sports fields, playground equipment, swimming pools, and two 18-hole golf courses.

**Hutchinson County Historical Museum**—Exhibits depicting Hutchinson County area from time of Coronado to boom-town days. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; open Sun. during summer months, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 2 - 4 p.m. Closed major holidays. 618 N. Main St.; 806/273-6121.

**Lake**—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Meredith Recreation Area**—See FRITCH.

**Scenic Drive**—A 25-mile loop west and north to Stinnett crosses rough, canyon-cut landscapes of the Canadian River brakes; leads across dam impounding Lake Meredith. Texas 136 west, F.M. 1319, and F.M. 687 north.

## BOYS RANCH

Pop. 435 (est.)                      Alt. 3,176                      Map C-9

**General**—Cal Farley's Boys Ranch is a nationally known home for boys and girls who benefit from guidance, affectionate discipline, and education in a ranch setting. Established in 1939 by the late Cal Farley, Texas businessman and world welterweight wrestling champion of the 1920s.

The first boys who came to the ranch lived in the abandoned courthouse of Old Tascosa that is now the Julian Bivins Museum. Founded and expanded by private donations, the ranch today covers 10,600 acres. Facilities include a chapel, clinic, schools, auditorium, visitors center, and 23 homes for children.

More than 400 boys and girls help operate the ranch, attend school and vocational classes, and enjoy a year-round program of athletics. A popular annual event is the Boys Ranch Rodeo, Labor Day weekend, featuring competition among youths of all ages. Although some 80 percent of the young people were headed for trouble before coming to the ranch, most remain and graduate from the fully accredited Boys Ranch High School, entering the adult world as useful, self-reliant citizens. Visitors are welcome at the ranch; open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Boot Hill Cemetery**—When Tascosa was the wide open, riotous cowboy capital of the 1880s, gunfights were traditional means for settling disputes, and its cemetery was an essential part of the town. Boys Ranch students maintain the cemetery today. U.S. 385.

**Julian Bivins Museum**—Housed in the former Oldham County Courthouse, name honors Panhandle rancher whose donation of land formed





George Van Hassell III

**Comanche Trail Park's Big Spring gave city its name**

the nucleus of Boys Ranch. Artifacts from Indian and prehistoric Panhandle cultures, cowboy and pioneer items, photos and documents about Boys Ranch history. Open daily year round, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Old Tascosa**—Pioneer settlers in the early 1870s built adobe huts and irrigation ditches along area creeks. After 1875, village became a supply and shipping point for several huge Texas ranches, including the famed XIT and LIT. Bustling town was known as "the Cowboy Capital of the Plains;" became county seat when Oldham County was organized in 1880. The famous and infamous—from Kit Carson to Billy the Kid—once strode its rough plank sidewalks. But as with many Texas cow towns, decline set in when the open range was girded with fences, and the railroad bypassed the site. It was deserted by the 1930s.

**BRECKENRIDGE**

**Pop. 5,868**      **Alt. 1,220**      **Map J-14**

**General**—Established 1876, said named for John C. Breckinridge, vice president under James Buchanan, 1857-61. Large-production oil wells discovered 1916-17; boom exploded in 1920 when town leaped from population of 1,500 to 30,000 in 12 months. As in most cases, boom soon faded; however, many oil jacks can still be seen throughout the town.

Today seat of Stephens County, retail and shipping center for ranching activities, location of petroleum-related and other industries. Home of Texas State Technical College, Breckenridge Campus.

Breckenridge is an official Texas and National Main Street City. Downtown buildings built mainly during the 1920s oil boom feature the red brick that was common during that period along with native sandstone. Many house antique shops. The historic district showcases numerous historical markers, original brick main street, and several murals of boomtown photograph replications.

Sportsmen find the area prime hunting for white-tailed deer, feral hogs, wild turkey, quail, mourning dove, as well as excellent fishing in local lakes. Lake Daniel, a city-owned lake, provides recreational activities, including camping, and is the site of SDBA drag boat races.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 254/559-2301, or visit the Web site [www.breckenridgetexas.com](http://www.breckenridgetexas.com).

**Breckenridge Park**—Beautiful tree-shaded grounds with swimming pool, playing fields for baseball and soccer, tennis courts, hiking trails, picnic tables, playground equipment. East edge of city on U.S. 180.

**Lakes**—Daniel, Hubbard Creek, Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

**Library and Fine Arts Center**—Modern facility displays art in all media, plus traveling exhibits, and houses an extensive doll collection and festival gowns of Texas. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 200 block N. Breckenridge Ave. (U.S. 183).

**Possum Kingdom State Park**—32 miles northeast on the popular reservoir. See CADD0.

**Swenson Memorial Museum and J. D. Sandefer Oil Annex**—In handsome old bank building, museum features pioneer artifacts, traveling

exhibits. Collection of Basil Clemons Historic Boomtown photography. Annex devoted to boom-days history, open-air tool display, oil field history. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m. Located at 116 W. Walker and 113 N. Breckenridge.

**BRONTE**

**Pop. 1,076**      **Alt. 1,893**      **Map L-12**

**General**—Established 1887; named for famed English novelist, Charlotte Bronte. Local park offers swimming pool, nine-hole golf course and playground.

**Fort Chadbourne Cemetery**—Frontier fort was established 1852 by elements of 8th Infantry, but experienced chronic water shortage. Abandoned 1867 and troops transferred to Fort Concho in San Angelo. Fort ruins are on private property but owner permits nonstop drive-through. Cemetery of Fort Chadbourne town (now vanished) is beside U.S. 277 about 10 miles north. Interesting, poignant old markers.

**Lake**—Oak Creek Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**BROWNFIELD**

**Pop. 9,488**      **Alt. 3,312**      **Map H-9**

**General**—Established as county seat of Terry County in 1904; named for Col. Benjamin Franklin Terry, Confederate leader of Terry's Texas Rangers. Principal incorporated town in county, situated at intersection of five highway routes. Retail, medical, and commercial center for crop, livestock, and oil-producing area.

**Coleman Park**—44-acre recreation site offers picnicking, swimming pool, playground, and travel trailer campsites available free for up to four days. South of city limits along U.S. 62/385.

**Terry County Historical Museum**—Local heritage displays, pioneer kitchen, artifacts. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m.; Sat. noon - 4 p.m. Closed last Sat. of the month. In restored A. M. Brownfield Home, 600 E. Cardwell. 806/637-2467.

**Boys Ranch in Tascosa**



Boys Ranch photo



100K/1/5/10/1/2000

**Brown County Museum of History in Brownwood**

## BROWNWOOD

Pop. 18,813

Alt. 1,342

Map M-14

**General**—Established 1856, city became one of state's largest cotton-buying centers. Oil discovered in 1920s; substantial industrial development in recent decades. A number of fine old structures of native sandstone—homes, a former mill, stores, and schools—are reminders of city's history. Home of Howard Payne Univ.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's W.R. Poage Pecan Field Station located here since 1939; 16 new varieties developed since 1953.

Historic Greenleaf Cemetery is the burial place for Capt. Weston Williams, son-in-law of Gen. Sam Houston, and Noah T. Byars, in whose blacksmith shop at Washington-on-the-Brazos the Texas Declaration of Independence was written. It's also the gravesite of Robert Howard, author noted for his Conan the Barbarian tales. Indian Creek Cemetery, a few miles south of town, is the burial place for Katherine Anne Porter, author best known for her novel "Ship of Fools."

Brownwood lies on U.S. 183, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Brown County Museum of History**—Seven rooms of exhibits in old, castle-like jail. Brown County history, and evolution of communications exhibit in room sponsored by West Texas Pioneer Telephone Club. Open Wed. 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 200 block of N. Broadway near courthouse.

**Camp Bowie Memorial Park**—Honors men of famed 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patch"). Small park features vintage military equipment, cannon, armor. At intersection of Burnett Dr. and Travis Rd., Camp Bowie Industrial Area.

**Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom**—Affiliate of Howard Payne Univ., specializing in history and government in the context of Western civilization. Dedicated to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; displays some of his personal souvenirs. Unusual study settings lure visitors—Mediterranean Room flanked by replicas of Egyptian tomb statues; Magna Carta Hall replica of English castle room; replica of meeting room in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Magnificent three-story mural adorns academy entrance. Tours Mon. - Sat. while school is in session; call 915/646-2502. Austin Ave. (F.M. 2524) at Coggin St.

**Lake**—Brownwood. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Brownwood State Park**—538-acre park offers swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, camping, nature study, trailer facilities, rest rooms, shelters, cabins, and group camp accommodations. 23 miles northwest via Texas 279 and Park Road 15. Admission. Call 512/389-8900 for reservations.

## BUFFALO GAP

Pop. 463

Alt. 1,926

Map L-13

**General**—Settlement at site of natural pass in the Callahan Divide through which buffalo traveled for centuries; was a point on the famous Dodge (or Western) Cattle Trail. Recent visitor-oriented developments offer a variety of restaurants, art-souvenir-handicraft shops, and historical restorations.

**Abilene State Park**—On Lake Abilene a few miles south of Buffalo Gap. See ABILENE.

**Buffalo Gap Historic Village**—Complex of 20 historic structures from the frontier settlement, all restored and furnished, centered around first county courthouse jail, Old Taylor County Courthouse (1878-1879). This is the second oldest building in the county, and the oldest public building. Short video in the courthouse details facts about West Texas and Buffalo Gap. Exhibits include country store, railroad depot, blacksmith and woodworking shop, 19th Century doctor-dentist office, two-room school, an 1880 bank, buggies and wagons, firearms and Indian artifacts. Rural setting amid live oaks. Open Mar. 15 - Nov. 15, Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m.; Nov. 16 - Mar. 14, Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Admission. 915/572-3365.

**Lake**—Abilene. See LAKES listing.

## BURKBURNETT

Pop. 10,927

Alt. 1,040

Map F-15

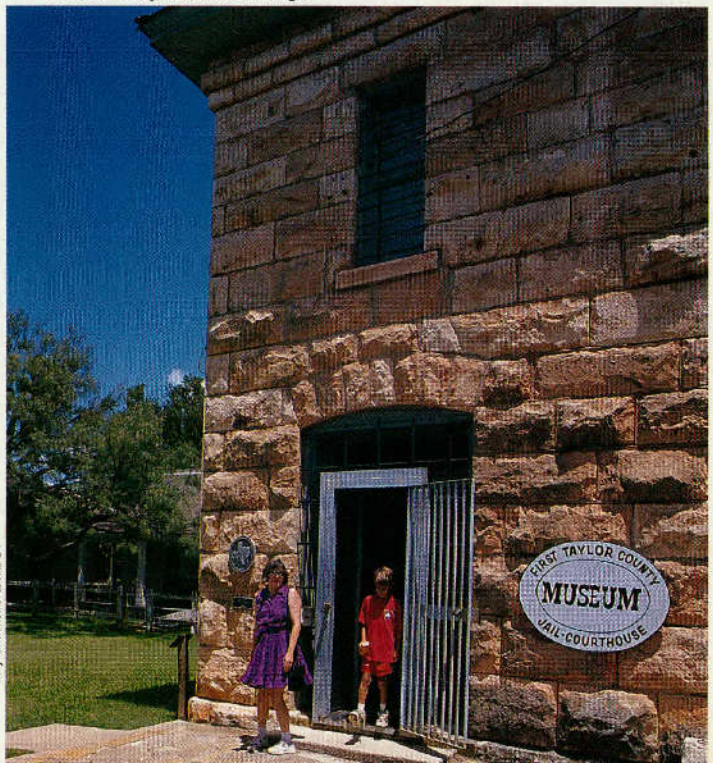
**General**—First settled in the 1860s by pioneers D.P. McCracken and H.C. Ackers on Gilbert Creek in northeastern Wichita County. Cowboys on the giant Samuel Burk Burnett 6666 Ranch derisively called the community "Nesterville." In 1907 Joseph A. Kemp and Frank Kell from nearby Wichita Falls bought part of the Burk Burnett ranch for their railroad and laid out the present townsite. It's said town was named for Burk Burnett when President Theodore Roosevelt personally interceded with the Post Office Department. (Roosevelt had been Burnett's guest on a wolf hunt in the area in 1905.) The 1918 Fowler oil discovery turned the struggling farming community into a boom town. Oil derricks were so close together old-timers say it was almost possible to walk across town from derrick to derrick without touching the ground. The 1941 movie "Boomtown," with Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy, was based on those wild oil-boom days.

The boom's gone and oil pours less freely today. Farming, ranching, and diversified industries provide stability to the economy. Several parks provide picnic facilities.

**Felty Outdoor Oil Museum**—Early oil field equipment from height of oil boom includes spudders used for drilling and cleaning out wells, a steel beam pumping unit, and a band-wheel power source. On Gresham Rd. (F.M. 240).

**Trails & Tales of Boomtown USA**—Guided tour through historic past recalls oil-boom days with visits to oil fields, outdoor oil museum, and replica of Mabel Gilbert's dugout (the area's first white settler). Video presentation and tour is 2 hours; Jun. - Oct. on Sat. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. In restored MKT depot on W. Third St. Reservations suggested. (Group tours daily by special arrangement.) Depot open Jun. - Oct. Fri. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for 30-minute video presentation. Admission. For information, 940/569-3304.

### Buffalo Gap Historic Village



Gay Shucklerford/TTXDOT



Michelle Laney

**Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon**

## CADDO

**Pop. 40 (est.)**      **Alt. 1,250**      **Map K-15**

**General**—Caddo Indians camped on what is now the townsite. Today, city is an agricultural community and gateway to popular recreational areas on Possum Kingdom Lake.

**Lake**—Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

**Possum Kingdom State Park**—Scenic park on shore of huge Possum Kingdom Lake covers 1,615 acres with cabins, campsites, boat rental and ramp, playground, picnic areas and fishing pier. Boating, fishing, swimming very popular; clear water attracts scuba divers and snorkelers. Part of official state Longhorn herd at park; 18 miles north of Caddo via Park Road 33. Admission.

## CANADIAN

**Pop. 2,233**      **Alt. 2,339**      **Map B-12**

**General**—Canadian became county seat when Hemphill County was organized in 1887. It's located on the Canadian River and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe RR in the northwestern part of the county. Early settlers held one of the first rodeos in Texas. Today a chief commercial center of county, that derives much of its economy from ranching and some oil activity.

Northwest of Canadian is the Black Kettle National Grasslands, administered by National Forest Service. Visitors find campsites, cottages, picnic grounds at small Lake Marvin. Fishing for bass, channel catfish and sunfish. Nature trails popular during fall foliage season and visitors often see deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl.

**Canadian River Wagon Bridge**—A 1916 steel bridge built over the waters of the Canadian River now is the focal point for a scenic hike and bike trail. The bridge provides a platform for viewing wildlife, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey and waterfowl. The area boasts an abundance of hills and valleys, cottonwoods and hackberries, a stark contrast to the surrounding treeless plains. A nearby recreation complex includes rodeo arena, fishing and duck ponds, group pavilion, driving range and RV park. Two miles north of city on U.S. 60/83. For information, contact the chamber of commerce at 806/323-6234.

**Lake**—Marvin. See LAKES listing.

**River Valley Pioneer Museum**—Quaint museum features memorabilia on history of Canadian and Hemphill County. Traveling exhibits from other museums also displayed regularly. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. 118 South 2nd St. (U.S. 60/83). Donations accepted.

## CANYON

**Pop. 12,875**      **Alt. 3,566**      **Map D-9**

**General**—Originated 1878 as headquarters for huge T Anchor Ranch; seat of Randall County and gateway to spectacular Palo Duro Canyon State Park; home of West Texas State A&M Univ.

**Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge**—One of the major waterfowl refuges on the Central Flyway, the 7,677-acre refuge is a winter haven for a million ducks and 80,000 geese. Once known as Tierra Blanca Water Conser-

vation Project, the lake now holds very little water but refuge about 12 miles west continues to draw visitors on its interpretive walking trail and 4.5-mile auto interpretive trail. Activities include picnicking, sightseeing, birding, nature study, photography, and campsites with tables, grills; no water or electricity. Open daily 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Refuge headquarters 3 miles south of Umberger on F.M. 168.

**Palo Duro Canyon State Park**—One of the state's largest state parks, 15,103 acres amid scenic landscape of Palo Duro Canyon. On the tabletop expanse of the Texas High Plains, a branch of the Red River has carved the incredible spires and pinnacles of Palo Duro. Walls plunge almost a thousand feet to the canyon floor, exposing brilliant multicolored strata. Camping, picnicking, rest rooms and showers, horseback riding, and hiking trails. Also, souvenir and snack shop, interpretive center, and amphitheatre where shows are staged during the summer season. About 12 miles east via Texas 217 and Park Road 5. Admission.

Within park is historical marker citing last great Indian battle in Texas. On a sweep across the High Plains in 1874, the famous Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, leading troops of 4th Cavalry from Fort Richardson discovered huge camp of Indians in the canyon and forced them to return to Indian Territory.

**Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**—On campus of West Texas State A&M Univ.; honors pioneers of Texas' colorful past. Built in 1933, the structure is finished in Texas limestone and features on its facade decorative stone work and carvings. The building bears a State Antiquities Landmark designation awarded for its unique Art Deco architectural style, including the recently restored Pioneer Hall. Entrance doors ornamented with historic brands; fascinating Old West exhibits include chuck wagon, extensive gun collection, prehistoric fossils and wildlife. Other collections show prehistoric Indian cultures, archaeology and Frank Reaugh Collection of Southwestern Art. It's really five museums in one with sections dedicated to petroleum, Western heritage, paleontology, transportation, and art.

A Research Center is open to researchers and contains historic records and photographs documenting the history of the Texas Panhandle and Southwest region.

A museum store offers a wide variety of gift items, including authentic Indian jewelry, cookbooks, rock specimens, posters, and much more.

Don Harrington Petroleum Wing incorporates latest in exhibit design and museum interpretation. Geology, underground tool and oil field displays give viewer feeling of "being there."

Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (6 p.m. June - Aug.), Sun. and holidays (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and the day before, and New Year's Day) 1 - 6 p.m. Admission.

**Pioneer Amphitheatre**—Setting for "TEXAS," spectacular outdoor drama by Paul Green, presented nightly except Sundays from late June through late

**"Texas" Outdoor drama in Palo Duro Canyon near Canyon**



"TEXAS" Drama photos



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

**Conrad Hilton's first hotel—The Mobley in Cisco**

Aug. Located in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, a 600-foot cliff serves as the kaleidoscopic backdrop for the play. Vibrant costumes, spirited dancing and lilting voices help to weave a story of romance and humor, hardship, and progress. Ranchers battle a crackling prairie fire, lovers quarrel and reconcile, farmers endure drought, Indians break up a lighthearted party, and finally a railroad and new town signal progress on the plains. Cowboys, Indians, and settlers move over huge stage; riders spotlighted on cliffside trails, stereo music echoes through the canyon, and a finale that you will remember for a long time! Nationally acclaimed show begins at 8:30 p.m. Barbecue dinner (fee) served nightly before show. Separate admission for the park and show, but free park admission after 5:30 p.m. for those attending show. All seats reserved; advance reservations advisable. Canyon nights are cool even in mid-summer, and a wrap is recommended. Tickets available at theatre, also at "TEXAS" Information Office, 1514 5th Avenue in Canyon. 806/655-2181.

## CHILDRESS

Pop. 6,778      Alt. 1,877      Map F-12

**General**—Seat of Childress County named for George Campbell Childress, author of Texas Declaration of Independence. Childress has a blend of agribusiness and light industry and is an agricultural center for cotton, grains and cattle. It is home to several historic ranches and the downtown features many restored buildings with restaurants and antiques. Be sure to check out Mama B' Pantry where antiques, lunches and desserts replace nails, saws and wagon wheels of historic hardware store established in the early 1900s.

**Childress City Park**—In addition to lake, park has historical marker for Goodnight Trail, extension of famed Goodnight-Loving Trail over which herds of cattle trekked to market.

**Childress County Heritage Museum**—Housed in old post office, displays include industry (cattle, cotton, railroad) exhibits, local Indian artifacts, furnished period rooms. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Third and C sts. NW. For information, call 817/937-2261.

**Lakes**—Childress and Baylor. See LAKES listing.

## CHILLICOTHE

Pop. 798      Alt. 1,406      Map F-13

**General**—The city was founded in the early 1880s and developed rapidly after the construction of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway in 1887. Ed and Will Jones established a store on the west bank of Wanderers Creek and adopted the name of their hometown in Missouri. Today, the city is a trading center for ranching and agriculture, as well as oil related business. U.S. 287 runs through the center of town. The town is sometimes called the Iris Village because of the many irises planted around town. Iris Village Festival is usually celebrated Memorial Day weekend.

For information on the city, call the Chillicothe City Hall at 940/852-5211.

**Lake**—Pauline. See LAKES listing.

**Texas Agriculture Experiment Station**—Established in 1905 stemming from a request by local farmers due to a lack of feed grains available to the region, this station's testing of grain sorghum led to the development of the hybrid grain sorghum found today. A Texas Historical Marker recognizes the station and the work of J. Roy Quinby. Visitors here find research plot equipment and other office equipment used in the testing programs. Open weekdays during business hours. Approximately 5 miles via F.M. 91 and F.M. 392. For information, 940/852-5125.

## CISCO

Pop. 3,851      Alt. 1,608      Map K-14

**General**—Established 1881, community developed as marketing and distribution center for large cattle and agricultural area. Economy stimulated by discovery of Ranger oil pool in 1917. Continues as center for oil and gas production, diversified agriculture and manufacturing. Home of Cisco Junior College.

**Kendrick Religious Museum**—See EASTLAND.

**Lake**—Cisco. See LAKES listing.

**Mobley Hotel**—Bought by Conrad Hilton in 1919 when that was the only way he could get a place to sleep, hotel became first in Hilton chain. Hilton saw a financial opportunity in providing rooms to oil field workers; rooms were rented for eight-hour shifts, thus tripling the normal income. Restored, the hotel now serves as chamber of commerce office and community center. Two rooms restored to 1919 look; another features historical museum. Open for tours weekday business hours; Sat., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 309 Conrad Hilton Ave. (Texas 6).

## CLARENDON

Pop. 1,974      Alt. 2,727      Map D-11

**General**—Established by Methodist minister, L.H. Carhart, in 1878 as a "sobriety settlement" in contrast to typical boom towns of that era. It earned the sobriquet "Saints Roost" by local cowboys. Seat of Donley County. Many museums have fossilized specimens found near here from the Clarendonian Age, dating back 11 million years to the Early Pliocene Age. Locals call Clarendon home of "trailblazers, cattle barons, cowboys, preachers, teachers, sodbusters, merchants, craftsmen, artists, old bones, and old fossils...and maybe a few saints!" Today farming and ranching still remain the primary economy of the county.

**Bar H Dude Ranch**—From a hearty chuckwagon breakfast to mesquite-grilled steaks at dinner, activities are tailored to suit your interests. Depending on season, guests can watch cowboys work cattle, mend fences, and other ranch chores. Ranch is also a game preserve licensed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For information/reservations, 806/874-2634. U.S. 287 west 3 miles to F.M. 3257, north 2 miles to ranch.

**Goodnight Chuckwagon Supper**—Enjoy an evening at an authentic chuckwagon camp on the banks of the Red River's Salt Fork. Premium steaks, seared with a cattle brand, are cooked to perfection by an award-winning chuckwagon cook. Western fiddles provide musical backdrop as food is prepared. Camp named for Panhandle ranching pioneer and chuckwagon inventor, Col. Charles Goodnight. For reservations, call 1-800-658-9796 or 806/874-5145. On Texas 70 north of city. Admission.

**Lake**—Greenbelt. See LAKES listing.

**Saints Roost Museum**—Housed in former Adair Hospital founded by Cornelia Adair in 1910 for local cowboys, the museum features heirlooms from area ranches, farms, and businesses. Open during summer weekdays 2 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On Texas 70 south.

**S.W. Lowe House**—This historic house is a 1904 Panhandle landmark that recalls the ranching heritage of the area. The elegantly furnished Queen Anne Victorian house recalls life on the prairie. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. For information, call 806/874-3332. Three blocks south of U.S. 287 at the corner of Taylor St. and Fifth Ave.

## CLAUDE

Pop. 1,313      Alt. 3,397      Map D-10

**General**—Established as stop on Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad in 1887. Today the seat of Armstrong Country. Grain elevators and stockyards indicate major agricultural production. Shoppers attracted by several antique shops.

**Armstrong County Museum**—In three adjoining downtown buildings; museum tells history of Armstrong County. Features display on Boy Scouts, since Claude has one of oldest Scout Troops west of the Mississippi. Restored Gem Theater next door used for education and entertainment programs. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. noon - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. One-half block north of U.S. 287. For additional information, call 806/226-2187.

**Scenic Drive**—One of most impressive drives in state is Texas 207 south toward Silvertown. For miles agricultural riches spread from horizon to horizon; then they highway plunges into scenic grandeur at Palo Duro Canyon. Descend at a moderate speed, both for safety and to absorb beauty that unfolds in a riot of colors. In the nine-mile-wide canyon (which extends a hundred miles from northwest to southeast) is the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, a seemingly insignificant stream to have carved such an immense gash in the Plains.

Farther south the highway drops into another beautiful gorge, Tule Canyon. More varieties of rock strata are visible, and some magnificent sheer-faced, knife-edged buttes.

## COLEMAN

Pop. 5,127

Alt. 1,710

Map M-14

**General**—Founded 1876 on Hords Creek, area of rolling, grassy plains and wide bottom lands. A typical frontier settlement, first store hardly completed before a cemetery was laid out for loser in cowboy gunfight. Today seat of Coleman County. Area still devoted to large scale ranching; additional income from oil, natural gas, limestone, and high-grade glass sand from Santa Anna Mountain eight miles southeast.

Coleman lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Coleman City Park**—Includes museum and pioneer blacksmith shop, picnic and playground areas amid shady trees along Hords Creek at U.S. 283 north.

**Coleman County Museum**—Pioneer clothes, dishes, farm equipment, documents, saddles, barbed wire, and larger-than-life horse statue, brought to Coleman in 1884 to display saddles. Open Jun. - Aug. Fri. - Wed.; Apr., May, Sept. Sat., Sun. afternoons. In replica of Camp Colorado, City Park Complex.

**Lakes**—Coleman and Hords Creek. See LAKES listing.

## COLORADO CITY

Pop. 4,281

Alt. 2,067

Map K-11

**General**—In 1877 a Texas Ranger camp on present townsite was first known Anglo-American settlement. Town became boisterous frontier supply point and recreation center. Today center of rich agricultural region that includes extensive industry related to petroleum. Seat of Mitchell County.

During designated seasons, hunters seek pronghorn antelope, deer, javelina, wild turkey, upland game birds and migratory waterfowl.

Antique and craft malls and other shops offer excellent downtown shopping.

Colorado City Playhouse is community theater.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Railhead Trade Days on the third week of March, July and November.

For more information on dining, accommodations, and events, call the Colorado City Chamber of Commerce at 915/728-3403 or visit the Web site [www.coloradocitychamberofcommerce.com](http://www.coloradocitychamberofcommerce.com).

**Branding Wall**—Over 230 cattle brands that are being used or have been used in Mitchell County on 10-ft. by 50-ft. wall, signifying the importance of ranching to area. In Kiwanis Park at 2nd & Chestnut sts. Downtown.

**City Parks**—Ruddick Park on 7th St. is on Lone Wolf Creek and features a limited number of RV campsites. There are also picnic shelters, grills, swimming pool, and playground. For information, call 915/728-5331.

Fisher Park, on Champion Lake, also features a limited number of RV campsites, as well as picnic shelters, grills, swimming facilities, and boat ramp. For information, 915/728-8100.

**Fort Wood**—Small Old West visitor complex with saloon, general store, trading post, sheriff's office and jail, cafe, and boot hill cemetery. Texas Longhorn usually on exhibit. Mock frontier gunfights Saturday afternoons. I-20 service road at Exit 217.

**Heart of West Texas Museum**—Artifacts pertaining to early history of West Texas, including buffalo tracks from Seven Wells, horse-drawn hearse, frontier ranch and home equipment, 19th Century pictures and archives. Open 2 - 5 p.m. except Mon. Locust and Third sts. For information, call 915/728-8285.

**Lake Colorado City State Park**—500-acre site on Lake Colorado City has cottages, boat ramp, rest rooms and picnic facilities; camping, fishing, swimming, skiing permitted. About 7 miles southwest off Texas 163. Admission.

**Lakes**—Champion Creek, Colorado City and J.B. Thomas. See LAKES listing.

## CROSBYTON

Pop. 1,874

Alt. 3,108

Map G-10

**General**—Seat of Crosby County, near Blanco Canyon, a scenic spot of South Plains area. Founded by a livestock company town lot sale Feb. 1908. Commercial center for farming and livestock area, and market for cotton, grain sorghums, wheat and cattle. Free RV camping with hookups in city park, U.S. 82 east of downtown.

Bed and breakfast facilities available in historic building.

For additional information on events, dining facilities, accommodations, and other attractions, visit the Crosbyton Chamber of Commerce at 114 W. Aspen St., or call 806/675-2261.

**Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum**—Complex includes museum exhibit hall and furnished replica of rock house built by Henry Clay Smith, pioneer farmer who came to the High Plains in 1876. Extensive farm and home collections, Indian artifacts; Crosby County diorama, and Llano Estacado mural. Other exhibits depict the settlement of the area beginning in 1540 to about 1930. It includes Coronado's presence in 1541, historic Indians who agonized over the decision to lay down their weapons, cattlemen and a Quaker settlement. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. 101 Main St. (U.S. 82 at F.M. 651). For information, call 806/675-2331.

**Lake**—White River Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum**—Exhibits include display of dinosaur fossils and casts; a complete replica of a 15-ft. mastodon, and much more. One of the unusual things the museum has is several specimens of enormous salamanders called metoposarus, some of which grew to lengths of 12 feet long. Other services include a coffee shop, gift shop, and conference hosting. Open Mon. - Fri. year around. For information, call 806/675-7777

**Silver Falls Park**—One of the finest roadside parks on Texas highway system, about four miles east on U.S. 82, where White River crosses the route. Picnic tables, scenic views of rolling canyon features, plus intriguing hiking paths along river.

## CROSS PLAINS

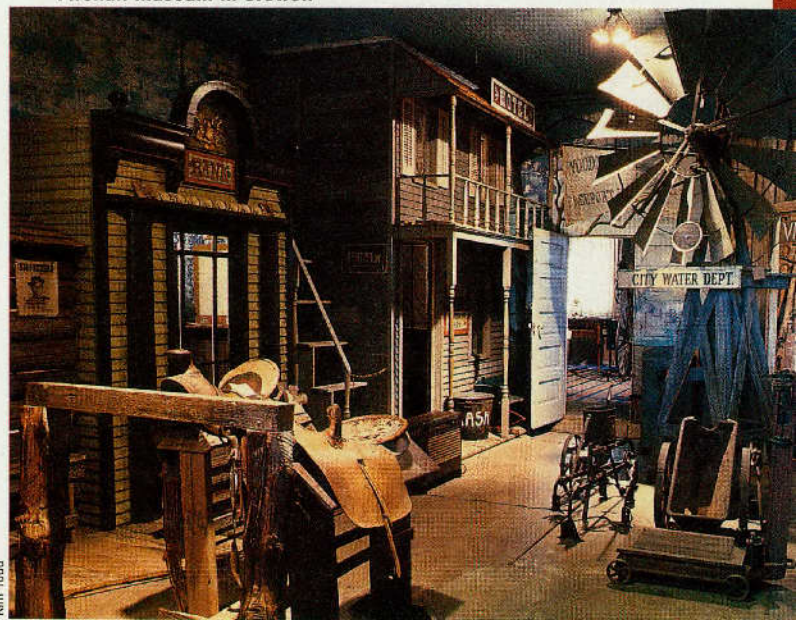
Pop. 1,068

Alt. 1,717

Map L-14

**General**—Cross Plains was established as a post office in 1877; originally known as Turkey Creek and Schleicher. It was probably named for the crossings of stage coaches and military roads prior to the Civil War. A historic marker is in Treadaway Park where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant

### Firehall Museum in Crowell



Kim Todd



Bob Parrish/TXDOT

**XIT Rodeo and Reunion in Dalhart**

camped with their troops on the banks of Turkey Creek. East and West Caddo Peaks, visible from Texas 36 five miles west of town, were used as landmarks by Indians, soldiers, and government survey crews.

Today, the community has a large trade area with an economy based on farming, ranching, and oil and gas production. Hunting is excellent in the area for dove, quail, turkey, and white-tailed deer.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, contact the Cross Plains Economic Development Corporation, Inc. at 254/725-6397.

**Cross Plains Public Library**—The library houses a large collection of Robert E. Howard first edition books as well as original manuscripts and *Weird Tales* magazines (one of the original “pulp fiction” magazines and a major publisher of Howard’s works.) Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. At 149 N. Main St. (Texas 206).

**Lakes**—Brownwood and Coleman. See LAKES listing.

**Robert E. Howard House**—Howard, the noted author of many fantasy and adventure stories, lived here with his family from 1919 until his death in 1936. Howard’s most famous character is probably Conan the Barbarian who appeared in some eighteen adventure stories. The Howard House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features some original furnishings. It’s been restored to reflect the style of the period in which Howard lived. Open Fri. 2 - 5 p.m. (The second Sat. in June is designated Robert E. Howard Day and the house is also open that day.) At 625 West Texas 36.

## CROWELL

**Pop. 1,141**

**Alt. 1,463**

**Map F-13**

**General**—Established 1891, seat of Foard County, retail center for agricultural and oil production. In mid-1800s area was domain of Comanche Indians who figured in history’s most famous case of a white girl captured and reared by red men. The girl was Cynthia Ann Parker, taken by Indians 1836, recaptured by white men in 1860. Recapture site, Pease River Battlefield marked by a historical marker, some nine miles northeast on F.M. 98. (For more details on Cynthia Ann Parker story, see GROESBECK.)

**Depot Library/Museum**—In old Santa Fe depot (c. 1908); houses public library; museum features local history and extensive collection on Cynthia Ann Parker, and other items dealing with Crowell’s frontier history. (There’s also an exhibit in the Foard County Courthouse open during weekday business hours.) Open Mon. - Fri. 1:30 - 5 p.m. At 203 N. Main St.

**Firehall Museum**—A pioneer schoolroom and old-fashioned family settings in the charming museum preserve rustic accents of the county’s heritage. Household, farm and ranch implements plus a detailed scale model of a country town in the early 1900s. There is also an exhibit on Gen. George B. McClellan’s 1877 copper mine, including artifacts from his campsite. McClellan was Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army for a time in the War Between the States, and was the Democratic nominee opposing Abraham Lincoln in the 1864 presidential election. Open Mon. - Fri. 2:30 - 5 p.m. 116 N. Main St. (Texas 6).

## DALHART

**Pop. 7,237**

**Alt. 3,985**

**Map B-8**

**General**—Founded in 1901 at the junction of two railroads, Dalhart was known as the headquarters of the famous XIT Ranch, 3,050,000 acres which were deeded by the state to the Capital Syndicate of Chicago in exchange for building the Texas state capital in Austin. The city was first called Twist, the designation of a railroad section, later Denrock, combining the railroad names, finally Dalhart, a syllable combination of two counties (Dallam and Hartley) in which the town lies. Current seat of Dallam County, and a shipping point for cattle, grains and other agricultural products.

**Empty Saddle Monument**—A favorite photo subject, monument stands at north end of Dalhart’s V-shaped underpass. Designed by a cowboy after a widow asked that a horse bearing an empty saddle appear in annual reunion parade in tribute to her husband, former XIT Ranch cowpoke. U.S. 87 north.

**LaRita Theater**—A beautifully restored theatre with professional and amateur stage productions produced by Dalhart Community Theatre.

**Lake**—Rita Blanca. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Rita Blanca Wildlife Management**—Fantastic opportunities for viewing and photographing various species of birds and other wildlife await visitors. In Oct., migrating geese stop over and the population has reached more than 100,000. A pond located northwest of the wildlife management area offers fishing for area residents and visitors. On F.M. 281 south of the city.

**XIT Historical Museum**—Wealth of exhibits include XIT Ranch, railroad antiques, Indian artifacts, frontier firearms, cowboy clothing, saddles and tack. Also completely furnished kitchen, parlor and bedroom, c. 1900, and frontier chapel with pump organ. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 108 E. 5th St. 806/244-5390.

**XIT Ranch**—Famed XIT was world’s largest ranch under fence in 1880s—three million acres! The State of Texas, far richer in land than cash, granted 3,050,000 acres of land in 1882 to a Chicago corporation for construction of state capitol. An English company, the Capitol Freehold Land & Investment Company of London, operated the immense spread that covered parts of 10 present counties. The north fence was 200 miles from the south fence; east-west distance was 27 miles, and 3,000 miles of barbed wired delineated hundreds of pastures, pens, residences and forage enclosures. Initial stocking herd of cattle numbered 110,721 head. Over the years, XIT lands have been divided and sold to “smaller” ranchers, some of whom control 100,000 acres or more.

**XIT Rodeo & Reunion**—Honors old-time XIT ranch hands and celebrates the heritage of the huge ranch. Even features PRCA Rodeo, fiddlers contest, and the world’s largest free barbecue the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August.

## DENVER CITY

**Pop. 3,985**

**Alt. 3,575**

**Map J-8**

**General**—Established in 1939 when the Wasson oil pool developed, and was named by the oil company. The city incorporated in 1940 during the height of the oil boom. Today the city is center for industry and agriculture production in Yoakum County. Favorable weather conditions contribute to the growing of cotton, sorghum, peanuts, wheat, and other grains. Beef cattle also an important part of the agricultural economy.

For information on accommodations, events, and dining, contact the Denver City Chamber of Commerce at 104 W. Third St., or call 806/592-5424.

**Denver City Historical Museum**—Five large murals painted on the outside of walls of a refurbished elementary school highlight the entry to museum. Exhibits include oilfield items, farm and ranching equipment, dentist tools, pharmacy items, as well as other memorabilia. Quilting by local quilting club is usually on Mon. from 1 - 4 p.m. Open Tues. - Thurs. 1 - 4 p.m. At 505 N. Avenue C. For information, call 806/592/2897.

**Yoakum County Park**—A party house and RV campsites are available for a small rental fee. The park also features an 18-hole golf course. Six miles north of the city on Texas 214.

**DUMAS**

Pop. 13,747

Alt. 3,668

Map B-9

**General**—Named after Louis Dumas, president of townsite company that founded this seat of Moore County in 1892. Oil discovered 1926. In heart of nation's largest grain sorghum producing area, center of one of world's largest natural gas fields, producer of two-thirds of nation's helium. Recreation areas include eight city parks; scenic beauty in rugged canyons and hills of Canadian River brakes. Nearby Lake Meredith offers fishing, boating, swimming and water skiing.

Texoma (municipal) RV Park with 20 - 25 spaces—free for the first night; electric and water hookups, dump station, nighttime security patrols. U.S. 87 west within city limits.

Bed and breakfast accommodations nearby.

For information on area attractions, accommodations, and events, contact the Dumas and Moore County Chamber of Commerce at 806/935-2123.

**Lake**—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

**Moore County Historical Museum**—Local history exhibits, memorabilia donated by pioneer families, wildlife displays, and Indian artifacts. Room settings include a pioneer kitchen, a country store, and a one-room school. Open May - Aug. Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sept. - Apr., Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. Housed in former hotel at 8th and Dumas Ave.

**EASTLAND**

Pop. 3,769

Alt. 1,421

Map K-14/15

**General**—Established about 1875 as seat of Eastland County, grew primarily as a trade center for surrounding farms and ranches. Named for Capt. William M. Eastland, San Jacinto hero and Texas Ranger. Current area resources include oil, ranching, farming and manufacturing. Eastland County ranks fifth in the state in peanut production. Fruit, pecans, vegetables, and feed crops are also important.

**Lakes**—Daniel, Cisco, and Leon. See LAKES listing. Also Eastland and Ringling Lakes are popular local fishing spots one mile north of town. Primitive camping, trails, and RV hookups are available at Ringling.

**Majestic Theatre**—Built by one of Eastland's founding fathers, C.U. Connellee in 1920, it was originally called the Connellee Theatre and featured films and stage shows. Gene Autry and his horse, Champion, made an appearance here and live radio shows were broadcast from here every Sat. night. The old theatre closed and reopened as the Majestic in 1947. Today, it has been renovated and is the city's civic center. Building features a Texas Historical Marker. At 108 N. Lamar. Box office telephone number is 254/629-1322.

**"Old Rip" the Horned Toad**—According to apparently authentic records and witnesses, a Texas horned toad (a type of lizard) was sealed in cornerstone of an Eastland courthouse built in 1897. In 1928 a new courthouse was erected, the prior cornerstone was opened, and the horned frog was found alive! The small animal received great publicity; was displayed nationally. When it died the following year, it was placed in a glass-front casket, on view in the present county courthouse.

**Post Office Mural**—National and Post Office history depicted in 6x10-foot mural of postage stamps. Seven years and some 12,000 stamps were required to produce the mosaics of historical scenes and famous stamps. Post Office, 400 block E. Main.

**EOLA**

Pop. 218 (est.)

Alt. 1,775

Map N-12

**General**—Small agricultural community first settled in 1898 on vast Midwest Texas ranch lands of Concho County. Original name of Jordan changed in 1903 with establishment of post office. Name, taken from nearby creek, is Indian for "good returns from blowing wind."

**Barrow Museum**—Displays focus on early farm and ranch days of Concho County and include rare windmills, horse-drawn equipment and farm implements, and memorabilia from around the world. Four buildings house such diverse collections as crystal, thousands of china and glass cats, a pipe organ, Oriental carvings and furniture, antiques, 15,000 Indian arrowheads and artifacts, gem and mineral collection, and special interest vehicles. Museum is on working ranch that includes a herd of registered Longhorn cattle. Open Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Located 4.5 mi. east on F.M. 765.



Gay Stockell/TXDOT

Mural depicts national and post office history in postage stamps at Eastland Post Office

**DICKENS**

Pop. 332

Alt. 2,468

Map G/H-11

**General**—Seat of Dickens County. The county was created in 1876 from Young and Bexar Territories. The city was founded in 1891 and incorporated in 1934. It is eight miles below the escarpment of the Cap Rock (High Plains). First settlements grew from dugout line camps used by cowboys of famous Spur, Pitchfork, and Matador ranches. Dickens began as an early pioneer settlement, growing as a rich cotton and cattle producing region. Today, it serves as a retail center for a large ranching and farming area. It's known to hunters as the "Unofficial Wild Boar Capital of Texas."

Nearby Croton Brakes region, east of city on U.S. 82, is a scenic area of colorful canyons, buttes and small creeks. Inquire locally for directions.

The Dickens County Courthouse features several outside memorials. A memorial walk contains bricks engraved with the names of early county residents and their families. Courthouse open Mon. - Fri. during business hours.

**Dickens County Museum**—Early pioneer and ranching heritage collection. Includes county, city, and area histories, photo gallery, antique furniture, appliances, and clothing. Also has a small library and reading room. Antique farm equipment is on the south lawn. Open Wed. 9 a.m. - noon; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Other hours by appointment. At 609 Montgomery St.

**Dickens County Springs Park**—72-acre scenic parkland features walking trails along side springs. Picnic areas enclosed by a tepee and a branded chuckwagon. Open from sunrise to sunset.

**Lake**—White River Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**DIMMITT**

Pop. 4,375

Alt. 3,854

Map E-9

**General**—Established in 1891 as county seat of Castro County and named for Rev. W.C. Dimmitt. The hard feelings after Dimmitt was selected over Castro City as county seat led to a gunfight between Ira Aten, a retired Texas Ranger, and Andrew McClelland. An historical marker at the courthouse square commemorates the event.

County excels in agriculture, producing large yields of corn, wheat, sunflowers, sugar beets and vegetables (potatoes, carrots, onions, cucumbers).

**Castro County Museum**—Housed in the Old Carter House, built in 1909 and moved to five-acre tract just west of the hospital. Features county photos, artifacts, early farm equipment and furnished half-dugout. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 404 W. Halsell St.

**FLOYDADA**

Pop. 3,676

Alt. 3,179

Map G-10

**General**—Established 1890, originally called Floyd City. Seat of Floyd County in center of productive farm area, headquarters for large electric co-op, and cotton ginning and shipping point. Check with the chamber of commerce for information on the Circle Dot Ranch which serves cowboy breakfasts and suppers on edge of Caprock Canyon. And for information on events, dining, and accommodations, stop by the chamber office at 114 W. Virginia in City Hall Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m., or call 806/983-3434.

**Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway**—See QUITAQUE.

**Floyd County Museum**—Period furnishings, implements, store fixtures, photographs of early settlers and ranchers. Also artifacts from Coronado's expedition found in Floyd County. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. North of courthouse.

**FORT GRIFFIN**

Pop. 2 (est.)

Alt. 1,275

Map J-14

**General**—Frontier Shackelford County community that grew around military post of same name, served as area trade center in 1870s and '80s. It was a rough, wild settlement frequented by cavalry troopers, trail-herd cowboys, buffalo hunters, and outlaws. More than 200,000 buffalo hides were shipped from the town. Over a 12-year period, gunfights accounted for 34 public killings. Town declined after fort was abandoned, and today there are only scattered rural homes on Brazos River farmlands at site on U.S. 283 north of Albany.

**Fort Griffin State Park**—506 acres of parkland feature camping, trailer facilities, picnicking, fishing, nature study and hiking trails. Home of state-maintained Texas Longhorn herd. Ruins of several old fort buildings, three restored buildings, Visitor Center. On U.S. 283 at Clear Fork of the Brazos River. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 915/762-3592.

**Lake**—Hubbard Creek. See LAKES listing.

**FRITCH**

Pop. 2,235

Alt. 3,200

Map C-10

**General**—Gateway to recreational areas around Lake Meredith and to Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument.

**Alibates National Monument**—Mined from about 10,000 B.C. to possibly the 1800s, these quarries yielded multicolored flint highly prized by ancient man for tools and weapons. The only National Monument in the state of Texas is administered by the National Park Service, entry to the monument is by ranger-guided tours only and limited to no more than 25 persons, are conducted from Memorial Day through Labor Day; by reservation only during off-season; tours originate in Bates Canyon off Texas 136 about six miles south of Fritch. Collecting flint specimens is prohibited on monument grounds.

**Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum**—Living specimens of some 16 species of fish found in Lake Meredith are among primary features of the facility, which also offers a variety of excellent wildlife dioramas depicting American eagles, wild turkeys, pronghorns, coyotes, deer and raccoons.

National Park Service display shows wide variety of colors of Alibates flint, and tools with which Indians made arrowheads. Open Tues. - Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun 2 - 5 p.m. 104 N. Roby (Texas 136).

**Lake**—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Meredith Recreation Area**—Lake Meredith was created by the Sanford Dam on the Canadian River and now fills canyons whose walls are crowned with white dolomite caprock, scenic buttes, pinnacles, and red-brown wind-eroded coves. Eight primary and several secondary recreation areas edge the lake, offering facilities from off-road vehicle trails to picnic and camping areas, shelters, rest rooms, boat ramps and docks, marina service, fishing and swimming. Administered by the National Park Service. Obtain details and lake maps at park headquarters, Texas 136 one mile east. For information, call 806/857-3151.

**GAIL**

Pop. 202 (est.)

Alt. 2,530

Map J-10

**General**—Both town and county named for Gail Borden, Texas patriot, surveyor, editor, trustee of Texas Baptist Education Society that founded Baylor Univ., inventor of condensed milk, and founder of Borden Foods. Established as ranch supply point in 1891, is county seat and only town in Borden County; remains cow town without bank, theater, railroad, hotel, doctor, or lawyer. Courthouse is the one large building on main street.

**Borden County Historical Museum**—Pictures, records, newspapers, furniture, and clothing from Borden County pioneer days. For access, inquire at courthouse.

**Lake**—J.B. Thomas. See LAKES listing.

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 669 north toward Post ascends the Texas High Plains, which are southernmost extension of Great Plains of the United States. In immensity beyond comprehension, Great Plains sweep north more than 1,600 miles, thrusting deep into Canada, through heartland of America that produces nation's abundance of grain, meat and fiber. The road climbs the abrupt edge through panoramas of steep cliffs and colorful canyons.

**GRAHAM**

Pop. 8,716

Alt. 1,123

Map J-15

**General**—In southeastern Young County on the Wichita Falls and Southern, and the Chicago, Rock Island, and Gulf Railroads, Graham was founded in 1872 by Gustavus and Edwin S. Graham. The Graham brothers were from Kentucky and founded Graham Brothers Salt Works. In 1874 Young County was organized and Graham became the county seat. By 1876 the *Graham Leader* ran its first edition; this weekly publication is the oldest newspaper in the Northwest Texas region. Today Graham is the hub of agribusiness, oil and gas extraction, and other industries in the county.

Visitors like to shop in Graham's antique stores and antique auction houses. The city also has one of few remaining drive-in theaters left in the state.

History buffs enjoy touring the restored buildings of Ft. Belknap, one of many along the Texas Forts Trail (see NEWCASTLE). Fishing, boating and other water sports draw visitors to Possum Kingdom Lake.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Graham Chamber of Commerce at 940/549-3355 or 1-800-256-4844. Also visit the Web site at [www.wf.net/~grahamcc](http://www.wf.net/~grahamcc).

**Lakes**—Eddleman, Graham, Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

**Robert E. Richeson Memorial Museum**—Houses memorabilia from World War II donated by former military men and their families. Exhibits include munitions, uniforms, and a large collection of model aircraft of the era. Open Thurs. 1 - 5 p.m. At Graham Municipal Airport on U.S. 380 east of city. 940/549-3355.

**GROOM**

Pop. 587

Alt. 3,214

Map D-11

**General**—Groom was named for an early cattleman, B.B. Groom. The town site was laid off in 1903 near the Chicago, Rock Island, and Gulf Railroad. The city is in the southeastern corner of Carson County. Farming and ranching are the primary agribusiness products, and the area also has resources from oil and gas. Be sure to visit the Blessed Mary Restaurant, the non-profit eatery where only a jug for a cash register and all proceeds are donated to charities. Located off I-40 on exit 112.

**Lake**—Greenbelt. See LAKES listing.

**The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ**—Standing tall above the flat prairie is a cross 190 feet tall which can be seen for almost 20 miles. The arms of the cross are 110 ft. wide. The structure weighs 2-1/2 million pounds (including foundation). At the intersection of I-40 and F.M. 295 just west of Groom.

**HALE CENTER**

Pop. 2,263

Alt. 3,423

Map F-9

**General**—At the center of Hale County, town resulted from compromise of two rival villages, Hale City and Epworth, that united in 1893. Buildings from both were moved to new townsite. Originally supplying large ranches, town became center of intensive farming as irrigation developed in 20th Century. In the county, more than 400,000 irrigated acres produce cotton, grain sorghum, wheat, sunflowers, sugar beets, and table vegetables. Ten large outdoor murals that historically depict life in Hale Center are displayed on buildings throughout the city.

**Bell Park Cacti Garden**—Established in honor of Hershell Bell, agronomy and range management authority; contains more than 350 specimens with 15 different species. Walk-through path, picnic tables. At intersection of F.M. 1424 and F.M. 1914 (Ave. K and Cleveland St.).

**Hale County Farm & Ranch Museum**—More than 200 examples of vintage farm equipment from horse-drawn threshing machines to huge 1912 Case steam tractor. Museum consists of four buildings, including the 1910 Santa Fe





J. Griffin Smith/PROOF

### Restored Fort Richardson near Jacksboro

depot. The first irrigation pumps developed by George Green (inventor, machinist, and engineer) are displayed, as well as some 20 stationary restored engines. On five acres one mile south on I-27, exit 36; open daily 1 - 5 p.m., weather permitting. Drive-by views at other times; donations. For information and group tours, call 806/839-2556.

## HENRIETTA

Pop. 3,264

Alt. 915

Map G-16

**General**—The town of Henrietta was originally established prior to the Civil War; however, due to Indian hostilities, the city ceased to exist when early settlers abandoned their homesteads for the safety areas farther east protected by military posts. In 1873, both the city and county were reorganized by the legislature and Henrietta was designated county seat. According to legend, a group of citizens from the nearby town of Cambridge stole the courthouse records for a brief period and claimed Cambridge as county seat. A group of "cowboys" from Henrietta roped the safe with records intact and dragged the "courthouse" back to Henrietta. It served as the only court of justice for a 300-mile area until 1879.

The Immigrant Trail, the famous wagon train route of westward bound pioneers in the late 1800s, crossed Clay County south of Henrietta. The trail has been mapped and stones indicate its crossings at highway locations.

Today, Henrietta serves as a retail center with its economy based on agriculture, farming, and light industry.

A red granite monument at the northwest corner of the courthouse square stands as a war memorial with names of veterans who lost their lives in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce a 940/538-5261.

**1890 Jail Museum-Heritage Center**—The old jail served as the detention center until 1973. It now houses the original cells and a never-used gallows, in addition to the sheriff's living quarters furnished in Victorian and period antiques. Local history archives available for limited research. Open Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. At 214 W. Ikard St. Admission. Web site [www.pctutor.org/cmuseum.html](http://www.pctutor.org/cmuseum.html).

**Hapgood Park**—This park is host to softball and baseball tournaments as well as recreational outings for picnics. It also has an RV park for overnight visitors. Off U.S. 287.

**Lake**—Arrowhead. See LAKES listing.

## HEREFORD

Pop. 14,597

Alt. 3,806

Map D-8

**General**—Named for early herds of Hereford cattle; seat of Deaf Smith County. (Deaf Smith commanded Sam Houston's scouts at Battle of San Jacinto.) Called "town without a toothache" due to low incidence of dental decay attributed to natural fluorides in municipal water supply. Agribusiness economy with immense production of grain sorghum, wheat, corn, grapes, and

sugar beets. Local plant refines sugar from beets grown in four-county area. Three million cattle annually move through area feedlots.

**Deaf Smith County Historical Museum**—Collections from pioneer era, farm and ranch implements, guns, Indian artifacts, photographs, paintings. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 400 Sampson St.

## JACKSBORO

Pop. 4,533

Alt. 1,074

Map H-16

**General**—Petroleum refining and related oil field services are among industries in seat of Jack County, primarily large, sparsely settled ranching area. Settlement began 1855; Butterfield stages ran through community first known as Lost Creek, next Mesquiteville, then Jacksboro.

Quaint downtown includes buildings constructed of native limestone built in the late 1800s. Shoppers enjoy browsing through gift and antique shops.

Two city parks provide recreational activities and there's a nine-hole golf course for golfers.

**Fort Richardson State Historical Park & Lost Creek Reservoir State Trailway**—Most northerly of line of Federal posts established in Texas after Civil War to halt Indian depredations. Among regimental commanders was Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie of famed Mackenzie's Raiders. Most impressive building extant was post hospital. A reconstructed officers barracks serves as Interpretive Center. Also existing are seven of the original buildings—morgue, bakery, magazine, commissary, hospital, and part of the guardhouse. The Commanding Officer's house, made from cottonwood, is the only one of its kind still standing in the entire country. In addition, there is a reconstructed enlisted men's barracks. Fort was abandoned May 1878. Military reenactment held annually in Nov. Recreational facilities include campsites with electricity, picnic sites, rest rooms, showers, nature hiking trails, pond, fishing. Southwest edge of city. There's a 20-mile hiking trail with facilities for biking and an equestrian trail. Interpretive Center open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; other buildings vary. Admission.

**Jack County Museum**—Located in the oldest house in Jack County, two rooms furnished with period furnishings depicting home life; one room dedicated to Jack County veterans. Memorabilia on Tom M. Marks who organized Corn Club, which later became 4-H Club. Also, restored 100-yr.-old log cabin, furnished with period furniture. Open Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 237 W. Belknap, just west of the square.

**Lakes**—Bridgeport, Jacksboro, and Lost Creek. See LAKES listing.

## LAMESA

Pop. 9,952

Alt. 2,975

Map J-9

**General**—Seat of Dawson County at the southeast edge of Texas High Plains, which are the southernmost extension of the Great Plains of the United States. Name from Spanish "la mesa," meaning "the table," describes the flat terrain. Area economy based on extensive oil, industrial and agricultural production. One of the state's largest cotton-producing counties.

Nearby lakes have game fishing and water sports. Two golf courses, swimming pool and acres of public parks provide recreation/entertainment.

**Dal Paso Museum**—Home furnishings, pioneer tools, ranch and farm equipment from early days of settlement. Also exhibits of works by local artists. Open daily except Mon. 2 - 5 p.m. Jun. - Aug.; Sept. - May, Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. In restored historic Dal-Paso Hotel, 306 S. First St.

## LEVELLAND

Pop. 12,866

Alt. 3,523

Map G-8/9

**General**—Appropriately named for the surrounding terrain; surveyed and plotted by cereal king C.W. Post in 1912 on the Oxsheer Ranch that he had purchased in 1906. Suggested name of Hockley City denied by Post Office because of Harris County town of same name.

City has recently become known as "City of Mosaics" with acquisition of several large outdoor, colorful mosaics. These may be found on chamber of commerce building, college buildings, hospital, clinic, and a freestanding mosaic in Carver Park. Free overnight RV park south on U.S. 385; 3-day maximum stay.

City celebrates the distinction of consistently being among the top ten oil producing counties in the state, and it is was of the largest cotton producing counties as well. Levelland is situated on the migratory path for several species of birds and the Monarch butterfly.

Home of South Plains College which is noted for its music/arts department teaching Country and bluegrass music.

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

Several parks within city provide recreational activities, including fishing, swimming, and picnicking.

**South Plains College Art Museum**—Fine Arts Building houses exceptional collection of old masters art donated to college by Marjorie Merriweather Post, daughter of city's founder. Campus on U.S. 385 southeast.

### LITTLEFIELD

Pop. 6,507

Alt. 3,556

Map G-9

**General**—Named for George Washington Littlefield, cattle baron and philanthropist who bought and developed southern Yellowhouse Division of famed XIT Ranch. Townsite first surveyed in 1912 and became station on Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad a year later. Now banking, commercial and manufacturing center; seat of Lamb County. More than 300,000 farm acres are irrigated; chief crops are cotton and grain; large ranches and livestock feeding lots. Large textile mill converts enough West Texas cotton into denim each year to make 19 million blue jeans.

City park has picnicking, free overnight camping with hookups.

**Replica of World's Tallest Windmill**—Originally constructed of wood in "El Canyon de las Casas Amarillas" (The Canyon of the Yellow Houses) on the XIT Ranch in 1887 to a height of 132 feet, the famous windmill blew down on Thanksgiving Day, 1926. The replica is "only" 114 feet to axis of the 12-foot windmill. U.S. 84 at XIT Ave.

**XIT Ranch**—See DALHART.

### LUBBOCK

Pop. 199,564

Alt. 3,241

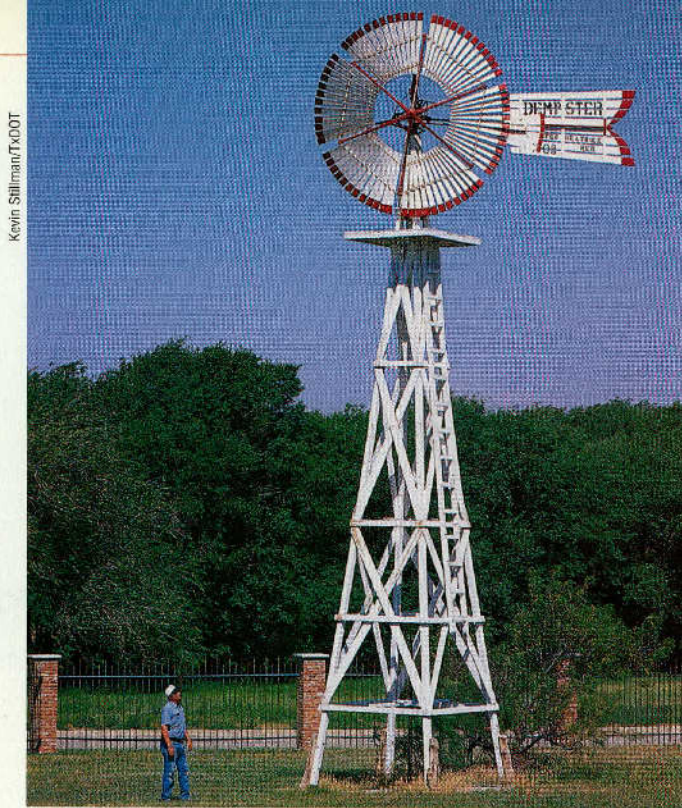
Map G-9

**General**—Seat of Lubbock County and major city of the South Plains. The abundant grass and the expansion of the cattle industry in the 1880s led to the cattle empires on the Texas Plains and the settling of two towns: Old Lubbock and Monterey. In 1890, the two cities came together and mutually accepted a new site, which they called Lubbock, and it became the center of ranching and cattle operations in the area.

Today a city of industry, technology, oil, agriculture, warehousing, medicine and culture. Site of Lubbock Christian Univ., Texas Tech Univ., School of Law, and Health Science Center. Lubbock's citizens support the city's live music, ballet, and community theater productions, as well as the activities of its colleges and universities.

Major annual event is Panhandle-South Plains Fair, last week in Sept., one of largest regional fairs in state. Draws quarter-million visitors to pageants, contests, and entertainment as well as traditional fair exhibits.

#### Llano Estacado Winery in Lubbock



American Wind Power Center in Lubbock

Lubbock lies on I-27/U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**American Wind Power Center**—Windmills of all descriptions are found on the grounds of this 28-acre site, donated in 1993 by the City of Lubbock to document the unique history of the windmill and its effect on early pioneers. Center tells the story of how the windmill settled the West, giving access to underground water on land where there were no rivers, streams, or lakes. Currently the museum features 26 exhibits outside and 50 rare windmills inside, including one of the first all metal windmills and an early example from the 1800s. Between Nineteenth and Broadway sts. Along Canyon Lake Drive. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Closed Sun. and Mon. For information, visit the Web site at [www.windmill.com](http://www.windmill.com). Suggested donation: \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

**Apple Country Hi-Plains Orchards**—Family-owned pick-your-own apple orchard, which holds 6,000 trees, open year-round. Also features a cafe, bakery, gift shop, country store, cider mill, orchard tours, and catering services. Apple Country also has its own award-winning Apple Country Apple Spice Wine. Four miles east of city on U.S. 62/82. For information, call 806/892-2961.

**Breedlove Dehydrating Plant**—This is the world's first non-profit food dehydration plant dedicated to eradicating hunger and turning crops into nutritionally rich good tasting foods. The dried product is distributed to 180 food banks and other charitable food distribution organizations throughout the USA. The plant is capable of processing 40,000 servings of food per day. At 1818 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. Tours arranged by appointment. Call 806/741-0404.

**Buddy Holly Center**—This multi-use cultural arts facility pays tribute to the legendary singer. The City of Lubbock's Buddy Holly memorabilia is displayed here, as well as being the home for the *Texas Musicians' Hall of Fame*. Also changing exhibits of visual arts from photography to painting to sculpture. At 19th & Ave. G. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Buddy Holly Statue and Walk of Fame**—Honors Lubbock and West Texas natives who have made significant contributions in entertainment industry. Plaques include Mac Davis, Waylon Jennings, Jimmy Dean, Bobby Keys, G.W. Bailey, Barry Corbin, four members of the "Crickets", Tanya Tucker, Roy Orbison, Bob Wills, the Gatlin Bros., and many more. Center of the walk features a bronze statue of Lubbock's favorite son, rock-and-roller Buddy Holly. The Buddy Holly Festival is usually held in early September. 8th St. and Ave. Q.

**Historic Depot District**—A night club and restaurant area where restaurants feature all types of food. The Cactus Theater is a restored 1930s motion picture theater, which now offers live music and theater productions. In former Fort Worth to Denver Railroad Depot. Night clubs feature live music venue, including country/Western, popular alternative, and rhythm & blues. Also includes a micro-brewery and coffee house. Downtown adjacent to I-27 at 19th St. & Avenue Q. For information, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Joyland Amusement Park**—Located in the heart of Lubbock's popular Mackenzie Park recreation area, the park has great rides, more than 30 in all, ranging from water coaster and roller coasters to junior rides like the colorful carousel, food favorites, and fun games. Open weekends spring and fall at 2 p.m.; daily mid-May - mid-Aug. and 2 p.m. weekends. For information, call 806/763-2719 or visit the Web site, [www.joylandpark.com](http://www.joylandpark.com).

**Lakes**—Alan Henry and Buffalo Springs. See LAKES listing.

**Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park**—Remarkable state and national historic landmark yields evidence of continuous human occupation from approximately 12,000 B.C. to the present. Little disturbed stratigraphic and artifactual records identify prehistory cultures including early Clovis, Folsom, Plainview, and Firstview peoples. Due to its nearly complete record of human activity, it is one of the most important archaeological sites in North America. Excavations have revealed remains of extinct mammoth, horse, camel, giant bison, and a 6-ft. long armadillo. Archaeological excavations continue each summer; crews often international with students from around the world.

Today, guests of the Nash Interpretive Center may enjoy interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Park open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; day-use areas include interpretive trails, shade shelters and picnic tables. Admission is free. 806/742-1116. Web site is

[www.ttu.edu/~museum/lll/index.html](http://www.ttu.edu/~museum/lll/index.html). Tours for groups of 10 or more by appointment only, call 806/742-2456. Park is at northwest edge of Lubbock at 2401 Landmark Drive, access from intersection of U.S. 84 and Loop 289.

**Lubbock Memorial Arboretum**—On 93 acres with trees, shrubs and many other plants. A central lake is home to swimming ducks and many birds frequent the area. The grounds and Hodges Rose Garden open daily. On the second Sat. of the month, gardening programs are held at the Interpretive Center at 4111 University Ave. For more information call 806/797-4520.

**Lubbock Visitor Information**—Literature about attractions, visitor sites, events and information about dining and accommodations can be obtained at the Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau, at 1301 Broadway, Suite 200. It is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri., or call 806/747-5232 or 1-800-692-4035. You can also visit the Web site at [www.lubbocklegends.com](http://www.lubbocklegends.com).

**Mackenzie Park**—248-acre day-use park operated by city. Prairie Dog Town in park is one of few remaining colonies of its type in nation. Visitors enjoy close-up views of the frisky little animals that once inhabited the plains by the millions. Picnicking, golf, and Joyland Amusement Park.

Also in park is segment of Yellow House Canyon, site of last fight in Lubbock County between buffalo hunters and Indians in 1877. Yellow House Canyon was known to Spanish explorers as early as 17th Century. Within city off East Broadway and Avenue A. For more information call 806/795-2455.

**Museum of Texas Tech University**—Exhibits cover the broad range of arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences with emphasis on study of arid and semiarid lands, their environments and the cultures that inhabit them. Notable exhibits include dinosaurs, the art of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Lubbock Gallery, the Explorium, the Diamond M Fine Art galleries, the Special Exhibitions Gallery, and five change exhibition galleries. Admission is free. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (additional hours on Thurs. to 8:30 p.m.); Sun. 1 - 5:00 p.m. **Moody Planetarium** in museum offers programs Tues. - Fri. beginning 3:30 p.m., Thurs. at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sat. - Sun. at 2 & 3:30 p.m. Fee for planetarium. 4th St. & Indiana Ave. 806/742-2490.

**National Cowboy Symposium**—Lubbock is home for this national Western event. Cowboy poets, musicians, storytellers, artists, historians, authors, editors, publishers, photographers, cooks, and honest-to-goodness cowboys gather to explore the traditions of the American frontier. This event is usually held in early Sept. For time and schedule, call 806/795-2455.

**Ominimax**—Theater uses the largest film frame in cinematic history (70 mm) and advanced projector to project images on huge 58-ft. diameter dome screen, visually encompassing the audience. Shows daily; for information, 806/745-MAXX (6299).

Experience learning through discovery at Science Spectrum. It's a hands-on science, nature, and technology museum for youngsters and adults, too. "Kidspace" for preschool children. Traveling exhibits throughout the year. For information, 806/745-2525. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 2579 S. Loop 289. Admission.

**Ranching Heritage Center**—Story of Panhandle ranching told in 35 authentic structures moved to this 16-acre site: bunkhouse, barn, dugouts, windmills, ranch homes, school, blacksmith shop, steam engine, stock cars, depot, Spanish compound and more from the late 1700s through the early 1900s, all authentically restored and furnished. Docents in period attire host



Mike Lacey

### Ominimax in Lubbock

visitors Sun. afternoon. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Just east of Museum of Texas Tech at 3121 Fourth St., just east of Indiana Ave. 806/742-0498. Web site is [www.ttu.edu/ranchingheritagecenter](http://www.ttu.edu/ranchingheritagecenter).

**Texas Water Rampage**—Water theme park for swimming, splashing, tubing, water slides; also go-carts. Open during summer Mon. - Sat. noon to 7 p.m., except Sun. - noon to 6 p.m. Admission. On U.S. 62/82 1.5 mi. west of Loop 289; admission. 806/796-0701.

**The Lubbock Arts Alliance**—The official arts agency of Lubbock. Gallery features different regional artists monthly. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. High Noon Concert series showcases local performers every Wednesday, June-August at the County Courthouse Gazebo. Please call 806/744-2787 or visit the Web site [www.lubbockarts.org](http://www.lubbockarts.org) for more information.

**Vietnam Archives**—This collection is the largest primary source materials of the Vietnam War outside of the holding of the U.S. government. In the Texas Tech Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. Open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 806/742-3749.

**Wineries**—**Cap\*Rock** features a tasting room, gift shop, and tours Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. From South Loop 289, U.S. 87 south approx. 6 mi. to Woodrow Road, then east to the winery. 806/863-2704. Web site address is [www.caprockwinery.com](http://www.caprockwinery.com).

**Llano Estacado Winery**, born from a casual experiment with grapevines shading a Lubbock patio, this winery now is one of Texas' largest. Tasting room samples Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Riesling, and others. Gift shop and tasting open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Tours available. Take U.S. 87 south to E.M. 1585, then 3.2 miles east. 806/745-2258. Visit the Web site at [www.llanowine.com](http://www.llanowine.com).

**Pheasant Ridge Winery** produces wines from a 50-acre vineyard located in the Texas High Plains. Wines include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Proprietor's White and dry Chenin Blanc. Tours and tasting welcome with advanced telephone call. Take I-27 north to New Deal, F.M. 1729 east 2 miles, then one mile south to winery. Telephone 806/746-6033.

## McLEAN

Pop. 830

Alt. 2,812

Map D-12

**General**—Established 1902, grew from water well and switch on Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Texas Railroad. Once known as the "uplift city" because of a ladies undergarment factory; former site of World War II German prisoner of war camp. Now trade center for surrounding farms and ranches. Murals along Main St. (old U.S. 66) depict history of city and area.

A restored 1930s Phillips 66 station lies on old westbound U.S. 66 road and is considered one of best re-created sites by Old Route 66 Association.

**Alanreed-McLean Area Museum**—Mementos of early settlers of Texas Panhandle; original book recording births in McLean from 1901 to 1920. Several rooms furnished in pioneer style; community history; history and



Stan A. Williams/FOOT

**Devil's Rope & Route 66 Museum, McLean**

records of the World War II German prisoner of war camp. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 117 N. Main St. Tel. 806/779-2731.

**Devil's Rope & Route 66 Museum**—Large collection of barbed wire artifacts, including different cuts with fence building tools related to the wire. Other exhibits include the history of the cattle brand; the evolution of the American cowboy; and 100 years of cowboy tools.

Route 66 collection of old U.S. 66 memorabilia includes maps, old "66" café, and scrapbooks with letters and information. Handicapped accessible. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Corner of Kingsley St. and old U.S. 66. 806/779-2225.

**Lakes**—Greenbelt, McClellan. See LAKES listing.

**MATADOR**

**Pop. 740** **Alt. 2,347** **Map G-11**

**General**—Matador was designated county seat when Motley County was organized in 1891, and was named for Dr. J.W. Mottley (named was misspelled in the law), signer of Texas Declaration of Independence who was killed at San Jacinto. The city was named for the Matador Land and Cattle Co., originally organized in 1882 by a Scottish syndicate. The area was founded and settled by cowboys of the Matador Ranch. The historic ranch house with 26 rooms was built in 1918 using native rock at a cost of \$26,000. (Not open to the public.) Today, the local economy is still based on ranching (livestock) operations along with crop farming with cotton, wheat, and grain sorghums.

**Motley County Historical Museum**—Housed in the old Traweek Hospital built in 1928 by Dr. A.C. Traweek, Sr., the first medical doctor in the county. Exhibits include collection of clothing, home furnishings, tools, firearms, and photos depicting early ranch and farm life in the county. Special exhibit rooms feature early medical care, school items, Plains Indians artifacts, a miniature display of the city as it existed from 1891-1910, and history of the Matador Land and Cattle Co. Open Mon. 1 - 5 p.m.; other times by appointment. One block north of U.S. 70 at corner of Dunece and Bundy sts. For information, call 806/347-2651.

**MEMPHIS**

**Pop. 2,479** **Alt. 2,067** **Map E-12**

**General**—Seat of Hall County, one of major peanut and cotton-producing counties in Texas Panhandle and banking and marketing center for surrounding area. Industries include agribusiness firms, cotton storage, processing and shipping, grain and livestock.

For additional information on accommodations and other attractions, contact the Memphis Chamber of Commerce at 806/259-3144 or visit the Web site at [www.webtexas.com/memphis](http://www.webtexas.com/memphis).

**Bob Wills Museum**—See TURKEY.

**City Park**—Facilities include overnight camping, swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, tennis courts.

**Hall County Museum**—Museum is housed in the old First National Bank Building. Exhibits include photographs of early Memphis street scenes and settlers. Other displays include a school room with photos of school classes and old annuals; doctor certificates and tools of the trade; vintage furniture, paintings, and other memorabilia. Open Jun. - Aug. Tues. and Thurs. 1 - 3 p.m., other hours by appointment. At Sixth and Main sts. on the square.

**Presbyterian Building**—Former Presbyterian church was built in 1911 and is marked by a state historical marker. It was designed after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome; all windows are European stained glass. It's organ, a two-manual Kilgen, was originally water powdered and later converted to electricity. It is one of only two left in the world. When the church disbanded, a non-profit Preservation Foundation was formed and took over the care and restoration of the building. The chamber of commerce can arrange a tour.

**Scenic Drive**—Texas 256 west traverses rolling country often cut by tributaries of Prairie Dog Town Fork of Red River. It threads among the jumbled, broken remnants of the High Plains, then ascends the Cap Rock in a spectacular drive amid colorful cliffs and canyons. Nearby Caprock Canyon State Park and home of historic J.A. Ranch bison herd.

**MIAMI**

**Pop. 588** **Alt. 2,744** **Map C-12**

**General**—Name is an Indian word for sweetheart, and also referred to as "Sweetheart of the Plains." Originated as construction camp on Santa Fe Railroad in 1887. It is the county seat and only town in Roberts County. It's about 80 miles northeast of Amarillo nestled in a cottonwood-tree-lined valley between the hills lining Red Deer Creek. It is the home of the National Cow Calling Contest held the first Sat. of June since 1949. Bed and breakfast facilities offered in historic buildings. Hunting and fishing available in surrounding areas.

**Roberts County Museum**—Housed in restored Santa Fe Railroad depot; extensive collections include kitchen, household antiques, pioneer documents, frontier firearms, Indian artifacts and artwork, farm and ranch antiques, including chuck wagon, buggies and implements, half-dugout, blacksmith, tinsmith, cobbler and print shop displays, and portion of Meade collection of pre-historic archaeological artifacts and fossils. One display includes artifacts from one of the earliest documented co-occurrences of Clovis fluted points and mammoths excavated over a half century ago at the Miami (Clovis) Site. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. U.S. 60 midtown. For information, call 806/868-3291.

**MILES**

**Pop. 850** **Alt. 1,800** **Map M-12**

**General**—City named in 1890 when established as extension of the Ballinger-San Angelo railroad line. Named for Jonathan Miles, pioneer cattleman and railroad contractor.

**Old Opera House**—Built in 1904, structure was cultural and social center and housed bank. Later used as store, school, post office and hotel. Closed in 1960; reopened in 1976 to again house bank and opera house. Restored and purchased by Miles Preservation Authority in 1977. Senior citizens who helped restore facility now meet here. Listed on National Register of Historic Buildings. Antiques, handicrafts, and foods available on first floor. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Robinson St. (F.M. 1692) at 2nd St.

**Rumley Tractor**—After 40 years of neglect the 1909 "Advanced Rumley" was moved in 1976 to city where it is a popular photo subject. Weighing in at 19 tons, top speed of the behemoth was 2 1/2 mph. On U.S. 67.

**MINERAL WELLS**

**Pop. 16,946** **Alt. 925** **Map J-16**

**General**—Discovery of medicinal qualities in waters made city nationally famous in late 19th-early 20th Centuries. Was said that waters of the Crazy Well (discovered in 1885) could cure mental illness and a long list of other maladies. Today modern health seekers, conventioners, retired persons, hunters and fishermen enjoy mild climate and surrounding Palo Pinto Mountains. Several outfitters provide canoe rentals and trips on nearby Brazos River. A walking tour encompasses historic downtown area. See Visitor Information.

VF Outlet Mall offers factory-direct stores with manufacturers selling direct. Open daily. 4500 U.S. 180 east.



Laurence Parrott

**Rock formations amid lush greenery attract rock climbers to Lake Mineral Wells State Park near Mineral Wells**

Be sure to inquire about the Beneficial Animal Teaching Society's (B.A.T.S.) tours and field trips to see Bat World, a museum of, about and for bats, as well as guided field tours. For information, call 817/325-3404.

**Clark Gardens**—Begun in 1977, the gardens resulted from vision of Max and Billie Clark who wanted to create a Texas version of an English garden. Visitors find a sea of iris and other flowers in bloom, a rose arbor, and several ponds with exotic koi and colorful goldfish amid tropical water lilies, lotus, and other bog plants within the 83 acre botanical park. Open late April - early July Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Aug. 31 - Nov. 18, Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Five miles east of city at 567 Maddux Road. Tel. 940/682-4856. Admission.

**Crazy Water Well**—Historical marker at intersection of U.S. 281/180 marks site of first mineral-water well in county. Several other historical markers in county detail area history.

**Famous Mineral Water Company**—Founded in 1913 by Edward P. Dismuke, this bottling company is the only mineral water well in operation today. Some of Dismuke's products were Dismuke's Pronto-lax, Dismuke's Famous Mineral Crystals, Dismuke's Eye Bath, and Dismuke's Residuum. Building includes historical marker. The drinking pavilion, well, and bottling plant are at 209 NW 6th St. Open Tues. - Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. For information, call 940/325-8870.

**Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway**—2,853 acres of post-oak woodlands and grassy meadows surround 673-acre Lake Mineral Wells; extensive day-use picnic facilities on south side of lake, overnight facilities on north side. Abundant wildlife includes white-tailed deer and wild turkey. Tent and RV sites with electricity and water, screened shelters, recreation hall, rest rooms, showers, dump station, boat ramp, 10-mile equestrian and hiking trail leads to primitive camp area. (Horses not provided.) Fishing and swimming in lake. Three miles east on U.S. 180. Admission.

A 22-mile hiking, biking, and equestrian trail links Mineral Wells and Weatherford to Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Visitors can access the trail near Cartwright Park in Weatherford, in Mineral Wells, and at the state park. Admission.

**Lakes**—Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto and Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

**Palo Pinto Museum**—Old jail and log cabin, area history and artifacts. Open weekend afternoons in summer. One block south of courthouse in Palo Pinto, 12 miles west, U.S. 180.

**Scenic Drives**—Texas 4 (12 miles west of Mineral Wells at Palo Pinto) south to I-20 offers spectacular bluffs and scenery through the Palo Pinto Mountains. U.S. 281 north from I-20 snakes through the Brazos River valley offering views of the valley floor from bluffs above.

**Visitor Information**—Details and free literature about Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto Co. historic sites, campgrounds, accommodations and current events available at chamber of commerce, 511 E. Hubbard. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call in TX & US 1-800-252-MWTX or 940/325-2557; visit the Web site at [www.mineralwellstx.com](http://www.mineralwellstx.com).

## MORAN

Pop. 233

Alt. 1,350

Map K-14

**General**—As with many towns on the prairies, it was founded as a station when the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad built through Shackelford County in 1882. First named Hulltown after Swope Hull, its first merchant; renamed to Hicks in 1891, and to Moran, for John J. Moran, president of the railroad in 1892. Town is a trade center for farmers and ranchers.

**Lakes**—Cisco and Hubbard Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Moran Historical Museum**—Operated by the Moran Historical Society, the museum is housed in the former First Christian Church building. Exhibits include clothing, cooking utensils, farming tools, and items from early-day stores in the city. Also includes the genealogy of a ranching and oil boom town. Open Mar. - Oct. Thurs. 2 - 5 p.m. On Waters St., two block south of post office.

## MORTON

Pop. 2,249

Alt. 3,758

Map G-8

**General**—Founded 1923; post office established 1924. Became seat of Cochran County when county organized in 1924. Today banking, market and shipping center for county. Products include petroleum, cotton, cattle and feed.

**C. C. Slaughter Ranch Headquarters**—Adobe buildings placed to form a quadrangle, part of once extensive headquarters complex of cattle baron who established ranching empire. Still ranch headquarters; visitors welcome. Two miles south on Texas 214; one mile west on F.M. 1169 (not shown on most maps).

**Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge**—North 13 mi. on Texas 214. See MULESHOE.

## MULESHOE

Pop. 4,530

Alt. 3,889

Map F-8

**General**—Seat of Bailey County, long a sparsely settled area of huge cattle ranches. Early in 20th Century the immense ranches began to break up, and farming was introduced to this area of the High Plains. Town organized in 1926, named for muleshoe brand of famous early ranch. Today a center for marketing and shipping of High Plains agricultural products.

Muleshoe Heritage Center, off U.S. 84, is in restored Santa Fe depot; offers museum and meeting place. At the center is the "World's Largest Muleshoe" at 22 feet high, and 17 feet wide at widest point. Good photo opportunity.

For information on events, accommodations, and area attractions, call the chamber of commerce office at 806/272-4248.

**Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge**—Founded 1935, oldest national wildlife refuge in Texas. Established principally for migratory waterfowl, also home of native wildlife. Three small rainwater lakes, unusual features on the plains, attract the birds. Hunting is prohibited, but photography permitted. Among species wintering here is nation's largest concentration of sandhill cranes. Greatest numbers of waterfowl may usually be seen between late Aug. and Mar.; colony of prairie dogs is along entrance road. Open daylight hours. About 20 miles south on Texas 214.

**National Mule Memorial**—What better place for a monument to mules than this uniquely named town? Mules pulled the covered wagons west, plowed the first sod for pioneers, hauled freight, built the first railroads and highways. With disappearance of mules from the American scene in recent decades, a group of Texas citizens determined to erect a memorial to those unsung beasts. Donations for the monument were received from throughout nation; in fact, a gift of 21 cents was sent by a mule driver from Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The memorial, unveiled on July 4, 1965, is near inter-section of U.S. 70/84 in downtown and is a popular picture-taking site.

Today wagons and mule teams still can be seen on Muleshoe's main streets and Mule Day is celebrated Labor Day weekend, hosting mule rodeo, mule races, other activities.



Heriman Kalby/IXDOT

Preserved frontier Fort Belknap near Newcastle

## NEWCASTLE

Pop. 575                      Alt. 1,126                      Map H-15

**General**—Founded 1908; because of early coal-mining interest, named after famous English coal-mining city. Agricultural today, area also produces significant quantities of petroleum.

**Fort Belknap**—U.S. Army post established in 1851 at another location by Gen. William G. Belknap; moved same year to present site along Brazos River. One of the largest posts in North Texas prior to Civil War, it protected early settlers, travelers, and was stop on famous Butterfield Overland Mail Route. Abandoned 1867; six original buildings and one replica. Now a county recreational park with museum, archives, and picnic facilities. Open daily except Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Three miles south off Texas 251.

**Lakes**—Eddleman, Graham, Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

## O'DONNELL

Pop. 1,011                      Alt. 3,110                      Map J-9

**General**—The typical agricultural community on the table-flat South Plains of the Texas Panhandle (U.S. 87 south of Lubbock) was established in 1908 as a stop on the Panhandle & Santa Fe Railroad; named for a railroad official. Hometown of the late Dan Blocker, "Hoss Cartwright" of TV fame. Star is remembered with a statue in downtown park across from museum.

**O'Donnell Museum**—Housed in two-story 1925 bank building that remains in original condition. Exhibits include old telephone system, organ, bedroom furniture, kitchen equipment, blacksmith shop, schoolroom, post office, law and doctor offices, parlor setting and early church exhibit. Also features exhibit on TV's Dan Blocker, who played Hoss Cartwright on "Bonanza." Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon; 1 - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Eighth & Doak sts. Donations appreciated.

## OLNEY

Pop. 3,396                      Alt. 1,184                      Map H-15

**General**—Grew from 1880s site where early cattlemen gathered herds for branding and forming trail outfits. Name honors Richard Olney, Secretary of State in Grover Cleveland's cabinet. Today commercial center for agricultural, ranching and petroleum activity. Excellent hunting during seasons for dove, quail, migratory waterfowl, wild turkey and white-tailed deer; day and seasonal leases available. Water sports include swimming, boating and fishing on small Lakes Cooper and Olney a few miles northwest.

An unusual park that appeals to adults features artistic groupings of pole structures on Ave. C just east of Main St.

**Buffalo**—View from Texas 114 of private herd of buffalo (American bison) and elk pastured across from highway rest area 8 miles east of Olney.

## OLTON

Pop. 2,288                      Alt. 3,580                      Map F-9

**General**—In eastern Lamb County, the town was founded by W.P. Soash of Waterloo, IA, in 1908. Soash bought 87,000 acres of ranch land and resold these lands to northern pioneers, arranging special trains to bring prospective buyers to the area. Soash persuaded the Adam Powell family to move their post office south to the new townsite and named the post office after their son, W. Olton Powell.

Agriculture is the predominate industry with corn, cotton, soybeans and wheat major crops. Agri-Gold, Inc. is a local industry that grows and ships canna, iris and daffodil bulbs throughout the many areas in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Fields of beautiful cannas can be seen during late summer and early fall.

Bed and breakfast facilities available in historic building downtown.

For information on dining, accommodations, and events, call the Olton Chamber of Commerce at 806/285-2292.

**Sand Crawl Museum**—Named for the Sand Crawl formation south of town, the museum features pictorial representations of the area from Pleistocene riverbed to trail for Spanish explorers to settlement, ranching and farming. An outdoor exhibit features windmills, farm equipment and a half-dug-out house, along with replicas of the Sand Hills. In Olton Library. Open Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 5 p.m.; Tues. noon - 8 p.m. At 701 Main St.

**Sand Hills**—A chain of sand dunes extends for 130 miles, three to five miles wide. Archeological findings show that the area was inhabited 6,000 year ago. Comanches camped in the area because of wild game, vegetation, and protection from the wind and the availability of water. Spanish explorers and later Anglo-Americans used the old Indian trails that passed along these dunes. On F.M. 168 south of town.

## PADUCAH

Pop. 1,498                      Alt. 1,886                      Map G-12

**General**—Established 1892 as county seat of newly created Cottle County; named for Paducah, KY, home town of county surveyor and county attorney. In 1893 town consisted of two stores, schoolhouse, and saloon that doubled as a church on Sunday. On Christmas Day, 1909, Quanah, Acme and Pacific RR reached the site and town was incorporated the next year. Today serves as supply and distribution point for region's petroleum and agribusiness interests.

**Heritage Museum**—Housed in restored QA&P Railroad depot. Features farming and ranching artifacts dating to previous century; large collection of actual photographs from county's earliest days. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. On U.S. 83 north.

**Matador Wildlife Management Area**—28,000-acre area on Middle Pease and South Pease rivers. Hunting (by permit only) includes special archery season. Northwest of city on F.M. 3256 off U.S. 83.

Indian pictographs on limestone cliffs above Concho River near Paint Rock



Gay Shuckell/IXDOT

**PAINT ROCK****Pop. 320****Alt. 1,639****Map M-13**

**General**—Founded in 1879, present seat of Concho County. Named for extensive group of Indian pictographs painted on limestone cliffs bordering Concho River. Center for ranching and agriculture.

**Ingrid's Custom Hand-Woven, Inc.**—Visitors see weaving of 100 percent sheep's wool rugs and saddle blankets on 2,4, and 8 harness looms. They also can see how the items are finished with latch hooks or hand knotting fringes. Thirteen looms range from 10-inches wide to 12-foot wide. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Open Sat. Thanksgiving week - Dec. 31 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) On U.S. 83 near the courthouse. For information, call 915/732-4370.

**Paint Rock Excursions**—Guided tours to site where earliest paintings date from prehistoric times; succeeding pictographs continued until last quarter of 19th Century when Comanche Indians still hunted in area. Visitors often see deer, wild turkey and other native wildlife along with approximately 1,500 markings, including spectacular painting with a "Sun Dagger" appearing at the center of the painting on Winter Solstice (Dec. 21) each year. Open Jun. - Aug. Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - noon, Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Other tours by appointment. Call 915/732-4376 or 915/732-4418. Office on west side of U.S. 83 in town.

**PAMPA****Pop. 17,887****Alt. 3,234****Map C-11**

**General**—Seat of Gray County, founded 1888 on the Santa Fe Railroad, named from Spanish word pampas meaning plains. Today a city of beautiful churches, large parks and fine homes. Thirty-two municipal parks on tree-shaded draws give a spacious air to the plains city. An oil field supply point with allied industries, a marketing center for agricultural and livestock-raising area, and an industrial center provide a diversified economy.

**Freedom Museum USA**—This quaint museum highlights all military branches from the Revolutionary War to present. Exhibits include guns, swords, uniforms, and other military memorabilia. Open Tues. - Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At 600 N. Hobart St. For information, call 806/669-6066. Donations accepted.

**Lakes**—Greenbelt, McClellan, Meredith. See LAKES listing.

**White Deer Land Museum**—Period rooms, chapel, carriage house, office. Records and documents of White Deer Land Company, established 1886. Exhibits recall early ranching days. Open Tues. - Sun. 1:30 - 4 p.m. (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. during summer). Closed holidays. 116 S. Cuyler St.

**PANHANDLE****Pop. 2,589****Alt. 3,451****Map C-10**

**General**—Named for its location in Texas Panhandle, became county seat upon organization of Carson County in 1888. Wheat, cattle and petroleum products are among commodities from this marketing and shipping center. Restored Santa Fe depot serves as city hall.

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 293 west to Texas 136 north provides views of modern High Plains agriculture contrasted with traditional ranch lands unchanged for centuries. Precise row crops are left behind as route enters rolling grasslands of broad Canadian River Valley. Fascinating historical marker beside Texas 136, some 10 miles north of F.M. 293, marks portion of trail that wound from Fort Smith, AR, to Santa Fe, NM. Though now covered by grass, wagon ruts are still visible. Texas 136 leads north to Lake Meredith and popular federal recreational areas around it (see LAKES listing).

**Square House Museum**—One of the most attractive small museums in state. Displays and dioramas interpret the history, natural history, and art of the Texas Panhandle. Thirteen structures include the historic Square House, oldest building in the city; Santa Fe caboose; reconstructed pioneer dugout; Eclipse windmill; community church; two art galleries; wildlife hall; early ranching barn; general store; bank; blacksmith shop; education building with Indian art and Texas flag exhibits. Self-guiding or tours by arrangement. Open daily. Pioneer Park on Texas 207. Admission free.

**Thomas Cree's Little Tree**—Set behind protective fence at south edge of U.S. 60 about five miles southwest of city is site of first tree planted throughout entire Texas Panhandle. Immense plains were once a sea of grass from horizon to horizon. In 1888 pioneer settler Thomas Cree hauled a sapling of bois d'arc from beyond the Caprock and planted it by his dugout home. Cree is long gone, but the tree thrived until 1969 when accidentally killed by an agricultural chemical. Carson County residents planted a new one as a memo-

Square House Museum photo

**Square House Museum in Panhandle**

rial to early pioneers. Site is marked by two State Historical Markers and by medallion from National Men's Garden Clubs of America.

**PERRYTON****Pop. 7,774****Alt. 2,942****Map A-11**

**General**—Founded 1919, seat of Ochiltree County, northernmost county seat in Texas (545 miles from State Capital, Austin). Locally known as "Wheatheart of the Nation," city is shipping point for one of nation's top wheat-producing areas.

**Lake**—Fryer. See LAKES listing.

**Museum of the Plains**—General history exhibits of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles; railroad depot, old store, pioneer home from Ochiltree, covered wagon, barbed wire. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. U.S. 83 at north city limit.

**PLAINVIEW****Pop. 22,336****Alt. 3,366****Map F-10**

**General**—Seat of Hale County, founded 1887 and named for magnificent view of plains. Center of huge, shallow underground water belt, city and county have abundant water supply. County is a leader in grain and cotton production. Oil and gas also contribute to area economy. Recreational facilities include 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, swimming pools and city parks. Hunters find abundant pheasant during season. Excellent antique shopping with 12 locations in the historic downtown area. Home of Wayland Baptist Univ.

For additional information on dining opportunities, events, and accommodations, call the chamber of commerce at 806/296-7431, or 1-800-658-2685.

Web site [www.plainviewtx.com](http://www.plainviewtx.com).

**Abraham Family Art Gallery**—One of the first art centers in the Southwest is in the Learning Resources Center on the Wayland Baptist University Campus. Rotating exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon; Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. For information, call 806/296-5521.

**Llano Estacado Museum**—Bears the traditional Spanish name for the Texas High Plains. Hale County exhibits include artifacts from Plainview Man archaeological site (8,000 B.C.), gems and minerals, pioneer firearms, re-created turn-of-the-century room settings, art collection. With discovery of prehistoric elephant skull and tusks in May 1988 near community of Easter, remains of the Imperial Mammoth became known as "Easter Elephant" and moved to new home in the museum. Open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; weekends Mar. - Nov. 1 - 5 p.m. 1900 W. 8th St. On campus of Wayland Baptist Univ.

**POST****Pop. 3,708****Alt. 2,590****Map H-10**

**General**—Seat of Garza County, named for C.W. Post, cereal manufacturer who founded town in 1907 to demonstrate his economic ideas. Town designed to be center of a community of farmers who owned their own land and homes in region of giant ranches. All supplies were first brought in by mule train



Kevin Sullivan/TXDOT

**Llano Estacado Museum in Plainview**

from nearest railhead, Big Spring, some 70 miles away. Between 1910-1913, city was scene of perhaps most elaborate series of experiments in rainmaking ever undertaken in U.S. Explosives were detonated in the atmosphere at timed intervals. Unfortunately, rainfall records do not indicate success. Post is at foot of majestic Caprock, southeastern edge of the Great Plains of the U.S.

Historic Main Street lined with gift and clothing stores, restored historic buildings. Details about city attractions at local chamber of commerce, 106 S. Broadway St.

Post lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Algerita Art Center**—Features local and area artists' works in the restored Algerita Hotel. Open afternoons. 129 East Main.

**City-County Park**—Small lake for fishing; swimming pool, walking trail and picnic areas. At south edge of city on U.S. 84.

**Garza County Museum**—Features ranch, cowboy, and pioneer household items, Indian artifacts, room settings, period furnishings, typical frontier chapel interior. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon; 1 - 3 p.m. 119 North Ave. N.

**Garza Theatre**—One of the first movie theaters in West Texas, opened in 1920 featuring silent films; 1929 adapted to sound; closed in 1957. In 1986 renovated and reopened, housing a live theater company. For brochure and performance schedule write Garza Theatre, 226 E. Main, Post, Texas 79356, or call 806/495-4005.

**Lake**—White River. See LAKES listing.

**Llano Estacado Tourist Marker**—Stretching across the horizon as a range of flat-topped "mountains" is the Caprock escarpment, eastern boundary of the vast Llano Estacado or "Staked Plains." Marker provides details; on U.S. 84 between Post and Justiceburg.

**OS Ranch Museum**—Located in one of the original buildings built by C.W. Post in 1911, this museum rotates exhibits throughout the year. During the Easter season, beautiful eggs by Fabergé, Waterford, Lalique are featured, whereas a Christmas exhibit might include nativities, creches, ornaments and sculpture. The museum was established to house the art and artifact collection the owners of the OS Ranch have gathered from around the world. Closed Feb., Jun. and Oct. to change exhibits; otherwise, it is open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 5 p.m. At 201 East Main St. For information, call 806/495-3570.

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 669 south toward Gail reaches edge of Texas High Plains called the Llano Estacado, which are southernmost extension of Great Plains of the U.S. In immensity beyond comprehension the Great Plains sweep north more than 1,600 miles, thrusting deep into Canada through the heartland of America that produces nation's abundance of grain, meat and fiber. Highway descends the abrupt edge where plains end, traveling through panoramas of steep cliffs and colorful canyons.

**QUANAH**

Pop. 3,022

Alt. 1,568

Map F-13

**General**—Named for Quanah Parker, last great war chief of the Comanche Indians, son of a Comanche chief and captive white girl, Cynthia Ann Parker. (See GROESBECK in 'PRAIRIES & LAKES' section). Old Fort Parker State Historic Site.) Today seat of Hardeman County, agricultural marketing and shipping point with cottonseed oil mill, cotton compress, Georgia Pacific Corp., oil and gas.

Be sure to visit Medicine Mound Depot Restaurant in historic building built in 1910 along the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient Railroad in Medicine Mound townsite; building moved to site on U.S. 287. Don't spoil your appetite with all the parched peanuts you can eat!

Take time to visit the historic sites around the city—Trinity Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Quanah Parker Monument and Memorial Walkway. Quanah is a Texas Main Street city, so take time to see the restoration and tour the downtown historical district with antique shops, restaurants, and other retail stores. For additional information, contact the Quanah Chamber of Commerce at 220 S. Main St., or call 940/663-2222.

**Copper Breaks State Park**—1,933-acre park includes campsites with shade structures and utilities, picnicking, swimming, fishing, playgrounds, and hiking trails. Site is representative of stark and rugged beauty common to many parts of North and West Texas, with natural erosion of Permian red beds complementing the green of native redberry juniper. 777 Park Road 62. Admission.

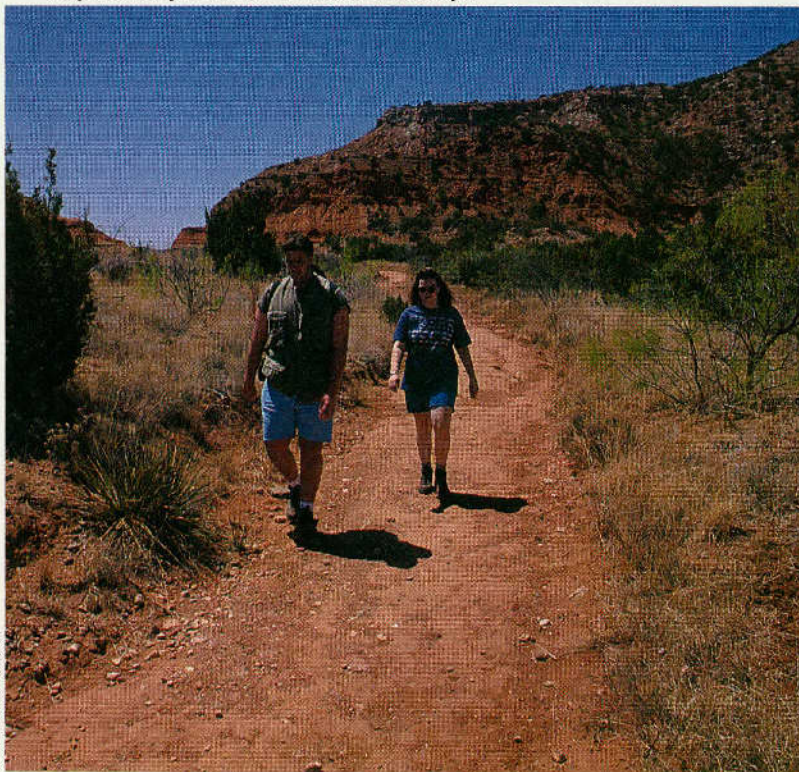
**Hardeman County Museum**—In county jail built 1891 of native stone, upper floor cells left intact. General history museum occupies lower floor and features exhibits of history of Quanah and Hardeman County, and a Space Room furnished by NASA and the Smithsonian Institute. Open weekdays 2 - 6 p.m. 101 Green St.

**Lake**—Pauline. See LAKES listing.

**Medicine Mounds**—Four unusual cone-shaped hills that rise some 350 feet above the surrounding plains; named by the Comanche Indians, held in awe and reverence by them. Indians believed the mounds were dwelling place of powerful and benevolent spirits who could cure ills, assure successful hunts, and protect in battle. The mounds are on private property; drive-by view about 5 miles south off U.S. 287.

**Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad Depot**—Three-story structure built in 1908 in Spanish mission style with red Ludowici Seville tile roof. An extension of the Hardeman County Jail museum, building is listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Open weekdays 2 - 6 p.m.

**Caprock Canyons State Park north of Quitaque**



Stan A. Williams/TXDOT



**QUITAQUE****Pop. 432****Alt. 2,570****Map F-11**

**General**—(KIT-a-KWAY) Originally was site of trading post dealing with Plains Indians; became a stagecoach stop in 1890 and grew to village serving surrounding ranches and farms. Named for nearby Quitaque Creek and Ranch.

Ask about the Circle Dot Caprock Adventure at the Circle Dot Ranch. From May through October the ranch features a Comanchero Breakfast or a Chuckwagon Supper. They are available with a combined total of 20 or more. Call the Quitaque Chamber of Commerce at 806/455-1456 for information.

**Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway**—Park covers 13,960 acres in one of the state's most scenic regions. Erosion has carved spectacular landscapes at the edge of the Caprock (local terminology for the High Plains); colorful cliffs and canyons, abundant wildlife including African aoudad sheep, mule deer and golden eagles. Park visitors enjoy sightseeing, hiking trails, picnicking, fishing and swimming in 100-acre lake. Some primitive campsites, some with hookups. Located 3.5 miles north of Quitaque on F.M. 1065. Admission.

Caprock Canyons Trailway runs 64.25 mi. through Floyd, Briscoe, and Hall Counties. It moves through cultivated fields of the Texas High Plains, drops into rugged canyons of the Caprock Escarpment, and winds down into the famous Red River Valley. A unique feature along the trail near the Escarpment is a 700-ft. abandoned railroad tunnel, which is on the National Register of Historic Places as one of only a few such tunnels in Texas. It is used by hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. For information on the trail and Caprock Canyons State Park, call 806/455-1492.

**RALLS****Pop. 2,252****Alt. 3,108****Map G-10**

**General**—Established 1911 by rancher John Robinson Ralls who laid out the town on his 10,000-acre ranch, built homes, business houses and donated land for churches and schools. Today serves area producing cotton, wheat, grain sorghum and vegetables.

**Ralls Historical Museum**—Exhibits include Indian artifacts, history of early railroads in area, and 19 period room settings—kitchen, bedroom, doctor's office, barbershop, veterans room and others. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon; 2 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.; 801 Main St.

**RANGER****Pop. 2,584****Alt. 1,429****Map K-15**

**General**—When oil boom towns are recalled, Ranger often leads the list. It was a quiet rural community established near a Texas Ranger camp in the 1870s. In October 1917 a gusher (see McClesky Number 1) blew in and touched off one of the greatest booms in petroleum history. World War I demand for oil was at an all-time high. The lure of instant riches was irresistible; the town erupted with every kind of frenzied activity. In one year population exploded from 1,000 to 30,000. Small farmers became millionaires. Four railroads raced to complete lines and one railroad's receipts jumped from \$94,000 to \$8,000,000 in two years. As in most instances, the boom was short-lived and today there is no evidence of that bigger-than-life cra. Oil activity is evident in orderly fields, while farming and ranching is major interest of area citizens. Ranger Junior College is here.

**Lake**—Leon. See LAKES listing.

**McClesky Number 1**—Site of 1,700-barrel-per-day oil gusher that touched off Ranger's fantastic oil boom in 1917. Marked by granite monument at T&P depot downtown.

**Parks**—Two city-maintained parks, with shaded picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming pool and lighted tennis court.

**Roaring Ranger Museum**—Artifacts and abundant photos of city's oil boom days, housed in old depot. Also chamber of commerce office. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Main & Commerce sts. downtown.

**Thurber Ghost Town**—16 miles east on I-20 See THURBER.

**ROARING SPRINGS****Pop. 265****Alt. 2,570****Map G-11**

**General**—Roaring Springs, in Motley County, was named for Indian campground nearby on the Tongue River with natural, pure water springs and waterfall. A section of land purchased by the Quannah, Acme and Pacific



Gary Shaakelford/TX00T

**Artifacts of Ranger's oil boom days at Roaring Ranger Museum**

Railroad from the Matador Land and Cattle Co. was platted in 1912, in anticipation of railroad construction. Lots were sold by the railroad, and in 1913, when the railroad line reached the site, it was named Roaring Springs by the Post Office. Economy is still based on ranching (livestock) operations along with crop farming with cotton, wheat, and grain sorghums.

Thacker Jewelry manufactures jewelry sold world-wide. Stop by for a visit and tour.

**Roaring Springs Depot Museum**—This mission-style building with red tile roof was built in 1913 and served as railroad depot until 1971. The city purchased the building housing the museum containing local memorabilia; it also serves as a community center. Open Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - noon. For information, call 806/348-7216.

**ROBERT LEE****Pop. 1,171****Alt. 1, 922****Map L-12**

**General**—In Central Coke County, the town was promoted as a townsite in 1889 by L.S. Harris and R.E. Cartledge, Confederate veterans who named the site for Robert E. Lee. In 1891, county seat moved from Haywick to Robert Lee, and most of the settlers from the former seat of government moved to the new community. Today, city is trade center for area. Economy is based on farm and ranching, oil, gas, and various light industries.

Recreational activities include facilities at E.V. Spence Reservoir a mile outside the city. Other activities include a nine-hole Mountain Creek Golf Course, county parks, and seasonal hunting.

**Coke County Museum**—In a rustic 1907 building that housed the city's jail, the museum features antique exhibits and other memorabilia donated or loaned by area citizens. Open Wed. 3 - 5 p.m.

**Lake**—E.V. Spence. See LAKES listing.

**SAN ANGELO****Pop. 88,439****Alt. 1,847****Map M/N-12**

**General**—Community grew around frontier site of Fort Concho, established 1867 at junction of north and middle branches of Concho River. Became early ranching center for cattle and sheep; today nation's largest primary wool and mohair market and major livestock auction center. Regional hub of cotton, grain and pecan production. A variety of industries, medical and retirement facilities and Goodfellow Air Force Base lend diversity. Symphony orchestra, ballet, Cactus Jazz Series at the Cactus Hotel, and Cactus Jazz and Blues Festival at the River Stage, and state's oldest civic theater. Home of Angelo State Univ.

Be sure to ask or call the city's visitor center about the International Water Lily Collection at the Civic League Park. Collection includes water lilies from around the world, including the "Victoria", the largest which can span to eight feet in diameter. Day and night blooming varieties. Group tours available with two-week notice.



Kevin Sullivan/XT007

**Fort Concho, in San Angelo, is among the best preserved Texas frontier military forts**

Birding in and around the Concho Valley is great. More than 332 species of birds have been confirmed in the area.

Also, check out the old Cactus Hotel which was built in 1929, among the first Hilton Hotels. It houses a children's museum, as well as restaurant and coffee shop. The Crystal Ballroom is worth a peek!

**Angelo State Univ. Planetarium**—Nation's fourth largest university planetarium features a three dimensional view of the universe with sparkling stars and celestial fireworks. Open when classes in session Thurs. 8 p.m. and Sat. 2 p.m. In Nursing-Physical Science Bldg. on campus. Admission.

**Concho Avenue**—Across Concho River from Fort Concho is street that hosted off-duty soldiers from the fort. Now historic district with antique shops, cafes, "Miss Hattie's."

**Concho River Pearls**—Formed in freshwater mussels, pearls range in color from pink to rich purple. Local jewelers offer variety of settings for these rare pearls from lakes and rivers. Pearl seekers must have annual permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin.

**Concho River Walk**—Over six miles of jogging/walking trails. Flowing fountains and water treatments; outdoor stage, small amusement park, 9-hole golf course. Downtown.

**El Paseo de Santa Angela**—El Paseo extends between Fort Concho and Concho Avenue and follows a footpath from the fort used by the soldiers stationed here to the village across the river. The heritage trail covers the heart of San Angelo encompassing the "Pearl of the Conchos" mermaid statue, the river, frontier buildings, Fort Concho, the railroad area, and the Celebration Bridge. The landscaped walkway is also perfect for jogging and a leisurely stroll along the river area.

**Fort Concho**—An exceptionally well preserved Texas frontier military fort, this National Historic Landmark consists of 23 original and restored buildings on 40 acres near downtown.

Established 1867 as pivot post on frontier line replacing Fort Chadbourne (see BRONTE). Most stone structures built with pecan-wood beams and rafters by skilled German craftsmen from Fredericksburg.

Frontier troops protected stagecoaches and wagon trains, escorted U.S. mail, explored and mapped new territory and occasionally clashed with Indians. Many well-known infantry and cavalry officers commanded the fort, including Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, Col. William R. Shafer and Col. Benjamin H. Grierson. Both black and white troops took part in their campaigns.

The bluecoats were no longer needed when the frontier moved farther west. In a sentimental ceremony the colors were struck and the last company of the 16th Infantry moved out of Fort Concho on June 20, 1889, as the regimental band played "The Girl I Left Behind Me".

Several buildings have been restored to their original appearance and others have been reconstructed on existing foundations. Exhibits tell the story of fort, Indian campaigns and of San Angelo. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's. Fort is just east of S. Oakes St., between Avenues C and D. Admission.

**E. H. Danner Museum of Telephony**—Models of telephones from Alexander Graham Bell's "Gallows Frame Phone" (only five ever built)

through wooden phones and push-button phones of the 1880s to present models. Open museum hours; in Officers' Quarters No. 4.

**Robert Wood Johnson Museum of Frontier Medicine**—Instruments, medicines, surgical kits, hospital furniture, and other items of a typical 19th-Century frontier hospital; some on loan from Johnson & Johnson collection. Also items related to San Angelo's medical history. In North Ward of Post Hospital.

**Historic Orient-Santa Fe Depot**—The history of railroading in West Texas comes alive at the old depot. In addition to housing the Railway Museum of San Angelo, the facility features an operating diorama depicting the city in 1928 as well as static displays of railcars. Summer hours are Thurs. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Winter hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sat. At 703 S. Chadbourne St. For information, call 915/486-2140.

**Lakes**—Nasworthy, O.C. Fisher at San Angelo State Park, and Twin Buttes. See LAKES listing.

**Miss Hattie's Museum**—Restored "ladies of the evening" saloon-"parlor house" that was a surreptitious San Angelo landmark for decades. Faithfully restored with original furnishings and fashions to depict living style of those who entertained soldiers, ranchers and cowboys. House operated from mid-1800s until closed by Texas Rangers in 1946. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 18 E. Concho. Group tour appointments can be booked by calling 915/653-0112. Admission.

**Parks**—Several city parks along Concho River offer golf, tennis, fishing, swimming and picnicking.

**Producers Livestock Auction Company**—Livestock sold here include cattle, sheep and goats, making it one of the largest auctions in the state. Sale days: Tues. (and some Wed.), sheep; Thurs. - Fri., cattle. 1131 N. Bell St.

**San Angelo Children's Art Museum**—In the Cactus Hotel, kids of all ages find hands-on activities to explore and create. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 915/659-4391.

**San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and Education Center**—This sleek, new facility offers varied and changing exhibits of different media from many eras. This is a cooperative project between SAMFA and Angelo State Univ. The 22,000-square-foot facility is on the Concho River adjacent to the Bill Aylor Sr. Memorial RiverStage. It's built of native Texas limestone that is reminiscent of historic Fort Concho, and the copper roof top resembles a covered wagon, a handsome scene from the Concho River overlooking the downtown skyline. It's adjacent to the El Paseo de Santa Angela. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Admission. For information, call 915/658-4084.

**San Angelo Nature Center**—In former Lake Rangers Headquarters building at Lake Nasworthy built by Works Progress Admin. Natural science and history museum interpreting the Edwards Plateau region. Displays feature native wildlife: live reptiles and amphibians, mounted birds and other wildlife, 200-gallon aquarium, glass-enclosed beehive, and ant farm. Audiovisual programs. House fall, winter, and spring Tues. - Sat. 1 - 6 p.m.; summer, Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. In Mary Lee Park on Knickerbocker at Lake Nasworthy. Admission.

**San Angelo State Park**—Some 7,000 acres provide excellent facilities for the outdoor enthusiast. The park is around the popular O.C. Fisher Reservoir, where its southern shoreline falls within the city limits. Boating, fishing, hiking, bird watching, nature and archeological studies, and camping are just a few of the activities awaiting visitors. For information, call 915/949-4757; for camping reservations, call 512/389-8900. Two entrances: from U.S. 87, take F.M. 2288 to north entrance, and from U.S. 67, take F.M. 2288 to the south entrance. Admission. For information, call 1-800-792-1112.

**Visitor Information Center**—Maps, free literature, details about current events and city attractions. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 500 Rio Concho Dr. at Convention Center. Stop by, or call 915/653-1206 or 1-800-375-1206. Visit our Web page at [www.sanangelo-tx.com](http://www.sanangelo-tx.com) or e-mail us at C.B.@sanangelo-tx.com.

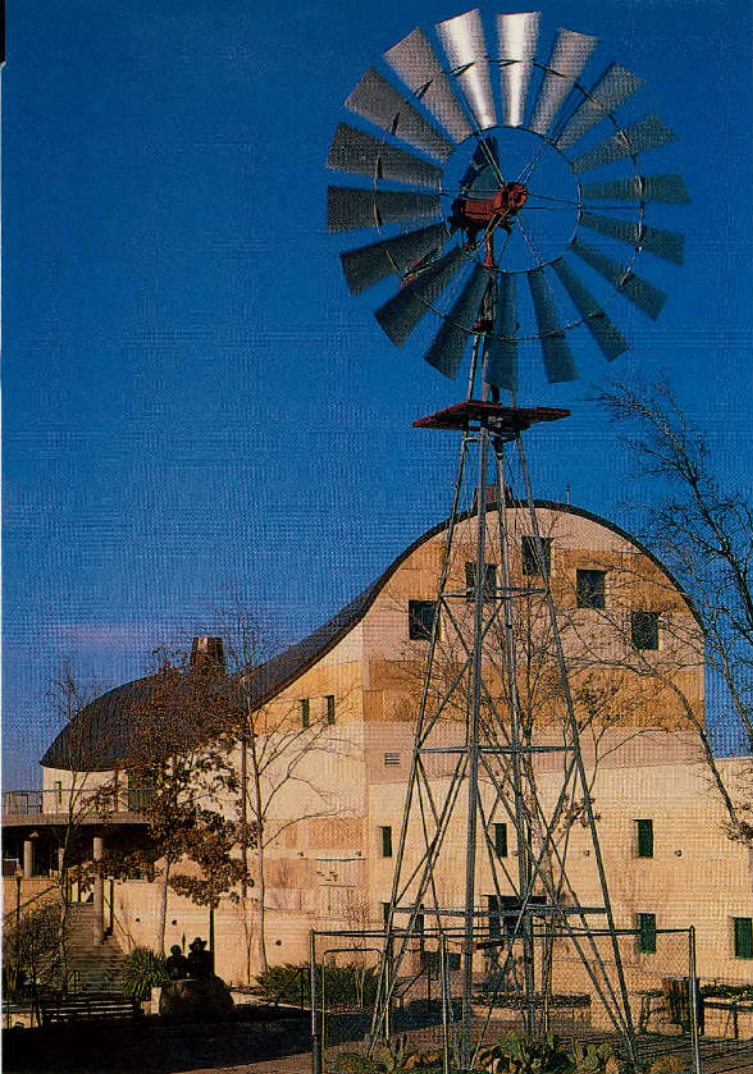
**SEAGRAVES**

**Pop. 2,334** **Alt. 3,353** **Map J-8**

**General**—Founded 1917 as terminus of Santa Fe RR spur from Lubbock; named for railroad executive. Soon became major cattle shipping point. Today is center for area ranches.

Attractive Gaines County Park with picnicking, playground, golf, is 7 mi. south on U.S. 62/385. Quanah Parker birthplace (See GROESBECK) 20 mi. east at Cedar Lake; marker at site.

**Seagraves-Loop Museum & Art Center**—Housed in 1924 Armstrong Bldg. Collections of pioneer memorabilia, furnished rooms, and street scene.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

**San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and Education Center**

Adjacent old depot houses antique farm machinery and first fire truck. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. Main St. at Hill Ave. For information, call 806/546-2810.

**SEMINOLE**

**Pop. 5,910** **Alt. 3,312** **Map J-8**

**General**—City was established and named county seat shortly after Gaines County organized in 1905, and was named for nearby Indian watering places. County is among state's leaders in petroleum production, cotton, and peanuts. City's school district covers some 1,149 square miles.

**Gaines County Museum**—The pioneers' use of iron is evidenced in many artifacts; pots, pans, kettles, stoves, branding irons, and blacksmithing equipment. Also horse-drawn hack, saddles, and many everyday items used by early settlers, plus pictures and history of oil field discovery in 1935. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m. 700 Hobbs Highway (U.S. 180).

**SHAMROCK**

**Pop. 2,029** **Alt. 2,310** **Map D-12**

**General**—Established as a post office in 1890 at dugout home of George Nichels, an Irish sheep rancher. Incorporated in 1911; oil discovered in 1926, highly productive natural gas wells in recent decades. Cattle, agriculture, tourism, oil and gas are primary economic factors. During seasons, hunters take quail, mourning dove, wild turkey and deer.

**Blarney Stone**—Appropriate to the town's ethnic orientation, a fragment of the genuine Blarney Stone from ruins of Blarney Castle, County Cork, Ireland, is mounted in Elmore Park.

**Pioneer West Museum**—Housed in the former Reynolds Hotel, typical drummers' hotel of 1920s and 30s, museum fills some 20 rooms with fascinating variety of exhibits from Plains Indian culture to NASA moon-mission articles. Emphasis is on regional history, cowboys, farm and ranch artifacts, pioneer weapons. Room settings include vintage doctor and dentist offices,

Stan A. Williams/TXDOT

general store, schoolroom, pioneer kitchen. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. at 204 N. Madden St. For information, call 806/256-3941.

**SILVERTON**

**Pop. 771** **Alt. 3,261** **Map F-10**

**General**—Established as county seat when Briscoe County organized in 1892. One of only two towns in county, a commercial center for immense farming-ranching area that includes some spectacular scenery in Palo Duro Canyon, Tule Canyon and at edge of Cap Rock.

**Old Jail Museum**—Built in 1892, old stone jailhouse is oldest building in county. Features old jail office with cells upstairs. Outside is restored windmill. On courthouse square. Open Mon. - Fri. during business hours. Visitors should visit county attorney's office for entry.

**Scenic Drives**—Vivid illustrations of High Plains topography along Texas 86 and Texas 207 north. Travelers will see immense proportions of High Plains agriculture where the land is typically flat—then in startling contrast, the effect of erosion where water courses have carved plunging, colorful canyons. Drive between Silverton and Claude crosses both Tule and Palo Duro Canyons.

Texas 256 east reaches edge of the High Plains, or as local residents say, edge of the Cap Rock, and spirals down jagged escarpment amid feast of scenic vistas. This dramatic change in scenery marks eastern edge of Great Plains of the United States.

Texas 86 east offers another scenic route down edge of Cap Rock and through the town of Quitaque.

**Lake**—Mackenzie. See LAKES listing.

**SLATON**

**Pop. 6,109** **Alt. 3,250** **Map H-10**

**General**—Established 1910 as suitable place for a division terminal for Santa Fe RR; named for O.L. Slaton, said to have been instrumental in completion of railroad project. Today town serves as rail center, plus regional agricultural and trade center.

Slaton lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

Craving sweets? Stop by the Slaton Bakery, 109 S. 9th St., for homemade cookies, cakes, and doughnuts, as well as breads, cheese rolls, and flour tortillas.

**Slaton Museum**—General history museum featuring old machine gun, antique furniture, historic books, vintage doctors' instruments. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 155 N. Eighth St.

**Texas Air Museum, Caprock Chapter**—The museum exists to preserve, restore, and present a balanced view of historic aircraft and artifacts that represents the history of aviation. Visitors might see aircraft from the Vietnam War, such as the Texas-built A-7B Corsair II, or a F-105D Thunderchief that flew 292 combat missions. Other exhibits include a World War II era AT-10

**Pioneer West Museum in Shamrock**





Kevin Stillman/ROOT

**Texas Air Museum in Slaton**

Stinson Reliant that hunted German submarines with the British Royal Fleet Air Arm. Along with an assortment of tracked combat vehicles and jeeps, the museum also has a T-33, HOS-4 helicopter, T-2B, a flying BC-12D Taylorcraft in Spanish Civil War markings, and other aircraft on loan. Annual fly-in held Saturday before Memorial Day weekend. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and at other times by calling 806/828-4664. At Slaton Municipal airport, two miles north on F.M. 400.

**Texas Avenue Opry House**—Sponsored by the Slaton Chamber of Commerce, the opry offers a full line-up of country/Western, gospel, bluegrass and other music the fourth Sat. night of the month throughout the year, except Dec. Performances begin at 7 p.m. For information, call the chamber office at 806/828-6238. At 161 E. Texas Ave.

**SNYDER**

**Pop. 10,783**                      **Alt. 2,316**                      **Map K-11**

**General**—Settled 1878 by W.H. (Pete) Snyder, who opened trading post. Townsite laid out 1882, county organized two years later. Present seat of Scurry County. In 1950 city grew from 4,000 population to more than 12,000 after discovery of Canyon Reef Oil Field. Now center of largest unitized (operated by a single operator) oil field in the world. Industries include petroleum processing, farming and ranching, and other diversified industries. Home of Western Texas College. For more information contact chamber of commerce office at 2302 Avenue R or 915/573-3558.

Snyder lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Lake**—J.B. Thomas. See LAKES listing.

**Scurry County Museum**—County history rich in lore and legends of the Old West: Indian relics, early box-and-strip house, chuck wagon, pioneer ranch and home articles. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Western Texas College, Texas 350 south.

**Towle Memorial Park**—Popular municipal park with playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pool, picnic areas, courts for croquet and tennis, fishing lake for youngsters, and prairie-dog town where the now rare little animals can be seen at close hand. Engine No. 5, last steam locomotive used by the Roscoe, Snyder, and Pacific Railroad, is also on display. South side of city on Texas 350.

**Wagon Wheel Ranch**—From a hearty breakfast to grilled steaks at dinner, activities are tailored to suit your interests. The Wagon Wheel Ranch is a working dude ranch stocked with Texas Longhorn cattle. Trail rides might include moving a few Longhorns. Take U.S. 84 north to F.M. 1142, turn right and go three miles to crossroads CR2128; turn left, go one mile to ranch entrance on the right. For information/reservations, 915/573-2123.

**White Buffalo Statue**—Recalls frontier days and rare albino buffalo killed near here. On courthouse square. Several historical markers on square detail area history.

**SPEARMAN**

**Pop. 3,021**                      **Alt. 3,105**                      **Map A/B-10/11**

**General**—Established in the 1920s when North Texas and Santa Fe Railroad built across Hansford County; named for railroad executive. Today the county seat; industries include grain storage, shipping, gas, oil, refineries, irrigated farming and cattle.

**Battle of Adobe Walls**—Site of two Indian battles. See STINNETT.

**Rolling Plains Mule Train Association**—A group of area residents who for many years maintained mule teams and covered wagons for old-fashioned rides across the plains, even up to week-long trips. Present activity limited largely to parades.

**Stationmaster's House Museum**—Two-building complex includes restored depot agent's home; exhibits feature home life, general history of Hansford County. Outdoor exhibit of farm machinery and an Indian sculpture. Open intermittently; 30 S. Townsend St.

**STAMFORD**

**Pop. 3,636**                      **Alt. 1,614**                      **Map J-13**

**General**—Retail, banking and commercial center for three-county area. Business facilities include grain elevators, cotton gins, delinting plant, cotton compress, clothing factory, cottonseed oil mill, feed mill, oil well machinery, and wholesale outlets. Developed in 1899 as project of Texas Central Railroad, named after Connecticut hometown of the railroad president.

City is known for its Texas Cowboy Reunion, four days around July 4, dedicated to the Old West. The Reunion was started in 1930 as nonprofit community enterprise, and is unchallenged as greatest amateur rodeo in the world. Population of city more than triples when 500-plus rodeo contestants and thousands of spectators converge. Rodeo prizes include cash, trophies and handmade saddles. Food served from chuck wagons. Includes major Western art show, rodeo ground pavilion.

**Lake**—Stamford. See LAKES listing.

**Mackenzie Trail Monument**—Large hand-carved marker erected by descendants of early ranchers, summarizes the famous Mackenzie Trail and what it meant to area pioneers in the late 1800s. Intersection of U.S. 277/ Texas 6 north.

**Texas Cowboy Museum**—Original paintings and prints by noted cowboy artists; farm and ranch artifacts from early 20th Century, including living room/kitchen and blacksmith shop. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m. Adjacent to chamber of commerce office at 113 S. Wetherbee St. (Texas 6).

**STANTON**

**Pop. 2,556**                      **Alt. 2,664**                      **Map L-9/10**

**General**—Settled 1881 by German Catholics, originally named Marienfeld (field of Mary). Seat of Martin County, organized 1884. Town's name changed in 1890 to honor Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. Carmelites opened monastery 1882; monks left in 1894 and Sisters of Mercy established convent-boarding school that educated 2,000 students until most of the school was destroyed by a tornado in 1938. Abandoned structures remain on N. Convent St. City is cotton, agribusiness and oil center.

**Martin County Historical Museum**—Features county history: Indian, Catholic heritage, ranching exhibit of cowboy artifacts and pictures, history of oil and railroad activities and development. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Broadway at Convent St.

**Old Jail**—Restored 1908 jail exhibits jail artifacts, houses visitor center and chamber of commerce. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On courthouse square N. of Business I-20.

**STINNETT**

**Pop. 1,936**                      **Alt. 3,173**                      **Map B-10**

**General**—Established 1901, a trade center and livestock shipping point at north edge of Canadian River Valley.

**Battle of Adobe Walls**—Site where two famous Indian battles were fought. Col. Kit Carson (in his last fight) and his U.S. troops in 1864 narrowly escaped defeat by Kiowa and Comanche Indians who had been attacking wagon trains and settlers. Ten years later, in 1874, Indians under Quanah Parker and Lone Wolf attacked buffalo hunters camp at second battle of Adobe Walls near first site. A fierce dawn attack opened the siege, and though Indians were repulsed,

the party of 28 men and one woman was surrounded, and it seemed only a matter of time before the superior number of Indians would prevail. On the second day a group of Cheyenne appeared on a high mesa overlooking the camp, setting the stage for William (Billy) Dixon's famous shot. From within the stockade he shot an Indian from his horse at a distance approaching seven-eighths of a mile! The Indians were so shocked at the white man's shooting ability that they mounted only desultory attacks thereafter and soon withdrew. Site is some 18 miles northeast of Stinnett on private ranch lands off highways; not readily accessible. Local directions available. Historical markers at site.

**Isaac McCormick Pioneer Cottage**—Restored home of area's first settler, built in 1899. Furnished in pioneer style displaying artifacts from 1890s. Inquire locally for hours. On town square.

**Lake**—Meredith/Sanford Recreation Area. See LAKES listing.

**Scenic Drive**—A 25-mile loop south and east to Borger crosses rough, canyon-cut landscapes of Canadian River breaks and leads across dam impounding Lake Meredith. South on F.M. 687, F.M. 1319, and east on Texas 136.

## STRATFORD

Pop. 1,991

Alt. 3,695

Map A-9

**General**—City established in the middle of a night in May, 1901, when Sherman County records were moved from former county seat at Coldwater to land owned by Walter Colton along the new Rock Island Railroad route. Texas Rangers were called to settle the dispute over location of the county seat. Coldwater has disappeared. There is dispute, too, over origin of city name; Colton, an Englishman, named it for Stratford-on-Avon, or for Virginia plantation, birthplace of Robert E. Lee, whom he admired. Local economy based on wheat and corn, and feed grains that are used in large feedlot operations.

**Sherman County Depot Museum**—Local history museum displays farm and ranch memorabilia, Indian artifacts, prehistoric fossils, all designed as a tribute to, and interpretation of the Panhandle area. Open Mon. - Fri. 2 - 4 p.m. U.S. 54 at Main St.

## SWEETWATER

Pop. 11,415

Alt. 2,164

Map K-12

**General**—A store established in a dugout to accommodate buffalo hunters was the beginning of the city in 1877. Today seat of Nolan County is banking and commercial center. Industrial firms include gypsum plants, cement plants, cottonseed oil mill, and garment manufacturer. The Sweetwater Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes more than 90 sites representing architectural styles from the 1900s - 1930s.

A memorial marker honors the women who trained at Avenger Field here during World War II in the Women's Airforce Service Pilots program (WASPs). The training site is now Texas State Technical College (TSTC) West Texas.

### Martin County Historical Museum in Stanton



Texas Department of Transportation photo

### Rodeo in Stamford

The Nolan County Coliseum Complex is site of many activities, including team ropings, livestock shows, rodeos, and the world's largest rattlesnake round-up each year in March.

The Nolan County Courthouse has outstanding collection of Winchester rifles, property of Pioneer Museum. Also houses Walt Disney's "Finifella," the emblem adopted by the WASPs.

Sweetwater also hosts the annual "Texas Midwest Soap Box Derby." The winner goes to the finals in Akron, OH in late summer.

The city also boasts two 18-hole gold courses.

For information on events, accommodations, and area attractions, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 810 E. Broadway, or call 915/235-5488, or 1-800-658-6757. Visit the Web site at [www.sweetwatertexas.org](http://www.sweetwatertexas.org).

Sweetwater lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports-to-Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Lakes**—Sweetwater, Trammell and Oak Creek Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Pioneer City-County Museum**—More than a dozen display rooms depict the lives of early Nolan County settlers. Extensive photograph files, farm and ranch exhibits, Indian artifacts and WASP exhibit. Housed in restored southwestern home with assortment of leather products from S.D. Meyers saddle shop once located here. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 610 E. 3rd St. For information, call 915/235-8547.

## TAHOKA

Pop. 2,910

Alt. 3,090

Map H-9

**General**—Named for nearby Tahoka Lake, a natural spring-fed lake whose Indian name meant fresh or clear water. Seat of Lynn County since 1903, today a cotton marketing and shipping point with gins and compress.

**Pioneer Museum**—Historical exhibits of early ranching days and pioneer mementos. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1600 Lockwood.

**Tahoka Daisy**—First discovered at Tahoka Lake, the lavender wildflower spreads over plains to rival the bluebonnet (state flower) and wild verbena.

## TULIA

Pop. 5,117

Alt. 3,501

Map E-10

**General**—Designated county seat when Swisher County was organized in 1890. Today a commercial center for abundant agricultural production of the plains featuring milo, wheat, cotton, and several large livestock feedlot operations.

**Swisher County Museum**—Excellent collection of pioneer ranch and farm artifacts includes home furnishings, tools, firearms, photos of early life on the plains, Indian artifacts. Also replica of blacksmith shop, including tools and products made by farrier. Restored first log cabin of area, and typical homes from 1890 to 1930 era. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 127 SW Second St.

Kevin Sullivan/2001



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

National Park Service recreation areas surround Lake Meredith near Stinnett

## TURKEY

Pop. 494                      Alt. 2,348                      Map F-11

**General**—Wild turkeys discovered along a small creek gave it the name of Turkey Creek, and the settlement that grew up there was known as Turkey Roost. But the Post Office shortened it to Turkey. Several businesses and a \$50,000 hotel were built with the coming of the railroad. Town was a shipping point for cattle, grain, and cotton.

An annual event, on the last Saturday in April, is the Bob Wills Reunion. The musician is recognized with a monument at the west end of Main St. Although city's population is small, crowds range 10-15,000 during festival.

**Bob Wills Museum**—Honors the man known as the King of Western Swing, who was reared on a farm just north of the town. Memorabilia of the Texas Playboys and of Wills' career and his influence on American music include fiddles, boots, hats, recordings, music, and photos. Open Mon. - Tues. 9 - 11:30 a.m., 1 - 5 p.m.; Wed. - Fri. 8 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 5 p.m. Sixth and Lyles sts.

**Historic Inn—Hotel Turkey**—Built in 1927, the hotel has remained in continuous operation and is listed with the State and National Historic Registries. The hotel is run as a bed and breakfast facility today, but it still retains its 1927 decor in the 15 rooms. For information, call 806/423-1151, or 1-800-657-7110. At 3rd & Alexander sts.

## VERNON

Pop. 11,660                      Alt. 1,205                      Map F-14

**General**—Established in 1881 with an initial name of Eagle Flats, Vernon is the county seat for Wilbarger County which borders the Red River. Wilbarger County was named for Josiah Wilbarger, a man famous both for being an early surveyor and as one of very few men to survive being scalped. Vernon is home to the headquarters of huge W. T. Waggoner Ranch, and commercial center for rich farming, ranching, and oil area with industries involved in agricultural supplies and processing, seed propagation, textiles, meat packing, cottonseed, and alfalfa milling.

About 15 miles north is Doan's Crossing, one of the most famous of historic cattle crossings on Red River. The city is home of Vernon Regional Junior College and the Santa Rosa Palomino Club, a precision equestrian riding club which has been proclaimed by the Texas Legislature as Texas' Ambassadors on Horseback.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the Vernon Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-687-3137.

**Lakes**—Diversion, Kemp and Pauline. See LAKES listing.

**Red River Valley Museum**—Exhibits include more than 140 mounts in the William A. Bond Game Trophy Room; archaeological exhibit, and Indian

artifacts in the Berry Room; a history of ranching in North Texas in the Waggoner Room, including work of sculptor Electra Waggoner Biggs. Of special interest is a 10-foot by 20-foot mural by Adrian Martinez depicting the history of the Waggoner Ranch empire, an original sculpture by Frederick Remington, an original watercolor by C.M. Russell, and a trombone of native son, jazz musician Jack Teagarden. Open Tues. - Sun., 1 - 5 p.m. 4400 College Dr. (U.S. 70), adjacent to the VRJC campus.

## WELLINGTON

Pop. 2,275                      Alt. 2,078                      Map D-12

**General**—Seat of Collingsworth County, named for the Duke of Wellington. Before 1890 it was one of the estates on Rocking Chair Ranch that was known to Texas cowboys as "Nobility Ranch" because of ownership by British noblemen, the Baron of Tweedmouth (Sir Dudley Coultts Majoribanks) and the Earl of Aberdeen (John Campbell Hamilton Gordon). Today's economy based on grain elevators, gins, cotton compress, and small manufacturing plants.

**Collingsworth County Museum**—Exhibits trace history of area. Open by appointment 806/447-2352. 1404 Fifteenth St.

**Recreational Sites**—Picnic areas and hiking paths along Salt Fork of the Red River at each of three bridges near town: U.S. 83 bridge north, F.M. 1547 bridge northwest, and Texas 203 bridge east. Overnight camping at Pioneer Park at U.S. 83 bridge.

## WHEELER

Pop. 1,378                      Alt. 2,520                      Map C-12

**General**—Post office established when area became "thickly settled" by five families living in dugouts within two-mile radius. Town became seat of Wheeler County 1906. Today serves as regional, educational, medical, commercial, and agricultural center for county. Extensive cattle feedlot operations.

**Mobeetie Jail Museum**—Housed in restored jail; early-day sheriff's quarters authentically furnished. Displays of historical items from Wheeler County; antiques. Open Mon. - Sat. except Tues. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. In Mobeetie, 11 miles west via Texas 152.

Nearby is historical marker for Fort Elliott, established in 1875. Number of soldiers was small, usually under 500. Fort was abandoned in 1890 and nothing of the original buildings remains.

## WICHITA FALLS

Pop. 104,197                      Alt. 946                      Map G-15

**General**—Named for Wichita Indians who lived near waterfalls on what is now the Wichita River. In 1882, Fort Worth and Denver Railroad brought first train to area, establishing town as an agricultural and trade center. Oil boom in early 1900s made city headquarters for north Texas petroleum production, service and manufacturing. City is seat for Wichita County and leading gateway to Texas on I-44. Major trade and industrial center with economy based on Sheppard Air Force Base, oil processing and other varied manufacturing. Cultural aspects include symphony orchestra, ballet, community theater, museum and art center, and activities at Midwestern State Univ.

Sheppard Air Force Base is a technical training center, one of the largest of five in the U.S., and hosts the only NATO pilot training program in the world.

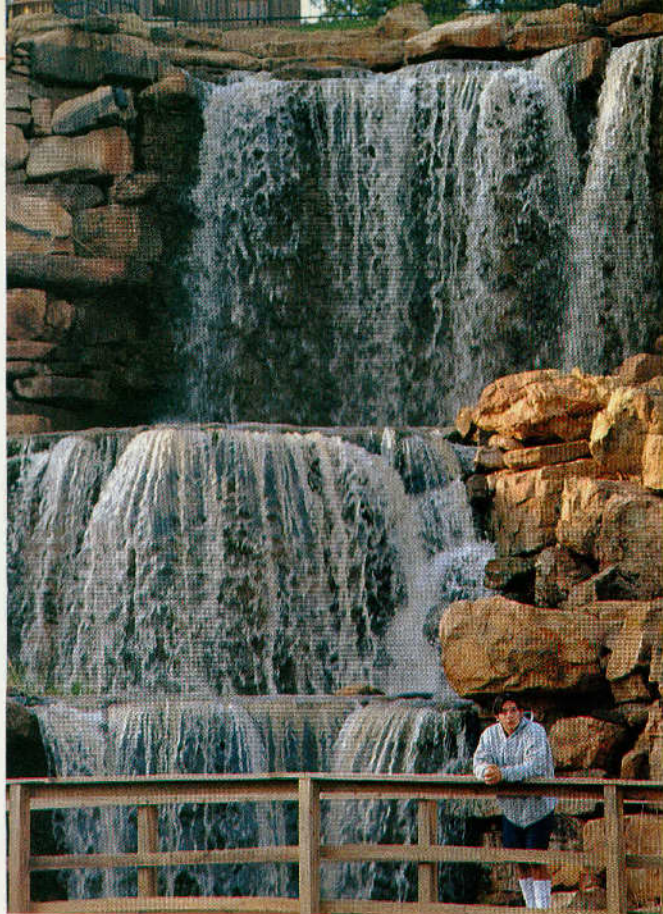
There's a full calendar of events throughout the year including Depot Square Heritage Days in Oct.; Fallsfest in Sept.; Hotter 'N Hell Hundred Bike Race/ Festival in Aug.; FallFest in September; MSU-Burns Fantasy of Lights in Dec.; Ranch Round-Up in Aug.; and Spring Fling in Apr.

**Graham Central Station**—Entertainment center with five clubs under one roof, including country/Western, Karaoke, Top 40, Retro Disco, and live entertainment. At 4105 Maplewood Ave. For information, call 940/691-7441.

**Kell House**—Historic home of local business and community leader, Frank Kell. Original 19th-Century furnishings include player baby grand piano, seven fireplaces, hand-stenciled decorations; changing exhibits. Open Tues. - Wed. & most Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. 900 Bluff St. Admission. For information, call 940/723-0623.

**Lake Arrowhead State Park**—Water-oriented recreation featured at this 524-acre park. Visitors find campsites with/without hookups, rest rooms with showers, boat ramp, and dump station. Activities include 18-hole disc golf course, fishing, swimming, and water skiing. Some 14 miles south of Wichita Falls via U.S. 281 south, F.M. 1954 east. Admission. Call 940/528-2211 for information.

**Lakes**—Arrowhead, Diversion, Kemp, Kickapoo and Wichita. See LAKES listing.



Michael Arndorff/IXDOT

Re-created falls on Wichita River in Wichita Falls

**Midwestern State Univ. Fine Art Gallery**—Features works of regional artists throughout academic year. Emphasis on students' art May - July. Open Sept. - Jun., except holidays, Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - noon; 1 - 4 p.m. while classes are in session. West Campus Dr. at Nocona Trail on campus in southwest part of city.

**Museum and Art Center**—Features planetarium, scientific, art and historical subjects. Planetarium and laser shows Thurs. & Sat. 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Open Tues. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (til 7 p.m. on Thurs.); Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at No. 2 Eureka Circle. Admission. 940/692-0923.

**Parks**—38 parks offer outdoor recreation, including swimming pools, jogging trails, golf, tennis, picnicking and children's fishing pond. Also amusement park with rides. Lucy Park is a 170-acre park with log cabin, pool, Lucy Land Playground, duck pond, paved trail, pavilions, and picnicking areas, and rest rooms. River walk trail along Wichita River connects Lucy Park to the Wichita Falls. Take U.S. 277 West, turn north on Sunset Dr. Open 6 a.m. - midnight. For information, 940/761-7490.

**Railroad Museum**—Vintage railcars recall nostalgia of train travel. Cars include MK&T diesel switch engine, Texas & Pacific Pullman car, two World War II troop sleepers, Fort Worth & Denver baggage car and post office car, and a Burlington coach "Silver Falls," plus a number of cabooses. Open Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At 501 Eighth St. 940/723-2661.

**Red River Speedway**—Stock car races every Fri. night at 8 p.m. Apr. - Aug. Special races held throughout season. Take U.S. 287 west to F.M. 369. For information, call 1-800-722-3250.

**River Bend Nature Works**—Nestled amid 15 acres in the city, River Bend Nature Works is an environmental education center. Visitors enjoy the wetland pond habitat, the bird habitat, bird watching and other activities. A one-mile interpretive nature trail loops through the site; one-half mile of the trail is handicapped-accessible. A pavilion features picnic tables and handicapped-accessible rest rooms. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For information, call 940/767-0843.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of the centers at key highway entrances to Texas, in the State Capitol complex, in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors, free services include information, maps, literature about every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. Located in the northern part of Wichita Falls on I-44; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**The Plex Entertainment Center**—Features go-karts, bumper boats, video arcade, two 18-hole miniature golf courses, and more. Fun for young and old. Open Sun. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m. - midnight, Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight. At 4131 Southwest Parkway. For information, call 940/696-1222.

**Visitor Center**—For additional information on events, accommodations, or dining facilities, stop by the Wichita Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau's visitor center at the Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC) at 1000 Fifth St. The center is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Telephone 940/716-5500 or 1-800-799-MPEC. Also visit the Web site at [www.wichitafalls.org](http://www.wichitafalls.org).

**Wichita Falls Fire & Police Museum**—Vintage fire-fighting equipment from turn-of-the-century and old police motorcycles highlight displays; photos and other memorabilia from both fire and police departments. Open Sat. noon - 4 p.m. Avenue H & Giddings St.

**Wichita Falls Waterfall**—A re-creation of falls faces north on I-44 and replaces original falls washed away in a flood in 1886. Water that forms 54-foot-high falls recirculates at 3,500 gallons a minute. About a mile south of Travel Information Center.

**Wichita Theatre & Opry House**—"Home of the Texas Gold Country Music Show" featuring old-fashioned family entertainment, Branson style. For dates and program information, call 940/723-9037, or 1-888-879-SHOW. At 925 Indiana St.

## WINTERS

Pop. 2,880

Alt. 1,860

Map L-12/13

**General**—First settled about 1880, post office was established in 1886 before townsite was designated. City incorporated in 1909 when railroad built through and land value jumped to \$7 per acre. Now commercial and distribution center for large agricultural and ranching area.

**Colburn Park, W. Lee**—Adjacent to local Elm Creek Reservoir, the park includes 14 spaces for recreational vehicles with full hookups. Other features include a fishing pier, volleyball court, softball field, children's playground, and group pavilion. Activities include swimming, hiking, and bird-watching. Seven miles east of city off Texas 153 and County Road 167.

**Lake**—E.V. Spence Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Z. I. Hale Museum**—Mrs. Nina Hale donated the two-story clinic that houses the museum in memory of her late husband, Dr. Z. I. Hale, long-time area optometrist. Keeping with theme "Our Heritage," museum features exhibits of area history, photographs and documents, and old horse-drawn hearse used in city from 1906-1920. Outside stands a Missouri-Pacific Railroad caboose. Major exhibits during year include dolls and quilts. Exhibits upstairs in the historic Rock Hotel include a Veterans Room and an exhibit on Rogers Hornsby, named to the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Open Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. 242 W. Dale St.

The Z.I. Hale Museum purchased the historic Rock Hotel and smaller Drummer House next to the museum for more exhibit space and for local gatherings. Restoration continues, but building is open by appointment.

### Texas Travel Information Center at Wichita Falls



Geoff Apollon/IXDOT



# PINEY WOODS



**I**n the Piney Woods of East Texas, Nature lays down a wondrous welcome mat. Carpeted with fragrant pine needles, brimming with lakes both mammoth and mysterious, and seasonally rich with radiant roses, delicate dogwoods, and exquisite azaleas, this inviting area both fascinates and captivates.

History resounds here, especially in towns such as Nacogdoches, San Augustine, and Weches. These early Texas communities, which lie along the famed *El Camino Real* (Spanish for The King's—or Royal—Highway), witnessed the founding of 17th- and 18th-Century missions by Spanish Franciscans. Later, Nacogdoches and San Augustine played prominent roles in spurring Texas' independence from Mexico. Jefferson, too, boasts a colorful past and gives you exciting glimpses of its days as a bustling steamboat port.

Larger cities, such as Conroe, Longview, and Texarkana, and Tyler, serve up interesting museums, good shopping, and fine restaurants. And you will

find a full slate of fun activities and events to entertain you, as well. Here, festivals celebrate everything from yams to fire ants (yep, the Texas FireAnt Festival brings its wacky shenanigans to Marshall each October). And you can feast your eyes on spectacular scenes at the gorgeous Texas Rose Festival in Tyler and the superb holiday extravaganza, Wonderland of Lights in Marshall.

There are food feasts aplenty, too. In this lush region, you can reap a delicious seasonal bounty of fresh vegetables and fruits. Look especially for luscious ripe tomatoes from Jacksonville, crunchy sweet onions from Noonday (southwest of Tyler), earthy yellow yams from Gilmer, and juice-laden peaches



from Pittsburg. And, for a dinner treat, try crispy fried catfish, served with delicately browned hush puppies. Yum!

The Piney Woods brims with these special delights and intriguing sites. For a sampling, let's take a quick journey from north to south.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

**THE PINEY WOODS, NORTH**

In Texarkana, you can travel from Arkansas to Texas and back again a dozen times and remain in Texarkana the entire "journey." That's because the city lies in both states. For a fun photo, go to the "photographer's island" in front of the bi-state U.S. Post Office. Then, put one foot in Texas and the other across the line in Arkansas. Hey, y'all! You just did the Texas-Arkansas split!

To learn more about the area and about Texas, visit the friendly folks at the Texas Travel Information Center. Here, you'll get your first taste of terrific East Texas hospitality, spoken in a soft Southern drawl tinged with a Texas twang. And the travel counselors will give you literature about the city and the state, and will tell you about interesting Texarkana sites, such as the Perot Theatre.

Restored to its 1924 regal blue and gilt splendor, the Italian Renaissance-style Perot Theatre (once part of the Sacnger Amusement chain) gleams with shiny chandeliers and elegant, mirrored lobby. You can enjoy dramas, ballets, and musicals in these opulent surroundings.

Not far from the theater, look for Main Street's Scott Joplin mural honoring Texarkana's native son and America's "King of Ragtime." You can pay further homage to Joplin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, at the Texarkana Historical Museum, where exhibits include a piano on which he supposedly practiced as a boy. While in the museum, visit the other interesting displays, such as the Victorian parlor and "Grandma's Kitchen."

Don't miss the unusual Ace of Clubs House, which was built by James Draughon in 1885 supposedly from his winnings in a poker hand. The lavishly furnished Italianate Victorian mansion boasts 22 sides and takes on the shape of a playing-card club when viewed from above.

About 18 miles west of Texarkana, Crystal Springs Beach provides refreshing warm-weather fun. You can laze on a white sand beach and swim in the 12-acre spring-fed lake.

Near Atlanta, Atlanta State Park offers another sandy beach, this one lies alongside Lake Wright Patman. Camping, fishing, boating, bicycling, and hiking are among the outdoor activities at this 1,475-acre park set in an area once home to Caddo Indians.

Mount Pleasant, about 65 miles west of Texarkana on I-30, won a spot on the list of "100 Best Small Towns in America" twice in the 1990s. Visit here and you will find an attractive town on beautifully wooded hills, chockfull of

**Dense woods, swamps and streams compose Big Thicket National Preserve near Woodville**



J. Griffith Smith/TXDOT

**Marshall's Wonderland of Lights**

antique shops, boutiques, and parks. Stroll along the pathways and footbridges of five-acre Tankersley Gardens where dogwoods, redbuds, and irises bloom amid other spring blossoms.

If you're hooked on fishing, prepare to grab your tackle box. First, stop by the Kountry Korner Store at the junction of FM 127 and FM 2882 southwest of Mount Pleasant. Here, you can ogle more than 2,000 photos of bass weighing 7 lbs. or more caught in nearby reservoirs, such as Bob Sandlin, Monticello, and Welsh. Incredible! Chances are, you'll stay in the area and cast a lure or two.

Drive south from Mount Pleasant about 14 miles and you'll enter Pittsburg. Visit the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center & Museum and view the full-size replica of the amazing "Ezekiel Airship." The original airship, built in the early 1900s by a preacher-inventor, was based on a description in the Biblical book of Ezekiel.

Further south stands Gladewater, the acclaimed "Antique Capital of East Texas," with about two dozen antique and crafts shops. If you visit here in mid-February to mid-March, do not miss the Helen Lee Estate Daffodil Gardens, aglow with brilliant yellow blooms. Another favorite seasonal event in the area occurs in October, with Winnsboro's Autumn Trails, one of Texas' most popular salutes to fall foliage.

Backtrack a few miles to the east and spend some quality time in Jefferson, once a major East Texas river port. So that you can explore Jefferson with the added zest of historical perspective, here's a quick review of its steamboning past.

From the 1840s to the 1870s, steamboats from New Orleans journeyed here along the Big Cypress Bayou, making Jefferson an important Texas port, with steamboats lined up a dozen deep. Then, in 1873, engineers destroyed the great Red River Raft, a natural dam on the river above Shreveport. That action improved the river's main course, but lowered nearby creeks and tributaries and rendered Jefferson practically inaccessible by water.

The emergence of railroad travel also affected the town's future. Thus Jefferson, its transportation routes strangled, became less important commercially. But the town looms large in historical significance, and careful preservation of its historic past has made it a natural for visitors seeking the quiet ambience of a bygone era.

Today, historic hotels and inns, old plantations, and numerous other sites, such as railway magnate Jay Gould's private railroad car, provide hours of exploration. You can tour the town by trolley, mule-drawn wagon, horse-drawn carriage, and stretch limo. And you can board the Turning Basin River Boat Tour for a riverside view complete with narration about the old river port.

Jefferson's fascinating history, its fine restaurants, specialty shops, and dozens of bed-and-breakfast inns make it a favorite destination year-round.

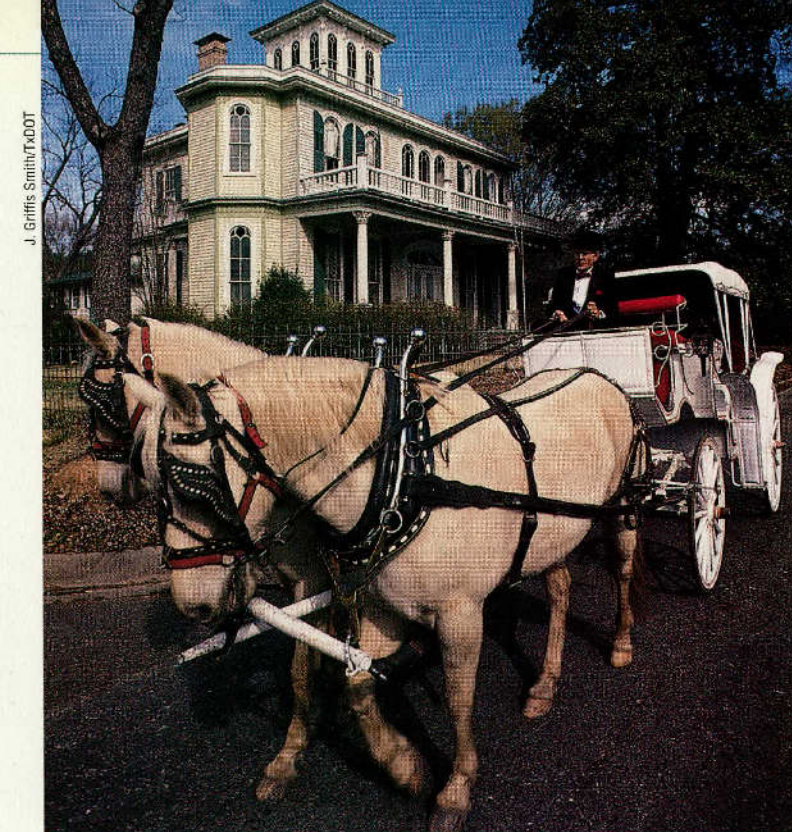
Two of the prettiest lakes in the state grace this area of East Texas. Lake O' the Pines, 10 miles west of Jefferson, ripples across rolling forest lands and produces great fishing, boating, and swimming. Caddo Lake, edged by dense vegetation and moss-draped trees, sprawls over some 26,800 acres just north of Karnack. The town is the birthplace of Claudia Alta Taylor, known as "Lady Bird," who became first lady of the nation as the wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Waskom, on the Texas-Louisiana border, gives you another opportunity to visit a Texas Travel Information Center for travel literature and a smiling exchange of "howdy, y'all's." West of Waskom about three miles, you'll get a kick out of Jonesville's T.C. Lindsey & Co., an old-fashioned general store that offers all kinds of fascinating merchandise.

Continue west to Marshall. Here, you can browse among the thousands of handsome pots, bowls, plaques, and figurines on display at the world-famous Marshall Pottery. And you can watch interesting demonstrations of pottery-making while you decide between the little red clay pot or a hand-turned stoneware version.

Marshall's impressive Ginocchio National Historic District offers a chance to explore three square blocks that center around the 1896 Ginnocchio Hotel. The hotel, a splendid example of Victorian architecture, contains beautiful interior woodwork and decorative details. Also within the district, the Marshall Depot and Museum exhibits interesting railroad memorabilia.

**Mission Tejas State Historic Park near Weches**



J. Griffith Smith/TXDOT

**Carriage ride in Jefferson**

During Wonderland of Lights, Marshall literally illuminates East Texas for the holidays by lighting some 10 million tiny white bulbs. Businesses outline their buildings, neighborhoods decorate houses, and more than 125,000 lights adorn the town's centerpiece, the historic courthouse museum. The sight will astound and delight you!

In Kilgore, oil is the key word. Here, the East Texas Oil Museum presents interesting displays that illustrate many aspects of the city's oil boom in the Thirties. Dioramas, films, sound effects, mementos, a simulated 3,800-foot elevator ride to oil formations within the earth, and a full-size street scene, bring the boom days to life.

You can also visit downtown's "World's Richest Acre," where once stood the greatest concentration of oil wells ever, producing more than 2.5 million barrels of oil. Today, one original derrick remains alongside 12 new ones.

Tyler, the largest city in the Piney Woods, offers the unparalleled beauty of the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and Museum. The magnificent gardens, at their best in early spring and early fall, spread across 22 acres, with some 38,000 rose bushes representing almost 500 varieties. Commercial rose gardens also flourish in the area.

In addition, the city encompasses the impressive Caldwell Zoo, the entertaining Harrold's Model Train Museum with fun displays for kids and grown-ups alike, and several historic sites. Tyler State Park, with almost 1,000 forested acres, lies just 10 miles north.

You will find intriguing sites, sights, and activities throughout the area. South of Tyler, Henderson boasts the Depot Museum and Children's Discovery Center, housed in a restored 1901 Missouri Pacific Railroad depot. At Carthage, the Tex Ritter Museum honors the Western actor/singer, and a life-size statue commemorates country-western singer Jim Reeves, who was killed in a 1968 plane crash.

Jacksonville—known as the "tomato city" in the 1930s and 1940s when it shipped more tomatoes than any other city—hosts the Tomato Fest each June. Nearby Lookout Mountain park offers year-round camping and is the site for a First Monday Trade Days, where you can sort through wares that include antiques and collectibles. At Rusk, you can board the Texas State Railroad, where antique steam engines power vintage railroad coaches on a 25-mile trip to Palestine. Take this fun ride down the tracks into nostalgia.

**THE PINEY WOODS, SOUTH**

Begin your southern tour with a visit to one of Texas' oldest communities. Historically important Nacogdoches was an Indian settlement for centuries before European explorers, such as Frenchman René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, and later Spanish Franciscan missionaries, entered the area in the 17th and 18th centuries. Dubbed the "cradle of Texas liberty," Nacogdoches

George Miller

was the site of three abortive republics. Then, in 1832, citizens fired the opening shots of the Texas Revolution by attacking the Mexican garrison in the center of town. They succeeded in driving the Mexican troops out of East Texas.

The town's North Street, once known as *La Calle del Norte* (Spanish for "Street of the North") may be the oldest public thoroughfare in the United States, having once connected an ancient Indian community with another tribal village to the north.

Revisit history here at places like the Old Stone Fort, a museum housed in a replica of the stone house built by the town's founder, Gil Y'Barbo about 1789. Millard's Crossing Historic Village, a 37-acre complex, encompasses buildings that illustrate East Texas architecture from a log cabin to a Victorian-style house. And several other historic sites, such as Old North Church and the Sterne-Hoya Home (Davy Crockett once stayed here) invite your exploration.

On the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, you will enjoy strolling among the 23 gardens of the university's splendid 10-acre arboretum.

West of Nacogdoches, Mission Tejas State Historical Park at Weches commemorates the first Spanish mission built in East Texas, while, to the east, the town of San Augustine marks Mission Señora de los Dolores de los Ais, established in 1716 by the Domingo Ramon expedition. Several churches in San Augustine, including Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Methodist, lay claim to being the oldest of their denominations in Texas.

Cutting broad swaths across the southern Piney Woods, Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn reservoirs form two of the largest lakes in Texas. They provide extraordinary fishing and boating, plentiful camping, and a full slate of water sports. Here, too, the state's national and state forests encompass thousands of acres, with wonderful recreational areas (enhanced, of course, by the elegant presence of aromatic loblolly and short-leaf pines).

Lufkin, south of Nacogdoches, offers several city parks, the interesting Ellen Trout Zoo and Park, and the Medford Collection of Western Art, with more than 50 paintings by contemporary artists. Visit the Texas Forestry Museum and view exhibits of early logging machinery, a sawmill town, fire-fighting equipment, a fire tower, and antique railroad and sawmill steam engines.

Situated between Livingston and Woodville, the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation is home to some 500 Alabama-Coushatta Indians. They welcome visitors with several impressive presentations, including a Living Indian Village, which demonstrates the early life of the tribes, and an exhibition of colorful traditional dances at the Tribal Dance Square. You can choose various bus tours of the area, as well as the popular Indian Chief Train Ride, which treats you to a 20-minute excursion into the Big Thicket.

The ecologically exciting Big Thicket National Preserve, in the southeastern section of the Piney Woods, forms a giant reverse "L" in units that extend from just south of Angelina National Forest to Beaumont and westward to Saratoga. A smaller segment stretches south from the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation. Long a place of mystery and lore, the Big Thicket brings together the ecosystems of the eastern hardwood forests, the Gulf coastal plains, and the midwest prairies. Here, you can see bizarrely diverse plant life that includes prickly pear cactus, orchids, ferns, and camellias, as well as pine, oak, and gum trees.

Travel west from Livingston and you will reach the attractive, historic town of Huntsville. Founded as an Indian trading post in 1836, Huntsville is Houston country—*Sam Houston* country, that is.

The town harbors several important locations that memorialize Houston, who held the offices of General of the Texas Army, President of the Republic of Texas, United States Senator, and Governor of Texas. The great man's gravesite lies here, in Oakwood Cemetery. And the Sam Houston Memorial Museum Complex displays many of Houston's personal mementos and preserves several original Houston-owned buildings on beautifully landscaped grounds. At the Huntsville Visitor Center stands a towering 67-foot-tall statue of Houston. It is said to be the world's tallest statue of an American hero. You can't miss it.

South of Huntsville, the lovely town of Conroe sits near the southern edge of the Sam Houston National Forest, awash in towering pines, rolling hills, and woodland lakes. Within the national forest, the 127-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail affords you a chance to see rare and uncommon birds like the red-cockaded woodpecker.

At Conroe, resorts, golf courses, tennis courts, campgrounds and marinas dot the tree-lined shore of Lake Conroe. Want to see the lake in style? Hop aboard the paddle-wheeler *Southern Empress*, where you can dine, dance, and sightsce.

If you're in the mood for music that will set your toes tapping, check out to the Montgomery County Jamboree, where country/western, gospel, bluegrass, and Cajun musicians cut loose every third Saturday.

Conroe also offers great shopping at outlet and antique malls throughout the city. On weekends, head over to the nearby village of Cut and Shoot, where flourishing flea markets tempt you to search for that perfect souvenir.

While you are in the area, take a look at The Woodlands, a planned community developed in the early 1970s. The town today, with a population of more than 55,000, retains the natural beauty of the forest, with designated greenbelts, parks, and protected reserves. Residents enjoy some 90 miles of hike-and-bike trails, 70 parks, and a 200-acre lake. The Woodlands is also home to the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, a 13,000-seat outdoor performing arts center set amid luxuriant forest lands. Here, you can attend performances by artists such as Michael Bolton, the Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, and Trisha Yearwood.

On the southern rim of the Piney Woods region lies Liberty, once a busy port when steamboats plied the Trinity River. Texas notables David Burnet, Sam Houston, and William B. Travis practiced law here.

In Liberty, you can visit the renowned Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center for a look at displays of artifacts, furniture, and pirate Jean Laffite's journals. The town also boasts Liberty Bell Tower, which contains a replica of the original Liberty Bell. Townfolk toll the bell on special occasions.

No matter where you journey in this region of the Lone Star State, you will visit sites that evoke Texas' thrilling, tumultuous past. You can explore interesting towns, scenic forests, and vast lakes. You can shop at malls and markets. And you can experience the endearing friendliness of the folks who call East Texas home. When it comes to hospitality and diversity, you will find it in the beautiful Piney Woods of East Texas.

#### Fall color in East Texas



Richard Reynolds/TXDOT



T. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT

**Authentic diorama at Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site near Alto**

**ALTO**

**Pop. 1,190** **Alt. 433** **Map M-21**

**General**—Originally a stop on the Old San Antonio Road, town is tomato-growing center in redland belt. Name derives from Spanish word for “high” (highest point between Angulina and Neches rivers).

The grave of Helena Kimble Dill, believed by many to be the mother of the first Anglo child born in Texas (1804) is here. (Jane Long, of Galveston, often is credited as mother of Texas’ first Anglo child in 1821.) Contact local chamber of commerce for information about other sites of interest in this historically rich area, or Park Superintendent, Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site.

**Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site**—A chief archaeological site in Texas. Park includes two ceremonial and one burial mound, visitor center with exhibits, interpretive trail. Two ceremonial mounds of 300 by 350 feet are remains of ancient Indian culture. Open Thurs. - Mon. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for self-guided tours. Group tours offered by appointment. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas. Six miles southwest on Texas 21. Admission. **Davy Crockett National Forest**—Nearest entrance southwest 6 miles on Texas 21. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS at end of book.

**Mission Tejas State Historic Park**—See WECHES.

**Scenic Drive**—Exceptional scenery of forested hills and streams lies along U.S. 69, Texas 21 (El Camino Real), and numerous local roads around Alto.

**ATLANTA**

**Pop. 5,745** **Alt. 264** **Map H-22**

**General**—Established 1872 with building of Texas and Pacific Railroad; named for Georgia home of many early settlers. Town today serves a farming, forestry, and oil area. Sites of prehistoric Caddo Indian villages have been noted in the region.

Visitors can tour the downtown plaza, pavilion and caboose. For information on these facilities, as well as events, accommodations, and dining, call the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce at 903/796-3296.

**Atlanta State Park**—Excellent trailer and camp sites available at 1,475-acre facility on south shore of Lake Wright Patman. Other features include swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, and hiking. About 14 miles northwest via F.M. 1154 off U.S. 59 north, or via F.M. 96 off Texas 77 west. Admission.

**Farm Tour**—Natural Food Associates model farm shows organic methods of producing crops, livestock, and poultry. Tours and demonstrations, Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. U.S. 59 south. 903/796-4136.

**Lakes**—Caddo, Lake O’ the Pines, and Wright Patman. See LAKES listing.

**BIG SANDY**

**Pop. 1,288** **Alt. 333** **Map K-21**

**General**—First settlement of the woodlands area dates from Mexican land grants of 1835. Founded when Cotton Belt Railroad was built through town in 1877; named for nearby Sandy Creek.

**Annie’s**—Complex of exquisitely restored Victorian homes clustered around old-fashioned gardens accented by colorful plantings and immaculate lawns. Includes bed-and-breakfast country guest house, tearoom, antique/gift shop, and needle craft house, headquarters of a nationwide needle craft company. Open year round. At intersection of U.S. 80/Texas 155; phone 903/636-4952.

**CAMDEN**

**Pop. 1,200 (est.)** **Alt. 322** **Map N-22**

**General**—Established as lumbering town in heavily forested Polk County in 1898, activity still centers around timber growing, cutting and processing. County’s largest lumber mill handles both pine and hardwoods.

**Woodlands Trails**—1.8-mile walking trail through one of the finest old pine stands in East Texas. Close-up views of 225-year-old longleaf pines and 170-year-old loblolly pines. Specimens of forest growth are identified; 3 miles east on F.M. 62.

**CARTHAGE**

**Pop. 6,664** **Alt. 302** **Map K/L-22**

**General**—Became seat of Panola (Indian word for cotton) County in 1848 when 100 acres were donated for townsite. Today a center for gas and oil processing, petrochemicals, lumber mills, chicken processing, and small industries. Birthplace of Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves.

**Lakes**—Martin and Murvaul. See LAKES listing.

**Panola County Heritage Museum**—Historical exhibits, including antique dolls, old buggy, are in restored historic bank building on square. Texas Tea-room is open Mon. - Fri. for lunch featuring homemade sandwiches, soups, and desserts. Also gift shop. 100 East Sabine St.

**Panola County Historical Jail Museum**—Historical building; La Grone Family History Center; genealogical library, history of law enforcement in east Texas. Open Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. N. Shelby St.

**Reeves Memorial**—A life-sized statue of Jim Reeves commemorates the Panola County native who became one of America’s best loved country-Western singers, who died in a plane crash in 1964. Member of Country Music Hall of Fame; millions of records to his credit. Memorial is three miles east of downtown on U.S. 79.

**Tex Ritter Museum**—Features memorabilia of the legendary country/Western entertainer who was an early member of the Grand Old Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. 300 W. Panola. For additional information, call 903/693-6634.

**Jim Reeves Memorial statue in Carthage**



Michael Amador/TXDOT



L. G. Smith/TXDOT

San Jacinto County Museum in Coldspring is housed in restored jail

## CENTER

Pop. 5,678

Alt. 345

Map L-23

**General**—Founded 1866 and named for its central location in Shelby County; town's economy is based on sawmills, plywood mills, timber, poultry, cattle, and processing of farm products. Home of Shelby Junior College.

**Lakes**—Pinkston, Toledo Bend Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Sabine National Forest**—Nearest entrance 11 miles SE on Texas 87. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Scenic Drives**—Many Forest Service Roads in Sabine National Forest offer exceptional scenery. One excellent route is to Shelbyville via Texas 87, F.M. 417 and F.M. 2694 (not shown on most maps) to Boles Field Recreational Area.

**Shelby County Courthouse**—Erected more than 100 years ago, the picturesque 19th Century courthouse, with turrets and towers, is modeled after an Irish castle. It's listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings.

**Shelby County Museum**—Shelby County, one of the original counties in the Republic of Texas, is rich in history. The museum, a three-building complex, is filled with historical items from bearskins and bottles to spinning wheels and war bonnets. The museum is housed in the historic 1905 Weaver-Oates home at the corner of Thomas and Pecan sts., one block off the square. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 4 p.m. For information, call 936/598-3613.

## CLEVELAND

Pop. 7,605

Alt. 160

Map P-21

**General**—Established 1880 as a station on the Houston, East and West Texas Railroad (later the Texas and New Orleans). Now a lumber shipping point.

**Double Lake Recreation Area**—see Coldspring.

**Hilltop Herb Farm**—More than 2,000 varieties of herbs from throughout the world are grown in the garden. Workshops, lectures on several facets of herbal arts. Restaurant features herbal meals at selected times. (Reservations required.) Modified schedule for winter months. Farm, shops, greenhouse, garden open year round. 16 miles east on F.M. 787. For restaurant reservations and information, call 281/592-5859. Web site [www.colresort.com](http://www.colresort.com).

The restaurant is part of Chain-O-Lakes Resort which offers camping, picnicking, hiking, and log cabin lodging along nature trails in forest at the western edge of the Big Thicket National Preserve. For information about Chain-O-Lakes and country inn bed and breakfasts, call 281/592-2150.

**Lone Star Hiking Trail**—Winters Bayou/Tarkington Creek Section begins on F.M. 1725 NW of Cleveland and winds 140 miles in its entirety through portions of the Sam Houston National Forest, including Big Creek Scenic Area, to trailhead at F.M. 945 about 4 miles NW of Magnolia. Foot travel only. Drinking water not available. Open year round. Trail information, 936/344-6205.

**Lake**—Livingston. See LAKES listing.

## COLDSRING

Pop. 691

Alt. 356

Map O-21

**General**—Founded 1847, called Coonskin. Name successively changed to Firemen's Hill and Cold Spring. Present seat of San Jacinto County; crop, livestock and lumber area.

**Lake**—Livingston. See LAKES listing.

**Sam Houston National Forest**—City is near eastern edge of forest. Double Lake Recreation Area offers camping facilities on small lake (not found on most maps) in the forest. Park also features two picnic areas, one free and one available at nominal charge. Fishing, swimming, and hiking trails. For information, call U.S. Forest Service at 936/344-6205.

**San Jacinto County Museum**—Housed in handsome, restored jail, circa 1887, (a National Register structure). Cell block, hangman's drop and jailer's quarters still extant. Museum interprets life of early settlers with farm and forest implements, turn-of-the-century household articles, historic photos, weapons, law enforcement artifacts. Open Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Slade St. in quaint Old Town area of Coldspring.

**Scenic Drive**—Several Forest Service roads through Sam Houston National Forest offer close views of tangled, undisturbed area known as the Big Thicket. One such route is to Double Lake Recreation Area south of Coldspring about 4 miles via Texas 150 west, F.M. 2025 and a Forest Service Road.

**Wolf Creek Park**—Fishing, boating, skiing, swimming, and hiking, all available in wooded park on beautiful Lake Livingston. Campsites for RVs and tents with water and electricity. Boat ramps and coin-operated washers and dryers available. Golfers staying at the park can play the 18-hole Cape Royale Golf Course nearby. Lake Livingston and Wolf Creek Park are owned and operated by the Trinity River Authority of Texas. Open Mar. 1 - Dec. 1. For information and reservations, call 936/653-4312. Admission and fees. On F.M. 224 north of city on Lake Livingston.

## CONROE

Pop. 36,811

Alt. 213

Map P-21

**General**—Seat of Montgomery County on southern edge of Sam Houston National Forest with towering pines, rolling hills, and woodland lakes. Backpacking along the 127-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail amid the unspoiled beauty of the forest is popular with hikers, where they often see rare and uncommon birds, including the red-cockaded woodpecker. The county is known as "Birthplace of the Lone Star Flag." In 1839 the state legislature adopted the flag designed by resident and patriot, Dr. Charles B. Stewart, as the official state flag. Resorts, golf and tennis, campgrounds and marinas dot the tree-lined shore of Lake Conroe.

Storied community of Cut and Shoot is 5 miles east of Conroe where flea markets flourish on the weekend.

Just down Lake Conroe Parkway is the town of Montgomery where you can take a self-guided tour of historic homes, buildings, and antique shops.

Shoppers find bargains at Prime Outlets at I-45 and League Line Rd. and at quaint antique malls throughout the city.

Paddle Wheeler "Southern Empress" in Conroe



Conroe C&amp;VE



Gay Shaddock/TXDOT

**Monroe-Crook House in Crockett**

For a family outing with lots of music, the Montgomery County Jamboree plays every third Sat. of the month featuring country/Western, gospel, bluegrass, and Cajun music. Musicians welcome. Jam session at 5 p.m.; show starts at 6:30 p.m. Held at Robinson Road Community Center.

The Lake Conroe Convention and Visitors Bureau can provide additional information for events, lodging, and dining facilities. Give them a call at 1-800-283-6645.

**Crighton Theatre**—Restored vaudeville theatre, built in 1934, is home to a variety of stage plays, music performances, opera, ballet and special events. At 234 N. Main. Call 936/441-ARTS for performance schedule.

**Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion**—See THE WOODLANDS.

**Fish Pond**—This four-acre fishing facility is stocked with hybrid catfish. Gear and bait available for rent, or bring your own tackle. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. From I-45 North, exit Shepard Hill Rd. to Texas 75. Admission. For information, 936/344-2027.

**Heritage Museum of Montgomery County**—In restored home of a pioneer timber family. Permanent exhibit features life of Charles B. Stewart, designer of the Texas Lone Star flag and the Texas state seal; other historical miscellany and traveling exhibits. Open Wed. - Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Candy Cane Park, I-45 access road north of Texas 105.

**Joe Roughneck Statue**—Commemorating George William Strake, who brought in the 19,000-acre Conroe Oil Field in 1931 and became Houston's first oil millionaire. Outdoor exhibit at Heritage Museum, I-45 access road north of Texas 105.

**Jones State Forest**—A 1,725 acres pine and hardwood forest. Five miles southwest via I-45 and F.M. 1488. Birdwatcher's haven with over 150 species identified; boasts highest density of rare red cockade woodpecker. Sweet Leaf Nature Trail, self-guided tour. See STATE FORESTS.

**Lake Conroe Park**—Park features fishing piers, two swimming areas, children's playground, picnic tables and grills, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts and pavilion. Open 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. during summer; 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. winter months. On Texas 105 seven miles west of I-45.

**Lakes**—Conroe. See LAKES listing.

**Paddle Wheeler Southern Empress**—Ply the waters of Lake Conroe while dining and dancing. Dinner cruises offered Thurs. - Sat.; Captain's champagne brunch on Sun. Reservations required. Departs from Lakeview Marine on Texas 105 West, 7.5 miles. 936/588-3000.

**Scenic Drive**—Texas 105 west through piney woods to Montgomery 15 miles; driving tour of historic homes dating back to 1850s.

**Texas Renaissance Festival**—See Plantersville.

**Visitor Center**—A re-created railroad depot serves as tourist information center for city and county attractions. Also has recreational maps and marina guides; open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; closed on holidays. At 1504 I-45 North. Call 936/539-2502.

**CROCKETT**

Pop. 7,141

Alt. 350

Map N-20

**General**—Named for frontiersman Davy Crockett who died at the Alamo; among oldest towns in Texas and site of many historic structures. Legend has it that Crockett stopped here to camp on his way to the Alamo. Seat of Houston County. Economy based on agriculture plus plastics, chemicals and clothing.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the Houston County Chamber of Commerce at 936/544-2359.

**Davy Crockett Memorial Park**—Municipal; 35 wooded acres contain picnic areas, tennis courts, playgrounds, pavilion and civic buildings; adjacent swimming pool and athletic stadium. Terminus of S. 5th St.

**Davy Crockett National Forest**—Nearest entrance about 10 miles east on Texas 7. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Davy Crockett Spring**—Said to be campsite of Col. Davy Crockett and small detachment of men on their way to San Antonio, where they died in heroic defense of the Alamo in 1836. A historical plaque marks the undeveloped site where the spring still flows; on W. Goliad St. at underpass (intersection of Texas 7/21).

**Downs-Aldrich House**—Restored, three-story Victorian home, c. 1891, elaborate with gingerbread. Open 2 - 4 p.m. each Wed., Sat. and Sun. Mar. - Dec. at 300 N. 7th St. Admission.

**Mission Tejas State Historic Park**—See WECHES.

**Monroe-Crook House**—Elegant 1854 Greek Revival house; period furnishings. Open Mar. - Dec. 2 - 4 p.m. each Wed., Sat. and Sun. 707 E. Houston St. Admission.

**Visitor Center-Museum**—Housed in 1909 railroad depot; displays of early farm implements, old newspaper press, railroad memorabilia dating from 1872, and exhibits depicting history of first county of Republic of Texas, June 12, 1837. Open Wed. 2 - 4 p.m. 629 N. 4th St.

**DAINGERFIELD**

Pop. 2,517

Alt. 402

Map J-22

**General**—Seat of Morris County, one of the smallest in Texas. Extensive deposits of iron ore utilized by Lone Star Steel plant. Other area industries include farming, livestock, sand and gravel, roofing and clothing.

**Daingerfield State Park**—581 acres offer boating, fishing and swimming in 80-acre lake; boat ramp, fishing pier, camping, cabins and hiking trails. Two miles east off Texas 11. Admission.

**Lake**—Lake O' the Pines. See LAKES listing.

**GILMER**

Pop. 4,799

Alt. 415

Map J-21

**General**—Seat of Upshur County, city was founded in 1848 on the historic Cherokee Trace, becoming a trade center for growing population of farmer-settlers. Cotton farming dominated economy, joined by lumbering boom at turn of the century. The East Texas oil boom of the early 1930s extended into county as cotton began to fade. Dairying, lumber, and beef cattle are important today.

Numerous historical markers are found in the city and around the county, including a 1936 granite maker in Roosevelt Park on site of early 19th Century Cherokee Indian village. Markers on the courthouse lawn tell about the Cherokee Trace, traveled by Sam Houston and other Texas Revolution heroes on first trips to Texas.

A walking tour of the city is almost like a "walking museum." Many businesses display historic photos and exhibits. The *Gilmer Mirror*, founded 1877, has a display of antique printing tools, Linotype.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

For information on events, attractions, and accommodations, call the Upshur County Chamber of Commerce at 903/843-2413.

**East Texas Yamboree**—Begun in 1935, this tribute to the sweet potato attracts thousands on the third Thurs., Fri. & Sat. each October. Activities include parades, queen's coronation pageant, fiddlers contests, street dances, 10K and fun run, livestock show, band marching contest, arts and crafts shows, and more.

**Historic Upshur Museum**—General history museum in 1925-vintage Gilmer Post Office building on courthouse square. Forestry exhibit, model drilling rig, store office, and artifacts. Open Mon. - Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Northeast corner of square downtown.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

Produce at the East Texas Yamboree in Gilmer

## HALLSVILLE

Pop. 2,772

Alt. 375

Map K-22

**General**—The town is in central western Harrison County and originated in 1839 when Fort Crawford was built by W.C. Crawford. In 1869 when the railroad crossed a mile north of the fort, settlers moved to the railroad and named the new settlement for Elijah Hall, a pioneer of the section. The city is located in the piney woods vegetation area and has loblolly, shortleaf, long leaf and slash pines, as well as oak, hickory, maple, and other hardwoods.

**Caddo Legacy Museum**—Features displays of Caddo Indian pottery, arrowheads, tools, and other memorabilia. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 903/668-3883. At I-20 and F.M. 450.

**Hallsville Raceway**—NHRA championship drag racing is held Fri. and Sat. Feb. - Oct.; Sun., Nov. - Jan., weather permitting. Features the NHRA Winston Championship each April. For schedule and information, call 903/668-2858. On F.M. 450 north of town.

**Lakes**—Lake O' the Pines, Caddo, and Martin Creek. See LAKES listing.

## HEMPHILL

Pop. 1,106

Alt. 257

Map M-23

**General**—Founded 1858, seat of Sabine County, a vast timber area. Today a commercial center for lumber; major gateway to immense Toledo Bend Reservoir. A gallows, more than 80 years old, is still in place in four-cell county jail.

**Lakes**—Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Sabine National Forest**—City is at western boundary of forest. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Scenic Drives**—Excellent forest scenery along highways in all directions. Stands of Virginia shortleaf pine are seen south of Hemphill at community of Yellowpine via Texas 87, also on F.M. 2343 (not shown on most maps). One of the finest stands of longleaf pine is at scenic roadside park on Texas 184 about five miles west.

## HENDERSON

Pop. 11,273

Alt. 505

Map L-22

**General**—Designated seat of Rusk County in 1843. Enjoyed rapid growth during its first two decades, but disastrous fire in 1860 destroyed most business houses. Oil discovered in 1930. City is now oil and agriculture commercial center; home of Texas Baptist Institute.

City is a Main Street City with walking tours of the historic downtown district available.

Helen Lee Estate Daffodil Gardens in Gladewater



Jack Lewis/TXDOT

**Lakes**—Lake Gladewater and Lake O' the Pines. See Lakes listing.

**Parks**—Yamboree Park, U.S. 271 north, has RV camping facilities and building for reunions and RV rallies. Contact chamber of commerce for information. Roosevelt Park, near downtown, has swimming pool and historical marker.

**Scenic Drive**—Texas 155 north, six miles to Barnwell Mountain roadside park and overlook. Most roads in area offer a mixture of pine and hardwood forests, pastures, rich in fall color and spring wildflowers.

**Upshur County Library**—Excellent small library provides services to city and surrounding area; includes genealogy department and War of the Rebellion reference books for Civil War research. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Two blocks west of downtown square.

## GLADEWATER

Pop. 6,078

Alt. 333

Map K-21

**General**—Settlers from an earlier community called St. Clair moved en masse a few miles east to the Texas and Pacific RR when it built through in 1872. In 1931 oil was discovered and population doubled to 1,000 overnight, reaching 10,000 at the height of the boom. (One of Texaco's first derricks and pumping units is preserved in the 100 block of W. Commerce along with historical marker.) City now a trade center for agricultural and lumbering interests. Claiming title of "Antique Capital of East Texas" city boasts more than two dozen antique and crafts shops.

Annual events include the East Texas Gusher Days held in April, the Gladewater Round Up and Rodeo in June, and the Gladewater Arts and Crafts Festival each September.

For additional information on dining facilities, accommodations, and events, stop by the chamber of commerce at 215 N. Main (U.S. 271). Also ask them for information about Pines Camp & Conference Center, and about bed and breakfast facilities in the area. You can call 903/845-5501, or 1-800-627-0315. Web site [www.mall100.com/chamber](http://www.mall100.com/chamber) or send e-mail to [gladewatercoc@cox-internet.com](mailto:gladewatercoc@cox-internet.com).

A local skydiving club usually meets on weekends and practices skydiving skills at the Gladewater airport.

**Gladewater Saturday Night Opry**—Toc-tapping country/Western music show and comedy stage show every Sat. night. Free gospel show on Fri. night. At 108 E. Commerce St. Admission. For information, call the chamber of commerce at 903/845-5501.

**Helen Lee Estate Daffodil Gardens**—Spectacular display of blooms draws visitors from wide area. Open during blooming season (mid-Feb. through late-Feb.) 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. From Loop 485, take U.S. 271 south 5.6 mi.; then 1.3 mi. east on County Road 3104.

**Lake**—Gladewater. See LAKES listing.

**St. Clair Museum of Gladewater**—Mementos and artifacts of city's early days. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 817 N. Main St.



Richard Stockton

**Sam Houston Memorial Complex Museum in Huntsville**

**Depot Museum and Children's Discovery Center**—Restored 1901 Missouri Pacific RR depot houses museum of county history in old waiting room and office. Warehouse portion is hands-on learning center for children 3 to 11. On grounds is 1908 restored "Arnold Outhouse," first in state to receive historical marker. Ornate, gingerbread-style, "three-holer" was built for prominent turn-of-the-century Henderson attorney. Restored 1841 log cabin on museum grounds is one of state's oldest. Other structures include barn, broom shop, 1881 doctor's office, and authentically restored 1880s dogtrot cabin. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 514 N. High St. Admission.

**East Texas Discovery Well**—In 1927, Columbus M. "Dad" Joiner believed there was oil in Rusk County. Joiner and an Oklahoma attorney and oil promoter had won and lost two fortunes in oil, and despite nearing age 70, he was beginning another search "without even the proverbial shoestring." With inferior equipment, he drilled his first well on Daisy Bradford's land, about six miles from Henderson to a depth of 1,098 feet before junking the site. His second attempt was also unsuccessful. In January 1930, the third well was started by Joiner about 300 feet from his first attempt. On Sept. 3, 1930, the drill bit struck the Woodbine Sand and the core came up dripping with oil. On Oct. 3, 1930, the Daisy Bradford #3 blew in as a 300 barrel-a-day well at a depth of 3,592 feet. Thus began the East Texas Oil Boom.

Pioneer Park, with derrick-covered picnic pavilions, is about six miles west of Henderson on Texas 64 at County Road 4148. Also in the park is the Joe Roughneck Monument, erected by Lone Star Steel as a memorial tribute to the working men in the oil fields known as "roughnecks".

The site of the Daisy Bradford #3 is about a mile north of Pioneer Park on County Road 4136 and is marked by a 1936 pink granite marker.

**Gaston Museum**—When the Daisy Bradford #3 blew in near Gaston, the onslaught of oil field workers came with hundreds of children. Within seven years, the Gaston school district grew from 79 to 1,832 students, making it the largest rural school in the world. What began as an exhibit for class reunions has turned into a full-fledged museum. More than 3,000 artifacts help portray the boom days through the eyes of a child. The museum is housed in a 1940s roadside café, adjacent to an oil-field tent house and a 1930s Dixie Service Station. Open Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. At 6558 Texas 64 west; donations accepted.

**Harmony Hill Ghost Town**—Eighteen miles northeast on Texas 43, town was important trade center known as Nip and Tuck in 1850. Bypassed by railroads, the town declined, and in 1906 a storm destroyed many buildings. Only a large, well-kept cemetery remains.

**Howard-Dickinson House**—First brick house in county; built 1855 and visited many times by Sam Houston, related to one of the builders. Restoration cited by American Association for State & Local History; authentically furnished. 501 S. Main St. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. Admission.

**Lakeforest Park**—Fifty-five acres administered by City of Henderson with swimming pool, picnic areas, miniature golf, playgrounds, carousel. West on Texas 64.

**Lakes**—Cherokee, Martin, Murvaul, and Striker. See LAKES listing.  
**Rose Hill Country Theater**—Unique amphitheater is located in natural crater that is 60 feet deep and 300 yards in diameter. Legend has it that crater was once gathering place for Caddo Indians to play tribal games. Concert performances scheduled April through September. Just 12 miles south of Henderson at Hwy. 259 and FM 1798. 903/657-7418.

**HUNTSVILLE**

**Pop. 35,078**      **Alt. 401**      **Map O-20**

**General**—Founded as Indian trading post in 1836, the year of Texas independence. Sam Houston was one of many prominent early Texans who lived here. Today Huntsville is yours to explore. Adventures begin here in one of Texas' oldest cities. It's the location of the headquarters of Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division, and home of Sam Houston State Univ. Well kept, restored turn-of-the-century homes dot city. The downtown area is home to a variety of antique and arts and crafts shops.

Be sure to see the beautiful mural of Sam Houston by architectural illusionist Richard Haas on the northeastern edge of the square.

Additional information may be obtained from chamber of commerce at 1327 11th St. (Texas 30) or call 936/295-8113 or 1-800-289-0389.

**Blue Lagoon**—Primarily for divers; sparkling artesian springs feed old rock quarry creating a beautiful environment for scuba diving. Submerged boats, planes, and platforms are strategically placed in two lagoons. Non-divers must be accompanied by diver. Open Mar. - mid-Nov. Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - dusk; Sun. 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Seven miles north on F.M. 247; west one mile to Pinedale Rd.; or from I-45, Exit 123 (Pinedale Rd.) four miles east. For information, call 936/291-6111.

**Gibbs-Powell House Museum**—Built 1862, an elegantly furnished Greek Revival home operated by Walker Co. Historical Commission. Open Thurs., Fri. noon - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At 1228 11th St. Tel. 936/294-9202.

**Huntsville State Park**—2,123 acres of greenery in Sam Houston National Forest. Complete camping facilities on Lake Raven, marked botany trail, boating, fishing, and swimming. Nine miles south of city on the west side of I-45. Admission.

**Lakes**—Gibbons Creek, Livingston. See LAKES listing.

**Oakwood Cemetery**—Sam Houston's burial site along with other Texas personalities, Union soldiers, and pioneers. Houston's tomb bears Andrew

**Sam Houston Statue in Huntsville**



Kevin Stillman/STODOT



Jackson's tribute, "The world will take care of Houston's fame." Original acreage deeded by founders as free burial place in 1847. Oldest marked burial site is dated 1846. Chamber of commerce can furnish walking tours. 9th St. and Ave. I. **Sam Houston Memorial Museum Complex**—On 15 original acres belonging to Gen. Houston. Eight buildings: two period furnished homes of Houston, the "Woodland Home" and "Steamboat House," his law office, and a replica of the Woodland Home kitchen. Site of Gen. Sam Houston Folk Festival in April.

Museum exhibits Houston's personal effects and items belonging to Santa Anna when captured at San Jacinto; 19th-Century pioneer artifacts. Exhibit hall/gift shop. Romantic park with benches, small picnic area and spring-fed stream. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. At 1836 Sam Houston Ave. Tel. 936/294-1832.

**Sam Houston National Forest**—City is at northwestern boundary of forest.

**Sam Houston Statue**—It's the world's tallest statue of an American hero. Huntsville native David Adickes turned 60,000 pounds of concrete and steel into a towering 67-foot statue of General Sam Houston. Mounted atop a 10-foot, granite-sheathed base, the statue is visible for more than six miles. Information on the city, attractions, accommodations, and events may be obtained at the adjacent visitor center. Exhibits of Huntsville attractions are located in the center, as well as a gift shop. I-45 south of town. For information, call 936/291-9726.

**Scenic Drives**—Several routes through Sam Houston National Forest offer woodland beauty. F.M. 1374 (not shown on most maps) leads to near Stubblefield Lake Recreation Area, administered by National Forest Service. F.M. 1375 east from New Waverly leads to near Walker Lake Recreation Area, also Forest Service facility.

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division**—Headquarters of Texas prison system; several units located throughout city and Walker County. Created in 1847, received its first convict on October 1, 1849. Driving tours available from chamber of commerce.

**Texas Prison Museum**—Covers changes in prison system since its 1848 inception. Visitors see old ball-and-chains, rifles used by Bonnie and Clyde, replica of 9 x 6 cell, and "Old Sparky," the state's electric chair used between 1924 - 1964. Rotating exhibits. Along with other penal artifacts, visitors also see crafts and products produced by inmates. Open Tues. - Fri. noon - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. South side of square on 12th St. Tel. 409/295-2155. Admission.

## JACKSONVILLE

Pop. 13,868

Alt. 516

Map L-21

**General**—Was a post office community before 1849, but moved three miles to present site when International-Great Northern Railroad was built in 1872. During the 1930s and '40s the city was known as the "tomato capital" when more tomatoes were shipped from here than any other city. Each June the city celebrates Tomato Fest honoring the once important crop.

More than 80 diversified manufacturing firms are located here, many associated with plastic, wood, and air conditioning coils and condensers.

Home of Baptist Missionary Assoc. Theological Seminary, Jacksonville College, and Lon Morris College.

A basket factory-direct store is popular with shoppers.

Bed and breakfasts are available in city. For additional information on events, accommodations, or dining facilities, contact the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce at 903/586-2217 or 1-800-376-2217, or visit the Web site at [www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com).

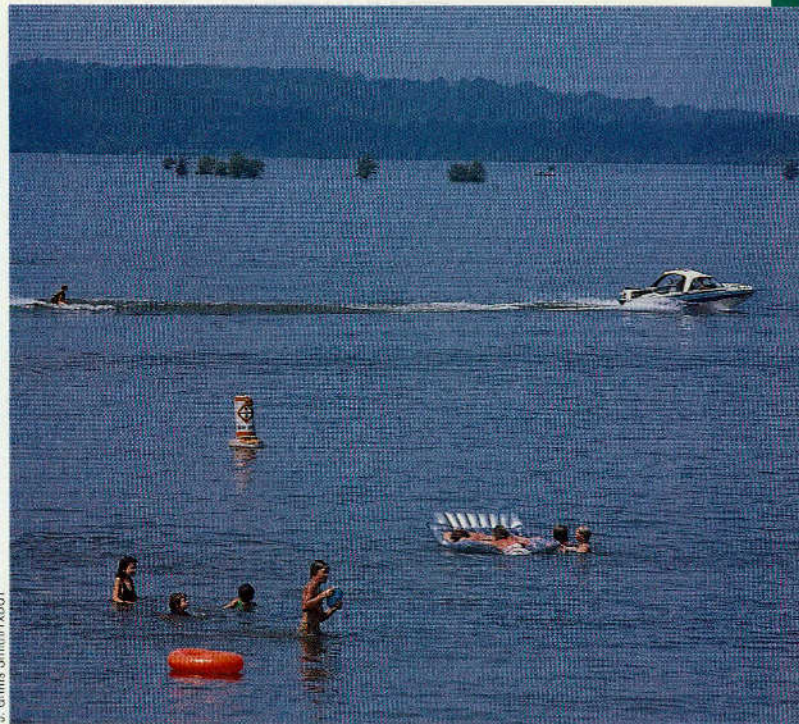
**Killough Monument**—Native stone monument commemorates victims of East Texas' worst Indian depredation, erected on spot where massacre took place on Oct. 5, 1838. Seven miles northwest of Jacksonville near community of Larissa; U.S. 69 north to Mount Selman, F.M. 855 (not shown on most maps) west to Larissa.

**Lakes**—Jacksonville, Palestine and Striker. See LAKES listing.

**Lookout Mountain**—First Monday Trade Days offers all sorts of wares, antiques, and collectibles. Camping facilities available with hookups and hiking trails. Mountain bikers can ride on trails year round. For information, call 903/569-9929. Four miles north of Jacksonville on U.S. 69 near Love's Lookout.

**Love's Lookout Park**—View is breathtaking; picnicking. Five miles north on U.S. 69. Observation area has 35-mile view of East Texas hills.

**Scenic Drives**—Beautiful hill, forest and lake scenery both north and south on U.S. 69; also along F.M. 747 and F.M. 2138 (neither shown on most maps) around Lake Jacksonville.



J. Griffiths Smith/FOXDOT

**Nearby Jasper, B.A. Steinhagen Lake offers aquatic activities for Jasper area residents and visitors**

**Vanishing Texana**—Museum in Jacksonville Public Library displays Cherokee County historical items. Open Mon. & Thurs. noon - 8 p.m.; Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. U.S. 69 (S. Jackson St.) at Nacogdoches St.

## JASPER

Pop. 8,247

Alt. 221

Map N-23

**General**—Seat of Jasper County, named for Sgt. William Jasper, hero of American Revolution. Area terrain ranges from hilly to level, 85 percent forested by pines and hardwoods.

Jasper's historic town square features the courthouse, antique shops, and the old county jail where the county archives are housed. Sandy Creek Park, downtown, features children's playground equipment, fishing ponds, and a pavilion.

A state fish hatchery is open for public viewing Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Take U.S. 190 west to F.M. 1747 and turn north and follow signs at Bevilport intersection. For information, call 409/384-2221.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining, stop by the Jasper Information Center at 246 E. Milam Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or call 409/384-2762, or visit Jasper's home page at [www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org) or e-mail at [jaspercoc@jaspercoc.org](mailto:jaspercoc@jaspercoc.org).

**Angelina National Forest**—Nearest entrance 13 miles northwest on Texas 63. Camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, four-wheeling, canoeing, backpacking, swimming and picnicking permitted in recreation areas. For information, call district ranger office at 409/639-8620. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Beaty-Orton House**—This home was influenced by Victorian architecture and built with native pine by John T. Beaty toward the end of the 19th century. It houses the Main Street offices and is open Mon. - Fri. during business hours. For information, call 409/383-6138. At corner of Main and Water sts.

**Hidden Falls Ranch**—Horse rentals, pony rides, campgrounds, hiking trails, hayrides and cookouts. North on U.S. 96 approximately nine miles; turn left on F.M. 255 three miles. For information, call 409/698-9976.

**Lakes**—B.A. Steinhagen, Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend. See LAKES listing.

**Martin Dies Jr. State Park**—705 acres on eastern shore of B.A. Steinhagen Lake (also known as Town Bluff and Dam B Reservoir). Rest rooms with showers, picnic, camping and trailer sites, screened shelters, boat rentals, children's play area, fishing pier with fish-cleaning station, nature center, and herb garden and walk. About 13 miles west on U.S. 190. Admission.

**Sieck State Forest**—25 miles south on U.S. 96. See STATE FORESTS IN TEXAS.



Michael Amador/TXDOT

Jefferson Historical Society Museum

## JEFFERSON

Pop. 2,024

Alt. 221

Map J-22

**General**—Various dates between 1836 and 1840 are cited as the beginning of Jefferson at a river landing on Big Cypress Bayou. Whatever the date, early settlers were already established when the town was laid out in 1842. Today one of Texas' most historic towns. More than 30 structures bear State Historical Medallions. Several antique shops.

Jefferson early became major East Texas river port of entry; Big Cypress was then navigable by steamboats from New Orleans. Discovery of nearby iron ore brought smelters and plow works, while plentiful pine and cypress stimulated lumber industry.

Here was one of Texas' first breweries, and in 1873 world's first ammonia refrigerant ice plant. It was state's first city to utilize artificial gas for street lighting, and shortly after the Civil War, reached a peak population of 30,000 with as many as 15 steamboats at a time lining the docks, and scores of wagon trains passing through on the way West.

For today's traveler seeking quiet reflection of a past era, it is a fortunate result.

More than 60 bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

For information on events, lodging, and dining facilities, call the Marion County Chamber of Commerce at 903/665-2672, or 1-888-GO-RELAX. Also visit the Web site at [www.Jefferson-texas.com](http://www.Jefferson-texas.com).

**Caddo Lake State Park**—See KARNACK.

**Carnegie Library**—Built 1907, and one of few such libraries still serving its original purpose. Second floor designed as opera house. On display is one of the outstanding doll collections in Texas. Open Tues. - Fri. noon - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 301 Lafayette St.

**City Trolley Tours**—Narrated tours tell history of Jefferson while passing by points of interest, including historic homes, buildings, churches, Oakwood Cemetery. Trolley departs daily at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. from Historic Jefferson Tour Headquarters at 222 E. Austin St. For information, call 903/665-1665. Admission.

**Historic Homes Tours**—Many of city's fine old homes are open during annual Historical Pilgrimage, first weekend in May and Candlelight Tour first two weekends in Dec. Others, below, are private residences and are generally open at times listed below; most are on National Register of Historic Places:

**Beard House**—Built in 1860 by Noble Birge, prominent merchant, who came to Jefferson and established a hardware store. The foundation was constructed of hand-hewn cypress sills which were pegged and notched. The flooring is of heart pine and the ceilings are 14 feet tall. The original water well, made of angle brick, is inside the house in an enclosed porch, which is now a library. Tours daily at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Closed Wed. & Sun. At 212 Vale St. For information, 903/665-2606. Tour fee.

**First Bed and Breakfast in Texas/Pride House**—First bed and breakfast in state. This Victorian mansion features more than 30 original stained glass windows and 12-ft. tall ceilings. Elegantly furnished. Open for tours Fri. 3 - 5 p.m. For information and reservations, call 903/665-2675 or 1-800-894-3526. At 409 Broadway St.

**Freeman Plantation**—Built in 1850, the graceful Greek Revival structure embodies the building style that distinguished so many Louisiana plantation homes. Giant magnolias and period furnishings complement the house, which has been cited by the Historic American Buildings Committee of the Department of the Interior. Tours daily except Wed., 3 & 3:30 p.m. One mile west on Texas 49. Tel. 903/665-1665. Admission.

**House of the Seasons**—Built in 1872, this is an example of the transition period between Greek Revival and Victorian architecture. Most interesting interior feature of the house is the dome containing beautiful frescoes. Each side of the cupola features a different color window panel illustrating the four seasons of the year, and those colors are reflected throughout the house. Tours daily at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tel. 903/665-1218. At 40 S. Alley St. Admission.

**Ruth Lester Memorial and Playhouse**—Built as private residence about 1860, became a Catholic convent, school, and hospital in 1869. Sold to Jewish Congregation in 1875 and adjoining synagogue added. Both buildings restored with Victorian furnishings and memorabilia. Tours Sat. & Sun. at 2:30 p.m. At Market and Henderson sts. Tel. 903/665-2513. Tour fee.

**The Sagamore**—A premier example of a Texas pioneer cottage, this historic structure was built in 1852. It is beautifully restored and furnished with American antiques dating between 1840 and 1880; original heart pine floors. Tours Thurs. - Sat. at 2:30 p.m. At corner of Dixon and Owen sts. For information, call 903/665-2051. Tour fee.

**Historic Inns**—**Excelsior House**—19th Century hotel numbered among its guests Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, Jay Gould and Oscar Wilde. Guest rooms feature period furnishings of maple, cherry and mahogany and include marble-topped dressers, button and spool beds, many from original furnishings when hotel opened in the late 1850s. Open daily for tours 1 & 2 p.m. 211 W. Austin St. Tour fee.

**Jefferson Hotel**—A cotton warehouse in 1861, converted to hotel 1900, restored as country inn and restaurant. Turn-of-the-century iron beds, Victorian dressers, rocking chairs; 22 rooms with baths. In front, old-fashioned benches overlook brick street. 124 W. Austin St.

**Jay Gould Private Railroad Car**—The "Atalanta" has luxurious interior with four staterooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry and bathroom. Open daily, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information, call 903/665-2513. Admission.

**Jefferson Historical Society Museum**—Four floors of articles, documents and antiques from bygone era. Mementos of pioneer days, early steamboat commerce, antebellum society. Paintings and sculpture from D.D. Feldman collection. Open daily, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Federal Building, Lafayette and Vale sts. Admission. 903/665-2775.

**Lakes**—Caddo, Lake O' the Pines. See LAKES listing.

**Mule-Drawn Wagon Tours**—For some 25 years, open-air wagons have offered narrated tours of Jefferson. Board across from museum in the Riverfront District. Tour schedule posted daily (weather permitting). Admission.

**Romantic Carriage & Limousine Service**—Ride in style, either by horse-drawn carriage or stretch limo. Service offers tours of historic Jefferson, as well as basic limo services. For reservations, call 903/668-3318 or 903/233-9568.

**Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone with the Wind Museum**—Features one of the largest private collections of memorabilia from this epic story of the Old South. Among the hundreds of items on display are rare domestic and foreign movie posters, a first edition of the novel signed by Margaret Mitchell, a personal letter by the author, and promotional novelties and items inspired by the original movie release. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. At 408 Taylor St. For information, call 903/665-1939.

**Texas History Museum**—Contains more than 600 rare and historic maps of Texas, the Southwest, and the New World, dating from 1513. The facility also features a large collection of Texas' national bank notes, obsolete notes and scrip and other currency. The museum is housed in the old Haywood House Hotel built in 1865. Open Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At the corner of Dallas and Market sts. For information, call 903/665-1101 or e-mail at TxHerArLib@aol.com. Admission.

**Turning Basin River Boat Tour**—45-minute narrated tour of Big Cypress Bayou, featuring riverport history of Jefferson. Just below old trestle across Polk St. bridge (U.S. 59). For information, 903/665-2222.

## KARNACK

Pop. 775 (est.)      Alt. 237      Map J-22/23

**General**—Just off Texas 43 in Harrison County, adjacent to Caddo Lake State Park, town was probably named for the ancient city of Karnak, Egypt. There's a modern note in Karnack, Texas. Rockets roaring into space use fuel made here by Thikol Chemical Corp.

**Birthplace of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson**—Constructed of bricks made by slaves, the birthplace of former First Lady (born Claudia Taylor) is a handsome two-story structure on sloping hill. Built before the Civil War, it was family home of T. J. Taylor, well-known merchant; 2.7 miles southwest on Texas 43. Not open to the public.

**Caddo Lake State Park**—480 acres beside Caddo Lake; an area once occupied by Caddo Indians, a tribe quite advanced in civilization. Camping areas, trailer sites, cabins, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature trails and interpretive center. Two miles north off Texas 43. Admission.

**Lake**—Caddo. See LAKES listing.

## KILGORE

Pop. 11,301      Alt. 371      Map K-21

**General**—Plantation owners settled area before Civil War, but town was not established until building of Great Northern Railroad (later Missouri Pacific) in 1872. Town is center of huge East Texas Oil Field discovered 1930; over 1,200 oil wells once within city limits; some still producing. Approximately 37

"World's Richest Acre" in downtown Kilgore



Laurence Parent



**The Big Thicket, a vast area of tangled, often impenetrable woods, streams and marshes, offers hiking and boating to visitors near Kountze**

restored steel derricks are nostalgic reminders of early boom days; now decorated during Christmas.

**East Texas Oil Museum**—Every aspect of the oil boom days of the 1930s is re-created through dioramas, films, sound effects and mementos of the oil field, and from the daily lives of the people. An ancient drilling rig is displayed outside. Inside, stores and a street scene bring the past to life. Also, geological exhibits and a simulated 3,800-foot elevator ride to the oil formations within the earth. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (till 5 p.m. May - Sept.); Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Special holiday schedule between Christmas and New Year's Day. U.S. 259 at Ross St. Tel. 903/ 983-8295. (On Kilgore College campus.) Admission.

**Rangerette Showcase**—Films and displays of props, costumes, uniforms, awards and mementos of Kilgore College's world-famous precision drill and dance team, known for its trademark "highkick" routine. The first of its kind, the Rangerettes were formed in 1940 as halftime entertainment for local football games. Their performance at bowl games and internationally has brought fame to Kilgore College. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m.; Special holiday schedule between Christmas and New Year's Day. On campus on Broadway at Ross; free admission. Tel. 903/983-8265.

**World's Richest Acre Park**—On part of one downtown block, actually about 1.2 acres, once stood greatest concentration of oil wells in the world producing more than 2.5 million barrels of oil. All but one of original derricks were dismantled in early 1960s. The original derrick and 12 new ones, a restored pumpjack, a granite monument to the pioneer oil families of East Texas, and brick walkways erected in a historical preservation program, make the park a monument to the oil boom of 1930s. A historical marker details history of the plot. An interesting sidelight is that one well was drilled through terrazzo floor of the Kilgore National Bank that once stood on site. Located at Main and Commerce sts. across from railroad depot.

## KIRBYVILLE

Pop. 2,085      Alt. 125      Map O-23

**General**—Established in 1895 in east central Jasper County, city is on the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad, and the terminus of the Jasper and Eastern Railroad. Named for John Henry Kirby, who, along with R.P. Allen,

Michael Amador/7/007



Jack Lewis/ADOIT

**Dancers don traditional Indian finery at Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation near Livingston**

laid out the townsite. Kirby was known as “Prince of the Pines,” at one time producing more Southern Pine lumber than any man in the world.

Today, lumber is still king, but agribusiness and tourism play an important role in the economy. Kirbyville is minutes away from popular lakes—Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, and B.A. Steinhagen Lake. It’s right in the middle of national and state forests, as well as the Big Thicket National Preserve. Because of the abundance of trees, birding is a popular activity here. Residents salute the forests with the popular Magnolia Festival each April.

For information on events, accommodations, and area attractions, contact the local chamber of commerce at 105 South Elizabeth St. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 409/423-5827.

**Calaboose Museum**—Under the direction of the Kirbyville Area Heritage Society, the museum contains artifacts, information, and history of local significance. Housed in old jail house built in 1910. Open Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. At Elizabeth and Lavielle sts.

**Exotic Cat Refuge & Wildlife Orphanage**—Non-profit reserve offers refuge and rehabilitation to endangered exotic cats and other wildlife. It’s a state and federally licensed orphanage for lions, tigers, leopards, cougars, bears, and wolves, to name a few. Shelter is normally open Tues. - Sun. afternoons, but it’s best to call for reservations. From U.S. 96, head east on Main St. one block to Elizabeth St.; right on Elizabeth St. to Shaw Guy St.; turn left to orphanage. For reservations and information, call 409/423-4847.

**Forests**—Angelina National Forest, Sabine National Forest, E. O. Seick State Forest. See National and State Forests listings.

**Lakes**—Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, and B.A. Steinhagen Lake. See Lakes listing.

**KOUNTZE**

**Pop. 2,115** **Alt. 85** **Map P-23**

**General**—Established as railroad town 1881. Seat of Hardin County, an area more than 89 percent forested that produces over 5.5 million board feet of lumber yearly.

Kountze describes itself as The Big Light in The Big Thicket—that vast area of tangled, often impenetrable woods, streams and marshes, portions of which are now protected as the Big Thicket National Preserve.

Indian Springs Camp offers guided canoe tours as well as camping facilities, including an RV park. For information, call 409/246-2508.

Be sure to check out the Big Thicket Smokehouse and Craft Corral. In a room that used to be a washateria, it now features an arts and crafts shop in a re-created frontier sawmill town. Replicas of a jail, general store, a doctor’s office, barbershop, trading post, saloon, hotel, and church give visitors an idea of what the Big Thicket used to be like.

For additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, and other visitor facts, call the Kountze Chamber of Commerce at 409/246-3413.

**Big Thicket Information Station**—Details about the Big Thicket National Preserve, interpretive panels, information on trails and boating. Hiking trails of various lengths have interpretive panels at several locations. Open daily except Christmas; 7 mi. north of Kountze on F.M. 420. For information, call 409/246-2337.

**Big Thicket National Preserve**—Some 97,000 acres in twelve units comprise this preserve where the southwestern desert meets the eastern hardwood swamps and coastal prairies meet the northern piney woods. Includes extremely diverse plant communities in close proximity, orchids, cactus, cypress, and pine. Also home to many species of birds, insect-eating plants and wide variety of wildlife. See information station below.

**Kirby-Hill House Museum**—Built in 1902 by timber tycoon John Henry Kirby for his brother James. The house was occupied by his family for 85 years. The mansion is now owned by the Hardin County Arts and Educational Foundation and features furnishings, photos, papers, and artifacts dating back to 1832. 210 Main St. For information, call 409/246-5184.

**Pelt Pond Rural Life Museum**—Features folk art, artifacts, and other media to preserve the pioneer spirit of rural East Texas. In scenic Big Thicket area, exhibits also include farm animals. Open Apr. - Nov. Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. From Kountze, Texas 326 south 13 mi.; F.M. 421 east 1.2 mi. 409/287-3300.

**Timber Ridge Tours**—Guides/outfitters offer canoe trips, tour boat rides, hikes, van tours, and country cottage in Big Thicket biosphere. Tours introduce guests to the forests, waterways, flowers, mammals, reptiles, and birds in the lush Big Thicket Preserve. Tours depart from Village Creek State Park (see LUMBERTON) and the Kountze office Thurs. - Mon. year around. Admission. Office is on U.S. 69. For information, call 409/246-3107.

**LIBERTY**

**Pop. 8,033** **Alt. 51** **Map P-22**

**General**—Among oldest settled areas of Texas, several hundred Anglo-Americans established farms in 1820s on Mexican land grants. Town laid out 1831, named Villa de la Santissima Trinidad de la Libertad, quickly shortened to Liberty by English-speaking residents. William B. Travis, Sam Houston, and David Burnet all practiced law in Liberty. Three brothers from town died at the Alamo; some 50 Liberty citizens fought in Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, when Texas won its independence.

Seat of Liberty County, town was a busy port when steamboats plied the Trinity River in the late 19th Century. Today a farming-ranching community with substantial oil production dating from 1925. Each March the “Liberty Jubilee” is held downtown and features BBQ cook-offs, street dances, a parade, antiques show, food, arts & crafts, and a fireworks display.

**Geraldine D. Humphreys Cultural Center**—Project of local historical and arts groups, the center includes a museum, library, and performing arts theater. Adjacent is Liberty Bell Tower, replica of original Liberty Bell (Philadelphia, PA) famed in U.S. history. Cast from original pattern in same molding pit by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, England, that crafted the original bell. But this one isn’t cracked; it tolls on special occasions. 1710 Sam Houston St. in downtown Liberty; open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 936/336-8901.

**Historical Sites**—Historical monuments and markers identify abundant sites including Sam Houston’s law office, blocks of original Mexican town plat, and many old homes. For information about drive-by views and visitor sites, stop at Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce, 1801 Trinity St., open 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri. 936/336-5736.

**Sam Houston Regional Library & Research Center**—Historical depository for the 10 counties originally carved from Atascosito-Liberty district of the Republic of Mexico. Archives and displays show development of region, artifacts, furniture, Jean Laffite’s journals, and 1826 census. It also contains the Texana Collection of former Governor Price Daniel.

On the grounds are the 1848 Gillard-Duncan Home, the 1883 Norman House, the Jean and Price Daniel House, and the 1898 St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. The homes are restored with period furnishings. The Daniel House contains artifacts documenting his many years of service to the public, including his tenure as Governor of Texas, Texas Speaker of the House, U.S. Senator, Attorney General and Associate Supreme Court Justice.

The Center is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. Three miles north of Liberty on FM 1011, off of Hwy 146. 936/336-8821. Web site [www.tsl.state.tx.us/](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/).

## LIVINGSTON

Pop. 5,433

Alt. 194

Map O-22

**General**—Trade center for prosperous lumber and agricultural district of fertile Trinity River Valley; seat of Polk County. Established 1846, named by founder Moses L. Choate for his former home in Alabama. Oil discovered in the 1940s.

**Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation**—Home of Alabama and Coushatta Indians, part of Southern forest tribes, in dense, wooded area known as the Big Thicket. Sam Houston, a staunch friend of Indians, was influential in having reservation created in 1850s. The Big Thicket Bus Tour allows access into one of the most beautiful forests in the state. This 45-minute tour shows visitors different species of trees, plants and native wildlife. Learn the history and cultures of this colorful Indian tribe on a 25-minute Indian Country Bus Tour. There is also a Living Indian Village walking tour which illustrates the early life of the tribes with crafts, food, and weapons. Colorful dances in the Tribal Dance Square features dancers in full regalia performing a 25-minute show of traditional dances. One of the most popular attractions is the Indian Chief Train Ride, a 20-minute excursion in the Big Thicket National Preserve. Gift shop and Inn of the Twelve Clans Restaurant also available. Scenic camping areas, fishing lake, swimming. June - Aug. open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 12:30 - 6 p.m. (Mar. - May & Sept. - Nov. open weekends.) Closed entirely Dec. - Feb. Tour fee. For information, call 1-800-444-3507 or visit the Web site at [www.livingston.net/chamber/actribe](http://www.livingston.net/chamber/actribe).

**Jonas Davis Cabin**—Historic log cabin relocated downtown. Open Sat., July - Sept. 530 W. Church St.

**Lake**—Livingston. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Livingston State Park**—640 acres on the east shoreline of Lake Livingston in pine and hardwood forest. Facilities include multiuse campsites with hookups, screened shelters, group trailer sites and shelter, boat ramps, bait-house store, gas and floating docks, rest rooms, showers, and dump station. Visitors enjoy boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, hiking, and nature trails. About 7 miles southwest of Livingston; U.S. 59 via F.M. 1988 southwest; F.M. 3126 north to Park Rd. 65. Admission.

**Polk County Museum**—Historical items including Early American glassware, Indian artifacts, tools and relics of early settlers, early logging and sawmill town photo exhibit, Civil War weapons collection, textiles and archives. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 514 West Mill St.

## LONGVIEW

Pop. 73,344

Alt. 339

Map K-22

**General**—Seat of Gregg County, settled early 1800s. Rapid development by planters from the Old South after 1850. Founded on 100 acres purchased by the Southern Pacific Railroad for one gold dollar (\$1) and named by railroad surveyors impressed by long-distance view from the top of Rock Hill. Discovery of oil in 1930s more than tripled population of 6,000. Today city is dynamic industrial center claiming over 200 manufacturing firms. Home of LeTourneau University.

For information on dining, accommodations, events, and area attractions, stop by the Longview Convention & Visitors Bureau at 410 N. Center St. or call 903/753-3281.

**Cargill Long Park**—Two-and-one-half mile walking, jogging, and bike trail flanked by towering pines and native flora. Signed exercise stations; benches, picnic tables, playground; handicapped access. Open daily 6 a.m. - 11 p.m., on Hollybrook Street one block west of U.S. 259; northeast edge of city south of Loop 281.

**Heritage Plaza**—Built on the site of the Greg Hotel (1929), the second hotel to be owned and operated by Conrad Hilton. This historic park in the city's downtown district portrays Longview's first 100 years on etched walls. It is used for community events and musical performances.

**Gregg County Historical Museum**—Exhibits devoted to local East Texas history, agriculture, communications, and military collections. Reproductions of early rooms; banker's office, parlor, kitchen, and interior of log cabin. Audiovisual historical program. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Housed in historical-marked 1910 bank building, 214 N. Fredonia. For information, call 903/753-5840. Admission.

**Lakes**—Caddo, Gladewater, Lake O' the Pines, and Martin Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Lone Star Speedway**—Sat. night races feature I.M.C.A. modifieds, dirt south late models, and hot stocks. A three-eighth mile, high bank clay oval



R. G. LeTourneau Museum photo

### R. G. LeTourneau Museum in Longview

track serves a challenging course for drivers. Races every Sat. night Mar. - Oct.; gates opens 6 p.m., racing starts 8 p.m. 1-20 at F.M. 2207. Tel. 903/984-3699. Admission.

**Longview Museum of Fine Arts**—Chartered in 1970, the museum houses a comprehensive collection of paintings, drawings, prints, photography and sculpture focusing on artists primarily in the Southwest, especially Texans. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. noon - 4 p.m. 215 E Tyler Street. Tel. 903/753-8103.

**Reo Palm Isle**—A Longview landmark which opened in 1937 as the Palm Isle Club. Operated during WWII by owner of Mattie's Ballroom, another popular Big Band club of the era. Features top country/Western entertainment year round. Open daily, except Mon. F.M. 1845 at Texas 31. 903/753-4440.

**R. G. LeTourneau Museum**—Houses many of famed industrialist's patents and business artifacts; some of his early earth-moving equipment on display. On LeTourneau University campus in R.G. LeTourneau Memorial Student Building, 2100 S. Mobberly Ave. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Campus tours also available; contact campus tour director, 903/233-3675.

## LUFKIN

Pop. 32,709

Alt. 328

Map M-22

**General**—Heart of East Texas Piney Woods region, home of vast lumber and wood-products industries; access to outdoor recreation in Angelina and Davy Crockett National Forests and huge Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Area produces more than a million board feet of saw timber annually and major volume of pulpwood, from short- and longleaf pines, cypress, hickory, oak, gum, and magnolia.

City parks offer picnicking and outdoor sports including golf, fishing, swimming, and tennis. Sites of historical interest are marked throughout city. Home of Angelina Junior College.

Contact Angelina County Chamber of Commerce at Loop 287 & Chestnut St. for complete details on city and area attractions. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri., 936/634-6644.

**Angelina National Forest**—Nearest entrance is 14 miles southeast on U.S. 69. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Davy Crockett National Forest**—Nearest entrance is about 11 miles west on Texas 94. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Ellen Trout Zoo and Park**—Fully accredited zoo shows a wide variety of animals and birds; known for its breeding programs for West African crowned crane and Louisiana pine snake. Open daily; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (till 6 p.m. summer). At 402 Zoo Circle off Loop 287 North. Admission. 936/633-0399.

**Lake**—Sam Rayburn. See LAKES listing. (Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and many local business firms can provide recreational maps of reservoir.)



Richard Stockton

**Museum of East Texas in Lufkin**

**Medford Collection of Western Art**—More than 50 paintings by contemporary artists including Joe Beeler, James Boren, Raymond Ryan, and Ross Stefan exhibited at city hall. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 300 E. Shepherd St.

**Museum of East Texas**—Housed in historic 1905 Episcopal Church. Changing exhibits in art, science and history. Permanent Rotary Gallery of Art features East Texas artists. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Second and Paul sts. 936/639-4434.

**Texas Forestry Museum**—Early logging machinery, sawmill town exhibit, wildland fire fighting equipment and fire tower, old railroad depot, antique railroad and sawmill steam engines. Also forest lands flora and fauna exhibits and a mini-Woodland Trail. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1905 Atkinson Dr. 936/632-9535.

**LUMBERTON**

Pop. 8,731

Alt. 85

Map P-23

**General**—Lumberton traces its beginnings to the arrival of the Gulf, Beaumont, and Kansas City Railroad to services the numerous sawmills and logging camps in southern Hardin County. Located within the boundary of the Big Thicket National Preserve, today the city thrives.

**Hardin County Visitor Center**—For additional information on accommodations, dining, and other visitor information, stop by the visitor center at 140 S. Main St., or call 409/755-0554. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Village Creek State Park**—Named for the 63-mile long creek that flows through the heart of the Big Thicket. Stream is renowned as a float stream, and several canoe outfitters in the area can arrange for a tour to float down the creek. The densely forested park includes softwood and hardwood trees, providing habitat to abundant wildlife. It's an excellent site for birding: some 64 species of birds have been seen during a one-day baseline survey. RV hookup sites, picnic sites, playground, hiking trails, tent campsites, group facilities, and shower/rest rooms are available. East side of city on Alma Drive. For information, 409/755-7322. For reservations call 512/389-8900.

**MARSHALL**

Pop. 23,935

Alt. 375

Map K-22

**General**—Settled 1839, became seat of Harrison County 1842. When Texas seceded from Union in 1861, city was one of biggest and wealthiest in the state. It produced saddles, harnesses, clothing, powder and ammunition for Confederacy. When Vicksburg fell, Marshall became seat of civil authority west of the Mississippi River, wartime capital of Missouri and headquarters of Trans-Mississippi Postal Department. Confederate Monument on courthouse lawn. Several historic homes offer bed and breakfast. Home of East Texas Baptist Univ., Texas State Technical College, and Wiley College.

The red and white clay in the area is perfect for stoneware. There are 12 wholesale pottery manufacturers and five retail outlets in the city.

Larry Becka

**Caddo Lake State Park**—See KARNACK.

**Ginocchio National Historic District**—Three square blocks in the heart of old downtown centering around the 1896 Ginocchio Hotel, one of the state's finest examples of Victorian hotel architecture with magnificent interior woodwork and decorative details. Early Texas notables lodged and dined here. Occasionally open. Washington St. at T&P depot.

Another feature of the historic district is the nearby Allen house, a typical example of early Texas architecture, circa 1877, with upper and lower verandas fronting the full length of the white frame house. 610 N. Washington St.

**Harrison County Historical Museum**—Remodeled former county courthouse. Exhibits depict history of Marshall and Harrison County, including Caddo Indian artifacts, pioneer and Civil War displays, George Foreman and Bill Moyers exhibits, Lady Bird Johnson display, and Y.A. Tittle exhibit. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. Admission.

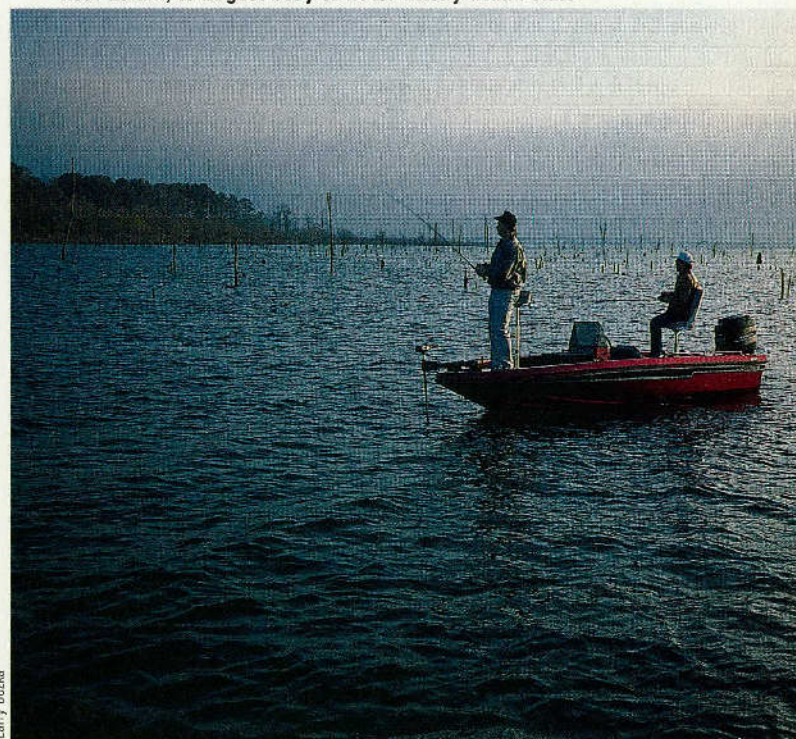
**Lakes**—Brandy Branch, Caddo, Lake O' the Pines. See LAKES listing.

**Marshall Depot and Museum**—Located in the heart of the Ginocchio National Historic District, the prominent Texas and Pacific Depot houses both a train depot and museum. Railroad memorabilia fill the exhibit area, as well as artifacts from the city. It is a place to learn the history of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. A model train makes its way around half a dozen Marshall landmarks built to scale by Wesley Jones, a local resident. There is also a gift shop. Amtrak's ticket counter and waiting area are included in the historic structure. At 800 N. Washington St. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. For information, 903/938-9495.

**Marshall Pottery & Museum**—Established in 1896, one of the largest manufacturers of glazed pottery in the U.S., producing millions of red clay pots and hand-turned stoneware pots yearly. Museum features history of the facility for the past 100 years, and shows pottery as an art form in video presentation that takes visitors through the entire process from digging clay to the finished piece. Other exhibits include antique pottery wheel and photographs from the pottery's beginning. At main showroom 2.5 miles SE of Marshall on F.M. 31, visitors see hundreds of kinds of decorative and utility pots, bowls, plaques and figurines. Regular demonstrations of pottery-making and firing; greenhouse. Old World Store sells pottery and related items. Also RV park with 18 sites with water and electricity; dump station. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 10 - 6 p.m. Rsvns accepted for camping. 903/938-9201.

**Michelson Art Museum**—Features the work of the late Russian American post impressionist, Leo Michelson. The Museum also displays the Gloria and Bernard Kronenberg Collection of early twentieth century artists such as Abraham Walkowitz, David Burliuk and Milton Avery; and the Ramona and

**Giant Lake Sam Rayburn, in heart of Angelina National Forest near Lufkin, is largest body of water wholly within state**





Michael Amador/ixDOT

**Starr Family State Historic Site in Marshall**

Jay Ward Collection of rare African Masks. Open Tues. - Fri. noon - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Closed Mon. and holidays. 216 N. Bolivar St. Admission.

**Starr Family State Historic Site**—Better known as Maplecroft, the name given when the house was built in 1870 by James F. Starr, son of Dr. James Harper Starr, early financier, Surgeon General of the Republic of Texas in 1837, Secretary of the Treasury for the Republic, Postmaster General of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi, and member of the first board of regents of the University of Texas. The family remained prominent in the state's political and economic scene through successive generations. The construction materials and furnishings of the home were shipped from New Orleans and reflect the Italianate style that was then popular there. Shipwrights were imported to do the construction and all the red heart pine was inspected by a lumber expert. Open Wed. - Mon. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.). 407 W. Travis St. 903/935-3044. Admission.

**Wonderland of Lights**—Held annually Thanksgiving - New Year's Day features millions of tiny white lights. This is one of the largest concerted holiday light shows in the nation. Hundreds of businesses outline buildings and adorn windows; entire neighborhoods decorate around central themes; more than 125,000 lights embellish festival's "jewel," the historic Courthouse Museum. Visitors from all 50 states and many foreign countries have viewed the extravaganza. For information, 903/935-7868.

**MINEOLA**

Pop. 4,550

Alt. 414

Map J/K-20

**General**—Town developed in southwestern Wood County when the Houston and Great Northern RR built through the area in 1871. Railroadman Ira H. Evans named the town for his daughter Ola and her friend, Minnie Patton, and approved by I. E. Ward, construction engineer and resident of Mineola, NY. The town became shipping and retail center in the middle 1840s. When the Texas and Pacific and Missouri, Kansas, and Texas RRs arrived, railroad shops opened and town became a railroad junction point.

Diversified industries and agriculture play a dominant role in today's economy.

Known as "gateway to East Texas pine country," city sponsors Holiday Motor Trails throughout the year beginning in spring when dogwood, blue-bonnets, and crimson clover bloom profusely over green carpeted meadows and on through autumn when hardwood leaves turn crimson, yellow and gold among the pines.

More than a dozen antique and craft shops await shoppers. For location and map check with chamber of commerce at 101 E. Broad St. 903/569-2087. Bed and breakfast facilities offered in historic buildings.

**Lakes**—Hawkins, Holbrook, Quitman, and Winnsboro. See LAKES listing. **Railroad Museum**—Railroad memorabilia housed in old depot on Front St. recall early days of Mineola. Exhibits document the cotton industry and shipping of bales of cotton on trains to markets. Nearby is restored caboose. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Kevin Stillman/ixDOT

**MOSCOW**

Pop. 170 (est.)

Alt. 310

Map N-22

**General**—The community on U.S. 59 south of Lufkin was established in 1846; serves lumbering and agricultural area of heavily forested Polk County.

**Woodland Trails**—**Bull Creek Trail** parallels a clear, spring-fed stream among large magnolia, white oak, maple, holly, dogwood and other forest species, all identified. Entrance to trail 8.5 miles west of Corrigan on U.S. 287. (Corrigan is 5 miles north of Moscow on U.S. 59.)

**Moscow Trail** meanders beside Long King Creek, named for an Indian chief. Two trail segments, 1.5 and 0.5 miles, explore an area of exceptionally tall pines and other forest growth. Entrance 1 mile south of city on U.S. 59.

**MOUNT PLEASANT**

Pop. 13,935

Alt. 416

Map H-21

**General**—Named from location on beautifully wooded hills. In early 1900s town attracted resort visitors to red mineral springs nearby. Today, commercial center for farming, livestock and oil. Home of Northeast Texas Community College, a three-county (Camp, Morris, Titus) college; rural campus is near Chappell Hill.

Mount Pleasant is a Texas Main Street City and has been named "One of the 100 Best Small Towns in America."

Visitors enjoy access to three nearby reservoirs famed for outstanding bass, crappie and catfish fishing: Lakes Bob Sandlin, Monticello and Welsh. In recent years, state records for largemouth bass have been set at two of the lakes; state and national bass tournaments held at the other. The Kountry Korner store at F.M. 127 & F.M. 2882 can verify large bass caught in nearby lakes with some 2,000 photographs displayed of bass caught weighing 7 lbs. or more.

**Hiking trail near Moscow**



Numerous antique shops and boutiques offer abundant shopping opportunities from home decorating to Western wear. Many feature restaurants and tearooms. Check with the chamber of commerce for details.

Although no comprehensive list of bluebird trails in Texas exist, there is a planned 150-mile trail stretching from Texarkana to Huntsville. Those little bird houses seen along the roads probably house bluebirds. A guided tour can be arranged; for information, check with the chamber of commerce.

For additional information on shopping, accommodations, and restaurants contact the Mt. Pleasant-Titus County Chamber of Commerce at 1604 N. Jefferson, 903/572-8567.

**Bob Sandlin State Park**—640-acre park offers full range of day use and overnight camping facilities, including picnic sites, screened shelters, trails, boat ramp and fishing pier. 12 miles south of Mount Pleasant on F.M. 127 and F.M. 21.

**Dellwood Park**—Twenty-five acres in wooded area where mineral springs resort once stood. Picnicking and playground area, tennis courts, swimming pool, tennis courts and picturesque small stream; off Texas 49 east.

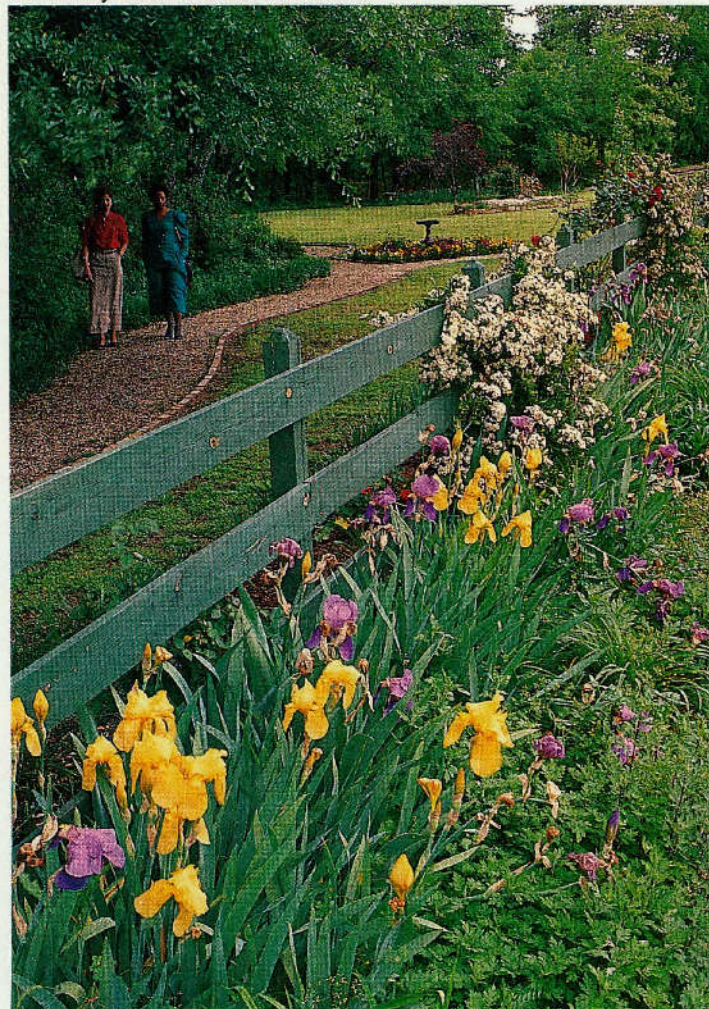
**Florey-Meriwether Home**—Built by W.H. Florey, developer of the Dellwood Resort Hotel, in 1912. The home is a double galleried Colonial Revival home. The Meriwethers, current residents, have furnished the historic house with family antiques. Open daily (advance notice required). Admission. 702 South Lide St. 903/572-8567.

**Lakes**—Bob Sandlin, Monticello and Welsh. See LAKES listing.

**Larry Lawrence Antique Cars and Parts**—Housed in building that resembles an antique gas station or automobile dealership. Visitors may find restored and vintage vehicles, plus antique gas pumps, vintage lighting, and other auto memorabilia. On I-30 east, Exit #165.

**Mount Pleasant Art Center/Gallery**—Housed in small church built in early 1900s, the center has two galleries with paintings in oils, watercolor, and pastels, as well as a collection of hand-painted china and pottery. Open Mon., Tues. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m. - noon. Approximately 3 1/2 miles north of I-30 on F.M. 1402.

Tankersley Gardens in Mount Pleasant



LOOKS LIKE TEXAS

**Mount Pleasant Historical Museum**—A collection of photographs from original pioneers of town; also Caddo Indian artifacts, old farm implements, and other items of interest. Open Mon. 1 - 6 p.m., Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 213 North Madison.

**Pleasant Jamboree**—Housed in former Martin Theater built in 1913 which at one time was only theater between Texarkana and Dallas. Photos of old theater to present time displayed in lobby. Each Saturday features live country/Western stage show with local and area entertainers. Performances begin at 8 p.m. At 112 W. Third St. For information, 903/572-2936.

**Tankersley Gardens**—A five-acre garden on Tankersley Creek consists of more than 100 species of plants. The garden includes walking paths, foot bridges, and sitting areas. Especially pretty in spring. Open Apr. 1st - Oct. 31st Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission. 1-30 at U.S. 271; .8 mi. west on Tankersley Rd. 903/572-0567.

**Titus County Park**—On the south shore of Lake Monticello, park offers boat-launching ramp, camping and picnic areas, electrical hookups and dump station. About 10 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant via F.M. 127 to town of Monticello; south on local road to the park and lake. Day use and camping fees.

**Whitley Center for the Performing Arts**—On campus of Northeast Texas Community College; features a 570-seat instructional theater. Performances and art exhibits vary through year. On campus in southeast part of city on F.M. 1735. Call for schedule, 903/572-1911.

## NACOGDOCHES

Pop. 29,914

Alt. 283

Map M-22

**General**—Site of Indian settlement for centuries before first European arrived; named for the Nacogdoche Indians. Area visited by La Salle expedition in 1687. Spanish mission founded in 1716. For more than a hundred years town was major eastern gateway to Texas. The city is often referred to as the "cradle of Texas liberty." The town offers visitors insight into the fight for Texas independence. While six flags have flown over Texas, nine flags, including those of three abortive republics flew over Nacogdoches. In 1832 the citizens of Nacogdoches fired the opening guns of the Texas Revolution when they attacked a Mexican garrison located in the center of town. Led by Adolphus Sterne, the local citizens successfully drove the Mexican troops out of East Texas. The encounter, known as the Battle of Nacogdoches, cleared the way for the Texas fight for independence.

Numerous landmarks and museums pay tribute to the town's historic past. The city is home to Stephen F. Austin State University.

**El Camino Real**—"The King's Highway," first blazed in 1691 by Domingo Teran de los Rios, first provincial governor of Texas. Often called "Old San Antonio Road" (OSR), route is virtually that of today's Texas 21.

**La Calle del Norte**—Spanish for "The Street of the North," currently North Street in Nacogdoches, believed to be oldest public thoroughfare in the U.S. Long before Spanish explorers discovered and named it, route connected the major Indian community of Nacogdoches with other Indian villages to the north.

**Lakes**—Nacogdoches, Sam Rayburn. See LAKES listing.

**Lanana Creek Trail**—Six-mile rustic trail through Pecan Acres Park along Lanana Creek. Scenic trail follows paths once traveled by Indians.

**Millard's Crossing**—A reconstructed historic village on 37 acres just north of the city depicts a broad sampling of East Texas architecture from the most simple log cabin to Victorian, all furnished with antiques. Tours Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 6020 North St. (U.S. 59 north). For information, call 936/564-6631. Admission.

**Oak Grove Cemetery**—Graves date from 1837. Several interesting monuments; four signers of Texas Declaration of Independence, including Thomas J. Rusk, buried here. On N. Lanana St. at Hospital St.

**Old Nacogdoches University**—Built 1858, modified Grecian structure was first nonsectarian university established during Republic of Texas. On Washington Square, campus of Thomas J. Rusk Middle School, building is museum featuring antique furniture, silver, other relics. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Mound and Hughes sts. 936/569-7292.

**Old North Church**—Believed to be oldest union church in Texas; several denominations worshiped here. First was Baptist service held under a tree on the site in 1835. Present "new" church built in 1852. Protestant services were unlawful in Texas during church's early days. North of city off U.S. 59 on old Highway 35.

**Old Stone Fort**—The museum is housed in a 1936 replica, built on a new site, of Don Antonio Gil Y'Barbo's stone house. Y'Barbo (also spelled Ibarvo), founder of Nacogdoches, built the stone house circa 1780 as the



## NEW LONDON

Pop. 987

Alt. 507

Map K-21

**General**—In 1855 with the westward expansion, a post office called London was established and served until 1876. Agriculture was the main source of income. In 1930, the discovery of oil a few miles from the community gave way to the growth of a boomtown, almost overnight. A new post office was established in 1931, but since there was another post office named London in Southwest Texas, New London was chosen. A tragic school explosion in 1937 killed almost 300 children and teachers. A cenotaph of Texas granite was erected in front of the new school in 1939 in tribute to those who lost their lives in the worst school disaster in U.S. history. Agriculture, cattle and oil-related business still form the economy.

**Lakes**—Tyler and Tyler East. See LAKES listing.

**London Museum and Tea Room**—Located across from the rebuilt school, this small museum recalls the horror of the 1937 school explosion that rocked the nation. Reminders from that day, including clothing, books, and photos, are displayed. A tearoom serves light lunches on weekdays. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call 903/895-4602. On Texas 42 across from school. Admission.

## NEWTON

Pop. 2,459

Alt. 190

Map N-23/24

**General**—Selected as site for new seat of Newton County in 1853. Today a commercial center for lumbering, livestock, oil and farming. Toledo Bend Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

Newton County is home to four birding sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail—Upper Texas Coast trail map. Birders often see the American swallow-tailed kite soaring over the Sabine River bottom.

For additional information on accommodations, events, and dining, contact the chamber of commerce at 409/379-5527, or visit the Web site at [www.newton.txnetwork.com](http://www.newton.txnetwork.com).

**Newton County History Center and Museum**—Museum houses the archives, archeology, history and artifacts of Newton County. It is also a genealogical library. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In the Howard Civic Center one block east of the courthouse at 105 Court at Houston St.

**Sylvan Nature Trail**—A Texas Forestry Association Woodlands Trail, the hiking path meanders through dogwood-filled area for about one-and-one-quarter miles. Many species of forest trees are identified by signs. Four miles southeast on U.S. 190 opposite highway roadside park.

**Wild Azalea Canyons Trail**—A pocket wilderness featuring growth of wild azaleas (most spectacular in March) and other native flowering plants. Scenic rock cliffs. Five miles north on Texas 87; 10 miles east on F.M. 1414 (not shown on most maps).

## PITTSBURG

Pop. 4,347

Alt. 398

Map J-21

**General**—Seat of Camp County, a heavily timbered area, also a commercial center for farming, poultry and livestock. Large peach production (one of top ten peach-producing counties in state), plus blueberries and blackberries, with some growers offering pick-your-own opportunities. Vintage grocery, hardware, and drug stores and antique shops.

For information on accommodations, restaurants, and events, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 202 Jefferson St. or call 903/856-3442.

**Ezekiel Airship**—In 1902 an inspired preacher-inventor built an airship based on description in Biblical book of Ezekiel. Said to have flown briefly, the machine was destroyed in a rail accident on way to St. Louis World's Fair, 1904. Historical marker at original building site, Pittsburg Foundry, Fulton St. Full-size replica of airship is displayed in the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center & Museum.

**Lake Bob Sandlin State Park**—See MOUNT PLEASANT.

**Lakes**—Bob Sandlin, Lake O' the Pines. See LAKES listing. Other area lakes include Welsh, Cypress Springs and Monticello. Trophy bass of 13 and 14 lbs. are not unusual. A 15 lb. 3 3/4 oz. giant was taken from Welsh in Dec. 1983.

**Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center & Museum**—Housed in old Cotton Belt Railroad depot. Exhibits include antique artifacts, photos and documents from 1854 when town established. Also Ezekiel Airship, antique farm equipment and other memorabilia. Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Train Depot on Marshall St. 903/856-0463.



Gay Stuckelmeier/TXDOT photos



Handsome antiques are features of the Sterne-Hoya home in Nacogdoches

formal portals to the Spanish District of Texas. The original site of the house, torn down in 1902, is at the corner of Fredonia and Main sts. downtown.

During its history, the original house served as a public building, grocery store, candy store, and saloon, and as a temporary fortification during the Magee-Gutierrez, Dr. James Long and Fredonia Rebellion filibusters. In 1936, the same stones were in turn used to build the present structure on the campus of Stephen F. Austin Univ. The important landmark contains a continuing exhibit on the history of the house and temporary exhibits. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. and holidays. Guided tours by reservation only. Tel. 936/468-2408 weekdays for more information.

**Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum**—Started in 1985, this was the first arboretum at a university in Texas. This on-campus garden spills over more than 10 acres and lies on a portion of the Lanana Creek Trail. Enjoy the wide diversity of plant life including rare trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, children's garden, and an azalea garden. Open daily dawn to dusk. Off Wilson Dr. on SFASU campus. Tel. 936/468-4404.

**Sterne-Hoya Home**—Built in 1830 by Adolphus Sterne, prominent merchant and Texas revolution leader. Sam Houston baptized into the Roman Catholic Church here, because Mexico required landholders to be Catholic. Guests in the home included Thomas J. Rusk and Davy Crockett. New Orleans Greys bivouacked here on their way to Goliad and the Alamo. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - noon; 2 - 5 p.m. 211 S. Lanana St., a block off E. Main St. (Texas 21). Tel. 936/560-5426.

**Visitor Information**—For more information on city accommodations, restaurants, and events, stop by the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau at 200 E. Main St. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Visit our Web site at [www.visitnacogdoches.org](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org), or call 888/564-7351.



LARRY BOBKA

Lake Fork, near Quitman, is a fisherman's paradise

**Witness Park and Prayer Tower**—A gift to the city from businessman Bo Pilgrim, the tower features four Paccard bells from France and a chapel that never closes. The 75-foot tower's chapel offers a quiet refuge for visitors. In the park is a gurgling fountain and a life-size bronze which shows Jesus washing the disciple Peter's feet. At the intersection of Jefferson and Lafayette sts.

**QUITMAN**

Pop. 2,030                      Alt. 414                      Map J-20

**General**—Seat of Wood County, commercial center for farming, livestock, oil, headquarters for electric co-op. James Stephen Hogg, one of the town's most famous citizens, published Quitman Daily News in 1873, was later justice of the peace, county attorney, state attorney general, and governor of Texas 1891-1895. Historical information available at chamber of commerce, 101 Main St., open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., or call 903/763-4411.

**Governor Hogg Shrine and State Park**—Historic site with buildings, museum and mementos related to the Hogg family, prominent in Texas history and politics. Miss Ima Hogg Museum displays memorabilia of Northeast Texas and family. Also on site is "honeymoon cottage" of her parents, James Stephen Hogg and Sarah Ann (Sallie) Hogg. Hogg was the first native-born governor of Texas. Here, too, is the Stinson House, restored home of the late Miss Ima's grandparents. An Old Settlers Tabernacle is available by reservation for family and other large gatherings. Old Settlers Nature Trail has 23 stops and four foot bridges along a half-mile trail. Picnic sites available. Open daily; historic buildings open Thurs. - Sun. for individual/group tours. All group tours must call for reservations. 518 Main St. (Texas 37). Fee for historic site tour. 903/763-2701.

**Lakes**—Fork, Holbrook, Quitman and Winnshoro. See LAKES listing.

**RUSK**

Pop. 5,085                      Alt. 489                      Map L-21

**General**—Although only one family was living here in 1846, site was chosen as seat of Cherokee County. Named after Thomas Jefferson Rusk, a signer of Texas Declaration of Independence. Town famed as birthplace of James Stephen Hogg and Thomas Mitchell Campbell who were first and second native-born Texans to serve as governor.

**Bonner Bank Building**—Cherokee County's first bank, established 1884, in 1865 building, Euclid St. and U.S. 69.

**Fairchild State Forest**—Thirteen miles west on U.S. 84. See STATE FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Footbridge Garden Park**—Wooded setting for 546-foot footbridge, said to be nation's longest, originally built 1861 for crossing valley during rainy season. Two blocks east of town square.

**Jim Hogg State Historical Park**—175-acre scenic forest area of lofty pines. Dedicated as memorial to Governor Hogg, attractions include restored birthplace, picnic areas, museum and family cemetery. Two mi. northeast off U.S. 84.

**Lakes**—Jacksonville and Striker. See LAKES listing.

**Old Rusk Penitentiary Bldg.**—Central administration building of present Rusk State Hospital built as main building of former Rusk State Prison, 1878. Iron structures, including dome of State Capitol, fabricated here by prisoners. Ave. A and U.S. 69. Historical marker gives details.

**Rusk State Park**—100-acre park around the Rusk terminal of Texas State Railroad. Group shelter, bathhouse, tennis courts, picnic area, primitive and hookup camping. In scenic area of towering pines 2 mi. west on U.S. 84; admission.

**Scenic Drive**—Several routes near Rusk offer excellent woodland scenery: U.S. 69 both north and south; also F.M. 347, F.M. 747 (neither shown on most maps) that lead north from U.S. 84 west.

**Texas State Railroad**—Operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, antique steam engines power vintage coaches 25 miles to Palestine in the nation's longest, skinniest state park through dense East Texas forestlands. Operates weekends Mar. - May, then daily except Mon. - Wed. through first of Aug. and weekends through Oct. Reservations recommended. (In Texas call toll-free 1-800-442-8951, or 903/683-5126.) Fee for train ride. Depot is in Rusk State Park. Also see PALESTINE.

**SAN AUGUSTINE**

Pop. 2,475                      Alt. 304                      Map M-23

**General**—Known as "The Cradle of Texas," history walks the streets here. Located on historic "El Camino Real" (the Royal Highway, now Texas 21 in this area). Sam Houston walked here; Davy Crockett was feted on his way to the Alamo; and J. Pinckney Henderson, Texas' first governor, lived here when San Augustine was the eastern gateway to Texas. Several church congregations lay claim as Texas' oldest: Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist (24 miles east, five miles north of Milam). All features are too numerous to list here, but chamber of commerce can provide details and directions for drive-by views of many sites. Chamber open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 611 W. Columbia St.

**Angelina National Forest**—Nearest entrance about 11 miles south on Texas 147. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

Footbridge Garden Park in Rusk



Stan A. Williams/TK00T



John Williams/TXDOT

**Ezekiel W. Cullen House in San Augustine**

**El Camino Real**—Spanish for the Royal Highway, also called Old San Antonio Road, the first “interstate” (actually international) highway system in North America. In this area Texas 21 follows the old route laid out about 1690 from St. Augustine, FL, to San Antonio and Mexico City.

**Ezekiel W. Cullen Home**—An early judge of the First District Court of Texas, Cullen lived in this large house of Greek Revival style, the entire upper floor a ballroom. The 1839 structure is open Mon. - Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., at Congress and Market sts.

**Lakes**—Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend. See LAKES listing.

**Mission Señora de los Dolores de los Ais**—Also known as Dolores Mission, was established 1716 by the Domingo Ramon expedition. Abandoned due to French invasion in 1719; restored in 1721 and became headquarters for Zacatecan missions in East Texas. Abandoned 1773 when Spanish evacuated all East Texas missions. Until recently, only historical markers identified the site. Today, a city park marks the location of the historic mission complete with RV campsites, tent camping, group shelters and walking trails. There is also a visitor center, an archaeological laboratory and an archival research library. The parkland stretches along both sides of Texas 147, four blocks south of the courthouse.

**Old Town Well**—Dug to a depth of 27 feet by slave labor in 1860, supplied citizens as well as travelers on *El Camino Real* (The Royal Highway).

Restored, complete with sweetgum roller, hand-wrought iron handle and oaken bucket, located in Stripling Drug Building.

**Sabine National Forest**—Nearest entrance about five miles east on F.M. 353. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

## SARATOGA

**Pop. 1,000 (est.)**      **Alt. 83**      **Map P-22**

**General**—Settled a decade before the Civil War in Hardin County northwest of Beaumont; named after Saratoga, N.Y., because of medicinal springs. Health resort fell into disuse after discovery of oil in 1901. Currently a small retail center in heart of the Big Thicket.

**Big Thicket Museum**—Backwoods memorabilia from butter molds to logging tools, pioneer artifacts and documents, 19th-Century log cabin, interpretive material on Big Thicket flora and fauna. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Small group tours, environmental education school programs and guided canoe trips on Village Creek by advance arrangements (409/274-5000). Admission.

## SILSBEE

**Pop. 6,393**      **Alt. 85**      **Map P-23**

**General**—Established 1894 by John Henry Kirby as sawmill town; today home of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation. Largest city and principal commercial center in Hardin County.

The Silsbee Little Theater is one of best-known amateur theaters in South-east Texas. Excellent city parks include tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas and playgrounds. Excellent hunting and fishing in immediate area.

For additional visitor information on accommodations, dining, and events, call the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce at 409/385-5562.

**Big Thicket**—Silsbee is located in the Big Thicket National Preserve. For more information, contact the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce.

**Big Thicket Canoe Trips**—Located on Village Creek in the heart of the “Big Thicket,” you can take a short trip of three to four hours, or two to three days in this national preserve. For information, call 800/814-7390. Reservations recommended. At 1430 U.S. 96 South. For reservations, call 409/385-6241.

**Icehouse Museum and Multi-Cultural Center**—Museum features memorabilia of Hardin County and city. In historic building that was once an ice plant, the museum also features shows by local artists and a gift shop. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. At 418 Ernest St. For information, call 409/385-2444.

**Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary**—A Texas Nature Conservancy Preserve of 2,138 acres. Exhibits a curious intermingling of various forest and wetland communities. Of special interest is arid sandy lands where desert plants such as prickly pear cactus and yucca are found with longleaf pines and drought-resistant oak. Rare orchids and carnivorous plants grow here among acid-loving ferns and sphagnum moss.

Village Creek flows eight miles through Sanctuary providing an enjoyable canoeing experience. Contact preserve manager for information on canoe trail. Sandylands Nature Trail open daily 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. 4 miles west on Texas 327. 409/385-4135.

**Village Creek State Park**—See Lumberton.

## TATUM

**Pop. 1,175**      **Alt. 385**      **Map K-22**

**General**—Established 1885 when Santa Fe Railroad built through; townsite donated by Tatum family settlers in area. Town was on earlier Trammel’s Trace, prominent foot and horseback trail from Conway, AR, to Nacogdoches. Current trade center for lumber, farm, and dairy enterprises. Excellent fishing in nearby lakes and streams; also woodlands hunting.

**Lake**—Martin Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Martin Creek Lake State Park**—On Martin Creek Lake with camping, rest rooms, showers and boat-launching ramp. Activities include fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, and nature trails in scenic woodlands. Texas 43 southwest, F.M. 1716. Admission.

## TEXARKANA

**Pop. 34,782**      **Alt. 325**      **Map H-23**

**General**—Commercially and culturally one city, but two separate municipalities, one in Texas, one in Arkansas. Federal Building is only one of its kind in America. Photo island on State Line Ave. in front of post office is popular photo spot; tourists can stand with one foot in Texas, one in Arkansas.

**Texas State Railroad terminal near Rusk**



Stan A. Williams/TXDOT

Nation's only bistate Justice Center serves two states at State Line Ave. and Broad St. Center houses courts and jail for two states, two counties and two cities. Like the Post Office, Justice Center built squarely on the Arkansas-Texas line.

Home of Texarkana Community College and Texas A&M Univ. - Texarkana.

A Scott Joplin mural, at Third & Main sts. downtown, colorfully depicts the life and accomplishments of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical pioneer from Texarkana. In first two decades of 20th Century, Texarkana's Joplin was America's "King of Ragtime." Joplin's works have been recently rediscovered; best known as composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," his music was utilized as theme in movie, "The Sting."

For bed and breakfast information, call Book-A-Bed-Ahead at 903/665-3956.

**Ace of Clubs House**—Legend says James Draughn won a huge pot in poker game by playing the ace of clubs. House is built in shape of that card. Elegant 1885 Italianate-Victorian house is furnished as living museum. Extensive restoration uncovered original wall coverings which have been reproduced. Mahogany treatment on paneling, embellished with gold leaf. Period furnishings. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 420 Pine St. Admission. 903/793-4831.

**Crystal Springs Beach**—Family-oriented theme park centered around 12-acre spring-fed lake. Facilities include two water slides and paddle boats, trolley cable ride, sand volleyball, pavilion, and shallow water area for small children. Concession, video arcade and three-acre picnic area. Open Tues. - Sun. and on holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. 18 miles west on U.S. 67. General admission. 903/585-5246.

**Discovery Place, The**—Rotating displays geared for children, but adults enjoy, too! Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 215 Pine St. For information, call 903/793-4831. Admission.

**Lake**—Wright Patman. See LAKES listing.

**Oaklawn Opry**—Good old family entertainment every Sat. night specializing in new and old country/Western music. Doors open at 6:30, show starts 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 903/838-3333. In Oaklawn Village at intersection of Robison Rd. and New Boston Rd.

**Perot Theatre**—1,600-seat neo-Renaissance theater elegantly restored to its original royal blue and gilt splendor with gleaming chandeliers and mirrored checkerboard marble lobby. Features drama, chamber music, ballet and musical theater. For information, call 903/792-4992. Box office open Tues. - Fri., 1 - 5 p.m. Third and Main sts.

**Regional Arts Center**—Housed in former U.S. District Courthouse built in 1909 featuring ornate plaster, copper cage elevator, and 26-ft. ceiling in grand hall. Serves as focal point for the visual arts including national touring, juried and invitational exhibitions. Open Tues. - Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At Fourth St. & Texas Blvd. downtown. 903/792-8681.

**Texas Travel Information Center on I-30 at Texarkana**



J. Griffith Smith/TxDOT

**Ace of Clubs House in Texarkana**

**Texarkana Fun Park**—Go-carts and miniature golf share grounds with life-sized replicas of wildlife animals. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 10:30 p.m. Located 3 miles north of I-30 on North State Line Rd.

**Texarkana Historical Society and Museum**—Archaeological, pioneer, early medical, and farm tool displays; Caddo Indian artifacts; period parlor, kitchen and office. Housed in first brick structure (1879) in city. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 219 State Line Ave. Admission.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of 12 centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in the State Capitol complex, in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed professional counselors, free services include information, maps, literature about every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. On I-30 west of U.S. 59; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**TYLER**

Pop. 83,650

Alt. 558

Map K-21

**General**—Chartered 1847, named for President John Tyler. Diversified economy based on oil, manufacturing and agriculture. A famous product is the Tyler rosebush. Site of Texas College, Univ. of Texas at Tyler, and Tyler Junior College, home of "Apache Belles," famous precision dance-drill team. Azalea and Spring Flower Trail in late March and early April. Features eight mile driving and walking tours featuring a variety of spring flowers. Events include a historic homes tour, fun run, quilt show, arts & crafts and much more. 800/235-5712.

East Texas Fair, six days late Sept. draws thousands of visitors. Outstanding livestock event, large variety of beef and dairy cattle, ponies, swine, sheep, industrial displays and midway attractions.

Texas Rose Festival, the third week in Oct., attracts thousands to the floral gala. Includes queen's coronation, rose show, parade and tours to rose nurseries. Most events at Municipal Rose Garden. Admission to some events. 903/597-3130.

For additional information, call the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau at 903/592-1661, or 1-800-235-5712. Visit the Internet site at [www.tylertexas.com](http://www.tylertexas.com).

**Brookshire's World of Wildlife Museum and Country Store**—Features more than 250 specimens of animals, reptiles, and fish from Africa and North America. The Country Store depicts what grocery stores were like

San A. Williams/TxDOT

in 1928 with products and fixtures common in early part of century. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed major holidays. For groups of 15 or more, call two weeks in advance, 903/534-2169. At 1600 W.S.W. Loop 323 & Old Jacksonville Hwy.

**Caldwell Zoo**—Started in 1938 as backyard menagerie; now a free 85-acre zoo with elephant and giraffe houses, monkey island, birds, bears, alligators, aquarium; South America, East Africa, North America and native Texas exhibit, and even a cow (milking hours posted). Designed especially for enjoyment of children. Petting zoo. Open daily; Apr. - Sept. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Oct. - Mar. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 2203 Martin Luther King Dr.

**Camp Ford**—At its zenith in spring of 1864, Camp Ford stockade contained some 6,000 Union troops—largest prisoner of war compound west of the Mississippi. A historical marker, and walking trails located on U.S. 271 two miles northeast, provides details.

**Discovery Science Place, The**—Hands-on children's learning center featuring exhibits illustrating science concepts. Fun for the entire family! Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 308 N. Broadway St. For information, call 903/533-8011, or visit the Web site at [www.discovery.tyler.com](http://www.discovery.tyler.com). Admission.

**Goodman-LeGrand Home**—Built 1859 by Gallatin Smith, wealthy young Tyler bachelor and Confederate officer. The stately colonial mansion is now city museum housing artifacts of antebellum years, 18th-Century dental and medical tools, medicines, antique dressers and period furniture. Open Mar. - Oct. Wed. - Sun., 1 - 5 p.m.; Nov. - Feb., Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. 624 N. Broadway.

**Hudnall Planetarium**—At Tyler Junior College, planetarium is one of Texas' largest. Among exhibits are replicas of exploratory space vehicles. Campus east of downtown just off Texas 64.

**Lakes**—Palestine, Tyler and Tyler East. See LAKES listing.

**Municipal Rose Garden & Museum**—22-acre garden is nation's largest rose showcase, featuring 38,000 rose bushes representing nearly 500 varieties. Roses are at their floral peak May - Nov. Commercial growers around Tyler ship hundreds of thousands of bushes to nurseries throughout the nation and to 25 foreign countries. Open daily. W. Front St.

Tyler Rose museum features educational exhibits of the rose-growing industry and displays former Rose Festival memorabilia, including queens' dresses. Museum open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closed holidays. 420 South Rose Parkway in Rose Garden Center. 903/597-3130.

**Smith County Historical Museum**—In old library building, exhibits feature artifacts reflecting Tyler's historic, social and economic culture. Displays feature Indian, Republic of Texas, Civil War and 20th-Century eras. Open Tues. - Sun., 1 - 5 p.m. 125 S. College St.

**Goodman-LeGrand Home in Tyler**



Michael Amador/TXDOT



**Municipal Rose Garden and Museum in Tyler**

**Tyler Museum of Art**—Changing displays focus on special artist or collection. Modern museum building adjacent to Tyler Junior College campus. Open Sept. - Jun. Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1300 S. Mahon Ave.

**Tyler State Park**—994-acre scenic playground is in one of finest forested sections of Texas. Facilities include camping, picnicking, nature trail, screened shelters, rest rooms and showers, snack bar, fishing, swimming, and boats. Ten miles north via F.M. 14, Park Road 16. Admission.

**UNCERTAIN**

Pop. 150

Alt. 195

Map J-23

**General**—Town evolved from fishing camps and resort operators around scenic Caddo Lake in Harrison County and incorporated in 1961. The site is near Uncertain Landing, so named because steamboat captains in earlier days often had trouble mooring their vessels. It was also the site of an old hunting, fishing, and boating society called the Uncertain Club, which existed in the early 1900s. Today, the town still relies on the lake's tourism attractions for its

Stan A. Williams/TXDOT

livelihood. The town limits are irregular in shape to include most of the resort areas along the shores of Caddo Lake.

Several antique shops and a art gallery are located around the lake, as are fishing guides. Bed and breakfast accommodations available.

**Caddo Canoe Rentals & Boat Tours**—Enjoy scenic tours of Big Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake. Daily tours and canoe rentals; closed Wed. For information and reservations, call 903/679-3743.

**Caddo Lake State Park**—480 acres beside Caddo Lake; an area once occupied by Caddo Indians, a tribe quite advanced in civilization. Camping areas, trailer sites, cabins, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature trails and interpretive center. West of town on F.M. 2198 on Caddo Lake. Admission.

**Caddo Lake Steamboat Company**—Ply the waters of Caddo Lake aboard the *Graceful Ghost* steamboat. It's a replica of an 1890s paddle wheel riverboat, like those that once steamed into this part of Texas. Quiet, relaxing, romantic. Daily one-and-one-half hour tours late-Mar. - Nov.; (closed winter months). Reservations recommended. For information, call 903/789-3978 or 1-888-325-5459. Boat departs from Taylor Island off Bois d'Arc Lane. Admission. Web site [www.caddolake.com](http://www.caddolake.com) or e-mail [artboat@shreve.net](mailto:artboat@shreve.net).

**Cypress Canoe Tours**—Marked boat roads, free canoeing lessons, and detailed trail maps allow you to set your own pace through this primeval wonderland lined with majestic cypress trees covered with Spanish moss. Tours depart Pine Needle Lodge at east end of F.M. 805. Open year round. For information, call 903/665-2911. Tours with guides must make prior arrangements. Admission.

**Lake**—Caddo. See Lakes listing.

## WASKOM

Pop. 2,068

Alt. 371

Map K-23

**General**—Established 1850, originally known as Powellton. Name changed to Waskom Station in 1872 to honor man who was instrumental in bringing Southern Pacific Railroad through community. Waskom Gas Field discovered in 1924.

Be sure to check out the New Waskom Cafe, Holly Berry Restaurant and Tea Room, and the Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Shop. All conveniently on U.S. 80 in the heart of the town.

**T. C. Lindsey & Co.**—Part old-fashioned general store, part museum, this establishment offers a wide variety of merchandise as well as nostalgia. Store has been used in several Disney films. Open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. On F.M. 134, west 3 miles.

**Texas Travel information Center**—One of the centers provided by state at key highway entrances to Texas, in the State Capitol complex, the lower Rio Grande Valley, and at Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. throughout the year, except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors, services free to all visitors include information, maps, literature on every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes.

The "Graceful Ghost" steamboat, at Caddo Lake in Uncertain



At Texas-Louisiana state line on I-20; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

## WECHES

Pop. 26 (est.)

Alt. 450

Map M-21

**General**—A rural community first settled before 1847. Originally called Neches, the citizens chose Weches when a post office application revealed the first name was already in use. A Spanish mission had been established 150 years earlier at large Tejas Indian village nearby. The town on Texas 21 west of Nacogdoches is within boundary of Davy Crockett National Forest. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Mission Tejas State Historic Park**—Landmark structure in 363-acre state park commemorates Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, first Spanish mission in East Texas, built in 1690 to stem tide of French settlement, but was not successful and closed in 1693. Reestablished in 1716, the mission was never prosperous, and with the French threat gone, the mission moved to San Antonio in 1731.

Also in the park is Rice family log home-stagecoach inn, one of many originally along *El Camino Real* (the Royal Highway). Started as a one-room building in 1828, hostile Indians forced abandonment for two years, but Joseph Redmond Rice Sr. returned and built this substantial way station. Camping, picnicking, hiking and nature study. Park is just southwest of Weches off Texas 21 (about 21 mi. northeast of Crockett). Admission.

## WINNSBORO

Pop. 3,584

Alt. 533

Map J-21

**General**—Founded in 1854 as a trade center at intersection of two main roads, and first known as Crossroads. Now situated between two major highways (I-20 and I-30). Name changed to honor early settler, John E. Wynn. Spelling was supposedly changed by a newspaper editor in the 1870s because of a shortage of "y's" in his type. Center of scenic area popular with photographers in any season. Recreational opportunities on nearby lakes; hunting and camping. One of Texas' best known salutes to fall foliage is Winnsboro's Autumn Trails, held every weekend in Oct. Sightseers from throughout the state enjoy specifically mapped routes of East Texas forest land and a variety of special events.

**Lake**—Bob Sandlin, Cypress Springs, Fork, Monticello, and Winnsboro. See LAKES listing.

## THE WOODLANDS

Pop. 55,649

Alt. 98

Map P-21

**General**—The Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation instigated this planned community in 1972, and in 1974, the first homes were ready for purchase. Growth of the community spurred by the tremendous growth of nearby



Stacy A. Williams/TXDOT

**Texas Travel Information Center at Waskom**

Houston. Today, approximately one quarter of the 27,000 acres is designated for use as greenbelts, parks and protected reserves to help retain the natural beauty of the forest. Ninety miles of hike and bike trails; 70 parks, including a 200-acre lake complete with a dragon.

For additional information on accommodations, dining, or events, call the Greater Montgomery County Convention & Visitor Bureau at 1-800-207-9463, or visit the Web site at [www.montgomerycounty.com](http://www.montgomerycounty.com).

**Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The**—This 13,000-seat outdoor performing arts center, surrounded by lush, green forest, hosts some of Texas' best live performances. Events range from classical to contemporary with performances held Apr. - Oct. From Houston, I-45 north, exit either on Woodlands Parkway or Lake Woodlands Dr. Follow signs to Pavilion parking. For information, call 281/363-3300 or visit the Web site at <http://pavilion.woodlandscenter.org>.

**Lakes**—Conroe and Houston. See LAKES listing.  
**Southern Empress Paddleboat**—See CONROE.

**WOODVILLE**

Pop. 2,415                      Alt. 232                      Map O-22

**General**—A commercial center for lumbering and forest products; seat of Tyler County, an area more than 90 percent forested. Named for George T. Wood, second governor of Texas.

**Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation**—Home of Alabama and Coushatta Indians, part of Southern forest tribes, in dense, wooded area known as the Big Thicket. Sam Houston, a staunch friend of Indians, was influential in having reservation created in 1850s. The Big Thicket Bus Tour allows you into one of the most beautiful forests in the state. This 45-minute tour shows visitors different species of trees, plants and native wildlife. Learn the history and cultures of this colorful Indian tribe on a 25-minute Indian Country Bus Tour. There is also a Living Indian Village walking tour which has demonstrations of the early life of the tribes with crafts, food, and weapons. Colorful dances in the Tribal Dance Square features dancers in full regalia performing a 25-minute show of traditional dances. One of the most popular attractions is the Indian Chief Train Ride, a 20-minute excursion in the Big Thicket National Preserve. Gift Shop and Inn of the Twelve Clans Restaurant also available. Scenic camping areas, fishing lake, swimming, June - Aug. open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 12:30 - 6 p.m. (Mar. - May & Sept. - Nov. open weekends.) Closed entirely Dec. - Feb. Tour fee. For information, call 1-800-444-3507 or visit the Web site at [www.livingston.net/chamber/actribe](http://www.livingston.net/chamber/actribe).

**Big Thicket National Preserve**—Some 97,000 acres of dense woods, swamps and streams administered by National Park Service as biological preserves in several units; each unit an ecological pocket of birds, animals and rare plant life. Nature and canoe trails under development, along with primitive camping areas. Inquire locally for directions, or visit the Big Thicket Information Station near Kountze.

**Heritage Village Museum**—Texas' past preserved in unusual setting created by ceramist Clyde E. Gray, honored by the Texas Heritage Society for his efforts in historical preservation. Open-air display features old buildings, shops, homes and vehicles, plus pictures, historical documents, maps and pictorial records of everyday life from pioneer days through the Roaring Twenties. Among the buildings is a log cabin built in 1866 and in continuous use through 1960. Restored to original condition, cabin has handmade pegged windows and wooden door hinges greased with washers of bacon rind. Housed in an ancient schoolhouse, the Pickett House restaurant serves family-style meals daily in summer 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (winter, weekdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.) Village open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. One mile west of Woodville on U.S. 190. Admission.

**Kirby State Forest**—14 miles south on U.S. 287. See STATE FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Lakes**—B.A. Steinhagen, Livingston, Sam Rayburn, and Toledo Bend. See LAKES listing.

**Martin Dies Jr. State Park**—See JASPER.

**Shivers Library and Museum**—Former Texas Governor and Mrs. Allan Shivers made a gift of this restored Victorian home to the people of Woodville. Among handsome furnishings is carpeting from France. Mementos and historical documents of Shivers administration also are on display. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. 6 p.m.); Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 302 N. Charlton. Admission.

**ZAVALLA**

Pop. 647                      Alt. 228                      Map N-22

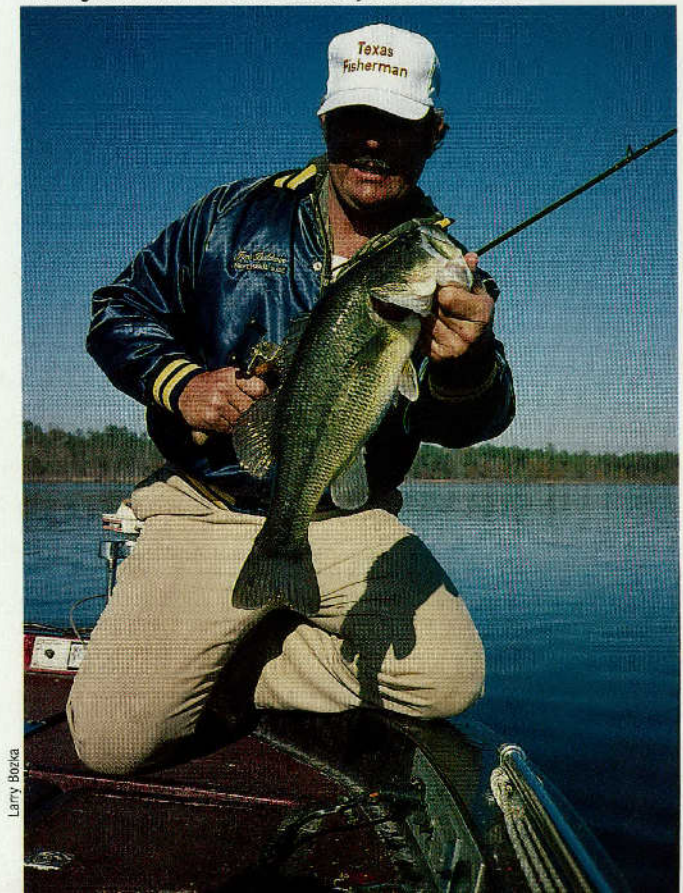
**General**—Community was established in 1900 when the Texas and New Orleans railroad arrived. It became a rail shipping point for wood products. Farming and livestock raising also contributed to the early economy. In Angelina National Forest, town is a gateway to recreation areas on Lake Sam Rayburn.

**Angelina National Forest**—Town is within the forest boundary. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

**Cassells/Boykin State Park**—265-acre recreation area on Lake Sam Rayburn. Boat ramp, fishing, swimming, picnicking, camping and dump station. Access 7 miles northeast via Texas 147, F.M. 3123. Fees.

**Lake**—Sam Rayburn. See LAKES listing.

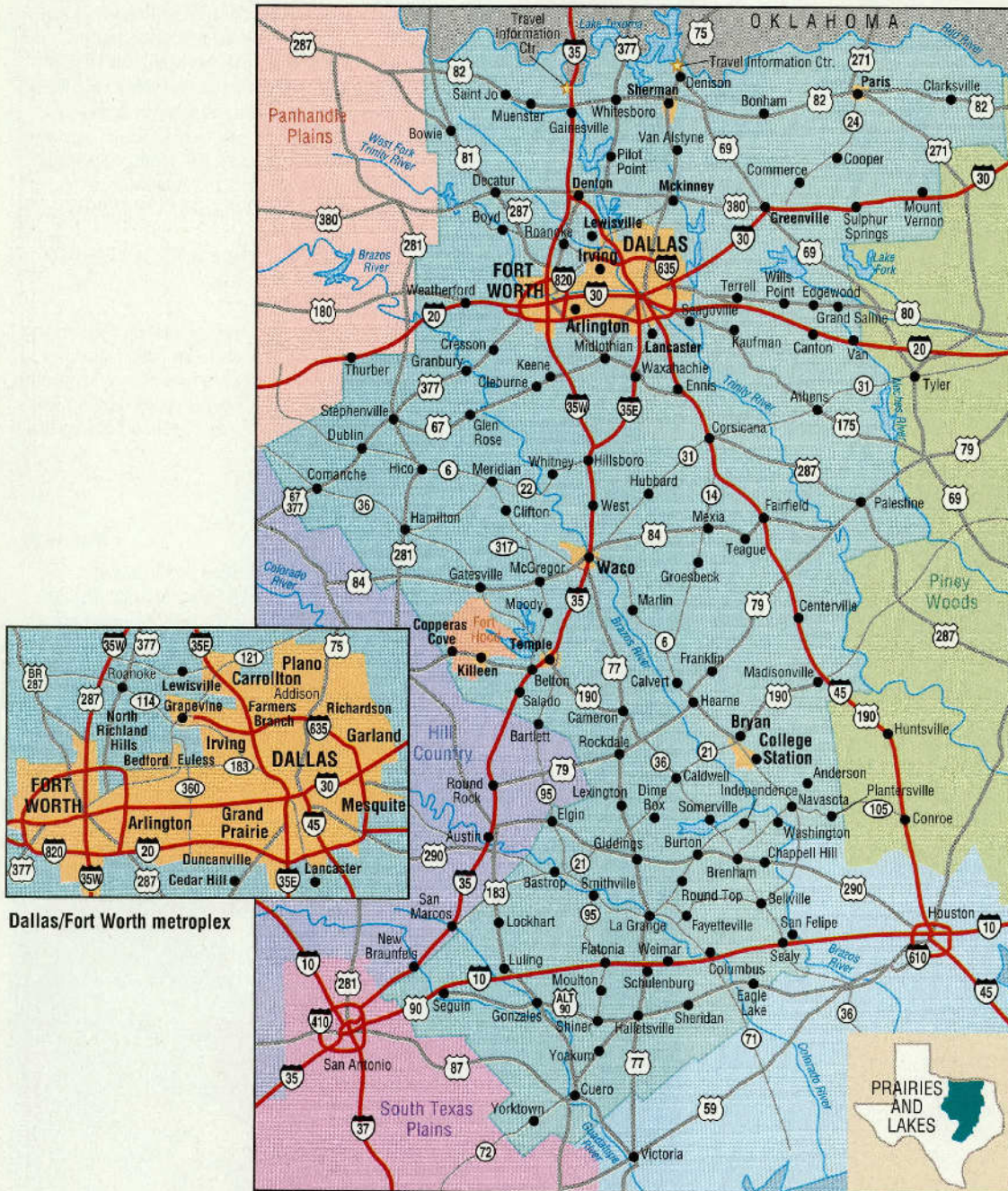
**Fishing is fantastic on Lake Sam Rayburn near Zavalla**



Larry Boxka



# PRAIRIES AND LAKES



Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex

**P**rairies and Lakes.” Does that title really tell the tale? Well, yes—and no. Prairies and Lakes paints merely the pastoral brush strokes in this region’s richly textured panorama. The full picture emerges only when you add the dynamic cities, charming communities, and colorful history that enliven this attraction-packed section of Texas.

True, this region that dips south from the Red River through the heart of the state boasts a liberal sprinkling of prairies and farmlands. Yes, it harbors some 50 popular lakes and reservoirs. But it also encompasses the energizing daisy-chain of cities and communities known as the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, along with an abundance of other thriving towns and intriguing historical sites as well.

In this distinctive area of Texas, the state’s East meets its West, and its North synchronizes with its South. All come together in a lavish tapestry of attractions, sites, events, and activities. Major museums, renowned restaurants,

exciting amusement parks, and fun events can fill your calendar for a week or a month.

If you seek the art world’s masterwork paintings and sculptures, you will find a profusion here. If attending a superb symphony orchestra’s performance or a superstar’s concert is your heart’s desire, you can have that, too, and in settings that amplify your listening pleasure.

Do your trip plans center more on the sports arena? You have but to decide which sport you most want to watch or play. Professional football, basketball, baseball, hockey, and soccer thrive in the Metroplex, while college



sports flourish in several cities throughout the region. NASCAR and Indy-style racing bring their VA-ROOOMM to the Texas Motor Speedway. Golfers—champion and otherwise—tackle numerous challenging courses, such as those at Irving's Las Colinas, while water sports of all types lure you to massive reservoirs and picturesque lakes.

Superb shopping venues abound here as well. Whether you frequent the sophisticated salons of Neiman-Marcus or the grab-bag booths of gigantic flea markets, you might just find the buy of a lifetime.

Something to tempt your taste-buds? How about the savory sausages of Elgin...a delectable creamy cheesecake from Athens...chewy, nut-filled fruit-cakes from Corsicana, Greenville, and Palestine...yeasty, yummy kolaches from Caldwell, Flatonia, and West...and scrumptious Blue Bell ice cream from Brenham? What a feast!

The Prairies and Lakes region offers all these treats and so much more. Let's sample just a sliver of this tasty slice of Texas.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

## THE METROPLEX AND THE NORTH

Dallas and Fort Worth anchor this teeming section of the state with exuberant flair. Each city displays characteristics decidedly its own. Dallas presents an urbane, bustling demeanor, while Fort Worth tips its Stetson to its Western heritage and a more casual ambience. Separately, these metropolitan centers offer a full slate of interesting sites for the visitor. Together, and combined with their close-knit neighbors, they absolutely overflow with things to see and experience.

In Dallas, you can opt for fascinating nights on the town at spots like West End MarketPlace, McKinney Avenue, and Deep Ellum and then spend your days golfing, shopping, and touring fascinating museums.

Dallas museums cover a mind-boggling variety of subjects that will absorb you for days. You can explore the diminutive world of the American Museum of the Miniature Arts, "think pink," at the Mary Kay Museum, soar with the *Hindenburg* at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, and come back quickly to earth with a sobering look at The Sixth Floor, where exhibits detail the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

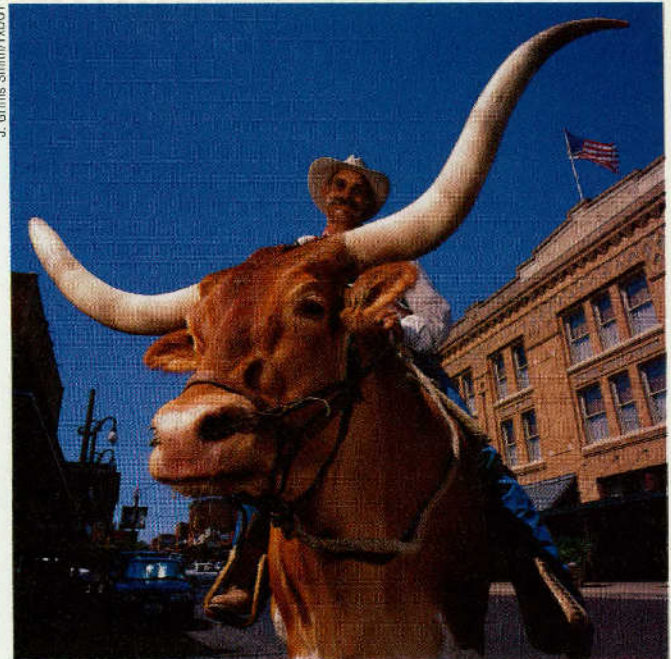
Historical sites include Old City Park, where more than three dozen structures represent the city's lifestyles from 1840 to 1910, and the Wilson Historic District, an area of restored buildings that evoke the Victorian era.

Terrific sights await the naturalist, too. Don't miss the Dallas Zoo, the Dallas World Aquarium, and the 66-acre Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, a haven of ornamental gardens and natural woodlands.

Communities that border Dallas on the north and east add their own spice to the Metroplex mix. Plano provides several sites, including the Heritage Farmstead Museum, a beautifully preserved 1891 farm, and Southfork Ranch,

## Downtown Dallas...Reunion Tower, a modern Dallas landmark

J. Griffis Smith/TxDOT



Fort Worth Stockyards

the mansion made famous the world over in the television saga *Dallas*. In Mesquite, you can reminisce about the Texas Western swing music of Bob Wills and Milton Brown and, from spring to fall, you can attend the weekly Mesquite Championship Rodeo.

Head northwest from Dallas and you enter the sprawling city of Irving. Be sure to visit the impressive Las Colinas complex, which encompasses shops, restaurants, a charming canal system complete with Venetian-built water taxis, and the magnificent bronze sculpture, *Mustangs of Las Colinas*, by Robert Glen. If you are in Irving on a Saturday or holiday, you can tour the Movie Studios of Las Colinas, where *Silkwood*, *Robocop*, *JFK*, and *Walker, Texas Ranger* were filmed.

Grand Prairie, south of Irving, harbors the colorful Palace of Wax and Ripley's Believe It or Not!, where exhibits include wax figures from Hollywood, history, and horror, as well as bizarre items from the collection of Robert Ripley. On weekends, you can spend hours shopping at Traders Village, an enormous, 118-acre flea market.

Continue west into Arlington and you are in "Six Flags" country, home of Six Flags Over Texas theme park and Six Flags Hurricane Harbor water park.

Michael Amador/TxDOT



Here, you and the kids can ride water rafts, roller coasters, parachute drops, high-speed trains, and all manner of exciting transports.

Arlington also gives you an in-depth look at baseball in the Legends of the Game Baseball Museum and Learning Center, housed at the Ballpark in Arlington. At Air Combat, you can become a military fighter pilot, complete with flight suit, at the controls of a flight simulator.

Fort Worth, a town that Will Rogers once described as “where the West begins,” wears the badge of its Old West heritage proudly. Numerous sites throughout the city capture the era of cowboys and cattle and the Old Chisholm Trail.

Stellar among them is the Stockyards National Historic District, where you can watch cowpokes herd cattle into the corral, explore the Stockyards Collection and Museum, visit the old-timey White Elephant Saloon, cheer the cowboys and cowgirls at championship rodeos, and board the Tarrant Railroad’s steam excursion train to Grapevine.

Nearby, Billy Bob’s Texas—the world’s largest honky-tonk—offers cold libations, a huge rodeo arena, and topnotch country-western entertainment. Downtown’s attractive Sundance Square features restaurants, art galleries, and live music venues with repertoires that include great jazz and pop offerings. Don’t miss the outstanding Sid Richardson Collection of Western Art.

Fort Worth boasts all this, plus a great zoo, gorgeous botanical gardens, the stunning Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall for symphony, ballet, and opera productions, and some of the finest art museums in the world. Yep, right here in “cowtown,” sit the Kimbell Art Museum, the Amon Carter Museum, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.

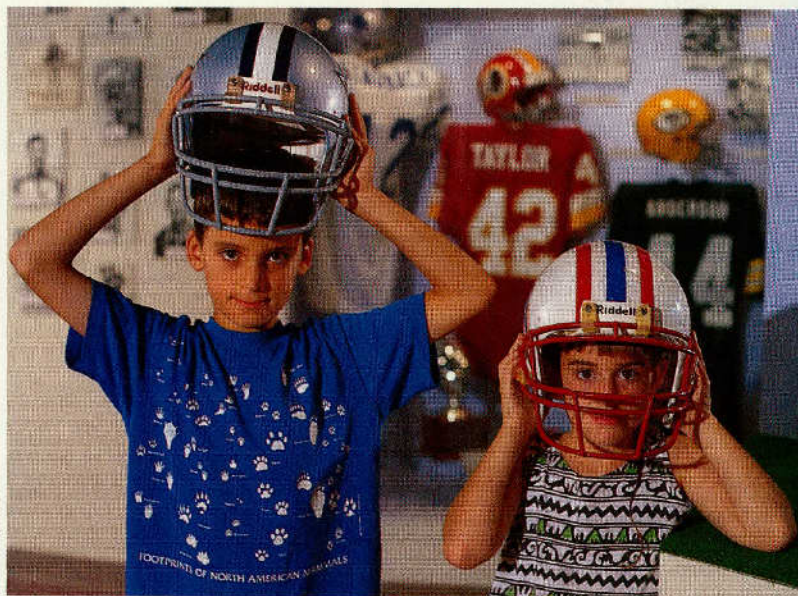
You can round out your Fort Worth cultural experience with trips to the American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum, the Vintage Flying Museum, and the Tandy Archeological Museum.

Cities and towns around the Metroplex offer their share of pleasures for the visitor, too. West of Fort Worth, Weatherford harbors the enchanting Chandor Gardens and the “Peter Pan Statue,” dedicated to hometown girl Mary Martin, who portrayed the role of Peter Pan on Broadway. To the north-east, Grapevine brings a harvest of wineries and the Grapevine Opry, a showcase of fun, family-style country-western entertainment.

When you reach Denison and Gainesville on the state’s border with Oklahoma, stop by the Texas Travel Information Centers for a friendly “howdy” and a handful of valuable Texas travel literature. Denison also includes the Eisenhower Birthplace, the house where Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in 1890, and Grayson County Frontier Village, a collection of buildings dating from 1840 to 1900.

Between Gainesville and Denison lies massive Lake Texoma, an impoundment of the Red River that spreads over some 89,000 acres of Texas and Oklahoma. This popular lake encompasses numerous Corps of Engineers parks, as well as Eisenhower State Park. All provide fine camping and boating facilities.

**Lake Athens**



Jack Lewis/TXDOT

**Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco**

A few miles east of Denison, Bonham’s Sam Rayburn House and Sam Rayburn Library afford an interesting look at the life of the Texas politician who served as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives during every Democratic-controlled Congress from 1940 to 1961.

Further east, Paris brings you the Sam Bell Maxey State Historic Structure, a lovely Victorian house and garden, and the intriguing Evergreen Cemetery, where some of the more than 40,000 graves date to 1866 and include beautifully carved headstones and monuments.

Due south of Paris sits Sulphur Springs, home of the Southwest Dairy Center, where exhibits recall the early days of the dairy industry. Sulphur Springs is the seat of Hopkins County, the leading dairy county in the Southwest, with almost 500 dairies.

Drive south another 45 miles or so and you reach Canton, where the monthly shopping and bartering extravaganza known as First Monday Trade Days takes place on the Thursday through Sunday before each first Monday. Got that? You will find some 300 acres chock-full of just about every negotiable item known to man.

**MID PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

Waco lies at the center of the Prairies and Lakes region in the heart of the fertile Brazos River Valley. Once one of the world’s leading cotton producers, the area was home to many thriving plantations and antebellum houses. Today, you can tour several of them, including the Earle-Harrison House, built in 1858-1859, and the Earle-Napier-Kinnard House, built in 1858 and expanded in 1869.

The city also boasts the interesting Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum at Fort Fisher, built near the site of the original Texas Ranger fort established in 1837. In the museum, exhibits chronicle the compelling story of the Texas Rangers and display famous guns and weapons of the Old West. On the campus of Baylor University, the Armstrong-Browning Library contains the world’s largest collection of works and memorabilia of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Visit the city’s Texas Sports Hall of Fame and pay homage to stellar Texas athletes, such as boxer George Foreman, baseballer Nolan Ryan, and golfer Babe Didrikson Zaharias. At the Dr Pepper Museum, which is housed in the original 1906 bottling plant, you can learn all about the fountain drink that became delicious Dr Pepper, then sip some of the real thing. Take a look at 350-acre Homestead Heritage Crafts Village and watch artisans craft furniture, wrought iron pieces, and pottery.

Northeast of Waco, Athens presents you an enviable task—selecting from among 30 flavors of cheesecakes at the award-winning New York (Texas) Cheesecake Company. A few miles west, Corsicana proffers Collin Street Bakery’s famed Deluxe fruitcake, and, several miles south, Palestine serves up its own delicious fruitcake from Eilenberger’s Butternut Baking Company. Also in Palestine, the Texas State Railroad whisks you by antique steam engine and vintage coaches to Rusk through scenic East Texas woodlands.

At Glen Rose and Granbury, Dinosaur Valley State Park shows you the tracks of a sauropod and other dinosaurs, while Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

offers a chance to drive among free-roaming animals such as giraffes, zebras, and antelopes. You can spend a few hours touring this beautiful center or you can extend your stay at The Lodge or the Foothills Safari Camp.

Tarry awhile in Granbury, where you can enjoy a dinner cruise on Lake Granbury, a carriage ride through the city's historic district, and an evening of musical fun at the Granbury Opera House. At the Brazos Drive-in Theater, you can watch a movie in the milieu of the 1950s at one of the few drive-ins remaining in Texas. Historic homes, the Railroad Depot Museum, and the Great Race Automotive Hall of Fame take you back even further in Texas history.

Along the I-35 corridor, Hillsboro offers the Texas Heritage Museum, with dioramas and more than 3,000 volumes, maps, and photographs devoted to the Civil War era, while Waxahachie is home to one of the nation's few remaining Chautauqua Auditoriums and the elaborate 1895 Ellis County Courthouse. Each spring at Waxahachie, Scarborough Faire features medieval-style entertainment.

In Temple, you can visit the comprehensive exhibits on Czech-Texan life at the Czech Heritage Museum and the wonderful assortment of buildings and old-timey tools and farming equipment at The Grove Country Life Museum, about 15 miles northwest.

Salado serves up wonderful old Stagecoach Inn, an early-day stop along the Chisholm Trail. Today, the inn houses a popular restaurant noted for its home cooking. Visitors also delight in Salado's numerous antique shops, arts and crafts and gift stores.

## THE SOUTH

Scenery, Texas history, and shopping take the forefront in the southern portion of the Prairies and Lakes region. This lovely area entices you especially in springtime, when verdant fields glow with tableaux of bluebonnets and crimson Indian paintbrushes.

Here, the side-by-side cities of Bryan and College Station forge an urban area that encompasses sprawling Texas A&M University, several museums, and the award-winning Messina Hof Cellars.

At the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, on the Texas A&M campus, you can learn about the senior Bush's service in the U.S. military, his political career, and his presidency. Museum exhibits include replicas of the former president's Camp David and Air Force One offices. Also on the university grounds, you can visit the Memorial Student Center's Forsyth Center Galleries for a look at late 19th Century works by American painters, as well as exhibits of art glass, including works by Tiffany, Steuben, and the Mount Washington Glass Company.

Messina Hof Wine Cellars, six miles northeast of Bryan, offers tours of the picturesque winery, as well as a fine restaurant, lovely bed and breakfast facilities, and special events throughout the year.

South of Bryan-College station, Washington County, with Brenham as its center, boasts numerous attractive and historic communities. At Burton, you can visit the Burton Cotton Gin and Museum, which preserves a working gin originally built in 1914. Charming Chappell Hill offers several antebellum structures, the Chappell Hill Historical Museum, and two very popular events, the Bluebonnet Festival each spring and the Scarecrow Festival in the fall.

Independence harbors the beautiful Antique Rose Emporium, with gardens of aromatic, old-timey roses, while the village of Washington provides the intriguing Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park and the outstanding Star of the Republic Museum.

In Brenham, some entertaining surprises await. Visit Ellison's Greenhouses and admire the year-round selection of blooming plants and seasonal crops of mums, poinsettias, and Easter lilies. At Blue Bell Creameries, you can tour the plant and sample a serving of absolutely delicious ice cream in lots of tantalizing flavors.

East of the city, the Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm delights the entire family. Here, you can pet handsome and frisky little horses that grow to be

diminutive versions of Arabians and Quarter Horses. The Franciscan Poor Clare nuns who run the farm also make and sell interesting ceramics.

If you seek solace in Nature—maybe a weekend of camping and fishing—try 11,460-acre Lake Somerville, accessible from Brenham, Caldwell, and Somerville. Here, you can relax at several Corps of Engineers parks, as well as at Lake Somerville State Park, which also includes a trail bike area.

Southwest of Brenham, Round Top boasts intriguing Henkel Square, which includes structures dating from 1820 to 1870, and the acclaimed Winedale Historical Center, which encompasses a restored 19th Century farmstead complete with plantation houses, log cabins, a smokehouse, and barns. Here, too, the acclaimed International Festival-Institute presents periodic classical concerts performed by students and guest artists.

Drive a few miles further south and you discover La Grange, a friendly small town boasting several historical homes and two state historic sites, including Monument Hill, the impressive final resting place of early Texas martyrs. At Columbus, to the southeast, you find a treasure trove of Victorian homes and interesting walking/driving tours that help you learn about this attractive town.

In Schulenburg and Flatonia, you can enjoy local history museums and Czech cuisine, including sausages and kolaches. While in Schulenburg, ask about the "Painted Churches Tour" of four area churches distinctive for their colorful interiors. Flatonia offers the Arnim & Lane Mercantile, a genuine country store that dates to 1886.

South of Flatonia, the town of Shiner invites you to visit the legendary Spoztl Brewery, which has been brewing beers since 1909. In Gonzales, to the west, you can glimpse a chapter in the history of the Republic of Texas. Here, the Gonzales Memorial Museum houses a replica of the cannon that helped precipitate the first battle of the Texas Revolution.

Bastrop County is home to the intriguing "Lost Pines," stands of loblolly pines that lie some 80 miles south of the nearest pine forests of East Texas.

Wind up your Prairies and Lakes tour in charming Seguin, where the "world's largest pecan" adorns the courthouse lawn and proclaims Guadalupe County's fame as a pecan-producing center. Before your visit, read Seguin native Janice Woods-Windle's book, *True Women*, a novel based on the lives of pioneer women from the area, with many settings in Seguin. If you crave some water-sports-action, head for nearby Lake McQueeney, which sports the title "water ski capital of Texas," or take a dip in the huge wave pool in Max Starcke Park, a gem of a municipal park.

There you have it. The Prairies and Lakes region of Texas brings you exciting cities and pastoral panoramas, historic towns and scenic lakes, exhilarating amusement parks and charming villages. The choice is yours. Go for it!

### One of many historic homes in Columbus



J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT



J. Griffin Smith/2000

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site in Anderson

## ADDISON

Pop. 14,166

Alt. 643

Map RR-7

**General**—City dates back to the Republic of Texas when settled as part of Peters' Colony as early as 1846. Village was established when the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad arrived in early 1880s. Named for Addison Robertson, the postmaster. Today, the city location, 15 minutes north of Dallas, offers abundant opportunities for shopping, lodging, and dining within a five-mile radius.

Addison Airport is the third busiest general aviation airport in the country. For more information, call 1-800-ADDISON or visit the Web site at [www.ci.addison.tx.us](http://www.ci.addison.tx.us).

**Addison Conference and Theatre Centre**—The Centre is a 48,000 sq. ft. meeting and cultural facility and home to the nationally recognized Water Tower Theatre. WTT offers a diverse season of works ranging from drama to comedy to musicals that are produced year round. Unique facility allows productions to completely transform the seating and performance area, creating a fresh experience for audiences with each production. For information and schedule, call the box office at 972/450-6232, or visit the Web site at [www.watertow theatre.com](http://www.watertow theatre.com). Located at 15650 Addison Rd.

**Cavanaugh Flight Museum**—Chronicle history from World Wars I & II and Korea. You'll see aircraft refurbished to the condition they were when rolled off the assembly line, such as the Fokker D VII; Sopwith Camel; P-51 Mustang; Spitfire; the MIG 15 and others. One of the largest collections of signed print art in the Southwest. All aircraft in comfortable, fully enclosed hangars. Also gift shop. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At Addison Airport, 4572 Claire Chennault. Tel. 972/380-8800. Visit the Web site at [www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com](http://www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com).

## ANDERSON

Pop. 257

Alt. 215

Map O/P-20

**General**—Historic seat of Grimes County; established 1834 on La Bahia Road, centuries-old Indian trail that stretched from Louisiana through Texas. During Civil War, local arms factory produced cannons, cannon balls, rifles, pistols, swords, and gunpowder. Today commercial center for rich agricultural area. Contains many historic structures, including Victorian 1891 courthouse; open weekdays.

**Fanthorp Inn State Historical Park**—Log structure inn, built in 1834 before Republic of Texas era; covered with clapboards soon after. Nine rooms, a barn and cemetery typical of early Texas inns hosting travelers arriving by stagecoach. Popular lore says notables like Texas Presidents Sam Houston and Anson Jones, Jefferson Davis, who became President of the Confederacy, and Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson stayed here. Replica of 1850s Concord stagecoach on exhibit in barn; stagecoach rides on second Sat. of the month, 1 - 4 p.m. Fee for ride. Open for tours Wed. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. On Main Street, south of courthouse. Admission. 936/873-2633.

**Sam Houston National Forest**—Nearest entrance about 13 miles east on F.M. 149. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

## ARLINGTON

Pop. 332,969

Alt. 616

Map K-17

**General**—First settlement in Caddo Indian territory was Bird's Fort on Trinity River; in 1845 a trading post was established at Mary le Bone Springs. About 1876 town moved to present site when railroad was built through.

Agriculturally oriented until World War II, the strategic area between Dallas and Fort Worth has since experienced mushrooming growth from business, industrial and recreational factors. Arlington State College (founded 1895) became the Univ. of Texas at Arlington in 1965.

**Air Combat**—Flight simulators allow visitors to experience thrill of being military fighter pilots! Simulators are actual jet aircraft cockpits mounted on hydraulic motion base that "pilots" control. Flights start with short ground school and mission briefing before suiting up in complete flight gear. Simulation takes about 1 1/2 hours. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reservations advised. Minimum height, 4'8". At 921 Six Flags Dr. #117. Tel. 817/640-1886.

**Arlington Museum of Art**—Dedicated to encourage education, appreciation, and creation of art featuring works of Texas artists. Special exhibits throughout year. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 201 W. Main St. Tel. 817/275-4600.

**Ballpark in Arlington, The**—Home for the American League Texas Rangers. Home games played from Apr. - Sept. with most starting at 7:35 p.m.

The Park is also an attraction in itself, with Friday's Front Row Grill, Legends of the Game Baseball Museum and Learning Center, Dr Pepper Youth Ballpark, the Diamond Club, and a centerfield picnic area, including walking trails. "Kids Cool Zone," in centerfield by the picnic area, features games for kids, including ringtoss, batting, and whiffle ball. Call 817/273-5098 for information and admission fees for ballpark tours; for information on museum, call 817/273-5600. Call 817/273-5100 for Rangers tickets.

Exit at Nolan Ryan Expressway or Ballpark Way from I-30 midway between Dallas and Fort Worth.

**Fielder Museum**—In brick prairie-style house once home of Arlington community leader James Park Fielder. Permanent exhibits include turn-of-the-century barbershop, general store, bedroom, and basement with root cellar that includes laundry and train exhibit. Other exhibits of Arlington and area history, plus traveling exhibits. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Nearby historic cabins open by appointment. 1616 W. Abram at Fielder Rd. Tel. 817/460-4001. (Exit south off I-30 at Fielder Rd.) Admission.

**Gallery at UTA, The**—Exhibits of art and architecture. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. noon - 5 p.m. Weekend and extended hours during special shows. Fine Arts Building, 600 S. Cooper St. For information, call 817/272-3143.

**Golf Center of Arlington**—Provides recreational and instructional activities on golf for entire family. Features practice driving ranges, sand bunkers, instructional classes, two 18-hole miniature golf courses, and video arcade. Driving range, tee boxes and miniature golf courses lighted for night play. Open Sun. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. (11 p.m. Fri., Sat.). At 1301 Green Oaks Blvd. 817/261-6312. Admission.

**Johnnie High's Country Music Revue**—Voted 'Best Live Country Music Show' by the American Country Music Association for the past three years, this show features a cast of 20 singers, dancers, and musicians, and offers a dazzling line-up of entertainers. Shows are Saturday at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Admission. Call 1-800-540-5127 for schedule and information. 224 North Center St. Visit Web site at [www.mid-cities.com/cmr](http://www.mid-cities.com/cmr).

**Lakes**—Arlington and Joe Pool. See LAKES listing.

**Legends of the Game Baseball Museum and Learning Center**—Located at The Ballpark in Arlington, this museum features baseball uniforms, balls, equipment, baseball cards, and photographs depicting the history of the sport. Exhibits include items from the Texas League, Negro League, and items on loan from the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

The Learning Center features interactive exhibits on baseball and how the sport is related to fields such as science, math, history, geography, and communications. Call 817/273-5600 for information and fees.

**Parks**—75 parks, 5 multipurpose recreation centers, 5 public swimming pools, 20 ball fields, 26 lighted tennis courts, and 3 municipal golf courses. River Legacy Park in northern part of city along Trinity River is a 950-acre nature park with picnic facilities, jogging and bike trails.

**River Legacy Parks**—Educational and recreational activities are found along the riverbanks of the Trinity River. Hiking/biking trails, nature trails, river overlooks, picnic areas are found within the parks.

**River Legacy Living Science Center** features interactive exhibits that teach about regional flora and fauna. Displays include terrariums, aquariums, a Texas rivers map, and a simulated raft ride on the Trinity River using High Definition technology to make the experience exciting. Science center is open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located at entrance to parks at 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd. For information, 817/860-6752. Admission for science center exhibits; no admission for parks.

**Six Flags Hurricane Harbor**—The state's largest water-oriented family recreation park features 10 entertainment areas. The park features rides such as Sea Wolf, the largest water raft ride in America that plunges through more than 830-feet of high-speed banks and heart-stopping drops in a raft large enough for the entire family; Blue Raider, a two-passenger escape into a dark, flooded tunnel filled with drops and turns; the Caribbean Chaos & Atlantic Panic that sends guests down these two twisting, turning flumes propelled by 1,500 gallons of water. Other rides include the Blue Niagara, Geronimo, and the famed Black Hole. Experience ocean-sized waves in Surf Lagoon, dive into the bubble machine, ride a water trolley, experience the Raging Rapids through waterfalls, rain tunnels and whirlpools. Hook's Lagoon encompasses the home for the infamous pirate, Captain Hook, including the *SS Crocodile*, Hook's pirate ship. It's a five-story structure with 150 interactive aquatic features. Boogie Beach sports a sandy beach and areas for events such as volleyball as well as the surfrider, simulated waves where visitors ride boogie boards on the waves. For relaxing in the sun, there is Suntan Lagoon, a one million-gallon activity pool with geysers, fountains, and waterfalls surrounded by a suntan deck. Abundant water games for adults and kids of all ages; all-inclusive admission ticket. Open weekends spring and fall; daily during summer. From I-30 between Dallas and Fort Worth, take exit Texas 360 north or Texas 157 north to Lamar Blvd. Tel. 817/265-3356, or visit the Web site at [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com).

**Six Flags Over Texas**—The famed 200-acre theme park features fun and fantasy in settings of lavish landscaping. Experience Texas-sized thrills on the new Titan hypercoaster. Towering 100 feet above the legendary Texas Giant, the #1 wooden roller coaster in the world, this colossal coaster climbs to heights of over 26 stories and then plunges down at speeds of up to 85 mph! Afterwards, catch your breath at one of Six Flags' fabulous shows or take the kids to the exciting and newly expanded Looney Tunes USA. Old favorites include breathtakers like the "Texas Giant," a massive wooden roller coaster that climbs 143 feet into the sky, then takes off for a ride reaching a top speed of 62 mph (voted three times the top roller coaster in the world), and the chilling "Mr. Freeze," the tallest and fastest coaster in Texas where guests are launched through a 190-ft. tunnel reaching speeds of 70 mph into a totally

### The Ballpark in Arlington



Looney Tunes Land at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington

vertical climb to a dizzying height of 218 feet, along 1,300 feet of track; then "Mr. Freeze" gets his revenge sending victims through the entire coaster again—in reverse! Other rides include the "Texas Chute-Out," a 17-story parachute drop, the "G-Force Anti-Gravitational Test Facility" whose gondolas drop like falling elevators, and the huge "Shock Wave" double-loop roller coaster. Then, there's the "Flashback," a roller coaster ride that drops from a 125-ft. tower and careens through three loops at speeds of 55 mph, and just when you think it's over, you relive the experience—this time backwards! Elegant mid-1920s carousel, "The Silver Star," restored to all its grandeur with some 66 prancing wooden horses, welcomes visitors just behind the park's landmark flags and fountain.

"Runaway Mountain," a wild roller coaster ride, carries thrill-seekers through a giant 65-foot tall mountain at high-speed horizontal spirals in the dark. In the shadows of the mountain sits Gator McGee's Mountain Grill, a restaurant with entertainment and stories by Gator McGee.

"Batman the Ride" features high-speed trains with riders suspended from the steel coaster track with nothing beneath their feet but the earth and sky. Riders leave the Bateave at 50 mph as they are sent into a 10-story climb before flying up and over a 77-ft. tall vertical loop.

"Escape from Dino Island" 3D TurboRide is a realistic, three-dimensional animation and surround-sound system, complete with TurboRide. Visitors duck and dodge trees, lava, rocks and reptiles leaping from the 48 x 63-ft. screen.

More than five hours of special shows, musical revues, the popular Batman stunt show, and puppet theater are available with all the rides on an all-inclusive admission ticket. Food, beverages and souvenirs extra. Two-day and season tickets available. Open weekends spring and fall; daily during summer. From I-30 between Dallas and Fort Worth, exit on Texas 360 south.

Fright Fest at Halloween (three weekends in Oct.) features ghoulish decorations, ghosts and goblins, haunted houses and special shows for the entire family.

"Holiday in the Park" features Christmas musicals, ice show, and Bugs Bunny holiday show. Giant sledding hill, complete with "snow," and holiday lights transform park into a glittering wonderland. Park open weekends starting Fri. after Thanksgiving; nightly Dec. 16-31 except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Special events, such as Fright Fest and "Holiday in the Park" are subject to change. For exact dates call 817/640-8900, or visit the Web site at [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com).

**Texas Rangers Baseball Club**—See Ballpark in Arlington.

**Visitor Center and Gift Shop**—Directions and details for local sites, events, hotels, restaurants and retail stores; open daily (hours vary by season). 1905 E. Randol Mill Rd. by The Ballpark in Arlington. For information, 817/461-3888 or 1-800-342-4305. Web site address: [www.acvb.org/welcome](http://www.acvb.org/welcome).

## ATHENS

Pop. 11,297

Alt. 490

Map L-20

**General**—Chosen as the seat of Henderson County in 1850, Athens was so named because it was expected to become the cultural center of the state, as was its namesake, Athens, Greece. The city is located 76 miles southeast of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex on U.S. 175. Home of Trinity Valley Community College.

Hamburgers, the great American fast-food staple, were created in late 1800s by Fletcher Davis, who was a vendor on the Courthouse square. Uncle Fletch's memory and famous gastronomic delight are celebrated in May with a hamburger cook-off on the square. The Operation Rainbow Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-off is held on the same day.

Once known for extensive black-eyed pea production, city pays tribute to the legume in Oct. with the Black-Eyed Pea Fall Harvest.

Visitors can find shopping opportunities for antiques and unique gifts. **Athens Texas Scuba**—With underwater visibility of up to 70 feet, there's no telling what you might see. Divers flock to the park's clear blue waters for recreational diving and for diver certification. Sunken treasures include Ray Price's tour bus; Clint Eastwood's houseboat, the "Take 2;" an airplane; motor-cycles; and much more. Average visibility is 30 to 40 feet. Park also features camping sites, 12 dive platforms, a land volleyball court, barbecue pits, and more. At 500 N. Murchison St. Seasonal operations May - Nov. Fri. noon - 6 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information, call 903/675-5762. Admission.

**Cain Center**—Nestled in the heart of 85 beautiful acres is the 50,000-sq.-ft. civic and conference center. Facilities include 25-meter pool, whirlpool, sauna, weight room, racquetball courts, tennis courts, two fishing ponds, walking/jogging trail, and 18-hole disc golf course. Open Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 6 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For information, call 903/677-2001. At 915 S. Palestine.

**East Texas Arboretum & Botanical Society**—The 100-acre arboretum features walking trails and a bluebird trail. Site ranges from dry hills to large, permanent wetlands impounded by beaver dams to intermittent seasonal marshes. An outdoor pavilion provides a beautiful spot for picnics. Off U.S. 175 on Patterson Rd. For information, write to P.O. Box 2231, Athens, TX 75751.

**Henderson County Historical Museum**—Vintage and antique memorabilia are displayed in 1896 Faulk-Gauntt building. First floor exhibits emulate a turn-of-the-century dry goods store while the second floor is a re-creation of an early law office, parlor, bedroom, bath, kitchen and schoolroom. Open Fri.

and Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 217 N. Prairieville St. For information and group tours, call 903/675-6199.

**Lakes**—Athens, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Palestine and Richland-Chambers. See LAKES listing.

**New York (Texas) Cheesecake**—Delicious, mouth-watering cheesecake originally baked in farmhouse overlooking hills of New York, TX; now located just off of the downtown square in Athens. The award-winning cheesecake (30-plus flavors) also includes fat free and sugarless and fat free cakes. At 211 North Palestine St. Call 1-888-525-6197 or 903/677-6707.

**Purtis Creek State Recreation Area**—1,533-acre park includes 355-acre Purtis Creek Lake. Following its construction, the reservoir was stocked with Florida largemouth bass, channel catfish, copper-nose bluegills, shad and red-ear sunfish. Only 50 boats allowed on lake at one time (boating fee) and no-wake rule is strictly enforced. Fishing is restricted to catch and release. Campsites with water and electricity, picnicking, playground, hiking, rest rooms. Swimming is permitted in lake and hiking trails are available. Take U.S. 175 northwest about 9 miles, north on F.M. 316 3 miles to park. Reservations accepted. 903/425-2332. For reservations, call 1-800-389-8900.

**Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center**—This innovative complex features over 300,000 gallons of aquarium exhibits, and for the first time, visitors can see nearly every major species of freshwater fish found in Texas in its natural habitat. Explore the Hill Country Stream, East Texas Farm Pond, or go below the surface of a Texas Reservoir to learn about fish and their behavior. Gaze into the eyes of an American alligator in a natural wetlands environment. Wander through a variety of galleries that feature replicas of most state record fish caught in Texas freshwater lakes and streams. Watch (and even talk) to divers as they hand-feed the largest largemouth bass in captivity in a 26,000-gallon dive tank. Go to the Angler's Pavilion and Casting Pond for a hands-on experience catching rainbow trout or channel catfish. Gift shop offers great shopping opportunities. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; closed Mon. and Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Easter Sunday. At 5550 Flat Creek Rd. (F.M. 2495) near Lake Athens. For information, call 903/676-2277. Admission.

**Visitor Center**—Directions and details for local attractions, events, hotels, restaurants and shopping are available at administrative offices for the Athens Visitor Initiative Program (providing convention and visitor services). Open daily; hours vary by staffing availability. On the downtown square at 124 N. Palestine. For information, call 903/677-0775, or visit the Web site at [www.athensvip.org](http://www.athensvip.org). A 24-hour fax-on-demand information line is available at 1-888-294-AVIP.

**Athens Road Trip**

TOLL FREE  
**888-294-2847**

THE PERFECT CATCH...  
Fishing, cowboys, fresh air, sunshine and flowers — Athens is the perfect East Texas small town. Lots to do and see, without spending a lot. Take a drive to Athens (only 75 miles southeast of Dallas), so you can take time to smell the flowers, catch some fish, and enjoy the ride!  
**Athens — the perfect catch!**

An unforgettable adventure awaits at The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center with exhibits, dive shows, and free fishing 903-676-2277

Check out [www.athenstx.org](http://www.athenstx.org)

**BARTLETT**

Pop. 1,675

Alt. 599

Map O-17

**General**—Centered in renowned Blackland Prairie agricultural region. Named for John T. Bartlett, who donated townsite to Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad. In 1878, community had three residences. Divided by Bell and Williamson county lines. History has it enterprising saloon proprietors took advantage of county line dissecting their business by having bar on wheels to accommodate laws in both counties.

The Bartlett Historic Commercial District, listed on National Register of Historic Places, is two-block area of early 20th Century buildings housing quality arts and crafts, and fine antiques. Streets paved in red brick link predominant red masonry construction. Replica street lamps, and corner benches with flower pots add to turn-of-the-century nostalgia.

**Bartlett Area Museum**—Housed at 300 West Bell Street in the Bartlett Activities Center, formerly the old red brick grammar school building built in 1909 and used as a public school until 1988, now a restored Central Texas landmark. Museum houses a World War I exhibit, and antiques and artifacts from town's early history. Open the first Sun. of each month, 1 - 4 p.m. No admission. On W. Clark St., three blocks west of Texas 95.

**BASTROP**

Pop. 5,340

Alt. 374

Map P-17

**General**—One of Texas' oldest settlements, first called Mina, the town's name was changed about 1837 to honor a man of fame and influence in early Texas. The man was Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop, a prominent Dutch nobleman—or so the colonists thought.

Actually, he was a flamboyant impostor whose real name was Philip Hendrik Nering Bogel, born not of Holland's nobility, but in Dutch Guiana



Earl Nottingham/PWU

### Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens

of ordinary Dutch parents. Appointed a tax collector after he and his parents returned to Holland, he was accused of embezzlement and fled the country.

Appearing in Texas as Baron de Bastrop in 1805, he obtained a colony grant, established a freighting business, and was appointed second alcalde of San Antonio in 1810. He was a primary negotiator with the government of Mexico for Stephen F. Austin's original Anglo-American colony. He was elected representative to the Mexican state of Coahuila (which included Texas), secured passage of a further immigration act, and was instrumental in establishing the port of Galveston.

Of impressive physical stature, dashing and energetic, the counterfeit baron's enterprises resulted in little profit. At his death in 1827, he did not leave enough funds for burial expenses; fellow legislators contributed the cost. In Holland, unclaimed for 20 years, was a reward of 1,000 gold ducats for return of the accused embezzler.

More than 125 historic structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with 31 displaying a Texas Medallion marker. Main street is lined with century-old structures housing antique shops, restaurants, and specialty stores.

Main Street and Fisherman's Park on the scenic Colorado River offer great places to picnic, fish, and canoe. The old historic Iron Bridge crossing the river has been converted to a park with picnic tables, benches, and walkways above the Colorado River.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Bastrop Advertiser, The**—Oldest weekly newspaper in Texas, established 1853. 908 Water Street.

**Bastrop County Historical Society Museum**—Located in the Cornelson-Fehr house built in 1850 and enlarged in 1854, the museum has manuscripts and miscellaneous frontier tools, artifacts, pictures, documents, and furnishings. The house is a recorded Texas landmark. A 15-minute video on the history of Bastrop is also offered. Open Mon. - Fri. noon - 4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 702 Main St. Admission.

**Bastrop Opera House**—Circa 1889, features a wide variety of year-round dinner theater productions in an informal Victorian setting. Performances usually Fri. & Sat. evening. Call 512/321-6283 for schedule. 711 Spring St.

**Bastrop State Park**—3,550 acres of quiet, rolling parkland shaded by the strange "Lost Pines"—an isolated area of stately pine trees far from the vast piney woods of East Texas. Camping and group camp facilities, cabins, trailer sites, picnicking, fishing, swimming, golf, nature study, hiking. One mile east of intersection of Texas 21/71; admission. Scenic Park Road 1 connects with Buescher State Park 15 miles to east. See SMITHVILLE.

**Central Texas Museum of Automotive History**—Nearly eight decades of automotive history in some 85 vintage cars from Model Ts to a Duesenberg; some old, some rare, all beautiful. Open Apr. - Oct. Wed. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.; Nov. - Mar. Fri. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Some 12 miles south on Tex. 304; phone 512/237-2635; admission.

**Lake**—Bastrop. See LAKES listing.

**Lock's Drug**—Furnishings and equipment of a 19th Century doctor's office and drug store, along with old-fashioned ice cream parlor. 1003 Main St.

**McKinney Roughs LCRA Preserve**—1,100-acre nature preserve with hiking and equestrian trails along the Colorado River between Austin and Bastrop. The preserve contains more than 1.5 miles of river bank, three large box canyons and four ecosystems. Nine miles of walking and horseback trails, including one mile that is wheelchair accessible. Within the preserve is an Environmental Learning Center open for educational use. The park is open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 512/303-5073. Located 8 miles west of Bastrop at 1884 Texas 71 West. Admission.

**Visitor Center**—For information about events, attractions, or places to dine, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 927 Main St. There are also brochures for self-guided walking and driving tours. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. during the summer.

## BEDFORD

Pop. 47,152

Alt. 616

Map J-17

**General**—City is in northeast Tarrant County and was settled in the late 1840s. Milton Moore of North Carolina established a community between Fort Worth and Grapevine. Weldon Bobo came to the area and built a general store and gristmill to serve area farmers in the 1870s. Bobo and a group of farmers agreed to name the community Bedford, after the county in Tennessee from which many of them had come. The community grew and was also the home of Bedford College, founded in 1882. The combination high school-junior college survived until fire gutted the building in 1893. In the early 1900s, the Dallas-Fort Worth Interurban rail line built south of the Trinity River to other nearby communities. In 1903 the Rock Island Railroad bypassed the city. Growth halted until the construction of nearby military bases and defense plants during World War II. Like most cities in the Metroplex, growth continues to parallel those of other cities in the giant suburban area.

**Lakes**—Dallas, Eagle Mountain, Grapevine, and Joe Pool. See LAKES listing.

**Old Bedford School**—This is a restored 1915 vintage schoolhouse which features a visitors center and an authentically furnished 1915 classroom. The site also has auditorium for special performances. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. Special arrangements for groups may be made by calling ahead. At 2400 School Lane; just north of the Texas 121/Texas 183 intersection. Exit on Bedford Rd.; School Lane is first left turn after Forest Ridge Dr. For information, call 817/952-2290 or visit the Web site [www.oldbedfordschool.org](http://www.oldbedfordschool.org).

## BELLVILLE

Pop. 3,794

Alt. 220

Map Q-19

**General**—Seat of Austin County, one of the original counties in Texas. In 1848, Bellville was established as seat of government on land given to the county by Thomas Bell, one of Stephen F. Austin's original Three Hundred Colonists, and for whom the city was named. The first issue of *The Bellville Times* was published in 1879 and is still in business today. The subtropical climate is excellent for hay, sorghum, corn, rice, and oats. Cattle farms are abundant. In spring, fields come alive with bluebonnets and other wildflowers.

A guide to many fine turn-of-the-century homes and downtown buildings, produced by the Bellville Historical Society, can be picked up at the chamber of commerce at #4 W. Main St. or by calling 979/865-3407.

Four city parks offer excellent picnic areas and playgrounds.

Shoppers find an abundance of antique and craft shops offering handmade items in historic buildings around the square.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Austin County Jail**—County jail from 1896 through 1992. Handsome old building offers revolving exhibits of Austin County history. Open Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 36 S. Bell St. For additional information, call the chamber of commerce at 979/865-9116.

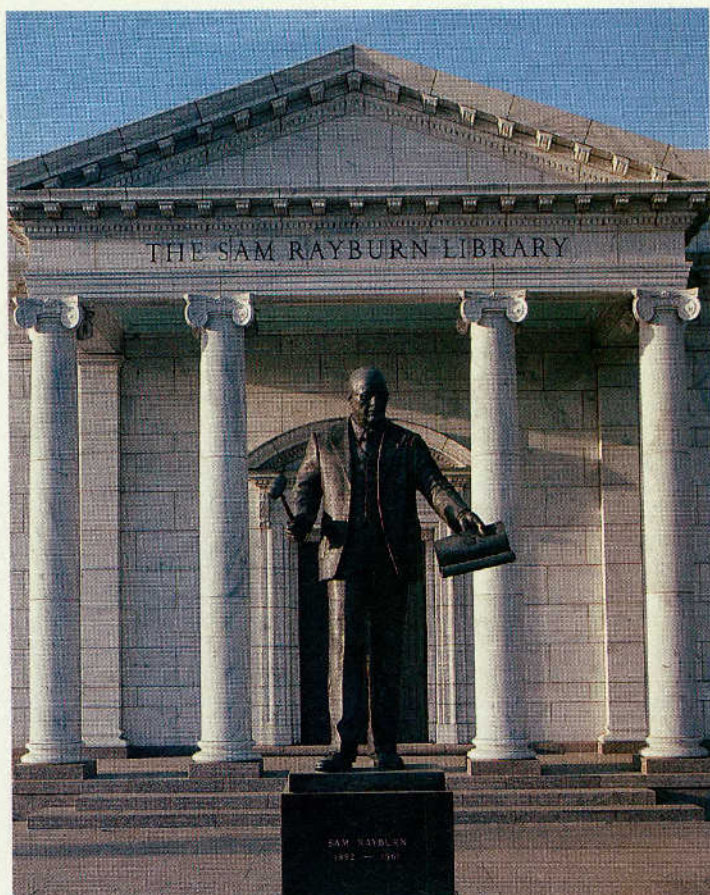
## BELTON

Pop. 14,623

Alt. 511

Map N-17

**General**—A small town of distinctive charm. Belton was founded in 1850, and in early years grew as a rustic trading center for nearby farms and ranches. The first merchant sold goods from his wagon before any stores were built; first "saloon" was a barrel of whiskey and a tin cup under a shade tree. A stagecoach line served the village, and cowboys herding Longhorns up to the Chisholm Trail enjoyed rest stops in Belton. Town is graced by architecture



Michael Aronoff/TKD01

Sam Rayburn Library in Bonham

from the early 1860s to turn-of-the-century. Preservation of historic structures is a current priority in Belton's graceful old downtown area. Some buildings and homes opened during annual tour late April, early May.

Belton lies on the I-35 corridor, and U.S. 190, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Bell County Museum**—Exhibits focus on first 100 years of Bell County history, from 1850 to 1950. Miriam A. Ferguson Collection chronicles the life and times of Texas' first female governor and Bell County resident; most comprehensive collection of "Ma" Ferguson's belongings in the state. Other permanent exhibits include turn-of-the-century kitchen and authentic post office with working telegraph. Rotating displays feature various aspects of rural and city life. Gift shop with books, postcards, posters, and historical tour tapes. Housed in restored beaux-arts-style Carnegie building constructed as library in 1904; National Register property. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 201 N. Main St.; free admission. 254/933-5243.

**Lakes**—Belton and Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

**Summer Fun USA**—Tube down a "Lazy River" in inner tubes, or slide from a 40-ft. tower into a Texas-size pool. There's a sandy beach for volleyball, or chill-out with the latest games in the game room. Open daily mid-May - mid-August. 1410 Waco Rd. Admission. Tel. 254/939-0366.

**University of Mary Hardin-Baylor**—Generations of prominent Texas women have attended the college that was established in 1845 when Texas was still an independent republic; was oldest women's college (now coeducational) west of the Mississippi River. Celebrated Easter pageant presented annually by student body.

## BONHAM

Pop. 9,990

Alt. 617

Map G-19

**General**—Seat of Fannin County in an area of Blackland Prairie south of the Red River that marks boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The name and statue on courthouse square honor James Butler Bonham who died at the Alamo.

Three small lakes at nearby Caddo National Grasslands are open for visitors year round. Lake Davy Crockett and Coffee Mill Lake provide camping, boating, and fishing. Lake Fannin offers boating and fishing.

**Bonham State Park**—300 acres set on rolling, wooded site less than four miles from Bonham. Individual and group camping facilities; small lake offers fishing, swimming, and boating. Also bathhouse, snack bar (summer operation), miniature golf course, playground, and pedal-boat rentals. Access via Texas 78 south, F.M. 271. Admission.

**Fannin County Museum of History**—Pioneer, local, and regional history exhibits in restored 1900 Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot. 14 rooms of antique furniture, tools, vintage clothing, art, Indian artifacts, railroad memorabilia, photographs, and historical documents and records. A special exhibit, "Bonham in the War," highlighted by a restored Fairchild Airplane. Open Tues. - Sat. noon - 4 p.m., Sept. - March; Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., April - Aug. One Main Street; phone 903/583-8042.

**Fort Inghish Park**—Replica of log blockhouse and stockade built by Bailey Inghish in 1837; nucleus of homesteads that became town of Bonham; also three original, restored log cabins; pioneer furnishings and artifacts. Open Apr. 1 - Sept. 1, Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. W. Sam Rayburn Dr. 903/583-3441.

**Lake**—Bonham. See LAKES listing.

**Sam Rayburn House**—Home of the late "Mister Sam," who served as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives longer than any other in American history. Built in 1916 and restored to 1961 condition, the year Sam Rayburn died. Original furniture, china, and personal effects. Hourly tours Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Reservations required for group tours; 903/583-5558. U.S. 56, 1.5 miles west of city.

**Sam Rayburn Library**—Elegant structure of white Georgia marble; library contains exact duplicate of Speaker Rayburn's U.S. Capitol office, from pattern on the tile floor to barrel-vaulted ceiling. Over desk is crystal chandelier, more than a century old, which hung in both White House and Capitol. Other mementos include many gavels used on historic occasions, and 2,500-year-old Grecian urn given by Athens Palace Guard in appreciation for American economic aid. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. On 4.3-acre tract along U.S. 56 four blocks west of downtown; 903/583-2455.

## BOWIE

Pop. 5,219

Alt. 1,145

Map H-16

**General**—Bowie is in southwestern Montague County and is the largest city in the county. When the railroad built through the area in 1882, local settlers moved to the site of the construction camps and businesses appeared in canvas tents. A townsite was laid out and residents applied for a post office to be named for James Bowie. In 1867, Montague County was the last Texas county crossed by traildrivers heading to the Chisholm Trail and north to cattle markets. Today the city serves as a retail shopping center. Industry, ranching, agriculture, oil and retail trade form a diversified base for its economy.

Antiques, gift shops, malls, tearooms, and galleries await shoppers. Several artists call Bowie home. To visit to the Wagon Wheel Studio and Gallery, call 940/928-2177.

Bowie has been designated a Texas Main Street City.

Good old-fashioned gospel music can be found on the second and fourth Sat. nights of the month at 207 N. Mason St. in the historic downtown area.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 940/872-1173.

**Chisholm Trail Memorial Park**—This small park pays tribute to the cattle drives to the Chisholm Trail. This was the last stop in Texas before heading to northern markets. A herd of nine life-size Longhorns and two roving cowboys recall those early cattle drives. At the intersection of Wise St. and U.S. 81.

**Fay Ruth Shaw Memorial Public Library**—In addition to its 30,000-plus volume collection, the library also features an extensive genealogy section. Display cases serve as museum exhibits with local memorabilia which change frequently 315 W. Walnut. Open Tues. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. noon - 7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Heritage Walk**—Original bricks from city streets have been inscribed with sponsor's names and placed along Wise St. It's part of the Main Street project. Antique street lights and benches also have been installed.

**Lake**—Amon G. Carter. See LAKES listing.

**Pelham Park**—Recreational activities include soccer fields, basketball and volleyball courts, RV parking spaces, swimming pool, and a mile-long trail. There is also a rodeo arena, and the park is home to Second Monday.

**Second Monday**—The city operates a three-day market for vendors to sell whatever they can—one big "garage" sale. The location is in Pelham Park where most of the city's events take place.



**BOYD**

Pop. 1,099

Alt. 934

Map J-17

**General**—In southern Wise County, the city originated in 1893 and was named for H.S. Boyd, an official of the Rock Island Railroad. Today city relies primarily on agriculture and various light industries.

**Lakes**—Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain. See LAKES listing.

**Texas Exotic Feline Foundation**—Founded in 1983 by Robert and Gene von Reitnauer, who have rescued and provided sanctuary for cats from private individuals, governmental agencies, and zoos which can no longer care for them. The center does not breed or sell cats, but serves as a permanent home for animals with no place else to go. Over sixty lions, tigers, jaguars, bobcats, leopards, and other exotic cats call TEFF home at its 36-acre site. Open for tours Mon. & Fri. at 10 a.m. and Sat. & Sun. 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. If weather is extreme or bad, center is closed. In summer, no tours or appointments after 11 a.m. because of heat. Walking tour lasts about two hours. For information, call 940/433-2378. From U.S. 81/287, take Exit 114W towards Bridgeport; TEFF is three miles ahead on the right.

**BRENHAM**

Pop. 13,507

Alt. 350

Map P-19

**General**—This county seat is situated in the east central part of Washington County which is home to more than 120 historic sites and markers, many from the Texas Revolution era. The Texas Declaration of Independence was drafted and signed in this county and a state historical park is located on the site. It was settled on a part of the league of land granted to a settler under colonization laws of Coahuila and Texas. Its predominantly German population began settling here in the 1860s. Home of Blinn College, Texas' first county-owned junior college, founded 1883.

Bluebonnets and other wildflowers bloom in profusion along county roads in March and April. The chamber of commerce provides a free "Bluebonnet Trails" map which outlines the most scenic route for viewing. Call 1-888-BRENHAM (273-6426).

Brenham's "Main Street" district is the heart and soul of Washington County. The historic downtown features a variety of shopping opportunities.

Brenham lies on Texas 36, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham**

J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT



J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT

**Brenham Heritage Museum**

**Antique Carousel**—Only one of eight in Texas, is only example of a C.W. Parker Carousel with Hershell-Spillman horses; manufactured prior to 1910; the carousel is housed in an unusual 16-sided building in Firemen's Park. Visitors can view the beautiful carnival ride at any time. Group tours, which include a ride on the carousel, may be arranged by calling the city at 979/836-7911.

**Bed and Breakfast Registry**—For information on more than 30 bed and breakfast inns in and around the city, call 1-888-BRENHAM.

**Blue Bell Creameries**—Founded in 1907 as the Brenham Creamery Co. Named changed to Blue Bell in 1930 after a wildflower that grows in the area and blooms in the summer. Beginning with ice cream production of only two gallons a day in 1911, the popular creamery is now home of what many believe to be the "best ice cream in the country." In 1994, Susan Ruland of Dairy Field magazine captured the Blue Bell mystique when she said, "Like a magic box with a huge kingdom tucked within its miniature walls, Blue Bell has managed to keep its growth tucked within the spirit of a small dairy. When the employees tell you it's really still The Little Creamery in Brenham, you believe them." Judge for yourself!

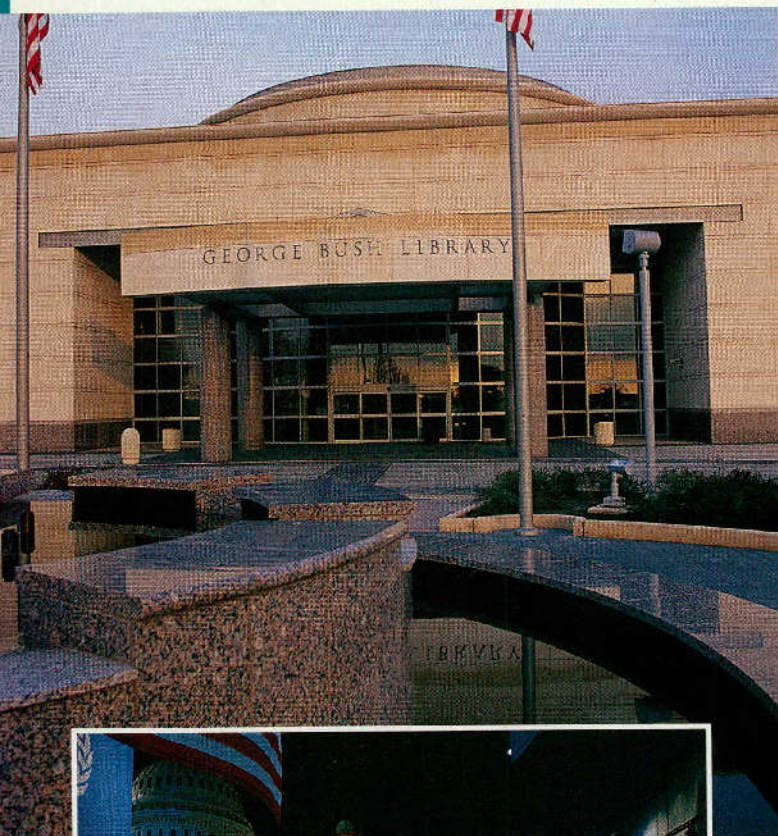
Tours (weekdays only) at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. No tours on weekends. Tokens are required for tour admittance; check with hostess upon arrival. Visitors are accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

All groups of 15 or more **must** make a reservation. (*All visitors need reservations during spring break and Easter.*)

For more information or reservations, call 1-800-327-8135 or 979/830-2197, or visit the Web site at [www.bluebell.com](http://www.bluebell.com). Blue Bell Country Store is open Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Mar. - Dec.). Located off U.S. 290 on F.M. 577 (southeast of downtown). Tour admission. 800/327-8135.

**Brenham Heritage Museum**—Housed in renovated 1915 Federal Building. Exhibits help to preserve area history and to keep it intact for future generations. Traveling exhibits throughout the year. Visitors can see an 1879 Silsby steam-powered fire engine in an exterior showroom. Open Wed. 1 - 4 p.m.; Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 105 S. Market St. For information, call 979/830-8445. Admission.

**Ellison's Greenhouses**—Only commercial wholesale greenhouse operation in the state that allows public to tour its working operations. Five acres of greenhouses produce year-round crops of foliage, mums, gloxinias, African violets. Seasonally, half-acre greenhouses are filled with poinsettias, tulips, Easter lilies, and hydrangeas. Poinsettia Celebration weekend before Thanksgiving. Tours of the commercial greenhouses are available by appointment Mon. - Thurs., and walk-in tours on Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Garden and gift shop open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 1808 S. Horton St. For information, call 979/836-0084. Tour fee.



J. Griffith Smith/1XDOT photos



George Bush Presidential Library

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

**Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm**—Home to group of Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns who support themselves by raising miniature horses and by selling handmade ceramics and other crafts in The Art Barn gift shop. Open daily, 2 - 4 p.m., except Holy Week and Christmas; nine miles northeast on Texas 105. 979/836-9652.

**Nueces Canyon Equestrian Center and Resort**—Features world-class cutting horse shows almost every weekend; open to then public. Private tours for groups with demonstrations, ranch tours, and catered dinners. Advance reservations can be made by calling 979/289-5600.

**Pleasant Hill Winery**—Picturesque hillside vineyard offers tours and tasting. Also see corkscrew collection, as well as vintage television sets and radios, and visit the gift shop. Open Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Take U.S. 290 to Texas 36, then go south on Salem Rd. about 1 1/2 miles to F.M. 3456. For information, call 979/830-VINE (8463). Web site [www.pleasanthillwinery.com](http://www.pleasanthillwinery.com).

**Unity Theatre**—Located in Downtown Historic Brenham theatre offers a variety of entertainment bi-monthly Oct. - June. For schedules and time, call 979/830-8358.

## BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION

Pop. (Comb.) 133,550

Alt. 367

Map O-19

**General**—Located in area where Stephen F. Austin's colonists settled between 1821-1831. Bryan formally chartered in 1855. Economy long based on diversified agriculture, enhanced by educational centers, including Allen Academy and Texas A&M Univ.

College Station adjoins Bryan forming the urban center of Brazos County. As its name implies, the city has always received its sustenance from Texas A&M Univ., the state's first public institution of higher education, established in 1876.

Hunting, fishing, and camping popular almost year round at nearby streams and woodlands.

Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater, in center of College Station, is surrounded by three-acre lake, and features big-name entertainers and free open-air concerts throughout the year.

Starting point of Presidential Corridor from Texas 6 via Texas 21 and U.S. 290 to Austin connecting the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Bryan/College Station with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin.

**Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**—Ancient animals and environments, nature discovery room, exhibits, and nature trail. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Brazos Center at 3232 Briarcrest Dr. at Bypass 6 in Bryan. Tel. 979/776-2195.

**Carnegie Library**—This historic building was built in 1903 with funds from the Carnegie foundation. Completely restored, it is the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History. The grounds boast Xeriscape garden. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. On South Main St. in downtown Bryan. 979/821-9331.

**Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley**—Museum provides a hands-on learning environment for children, and adults, too. Kids can pretend to shop for groceries, drive an ambulance, and much more. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 202 S. Bryan St. in Historic Downtown Bryan. Tel. 979/779-KIDS. Admission.

**George Bush Presidential Library and Museum**—The 69,000-square-foot library and museum is dedicated to the preservation, research and exhibit of official records, personal papers and memorabilia from the life and career of George Bush. Every presidential library has items unique to the presidency. Here you'll find a replica of Bush's Camp David office and his Air Force One office. One section is devoted to Barbara Bush's activities, from literacy to her book on their dog, Millie. The museum is open Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. At 1000 George Bush Drive West on the southwest corner of Texas A&M University campus. Admission. 979/260-9552.

**Lakes**—Bryan, Gibbons Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Messina Hof Wine Cellars**—Wine-making traditions of Messina, Italy, and Hof, Germany, are blended at the vineyards of this Texas winery. Picnic facilities on property. Tours of winery (reservations required for groups of 10 or more) weekdays 1 and 2:30 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m., 12:30, 2:30 and 4 p.m., and Sun. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Retail store and tasting room open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 4545 Old Reliance Rd. off of Texas 6, six miles northeast of Bryan. 979/778-9463.

**Texas A&M University**—Famed for military Cadet Corps and ROTC, whose graduates served by the thousands in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. Noted for outstanding research in agriculture, animal pathology, salt- and freshwater fisheries, engineering, and nuclear technology.

The Information Center in Rudder Tower, open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., provides information and maps for campus attractions:

**Albritton Bell Tower**; 49 bells cast in France with total weight of 17 tons, with largest weighing 6,500 pounds. Old Main Dr. and Wellborn Rd., College Station.

**Centennial Wood Carvings**; six walnut hand-carved panels depicting history of the university since 1876.

**MSC Forsyth Center Galleries** features turn-of-the-20th-century American paintings and collections of English Cameo Glass. Art glass collections include works by Tiffany, Steuben, and Mount Washington Glass Co. In the Memorial Student Center; open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Visit Web site at <http://forsyth.tamu.edu>. 979/845-9251.

**Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center**; exhibits honoring the past, present, and future of Texas A&M Univ. and its Corps of Cadets; miniature cannons, swords, guns, flags, library, Hall of Honor, memorials, works of art, information center, gift shop, and more; includes Metzger-Sanders Gun Collection with antique, historic firearms and weapons, and the Sam Houston Sanders Commemorative Colt Collection; 979/862-2862.

**J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries**; exhibits ranging from traditional fine arts to architecture, archaeology, history and science. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Closed Mon. and school holidays. Web site <http://stark.tamu.edu>. 979/845-6081.

**Texas A&M Horticultural Gardens** feature flora, both annuals and perennials, as well as lush shrubberies year round. Don't be surprised to find maroon- color bluebonnets! They were developed here. Guided tours can be arranged on Tues. and Fri. by calling 979/845-5341. The gardens are on Hensel St. on TAMU campus.

**Visitor Center**—For additional information on dining, accommodations, and area events, stop by the Bryan-College Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor Center at 715 University Drive East, or call 979/260-9898. You can also call 800/777-8292 and visit the Web site at [www.bryan-collegestation.org](http://www.bryan-collegestation.org).

## BURTON

Pop. 359

Alt. 415

Map P 18-19

**General**—This small, historic community is 12 miles west of Brenham on U.S. 290. The original community was situated two miles northwest of its present site of Yegua Creek. First known as Kerr Settlement, then later called Union Hill. When the railroad bypassed Union Hill, the settlement shifted around 1870 to property on the railroad line owned by John and Elizabeth Burton. This site became the terminal for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Cotton farming reigned in the area and Burton prospered throughout the late 1800s.

Annual Cotton Gin Festival usually takes place the third weekend in April.

**Burton Cotton Gin and Museum**—Built in 1914 and powered by a 1925 twin-type IV oil engine, this gin has been restored with the guidance of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark; listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. It is a working reminder of the era when cotton reigned supreme. Visitors center open Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 979/289-3378 or visit Web site [www.cottonginmuseum.org](http://www.cottonginmuseum.org) for information. Admission.

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

**Mt. Zion Cemetery and Historical Chapel**—The Burton Heritage Society maintains this historic cemetery and church building. Graves of early settlers, including Leander M. McNelly, Confederate soldier and early Texas Ranger. Tours of the cemetery and chapel are available by calling 1-800-225-3695. Admission.

**Old Depot Museum**—Contains railroad memorabilia. A metal caboose and wooden caboose sit beside the old depot. Burton was a terminal of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. A newspaper article stated the passenger train would leave Houston at 2:30 p.m. and arrive in Burton at 5:30 p.m. to connect with the stagecoach leaving for La Grange, Bastrop, Austin, San Marcos, New Braunfels, and San Antonio. Tours by appointment; call 1-800-225-3695. Admission.

## CALDWELL

Pop. 3,449

Alt. 406

Map O-18

**General**—Founded 1840, has been seat of two counties. Before Burleson County organized in 1846, was seat of Milam County. Named for Mathew "Old Paint" Caldwell, noted Indian fighter and signer of Texas Declaration of Independence. In 1850s town was rendezvous for west-bound immigrants, and had one of finest hotels on Old San Antonio Road. One of state's best country inns is still located in Caldwell. Today city is primarily a rural trade center for surrounding farms and ranches with diversified industry, including manufacturing service and technology. Town has been named "Kolache Capital of Texas" by state legislature.

Caldwell is on the Presidential Corridor linking the George Herbert Walker Bush presidential library in Bryan/College Station with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin.

Caldwell lies on Texas 36, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum**—This small, but rich, museum focuses on the history and culture of the Czech people and assists the public in understanding the Czech heritage. Items of interest include a wall mural of the city of Prague and a dulcimer, presented to the museum by a Czech artist, who also has paintings displayed. Other exhibits include Czech costumes, books, crystal, and beautiful hand-painted eggs. Located in the chamber of commerce building at 212 W. Buck St. Donations accepted.

**Burleson County Historical Museum**—Items and relics of area pioneers, plus exhibits about Fort Tenoxtitlán, a fort established by Mexico in 1830 to promote Mexican settlers and thwart Anglo-American colonists. It's a



Michael Amador/TXDOT

### Kolache Festival in Caldwell

fascinating story—the Mexican commander eventually sided with the Texans and was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Open Fri. 2 - 4:30 p.m. Burleson County Courthouse.

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

## CALVERT

Pop. 1,426

Alt. 335

Map N-18

**General**—"Victorian" describes Calvert for the many business buildings and residences that have historical medallions. City named for Robert Calvert, descendant of Lord Baltimore, plantation owner who donated town site. In 1871 Calvert had largest cotton gin in the world. Much of the city is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The quaint downtown features a number of antique stores.

Bed and breakfast accommodations are available in historic buildings. For additional information on accommodations, events, and dining, call the Chamber of Commerce at 979/364-2559.

**Annie's Doll House Museum**—A fine collection of antique dolls and toys. Tours welcome with appointment; also restorations and sales. Open 2 - 5 p.m. Sun. At 409 Gregg St. Admission.

**Historic Homes Tour**—Each Saturday a different home is open to the public. For information and directions to the featured house, stop by any of the local downtown shops. Tour is 2 - 4 p.m. Admission.

**Virginia Field Park**—Features large gazebo and shady playground. Once the site of an unusual prison during Reconstruction Days which featured a "sky parlor" jail built atop a tall pole.

## CAMERON

Pop. 5,634

Alt. 402

Map O-18

**General**—Small town in rich agricultural area of Milam County settled by diverse groups of pioneers in the 1840s. Town named for Ewen Cameron, a Scot Highlander prominent in the Texas Revolution; county named for another independence fighter, Ben Milam, whose statue is on the courthouse grounds. It's not unusual to hear Czech, German, and Spanish—mingled with distinctive Texas drawls—still being spoken by some Cameron residents.

Cameron lies on Texas 36, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

Be sure to drive by the Magnolia House, a restored Victorian home. Tours by advanced reservations at 254/697-4551.

**City in Miniature**—John Johnson has created a model of Cameron that recalls the town as it looked during the 1940s. For more than 25 years, Mr. Johnson has created buildings using photographs of that era and from his childhood memories. The model includes the downtown area, neighborhoods, water towers, bridges and a working miniature railroad. Open daily in the antique mall at 104 West Main St. For additional information call 254/697-2047.

**City Park**—An 1890 pavilion still stands today for band concerts, meetings, and rallies. Site of 1892 gubernatorial debate between James S. Hogg and George Clark. Historical marker marks boyhood home of L. S. "Sul" Ross, former Texas governor and president of Texas A&M Univ. Intersection of U.S. 190, Texas 36, and U.S. 77.

**Milam County Historical Museum**—Housed in restored county jail, c. 1895, complete with cells, shackles, and gallows tower. Exhibits of pioneer farm and ranch equipment, rustic household furnishings, and Spartan "fashions" of the frontier. Also Indian artifacts, ranch and trail-driving tack, cowboy gear, and weapons. Open 1 - 5 p.m. Tues. - Sat. at Main and Fannin sts. downtown.

## CANTON

Pop. 3,292                      Alt. 540                      Map K-20

**General**—Farming and livestock market, seat of Van Zandt County, originally located in Henderson County. City is noted for "First Monday Trade Days," which runs sun-up 'til sun-down Thurs. through Sun. prior to the first Monday of each month. See 300 acres of antiques, arts and crafts, and handmade articles at one of nation's largest, best-known and most interesting flea markets. (Most activity Sat., Sun.)

Places to shop during the trade days are: Old Mill Marketplace, The Village, East Gate Market Place, the Original grounds and the Dixie House sections.

For additional information for First Monday Trade Days and dining opportunities, events, and accommodations, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 903/567-2991, or visit the Web site at [www.cantontx.com](http://www.cantontx.com).

## CARROLLTON

Pop. 109,576                      Alt. 470                      Map J-18

**General**—Settlers from Carrollton, IL, and at least one from Carrollton, MD, built a camp in 1844 near the present site of today's Farmers Branch Elementary School, but an Indian raid forced a move north to the present site; established 1872 as a stop on the MK&T Railroad. Growth has paralleled other Metroplex cities, growing from 1,610 in 1950 to the status of a city today.

The gazebo-centered square of Old Downtown Carrollton is location of antique and craft shops.

A highly rated public golf course (Indian Creek) offers two 18-hole courses to challenge golfers of every handicap and expertise.

**A.W. Perry Homestead Museum**—Built in 1909 from material salvaged from the first Perry home built in 1857, the home stayed in the family until donated to the community in 1975; restored as a bicentennial project. Furnishings and tools from the turn-of-the-century homestead afford visitors a nostalgic look at a nearly forgotten life-style. Open Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 1509 N. Perry Road, just north of Belt Line Road east of I-35.

**Exposure Rock**—Indoor facilities include beginner slab walls, vertical walls, an overhang and more advanced walls. Call 972/732-0307 for information. At 2389-B Midway Rd.

**Sandy Lake Amusement Park**—Small lake features paddle boats, giant swimming pool, miniature golf, and amusement rides. Open Apr. - Sept. At 1800 Sandy Lake Rd. For information, call 972/242-7449.

**Stone Works Climbing Gym**—Features a 110-ft. grain silo converted into a climbing wall. Climbing facilities for beginner, intermediate and advanced-levels. Also has outdoor climbing area. Open daily. For information, call 972/323-1047. At 1003 Fourth Ave. Admission.

## CEDAR HILL

Pop. 32,093                      Alt. 800                      Map K-18

**General**—Second oldest community in Dallas County. Founded on the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad about 1850. Highest point in county. Post Office granted before 1856. Like most cities in the Metroplex, growth paralleled other areas. Home to private school, Northwood Institute.

**Lakes**—Joe Pool and Mountain Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Cedar Hill State Park**—1,850-acre park on east shore of Joe Pool Lake amid rolling cedar-covered hills; camping, trailer facilities, picnicking, shelters, swimming, rest rooms and showers, hiking and fishing. Although considered an urban park because of its location, the beauty of the woods makes it a popular destination for D/FW residents. At night, the metroplex skyline lights are reflected softly in the lake.

**Penn Farm Agricultural History Center** depicts farming right before and after World War II when there was a change in agriculture from being an

enterprise of self-sufficient small farms to more of an agribusiness. Exhibits housed in 1918 barn, a Model T garage, two granaries and other restored structures interpret the farm site and life of the middle-class farmers who worked the land from the 1920s to the 1960s. 972/291-3900.

## CENTERVILLE

Pop. 903                              Alt. 353                              Map N-20

**General**—Rolling plains and prairies characterize the topography of this East Texas area. Seat of Leon County; lumber manufacturing; farm marketing center. Nine-tenths of the farm income is from livestock and poultry.

**Lake**—Limestone. See LAKES listing.

**Leon County Courthouse**—When the Leon County Courthouse burned in 1885, the smoke had scarcely died away before a contract was let to erect a new one. Completed in 1887, the "new" courthouse was built of slate bricks handmade near site. The courthouse is one of the oldest such buildings in Texas.

Four jails are still standing, three on the courthouse square and the current one on Texas 7. The oldest was built in 1887 and it was designed to coincide with that of the courthouse. The next one was built in 1913, followed by the third one built in 1974 which now houses county offices. The present jail was built in 1994.

## CHAPPELL HILL

Pop. 310 (est.)                      Alt. 317                              Map P-19

**General**—Settled in 1847, soon had two institutions of higher learning. Small schools thrived a while, but faded in 1867 when the community was almost wiped out by a yellow fever epidemic. Rural community still reflects quiet pace of bygone times. The town has more than 25 Texas Historical Markers and 10 sites on the National Register, including the Main Street Historic District.

Historic downtown district tours available through local historic group. Tour includes several buildings and features two short video presentations. For information, call 979/836-6033.

Annual festivals include the "Bluebonnet Festival of Texas" in the spring and the Scarecrow Festival in the fall.

**Chappell Hill Historical Museum**—This museum, a must-see for early Texas history buffs, occupies a former public school building constructed in 1927 and built on the site of the Chappell Hill Female College. Permanent exhibits portray the plantation economy, the Civil War period, the Reconstruction period, the two educational institutions that once existed here, and the Polish immigration. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. On Church St.

**Masonic Cemetery**—Located on Old Chappell Hill Road on the town's west side, this scenic cemetery contains grave sites of heroes from the Texas Republic and Confederacy, children of William B. Travis, Jacob Haller (town founder) and other early Texas pioneers. Rest rooms and benches for visitors. For more information and a brochure identifying historic grave sites, call the Washington County Chamber of Commerce in Brenham at 979/836-3695.

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 1155 north to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park winds through beautiful pastoral landscapes of Brazos River Valley, along historic route used by early settlers.

**Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park**—A few miles northeast on Brazos River, accessible via F.M. 1155. See WASHINGTON.

## CLARKSVILLE

Pop. 3,883                              Alt. 442                              Map G-21

**General**—Commercial center and seat of Red River County, one of original Texas counties; created 1836 and organized 1837. From its original area all or part of 38 other counties were created. City founded 1834 by Capt. James Clark. Sam Houston Park on F.M. 410 in northern part of county has markers commemorating grave of Jane Chandler Gill, oldest known Anglo grave in Texas, the site of Sam Houston's entry into Texas, and the town of Jonesboro, one of first Anglo settlements in Texas.

"Victorian" describes business district on square, oldest structures dating from 1885.

Just north of the city is Lennox Woods, a 374-virgin forest donated to the Nature Conservancy of Texas by the Lennox Foundation. These woods were preserved by the Lennox family for four generations. Not open for tours, but the woods can be seen driving by.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 903/427-2645.



DOCK/SHANEY PHOTO

Layland Museum in Cleburne

**Col. Charles DeMorse Home**—Known as the “Father of Texas Journalism,” Colonel DeMorse founded *The Northern Standard*, participated in Civil War, and was first president of Texas Press and Editorial Association. Drive-by view of restored home is one block north of town square.

**Golden Gals’ Pralines**—Cottage industry specializing in gourmet pralines handmade with finest Texas pecan halves. Woven baskets, made in Clarksville, make unusual Texas gift items. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m. 203 N. Locust. Tours available; for information call 903/427-3148.

**Historic Homes and Museum**—The Red River County Historical Society owns two homes and the Red River County Jail Museum. Miss Belle’s House is one of the oldest existing structures in the county. Built in 1874, the house is a combination of the Greek Revival and Victorian styles of architecture. The Lennox house, built in 1898, is a Victorian style design. The two houses and museum are normally opened during events in the city. For information, call the chamber of commerce at 903/427-2645.

**Red River County Courthouse**—Dates from 1885, massive walls and turrets of yellow sandstone, and a remarkable clock tower. Affectionately called “Old Red,” clock ran smoothly until 1961 when converted to electricity. Soon thereafter, Old Red began striking 120 gongs until someone unplugged it; known as “the night it got later than ever before” in Clarksville. The clock still tolls the hour for citizens of the town. Original records dating from 1835, the beginning of the Republic of Texas still on file, as well as deed and marriage records from 1845. The old jail, built from the same yellow sandstone, is nearby.

## CLEBURNE

Pop. 26,005

Alt. 764

Map K-17

**General**—Seat of Johnson County, established about 1854, first known as Camp Henderson. In 1867 name changed to honor Confederate Gen. Pat Cleburne. County is agricultural area featuring dairying, livestock, and farming. City economy is supported by diversified industry. City’s growth was due to the railroad, and it once was the location of the state’s largest railroad construction and repair shops. Currently on display in Hulén Park is the historic locomotive #3417 in the process of restoration.

**Cleburne State Park**—498 scenic acres offering camping, picnicking, rest rooms and showers, group camp facilities, fishing, swimming, boat rentals, groceries, trailer facilities, and hiking trails. Park contains a wildlife refuge and 116-acre Cedar Lake; 12 miles southwest of Cleburne, U.S. 67, Park Rd. 21. Admission.

**Historic Homes Tour**—Several homes in varying architectural have been restored to their original charm of the 1800s. Several of the homes are open and decorated for the Candlewalk Historic Home Tour held the second Sat. in Dec. Below are private residences and are generally open at times listed.

**Anglin Rose Bed and Breakfast** is a large ornate Queen Anne house built in 1892 for a successful grain dealer. It features an octagonal second floor turret and stained-glass windows. Period antique furnishing. Tour Wed. 6:30 p.m.; appointment advised. At 808 S. Anglin St. Tel. 817/641-7433.

**1896 Santa Fe Railroad House**—Historic hotel once provided food and lodging to railroad engineers, workers and passengers of the Santa Fe, Trinity Brazos Valley and Katy Railroads. Upper floor serves as bed and breakfast. Tour Wed. 7:30 p.m.; appointment advised. At 421 E. Henderson St. Tel. 817/517-5529.

**Johnson County Courthouse**—Built in 1912, features open rotunda, six stories tall, and is supported by four columns of matched marble, ornately garnished in old ivory and gold cut plaster. Looking upward into the dome, you can see beautiful stained glass. Open during business hours. Downtown.

**Lake**—Pat Cleburne. See LAKES listing.

**Layland Museum**—Johnson County historical relics, early Texana, comprehensive Indian artifacts dating from pre-Columbian cultures, fossils, and genealogy records. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. In handsome 1904 Carnegie Library, 201 N. Caddo. For information, call 817/645-0940.

**Carnegie Theater and Players** is a restored historic theater on the upper floor of the museum. Plays and musicals performed by local talent throughout the year. For schedule, call 817/645-2455.

**Visitor Center**—For additional information on accommodations, events, and dining, stop by the visitor center at 1511 W. Henderson St., or call 817/645-2455. Also visit the Web site at [www.cleburnechamber.com](http://www.cleburnechamber.com).

## CLIFTON

Pop. 3,542

Alt. 670

Map M-17

**General**—Settled about 1854 on Bosque River, today largest town in county; marketing center for surrounding agricultural efforts, and gateway to Lake Whitney. City park offers picnic facilities and playground equipment. Fishing available on the Bosque and Lake Whitney. Clifton calls itself the “Norwegian Capital of Texas” and Scandinavian traditions still observed by descendants of Norse settlers.

Clifton is a Texas Main Street city. Two antique malls feature more than 100 antique dealers; also, there are numerous specialty gift shops. For information on dining, accommodations, and events, call the Clifton Chamber of Commerce at 254/675-3720 or visit the Web site at [www.cliftoncentraltx.com](http://www.cliftoncentraltx.com).

**Bosque County Conservatory of Fine Arts**—Housed in a three-story historical building that was the former Main Hall of Clifton College, the BCCFA offers a local outlet for visual and performing arts, which include cultural classes, art shows, and a performing theatre. On West 9th St. For information, call 254/675-3720.

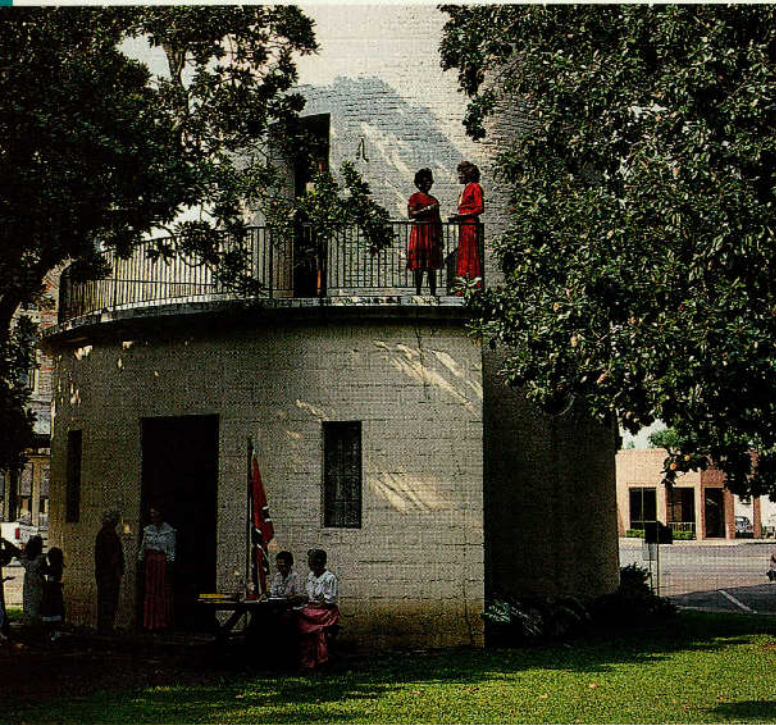
**Bosque Memorial Museum**—This museum displays the largest collection of Norwegian artifacts in the South and Southwest. Included also are Texas mineral and fossil collections, guns, coins, sailing ship models, pioneer kitchen equipment, farm tools and Indian artifacts. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 301 South Ave. Q. For information, call 254/675-3720. Admission.

**Lake**—Whitney. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Whitney State Park**—About 27 miles northeast. See WHITNEY.

**Meridian State Park**—15 miles northwest. See MERIDIAN.

**Norse Settlement**—Near Clifton the Norse community is “capital” of Norwegian settlement in Texas. Pioneers such as Cleng Peerson, called “the Father of Norse Immigration to America,” and Ole Canuteson brought groups of Norwegians to area in 1850s. Peerson’s grave, churchyard of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Norse community, honored by Norwegian descendants throughout U.S. Norse customs celebrated throughout the year including “Syttende Mai” (Norwegian Constitution Day) in May, smorgasbord in Nov., and Norwegian Country Christmas and Lutefisk Dinner in Dec. Access via F.M. 219 west, F.M. 182 north. For more information, call the Clifton Chamber of Commerce.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

The Old Water Tower/United Daughters of the Confederate Museum in Columbus

## COLUMBUS

Pop. 3,916      Alt. 207      Map Q-19

**General**—Site of an Indian village called Montezuma; settled 1823 by members of Stephen F. Austin Colony. Seat of Colorado County, the city bills itself “The City of Live Oaks.” An historical marker downtown identifies the trunk of one such landmark, under whose branches the first court of the Third Judicial District of the Republic of Texas convened in 1837.

Columbus is a treasure-trove of Victorian and turn-of-the-century homes. While most are private residences not open to the public except during the Springtime Festival on third weekend in May, drive-by views are rewarding. The Old Water Tower/United Daughters of the Confederate Museum and the Preston Kyle Shatto Museum and other sites are open only for the festival, or for group tours by prior arrangement through the Columbus Tourism Office at the chamber of commerce.

**Bed and Breakfast Registry**—For information and reservations: 979/732-5135.

**Columbus Opry**—Live country music entertainment billed as “Grand Ole Opry Style” every Sat. 7:30 - 10 p.m. in the Oaks Theatre, two blocks west of square. At 715 Walnut St. Admission. For information, call 979/732-6510.

**Texas Pioneer Trail**—Columbus is one of many pivotal points along trail covering Washington, Fayette, Colorado and Austin counties. Area known as Cradle of Texas where Stephen F. Austin’s “Old Three Hundred” planted roots in early 1820s. Visiting historic and scenic sights, the trail crisscrosses area extending north from Brenham and nearby Washington-on-the-Brazos south to Oakland, west to La Grange and east to San Felipe. For free map and information, contact the Columbus Tourism Office in opera house.

**Walking/Driving Tour**—Features historic homes, businesses, tearooms, restaurants, historic inns, antique emporium, and arts and crafts shops. Tour maps available at the visitor information center. Tour Begins at the 1886 Stafford Opera House. The driving tour features “talking houses.” You can tune your car radio to the frequency listed and enjoy a narrative of several landmarks without leaving your vehicle. Below are some of the attractions featured:

**Alley Log Cabin**—Built in 1836, just after the Runaway Scrape, by one of the original “Old 300” settlers brought to Texas by Austin. The square-notch cabin is fully furnished, an excellent example of Texas Colonial Period. Viewing doors open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 1224 Bowie St.

**Colorado County Courthouse**—Set among magnolia trees in center of town, the structure was built in 1891 in Second Empire style with locally made brick. It features a Neo-classic copper dome and a working, four-face Seth

Thomas clock. A magnificent stained glass dome is above the original 1890 judge’s bench, bailiff box, and witness stand in the District Courtroom. On Milam St. Open Mon. - Fri. during business hours.

**Dilue Rose Harris House Museum**—Greek Revival-style 1860 cottage of “tabby” construction houses period furniture. 602 Washington.

**Live Oak Art Center**—In historic Brunson Building features art studio and changing gallery exhibits of local, national, and international art from several centuries, as well as works of local artists. Open Wed. - Sat. 1014 Milam. Donations accepted.

**Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum**—More than 2,000 Santas: old, new, foreign and American, in various media. Collected works include the entire collection of Sunblom’s “Coke” Santas. 604 Washington. Open Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission.

**Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum**—First floor built prior to Civil War in a four-room Greek Revival-style, with four fireplaces and full basement. It was remodeled in the 1880s to present Victorian appearance. Two styles are evident throughout interior; furnishings depict small-town life a century ago. Magnolia Homes Tour members conduct tour. Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission. On Walnut St. (U.S. 90).

**Stafford Opera House**—Built in 1886 for cattle rancher Robert Stafford by famed Galveston architect Nicholas Clayton. Ground floor houses Columbus Tourism Office, where tour maps can be obtained along with information on area accommodations, restaurants and events. At 425 Spring St. Open Mon. - Sat. Telephone 979/732-5135 or 1-877-444-7339. Visit the Web site at [www.columbus-texas.org](http://www.columbus-texas.org).

## COMANCHE

Pop. 4,482      Alt. 1,358      Map L-15

**General**—Established as trade center for surrounding ranches 1858; severe Indian raids in early years inhibited growth. Today seat of Comanche County with agricultural production including peanuts, pecans, dairies, fruit, cattle, livestock feeds, and pottery. Boating, camping and fishing at four parks around Lake Proctor. At the 42-acre city park, there are facilities for picnicking, swimming, hiking, and jogging. Comanche is on the Texas Forts Trail.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at 915/356-3233.

**Comanche County Historical Museum**—Covered wagon, surrey, Indian and pioneer artifacts housed in replica of frontier store. Other exhibits include blacksmith shop, filling station, an early barber shop, and a doll collection. Texas gunslinger John Wesley Hardin moved to Comanche April 28, 1874. In a gun fight with a Brown County deputy sheriff, Hardin shot and killed the sheriff. Hardin was captured and convicted of murder in Comanche and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. A replica of the Jack Wright Saloon inside the museum depicts the notorious shootout. Open Sat. & Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. Moorman Rd. west.

**Fleming Oak**—Only remaining member of a large grove of oaks around which town developed. Legend has it that city began clearing the grove many years ago to pave the square, but an ancient settler objected, saying the tree saved his life during an Indian attack and he would protect the tree with his very life. The city relented part of its paving project to spare the tree, and it stands today at the southwest corner of Comanche’s town square.

**Lake**—Proctor Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Old Cora**—Oldest original existing Texas courthouse, built in town of Cora, 1856, then county seat. When county was partitioned in 1859, Comanche became county seat. Vintage building relocated to southwest corner of town square.

Recently, workers restoring the park area around Old Cora rediscovered an old water well hand dug in 1859 to furnish water for the courthouse and the public. As part of the beautification project, the well is lighted so visitors can view the inside through a clear covering to see how sides are built and the water in the bottom.

## COMMERCE

Pop. 7,669      Alt. 516      Map H-19-20

**General**—Originally known as Cow Hill, the town was established in 1872 by merchant William Jernigan between the Middle and South Sulphur rivers on the rich, black gumbo prairie in northeast Hunt County. The town incorporated in 1885, and nine years later Prof. William L. Mayo moved East Texas Normal College from Cooper to Commerce after the school burned. Mayo continued as president of the college, now known as Texas A&M University - Commerce, until his death in 1917 and is buried on the campus grounds.

Commerce was named the "Bois d'arc Capital of Texas" by the Texas Legislature because of its location in the geographic center of the indigenous range of the bois d'arc tree. The annual Bois d'Arc Bash paying homage to the lowly tree is usually held in September.

Bed and breakfast accommodations are available in historic structures within the city.

The quaint square is home to several antique malls and boutiques, as well as the Cow Hill Express where people gather for a cup of Cow Hill cappuccino.

The Texas Legislature named Commerce the "Bois d' Arc Capital of Texas" because of its location in the center of the indigenous range of the bois d' arc tree. The annual Bois d' Arc Bash celebrates the tree each September. Call 903/886-3950 for additional information.

**Cooper Lake State Park**—See COOPER and SULPHUR SPRINGS listings.

**Heritage House**—Built in 1927 to serve as home for the president of the university, the house has been restored to its original elegance. The two-story modified colonial style structure, with red brick veneer, is decorated with many furnishings and artifacts from former presidents' families. The home has hosted John Philip Sousa, Texas governors, entertainers, politicians, as well as business and religious leaders. The house is open for tours and for small receptions. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The adjoining Lyday Heritage Gardens were dedicated in 2001 and feature antique roses and shaded teakwood benches. On TAMU-C campus. For information, call 903/886-5712.

**Lakes**—Cooper, Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

## COOPER

Pop. 2,150

Alt. 495

Map H-20

**General**—Founded 1874 in rich farming area between North and South Sulphur rivers, town is principal commercial center and seat of Delta County.

Just south of the square is the historic McKinney home with elegant furnishings of a gracious living era. Although it's opened by appointment only, it's worth checking with the local chamber of commerce for an appointment.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and other attractions, stop by the Cooper Chamber of Commerce at 41 West Side Square, or call 903/395-4314.

### Topsey Exotic Ranch and Drive Through Safari, Copperas Cove



Gay Shackelford/IXD01



Pete Smith

### Pioneer Village in Corsicana

**Cooper Lake State Park**—Two units on Cooper Lake; Dr.'s Creek features 42 multi-use camping facilities with water and electricity, boat ramp, 3/4-mile hiking trail, playground, sandy beach, and day-use picnic facilities, all ADA approved. South Sulphur unit on the south side of the lake features the same amenities. From I-30, take Texas 50/24 north to Commerce; Texas 24 north to Business Rt. 24 into Cooper. Go 2.2 miles to F.M. 1529 south (or take a right) to the Doctor's Creek Unit. Admission. For information, call 903/395-3100 for Dr.'s Creek, for South Sulphur, 903/945-5256; for reservations, call 512/389-8900.

**Lake**—Cooper. See LAKES listing.

**Miller Drug**—Features an old-fashioned soda fountain dishing out rich, thick milk shakes, cherry Cokes, and other goodies since 1925. Old Wurlitzer juke box plays tunes for today's crowd. 100 E. Dallas St.

**Patterson Memorial Delta County Museum**—In restored Texas-Midland Railroad Depot. Theme is "Home Life in Yesteryears in Delta County" with collection of furniture, implements, tools, books, fire engines, cars, buggies, and other memorabilia of early settlers in the county. Open Apr. - Oct. Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 700 W. Dallas St.

## COPPERAS COVE

Pop. 29,592

Alt. 1,086

Map N-16

**General**—With the protection of five surrounding hills, and the abundance of spring water (some of which was said to have a copper taste), the site became a stopping point as drovers brought their herds to the Chisholm Trail. The town that grew there remained a small farming and ranching community until 1942 when Camp Hood (later, Fort Hood) was established at the eastern edge of town, and Copperas Cove soon became the largest city in Coryell County. Home Central Texas College.

**Fort Hood**—See KILLEEN.

**Topsey Exotic Ranch and Drive Through Safari**—Among the more than 50 species at the park, many roam free, like camels, kangaroos, and llamas, and they all make wonderful photo subjects. Although the animals are wild, most are so gentle they may be hand fed from the safety and comfort of your car. Don't forget your camera! Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Oct. - Feb.; 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mar. - Sept. Located nine miles northwest of town via F.M. 1113 to intersection of F.M. 580; look for signs. 254/547-3700. Admission.

## CORSICANA

Pop. 24,485

Alt. 448

Map L-19

**General**—Established 1849; early boom touched off in 1894 when city was drilling for water, accidentally struck oil; one of Texas' first refineries built here in 1897. City was first in state to use natural gas for fuel and lighting, and crude oil for locomotive fuel. Today retail and wholesale center for rich blacklands agricultural area. Municipal park, swimming, golf. Home of Navarro College.

**Corsicana Fruitcake**—Baked by Collin Street Bakery since 1896 and marketed under the name “Deluxe,” cake is possibly world’s most famous; shipped each year to every state and more than 190 foreign lands. Only fruitcake granted rare Gourmet Society (New York) Culinary Merit Award. Incidentally, they’re available year round. Sold only by mail or at bakery, 401 W. 7th Ave. For information, call 1-800-248-3366.

**Gaston C. Gooch Library**—Some 44,000 Indian art and craft pieces, including thousands of arrowheads collected from 17 states, considered one of the finest exhibits in the Southwest. Includes the Pearce Western Art Collection, which is home to original works of art by masters of Western art. The Pearce Civil War Collection displays more than 200 collections of documents, etc., from the Civil War era. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Navarro College campus, west of downtown on Texas 31.

**Lakes**—Bardwell, Cedar Creek, and Navarro Mills, Richland-Chambers. See LAKES listing.

**Lefty Frizzell Country Music Museum**—Dedicated to local boy who made it big in county/Western music. Museum includes mementos of his music career, including photos, costumes, and records, as well as other recording artists. Near the museum is a life-sized statue of Frizzell in Beauford Jester Park. Hand prints of Merle Haggard and other singers are in the sidewalk in front of the statue. Museum is open daily in Pioneer Village.

**Pioneer Village**—Project of Navarro County Historical Society, restorations of houses and buildings from mid-1800s: homes, stores, doctor’s office, blacksmith shop, covered wagon, and stagecoach—all restored and furnished in authentic detail. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 912 W. Park Ave. Admission.

## CRESSON

Pop. 320 (est.)      Alt. 1,047      Map K-17

**General**—On U.S. 377 at jct. of Texas 171 southwest of Fort Worth, the village was founded about 1887, named for official of Fort Worth & Rio Grande Railway Company.

**Lake**—Granbury. See LAKES listing.

**Pate Museum of Transportation**—Antique luxury railroad car, elegant vintage and classic automobiles, military aircraft, navy minesweeper, other exhibits and displays; 1,500-volume transportation library. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. On U.S. 377 northeast.

## CUERO

Pop. 6,571      Alt. 177      Map S-17

**General**—(KWER-o) An unusual name derivation: A local creek was notorious for trapping cattle in bogs, but skimmers salvaged the hides. Indian word

DeWitt Museum in Cuero

for rawhides translated to Spanish as *cuero*. When town was founded in 1872, town took name of the creek.

Once a round-up point for a leg of the Chisholm Trail, a true “wild west” outpost where women and children were forbidden after dark. Today seat of DeWitt County, a bountiful agricultural area among state leaders in cattle and calves; also pecans, peaches, apples, and fresh vegetables; substantial natural gas production. In 1999, the Texas State Legislature designated DeWitt County as the “Wildflower Capital of Texas,” due to the more than 100 different species of wildflowers present.

Rich with small-town history—50 structures on the National Register of Historic Places; three historic districts, two residential and one commercial encompassing Main Street. The 1896 courthouse is among most handsome in Texas. Swimming, picnicking, golf in 150-acre municipal park. Swimming, picnicking, golf in 150-acre newly updated Municipal Park thanks to grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

For additional information on city’s amenities, contact the Cuero Chamber of Commerce at 361/275-2112.

**Churches**—More than 25 churches represent 14 denominations in the city. Among those are five marked by the Texas Historical Commission and national registry: Grace Episcopal whose congregation moved to Cuero in 1874; St. Mark’s Lutheran, built in style reminiscent of Spanish missions; First Methodist; First Presbyterian; and St. Mark’s Catholic.

**Historic Federal Building of Cuero**—Built in 1915, this historical structure housed the post office as well as other federal offices. Home to the Cuero Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and the Cuero Heritage Museum, the museum features city memorabilia. For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call 361/275-2112. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5:30 p.m.

**DeWitt County Historical Museum**—Housed in restored 1886 house, built partly with timbers salvaged from Indianola. Period furnishings, documents, clothing, ranch and home articles; also a restored log cabin. Special new exhibits each month. Open Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed during noon hour, Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at 312 E. Broadway. The museum is open daily during the month of April, except Easter Sunday, for Wildflower Month. For information, call 361/275-6322.

## DALLAS

Pop. 1,188,580      Alt. 512      Map J-18

**General**—At the site of this present metropolis the first anglo-American settler built a single cabin in 1841. Two years later the “town” consisted of two log cabins. By the mid-1870s, Dallas had become a thriving business town and market center with a cosmopolitan, urbane air unmatched anywhere on the frontier at the time. This was primarily due to several immigrations of skilled and cultured groups of French, German, Swiss, English, and other Europeans.

Dallas is the southwest’s largest banking center, leader in wholesale business, second in nation for insurance company home offices, third in the nation in terms of “million-dollar” companies, and number two in convention business.

“If it doesn’t sell in Dallas, it won’t sell,” say buyers who come to some 32 wholesale fashion and home furnishing markets each year. Beginning with the Dallas Market Center in 1957, today multibuilding complex includes Homefurnishings Mart, INFOMART, World Trade Center, Trade Mart, Apparel Mart, Decorative Center District, and Menswear Mart.

Citizens pursue culture with almost as much enthusiasm as business. Any day or night of the year, one may choose from a lavish variety of events. Excellent major symphony orchestra and a steady stream of visiting groups: opera and ballet, theatre and musical comedy, literary societies, and debating groups. Visit flower shows, horse shows, art shows, bird shows, dog shows, and cat shows. Noted for abundant gourmet dining opportunities.

Summer musicals are held Jun. - Oct. at Music Hall in Fair Park, nightly Tues. - Sat., and weekend matinees.

An excellent climate where predominantly fair skies encourage outdoor activities, especially water sports.

State Fair of Texas in fall draws more than 3 million annually to 277-acre Fair Park. Traditional fair exhibits, plus Broadway musicals, extravaganzas, prize livestock and horse show performances, a huge midway that features the “Texas Star”—largest Ferris wheel in the Western Hemisphere—and gridiron rivalry between Texas and Oklahoma. Big Tex, gigantic cowboy symbol, looms over all festivities. Open year-round at Fair Park are eight museums and TI Founders IMAX Theater.

Professional sports are presented throughout year; teams include pro football’s Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers baseball, Dallas Stars National Hockey



Gay Sheehy/Outlook '00





Dallas Galleria photo

### Shopping in Dallas at the Galleria

League, Dallas Mavericks basketball, Dallas Freeze Central Hockey League, and Dallas Sidekicks indoor soccer and the Dallas Burn, outdoor professional soccer.

For game schedules and other tourist details, stop at the city Visitor Center at the Old Red Courthouse or contact [www.dallascvb.com](http://www.dallascvb.com).

Dallas and satellite cities are home of Amber Univ., Baylor Univ. College of Dentistry, the Univ. of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas Baptist College, Dallas Theological Seminary, Paul Quinn College, Southern Methodist Univ., the Univ. of Dallas, the Univ. of Texas at Dallas, and seven units of Dallas County Community College enrolling more than 75,000 undergraduates.

The Light Rail System of Dallas Area Rapid Transit System (DART) allows visitors to get from downtown to one of Dallas' major shopping malls in North Dallas and is steadily expanding into nearby communities. DART also makes it easy for visitors to get to the city's attractions, such as the Arts District, the West End Historic District, Old City Park, Farmers Market, the Dallas Convention Center, the Dallas Zoo, and the central city area with stations at or within walking distance from these attractions. It operates daily from 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**African-American Museum**—Founded in 1974 as part of the Bishop College Library, the museum houses one of the largest collections of African-American folk art in the nation. The 38,000-square-foot facility is dedicated to the preservation and display of African-American artistic, cultural, historical materials, and includes African-American women's archives. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun., 12 - 4 p.m. 3536 Grand Ave. at Fair Park entrance. 214/565-9026.

**American Museum of the Miniature Arts**—Features collection of dollhouses, miniature room boxes, and vignettes. The dollhouses are of various designs going back to the 18th Century, including Mt. Pleasant, a two-story Colonial mansion which still stands today in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, PA. Others include Texas farm houses with exact scale model furniture, a five-story New York townhouse, and an 1885 Victorian home furnished by 12 interior designers. Visitors can also see a miniature sterling silver collection. At 2001 N. Lamar St. in the West End Historic District. open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Tel. 214/969-5502. Admission.

**Biblical Arts Center**—A splendid nondenominational showcase of biblical arts accented by soaring arched ceilings, massive stone columns, an atrium

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Gay Shickelhorst/TXDOT

**African-American Museum in Dallas**

courtyard; galleries with great religious art from around the world: paintings, sculptures, icons, clerical artifacts; replica of the tomb of Christ, and St. Paul's "Gate at Damascus." Highlight of the center is enormous oil painting, 124 feet long by 20 feet high, depicting the Miracle at Pentecost, interpreted by dramatic sound-and-light program. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Free access to the center and its galleries; fee for the "Miracle at Pentecost" presentation. Closed New Year's, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. 7500 Park Lane at Boedecker. Tel. 214/691-4661.

**Bryan Cabin**—In Dallas County Historical Plaza; reconstructed log cabin of John Neely Bryan who, in 1841, was area's first settler. North of Kennedy Plaza at Main and Record sts.

**Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden**—A 66-acre haven of natural beauty only minutes from downtown Dallas. Headquarters is in the Camp Estate, designed by Texas' most famous residential architect, John Staub, and completed in 1939. Also on grounds is historic DeGolyer House, a magnificent Spanish Colonial-style mansion built in 1940 by Texas oil man Everett DeGolyer. Mansion of 21,000 square feet has 13 rooms, 7 baths, 16th- and 17th-Century antiques, and artworks; surrounded by Old English garden, footpaths, rolling lawns, and woodlands.

Twenty-five acres of ornamental gardens and 41 acres of natural woodland, located on White Rock Lake, create an oasis in the heart of one of Dallas' oldest neighborhoods. The Arboretum creates a rotating display of seasonal color. Special events occur every month. Gardens open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Nov. - Feb. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). At 8625 Garland Rd. (Texas 78) overlooking White Rock Lake. Admission. For information, call 214/327-8263.

**Dallas Cowboys/Texas Stadium**—See IRVING.

**Dallas Firefighters Museum**—Housed in old two-story fire station, c. 1907, features more than 100 years of Dallas fire-fighting history, including 1884 horse-drawn steamer, last to be used in city. Also included is a 1936 Texas Centennial ladder truck and other fire memorabilia. Open Wed. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 3801 Parry Ave., across from Fair Park. Tel. 214/821-1500. Admission.

**Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies**—A permanent collection of photographs, artifacts, and documentary films, as well as videotapes of local survivors, a memorial room, and a library. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. 7900 Northaven. For information, call 214/750-4654.

**Dallas Museum of Art**—Superb core collection of pre-Columbian artwork plus major European and American art, including Church's "The Icebergs" and Oldenburg's monumental "Stake Hitch." Other exhibits include choice examples by Monet, O'Keeffe, and Matisse; sculptures of Rodin and Henry Moore, plus special traveling exhibits. The American galleries house extensive collection of American art together with long-term loans to contrast all the arts of the Western Hemisphere. Open Tues. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. til 9 p.m.). Closed Mon., New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. 1717 N. Harwood at Ross St. Telephone 214/922-1200.

**Dallas Symphony Orchestra**—See Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.  
**Dallas Theatre Center**—Of great architectural interest, Frank Lloyd Wright's only direct contribution to the dramatic stage. The permanent repertory company plays 154 performances over 8-month season (Oct. - May). Open Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun., noon - 8 p.m. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Telephone 214/526-8210.

**Dallas World Aquarium and Zoological Garden**—A showcase of sea life from around the world. Some spotlighted splendors of the ocean include Bahamian Acropora corals, giant Tridacna clams, bonnet-head sharks, and stingrays. Adjacent tropical rain forest harbors toucans, monkeys, jaguars, snakes and cascading waterfalls has been added. Inspired by the Orinoco River Basin in Venezuela, the rain forest building serves as a complement to the aquarium. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas. In the West End District at 1801 North Griffin St. For information, call 214/720-2224. Admission.

**Dallas Zoo**—The zoo is home to many rare and endangered species, including okapis, lowland gorillas, and tuataras. Exxon Mobil Endangered Tiger Habitat is one-acre naturalistic exhibit for Sumatran and Indochinese tigers. New Lacerte Family Children's Zoo features two acres of entertaining, interactive exhibits for children. The Zoo also features the nationally renowned reptile collection, interactive Reptile Discovery Center, and a walk-through rain forest aviary. Picnic areas, gift shop, Adopt-an-Animal program, and year-round special events.

Within zoo is the 25-acre Wilds of Africa exhibit, featuring a variety of African birds and mammals roaming in naturalistic replications of native habitat. A monorail takes visitors on one-mile journey rising and descending to different levels to view animals. Other features include a 1,500-ft. nature trail; the award-winning Jake L. Hamon Gorilla Conservation Research Center; and an African Plaza with Ndebele Cafe. Also, there is the Kimberly-Clark Chimpanzee Forest.

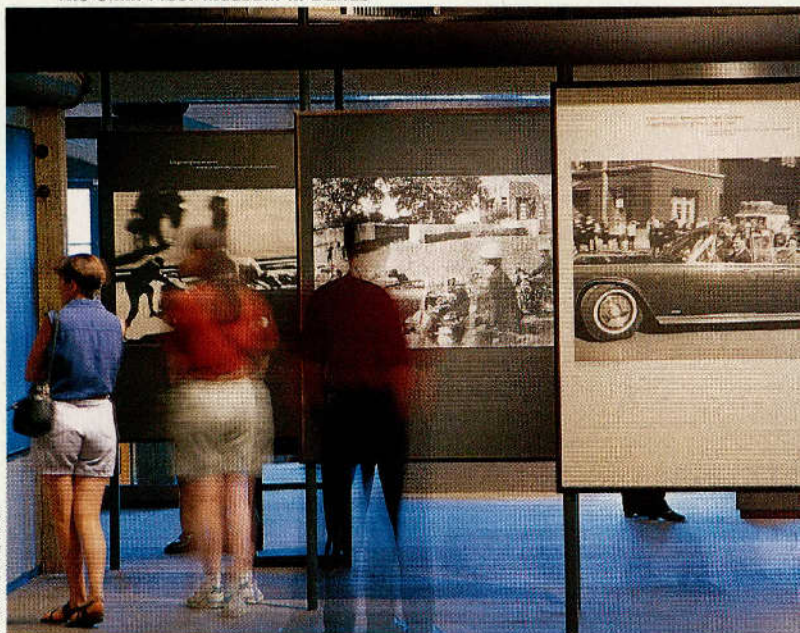
Look for the 67-1/2 foot bronze and Plexiglas giraffe near the entrance. The zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (except Christmas Day). 650 South R.L. Thornton Frwy. (I-35E). Telephone 214/670-5656; admission.

**Deep Ellum Historic District**—Just east of downtown Dallas is the popular Deep Ellum area. In early 1900s this was center for African-American business, entertainment, and center for popular blues music and artists. Today, the old two-story stores have become home of shops, restaurants, and clubs featuring music from country/Western to rock. Several block area bounded by Elm, Commerce, Oakland, and Good Latimer sts.

**DeGolyer Estate**—See Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden.

**Fair Park**—Recognized in 1986 as National Historic Landmark for its Art Deco architecture. Home to a huge annual state exposition, the grounds host millions during three weeks in the fall. Rest of the year (except two weeks before the fair opens) area serves as popular city park, including attractions listed on the following page:

**The Sixth Floor museum in Dallas**



J. Griffith Smith/TXDOT



Gay Stachelder/TXDOT

### Dallas Museum of Art

**Age of Steam Railroad Museum** offers a nostalgic look at the heyday of railroading. Visitors may stroll through luxurious dining cars, lounge cars, and Pullman sleeping cars with beds prepared for a night's rest. The museum also exhibits four massive steam locomotives, including "Big Boy," the world's largest. These dinosaurs of the industrial age stand silent now, but they almost seem to come alive as the museum's vintage steam whistle collection is demonstrated for tours. Gift shop in 1905 vintage Houston and Texas Central Depot. Open Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1105 Washington St. in Fair Park. For information, 214/428-0101. Admission.

**Cotton Bowl Stadium** seats 71,456 for major collegiate football, including traditional Texas-Oklahoma game during State Fair in Oct., and the Cotton Bowl each New Year's.

**Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park** is home to a varied collection of more than 5000 aquatic animals, including marine and freshwater fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. A 10,500-gallon, nine-foot-tall Amazon Flooded Forest Exhibit showcases some 25 species of fish found in the Amazon River of South America. The exhibit includes an educational video of the importance of the flooded forest ecosystem. Special attractions include piranha feedings at 2:30 p.m. on Tues., Thurs., and Fri.; other fish feedings on Wed., Fri. and Sun. The "World of Aquatic Diversity" exhibit features 28 displays of unusual and bizarre adaptations for different species, such as the nearly invisible glass catfish and the four-eyed fish. Other Aquarium features include a 135-pound snapping turtle, a 5-ft. long electric eel, moon jellyfish and venomous lionfishes. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For information, call 214/670-8443. Admission.

**Dallas Horticulture Center**, one of most notable in U.S.; includes 500-seat auditorium, botanical collections, and seven-acre Southwestern garden. Garden for the Blind features raised beds of herbs and other plants noted for scents and textures. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

**Hall of State** is majestic shrine that depicts Texas historical greats in epic-scale marble and mosaics. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 214/421-4500.

**Museum of Natural History** presents wide collection of native animal life in authentic habitat groups. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days. Admission fees vary according to exhibit. Tel. 214/421-3466.

**Science Place & TI Founders IMAX Theater** is filled with more than 250 hands-on exhibits, classes and programs. Exhibits include the "Gossamer Penguin," the first solar-powered aircraft; also energy, health, and anatomy exhibits. The Forces of Nature exhibit lets visitors of all ages explore science and technology behind the fields of force. See a hot air balloon demonstrating the force of heat in weather, a tornado (smaller than real life, but a definite must-see and touch, and the Gravitrax showing the force of gravity. Includes planetarium.

Science Place open daily 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. TI Founders IMAX Theater open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; late night shows Fri. - Sat. from May through August (up to 9 p.m.). At Grand Ave. entrance to Fair Park. Tel. 214/428-5555. Admission, and fee for planetarium shows.

TI Founders IMAX Theater designed each seat to give an optimum view of the film shown on the 79-foot dome overhead. Shows every hour on the hour (except noon and 5 p.m.) daily; Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. For information, 214/428-5555. Admission.

**Smirnoff Center**, outdoor amphitheater featuring top entertainment. For information call 214/421-1111.

**State Fair Coliseum**, seating 7,000, hosts rodeos, horse shows and sporting events throughout year.

**Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future** is associated with the Smithsonian Institution and chronicles the lives of women in America as never before. Through interactive exhibits, the museum explores the contributions of women throughout American history, shows similarities and differences among women's lives across time, and inspires pride and hope for future generations of women. Permanent exhibits highlight notable women from many walks of life, and a signature feature of the museum is a 30-ft.-high "electronic quilt" depicting women in photographic and video images. The museum also hosts a variety of temporary exhibits. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; extended hours during the State Fair of Texas. For information, call 214/915-0860.

**Farmers Market**—One of few remaining and one of largest markets in nation. Some 1,000 farmers bring fresh produce for sale. During the year special crafts, plants and flowers are featured for holiday occasions. Open daily 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cadiz and Harwood sts. Telephone 214/939-2808.

**Frontiers of Flight Museum**—History of Aviation collection formerly at Univ. of Texas at Dallas, now at Love Field. Museum's artifacts chronicle history of flight from primitive balloon launches in the 1800s to today's Stealth bomber and space shuttle. Exhibits include fur parka worn by Adm. Richard E. Byrd during first flight to the South Pole in 1929, engines from early airplanes, and a *Hindenberg* collection that includes original radio operator's chair and silverware recovered from the crash. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Love Field, 2nd Floor; Cedar Springs at Mockingbird Ln. Tel. 214/350-1651. Admission.

**Horseback Riding**—Several ranches offer Western-style hospitality for day trips in the D/FW Metroplex.

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Geoff Apple/7-007

**West End Historic District in Dallas**

**Texas Lil's Diamond A Ranch** in rustic setting has horseback riding, swimming, hayrides. Reservations required. In Justin. 817/430-0192.

**Wagon Wheel Ranch** has horseback riding, group night rides, hayrides, and riding lessons on 300 acres. Two locations in Coppell and Grapevine. Reservations required. 214/462-0894 or 817/481-8284.

**International Museum of Cultures**—Reflects work of organization that creates written language for "hidden" peoples who have no written language. Museum focuses on life-styles and cultures of those peoples, with artifacts and exhibits. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat., Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m. 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd.

**John F. Kennedy Memorial**—See The Sixth Floor.

**Lakes**—Bachman, Grapevine, Joe Pool, Lavon, Lewisville, Mountain Creek, Ray Hubbard, White Rock. See LAKES listing.

**McKinney Avenue Trolley**—Nostalgic early 20th-Century trolley cars recommissioned to take visitors from downtown to uptown McKinney Ave. for a variety of antique shops, restaurants, and clubs, including the Hard Rock Cafe. Trolley runs from Ross Ave. and St. Paul St. up St. Paul to McKinney Ave. and back. Schedule posted along route. Fare.

**Malibu Speed Zone**—Entertainment complex featuring sprint racing tracks and vintage racing cars; miniature golf, bumper boats and more than 100 video games. Open Sun. - Thurs., 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.; at 11130 Malibu Dr. Tel. 972/247-RACE.

**Mary Kay Museum**—Display cases are replete with mementos that tell the story of the famous cosmetics firm, from its beginning struggles to its present successful corporate operations. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; guided tours Tues. - Fri. by appointment. In Mary Kay's international headquarters at 16251 Dallas Parkway. For information, 972/687-6300.

**Meadows School of the Arts**—Virginia Meadows Museum: 15th through 20th Century collection of Spanish art, paintings by international masters, sculpture court, and gardens. It is the most comprehensive collection of Spanish art in the U.S. Open Mon., Tues., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; closed Wed. Located on the SMU campus. Tel. 214/768-2516.

**Medieval Times**—Step back to the Middle Ages and cheer for your favorite knight. As you dine, enjoy all the pageantry of a medieval feast, including horsemanship, swordplay, falconry, sorcery, and an authentic jousting tournament. Shows Wed. - Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. For information, reservations and show times, 214/761-1800. At 2021 N. Stemmons Frwy. (I-35E).

**Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center**—Multimillion-dollar facility designed by architect I. M. Pei with acoustics by Russell Johnson. The 260,000-sq.-ft. facility is the home of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, which plays full schedule of both home performances and tours. Symphony's consistent

excellence rates it among nation's top 10. The Meyerson is also a public facility utilized by numerous groups. Available for group tours. Open for scheduled performances. Tel. 214/670-3600. 2301 Flora St.

**Old City Park**—Discover culture and lifestyle in North Texas from 1840 - 1910. The village consists of 38 structures, including a gift shop, restaurant, bank, print shop, lawyer's office, blacksmith shop, and more. On 13 acres in the heart of Dallas; especially colorful during Christmas holidays. Rental facilities include the restaurant, chautauqua pavilion, gazebo, church, and greenspace. Grounds open dawn to sunset. Guided tours (admission) Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 1717 Gano St. immediately south of Farmers Market in downtown business district. For information, call 214/421-5141

**Palace of Wax/Ripley's Believe It or Not!**—See GRAND PRAIRIE.

**Parks**—Dotted throughout city are 271 parks covering more than 20,000 acres including the Elm Fork Nature Trail.

**Pioneer Plaza**—4.2-acre plaza between historic Pioneer Cemetery and Dallas Convention Center features world's largest bronze monument, 40 Texas Longhorn steers being driven by three cowboys on horseback. Features landscape of native plants and flowing river. Between Young and Griffin sts.

**Reunion Tower**—Focal point of the Reunion area, which was a settlement of French immigrants in the 19th Century. Fifty-story tower features observation deck (fee), restaurant and revolving lounge; adjacent to glass-tower Hyatt Regency. Nearby, restored Union Station, c. 1914. Reunion Arena schedules sporting events, circuses, ice shows, concerts, and rodeos. Just off I-35E at southwest edge of downtown; Houston St., Reunion Blvd., Sports St.

**Six Flags Over Texas**—See ARLINGTON.

**Sixth Floor, The**—A permanent, educational exhibition on the life, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy. Exhibits feature photographs, artifacts, a 30-minute audio tour and six films. Visitor center at the former Texas School Book Depository has elevators up to the 6th floor. Open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; closed Christmas. Ticket sales stop one hour before closing. At 411 Elm St. Tel. 214/747-6660. Admission.

Other Kennedy Memorials include historical marker on Houston St. near Elm St. which marks the spot where President Kennedy was assassinated during motorcade, Nov. 22, 1963. Cenotaph and Memorial Park at Main and Market sts. is landscaped city block with open-style monument dedicated to the slain President.

**Southfork Ranch**—See PLANO.

**Thanks-Giving Square**—Opened 1977, the interfaith Chapel of Thanksgiving is regular site of worship services. Waterfall and landscaping provide quiet retreat in center of city. Within corners formed by Akard, Bryan, Pacific and Ervay sts. Tel. 214/969-1977.

**Tammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art**—This private collection of Asian Art has some 500 works from China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia dating from 3500 B.C. to the early 20th Century. Highlights include precious jade ornaments from China, delicate Japanese scrolls, the second largest crystal ball in the world, and a larger-than-life bronze Confucius. Open Tues. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. At 2010 Flora St. in the Tammell Crow Center. For information, call 214/979-6430.

**Visitor Center**—The Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a visitor center offering abundant details about local events, accommo-

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datations, dining and points of interest. The center is in the historic Dallas County Courthouse built in 1892. Affectionately called "Old Red," the building gets its name from its prominent red sandstone exterior. Interactive kiosks offer high-tech data and map printouts on the city. Open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (closed holidays). West End Historic District, Main and Houston sts. Tel. 214/571-1300, or visit the Web site at [www.dallascvb.com](http://www.dallascvb.com).

**West End Historic District**—Early-day business district revived and restored with shops, push-cart traders, craftsmen, restaurants, and clubs occupying modern facilities within the original architecture. Served by DART light rail.

**West End MarketPlace**—A festival market with dozens of restaurants, clubs and boutiques, including Planet Hollywood; occupies three adjoining buildings. Street entertainers, many special events, and the 3.5-million-dollar Dallas Alley features several night clubs with variety of music and entertainment. In Historic District at north end of Market St. at Munger Ave.

**Wilson Historic District Walking Tour**—Walk the historic Wilson Block along Swiss Avenue in the heart of downtown Dallas and recall the Victorian era of early Dallas. In 1981, the Meadows Foundation recognized an opportunity to solve its needs for larger space, while providing office space for other nonprofit organizations. The Foundation purchased the Wilson Block and began the restoration project. Tour begins with short film at the Wilson Carriage House behind 2922 Swiss Ave. Tours Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. at noon. Visitor center open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information, call Preservation Dallas at 214/821-3290.

**Zero Gravity Thrill Amusement Park**—This park offers the latest cutting edge amusement rides in Dallas. The "Nothing But Net" attraction allows divers to experience complete unattached free fall from a height of 100 - 150 ft. pure free fall to an extremely soft landing in a dual net system below. The park also features "Sky Coaster," "Texas Blast-Off," and Bungee jumping. Open Mon. - Thurs. 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri. 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.; Sat. Noon - 1 a.m.; Sun. 1 p.m. - 11 p.m.; at 11131 Malibu Dr. Tel. 972/484-8359.

## DECATUR

Pop. 5,201

Alt. 1,097

Map H-17

**General**—Selected as townsite and seat of Wise County 1856, first known as Taylorsville. Famous Butterfield Overland Mail Route passed through town in mid-1800s. Site of trial and hanging of five Peace Party conspirators in 1862.

Fishing and camping north off F.M. 730 on Black Creek Lake is available in the Caddo National Grasslands.

**Lakes**—Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain. See LAKES listing.

**Wise County Courthouse**—Built in 1895 of pink limestone from Burnet, it has been pronounced a perfect architectural example of its type and era. On the traditional town square.

**Wise County Heritage Museum**—Housed in administration building of old Decatur Baptist College built in 1892 for \$20,855. Exhibits include Indian artifacts, old post office fixtures from Chico community, art, mementos of early area history; also archives and little theater. Open Mon. & Tues. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m. 1602 S. Trinity. Admission.

## DENISON

Pop. 22,773

Alt. 767

Map G-18

**General**—Established 1872 as railhead for first railroad into Texas from north, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas. Five miles south of the Red River, city is gateway to Texas and popular Lake Texoma. Noted as the birthplace of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Diversified industries include major food processors, fabricated metal products, and medical services. Home of Grayson County Junior College.

Historical Driving Tour and details on area attractions available at chamber of commerce, 313 W. Woodard.

Old Katy Depot on Main St. next to Katy Park Plaza is handsome 1909 depot listed on National Register of Historic Places.

**Denison Dam**—Short, informative tours of Denison Dam powerhouse; exhibit of fossils unearthed during construction of the dam that impounds Lake Texoma. Tours Mon. - Fri. 1 p.m. North of city on Texas 91.

**Eisenhower Birthplace**—On October 14, 1890, Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in a two-story white frame house at 208 E. Day St., son of a worker in the nearby Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway shops. Home restored to 1890 appearance by Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation; operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a State Historic Site. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Admission.



Michael Amador/TXDOT

### Wise County Museum in Decatur

**Eisenhower State Park**—450 acres on shore of Lake Texoma with modern marina. Swimming, fishing, camping, RV sites, boat rentals, picnicking, and hiking trails. Seven miles northwest via Texas 91, F.M. 1310, and Park Road 20; admission.

**Grayson County Frontier Village**—Collection of 17 rustic buildings dating from 1840 to 1900 include log schoolhouse with teacher's sleeping loft, portable jail, and moving wagon, all restored and furnished. Frontier Village Museum exhibits household utensils, crystal, pioneer clothing, and tools. Village on 17 acres in Loy Park open April 1 - mid-Aug. Wed. through Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Exit 67 off U.S. 75 Frontage-Loy Lake Rd. 903/463-2487.

**Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge**—11,300 acres of land and water offer food and rest haven for migrating and wintering waterfowl on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma. Some 300 bird species have been recorded on the refuge that's visited by 135,000 people each year. In addition to huge flocks of migrants passing through each fall and spring, observers may see killdeer, snowy egrets, rails, plovers and sandpipers in summer; great blue herons and other wading and shore birds in winter; native white-tailed deer and other animals year round. When oil was discovered on the refuge in 1951, development proceeded with care. Significantly, some 200 carefully maintained wells produce vital energy today in harmony with the wildlife that perches on, feeds by, and rests near the well sites. Self-guided driving tour of the refuge. Visitor center has interpretive displays, information, and bird lists.

### Birthplace of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Denison



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

**Texas Travel Information Center, U.S. 75/69 in Denison**

From U.S. 75 between Denison-Sherman, take F.M. 691 west to county airport, F.M. 1417 north 1.5 mi., local signed road west to refuge.

**Lake**—Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Loy Lake Park**—Attractive municipal park offers facilities for picnicking, fishing, and boating (no power boats). Also Frontier Village. Southwestern part of city on Loy Lake Rd.

**Munson Vineyards**—Known as the “World’s Chief Vineyard Expert,” T.V. Munson’s development of hybrid grape varieties is acclaimed worldwide. Many of the varieties, along with his innovative trellis, are on display on a 5-acre tract on the west campus of Grayson County College; includes a museum on viticulture. Greenhouse and walkways open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. West of intersection of F.M. 1417 and F.M. 691.

**Red River Railroad Museum**—Museum is official repository of historical records and artifacts of the Katy Railroad Historical Society. Exhibits feature photographs, artifacts, and railroad equipment. Adjacent to building is a diesel engine, cabooses, tank cars, and vintage gondola car. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 - 4 p.m. At 104 E. Main St. For information, call 903/463-6238.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of the centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in the Capitol Complex, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Operated daily, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors; free services include information, maps, literature about every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. North of Denison on U.S. 75/69; operated by the Texas Department of Transportation.

**DENTON**

Pop. 80,537

Alt. 620

Map H-17

**General**—Established 1857, seat of Denton County, named for John B. Denton, pioneer lawyer, preacher, and soldier. His grave is on the courthouse lawn. The city and county are a blend of agricultural and modern industries. Recreational activities include intercollegiate sports, golf, hunting, and a wide range of water sports at nearby reservoirs. Denton is a Main Street City and located 35 miles north of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Standing guard over the city is the stately Denton County Courthouse. Designed in 1895, it was restored in 1987. With its massive limestone walls and soaring clock tower, it’s been called “the most picturesque pile of rocks in North Texas.” Around the courthouse square are a variety of antique shops, restaurants, and specialty stores.

Cultural attractions center around Arts Complex and two major state universities: The Univ. of North Texas and Texas Woman’s Univ. TWU, including the Dallas and Houston campuses, is the nation’s largest university primarily for women.

Shoppers find bargains at the Exposition Mills Factory Stores on I-35, Exit 471.

Bed and breakfast accommodations are available.

**Art Galleries**—Craft media, paintings, sculptures, and other works may be found in two galleries at the Center for Visual Arts. Local and national artists featured. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., Thurs. 1 - 7 p.m. At 207 S. Bell St. For information, call 940/382-2787.

Several other galleries offer a variety of exhibits throughout the year at both Univ. of North Texas and Texas Woman’s Univ. as well as at galleries in downtown Denton.

**Downtown Square**—A Texas Historical Commission “Main Street” City and part of the National Historic Register. Browse antique shops, art galleries, gift boutiques, restaurants, and other establishments offering everything from vintage clothing to out-of-print books to entertainment and gourmet meals. For more information, call 940/349-8259 or visit the Web site [www.dentonmainstreet.org](http://www.dentonmainstreet.org).

**Gowns of the First Ladies of Texas**—Inaugural gowns of wives of presidents of the Republic of Texas and state governors. Dresses worn by the wives of two Presidents of the U.S. and the wife of a Vice President. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. On TWU campus in Administration Tower, 2nd Floor. Call 940/898-2669.

**Hangar 10 Flying Museum**—Named after the location of the first airplane museum in Texas at Brooke Air Force Base in San Antonio, the museum boasts several planes including a Lockheed 10A, a Stagger Wing, built by Beech Aircraft, a PT-22, and a Piper L-4. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 1945 Matt Wright Ln. on southside of Denton Municipal Airport. For information, call 940/565-1945.

**Lake Ray Roberts State Park Isle du Bois Unit and Johnson Branch Unit**—See PILOT POINT.

**Lakes**—Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Roberts. See LAKES listing.

**Little Chapel-in-the-Woods**—Designed by O’Neil Ford, chapel completed in 1939. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt attended dedication ceremonies. The small chapel blends nature and art in wooded setting on Texas Woman’s Univ. campus. Ten stained glass windows, designed by students, depict the theme “Woman Ministering to Human Needs.” Although constructed for private meditation, the chapel has become the setting for many weddings in the community. Open during school hours on Texas Woman’s Univ. campus. For information, call 940/898-3644.

**Museums**—*Bayless-Selby House Museum* is located at 317 W. Mulberry. This Victorian house museum tells the story of life in Denton at the turn of the century. Tours are available by appointment. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information call 940/565-5667.

*Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum* is housed in Denton’s historic courthouse built in 1896. The museum recalls Denton’s history through a variety of exhibits. Special displays include Indian and Denton County pottery; American pressed blue glass; weaponry and dolls. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. First Floor of Denton County Courthouse. For information, call 940/565-5667.

*Denton County Historical Museum, Inc. and Texas Heritage Center* is located at the Exposition Mills Denton Factory Stores. This museum displays artifacts and memorabilia depicting life at the turn of the century. Rotating exhibits offer something new to see for return visitors. A genealogy and family research center is also available for public use. Open Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information, call 940/380-0877.

**Oak-Hickory Historic District**—Victorian homes on W. Oak St. are fine examples of Victorian cottages with generous porches, jigsaw work and tall narrow windows.

**Performing Arts**—The Univ. of North Texas’ *Murchison Performing Arts Center* is one of the most striking structures in Denton’s skyline. The domed hall on the UNT campus is acoustically compared to renowned concert halls around the world. For information on performances, call 940/565-4647.

*The Campus Theatre* is a renovated 1940s movie house. This art deco masterpiece has been returned to its days of glory, providing live productions year-round. For current performances, call 940/382-1915.

*Sky Theater*—At the UNT Environmental Education, Science and Technology Building, the Sky Theater is your launch pad for exciting adventures. This 100-seat, 40-ft. high domed theater has a Digistar II projection system that can reproduce tonight’s sky, or the sky as it might have looked to the dinosaurs millions of years ago. It makes you feel like you are traveling to a nearby star. Shows Sat. 2 & 8 p.m. Admission. For information, 940/565-3599.

**Texas Motor Speedway**—Second-largest sports facility in the country offers dual banked turns, allowing the speedway to host both Indy-style racing and NASCAR Winston Cup stock cars. It's so large that eight Texas Stadiums, home of the Dallas Cowboys, will fit in the infield of the raceway. There are 150,000 permanent seats and 194 skybox V.I.P. suites. Several races scheduled throughout the year, as well as driving schools and other special events. Located at I-35W and Tex. 114. For information and tickets, 817/215-8500.

**Visitor Information**—For information on lodging, dining, events, and points of interest, visit the Denton Chamber of Commerce at 414 Parkway Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 940/382-7895 or 1-888-381-1818. Visit the Web site [www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com).

## DIME BOX

**Pop. 381 (est.)**      **Alt. 520**      **Map P-18**

**General**—Located in eastern Lee County, the town was originally called Brown's Mill for a sawmill built by Joseph S. Brown. Soon, British Americans and Polish, Czech, German, and German-Wend immigrants arrived and settled near the mill. The U.S. government opened a post office in 1877 and settlers deposited out-going mail and a dime in a small box for weekly delivery of mail to nearby Giddings. The Brown's Mill post office closed in December 1883; however, when it reopened a few months later, confusion with Brown's Mill and Brownsville caused the town to be renamed Dime Box.

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

**Dime Box Museum**—Artifacts recall the multi-culture settlement of the community. Exhibits include a pocket Communion Bible in Czech, a barber's chair, and other memorabilia. Open Fri. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. On FM. 141 downtown.

## DUBLIN

**Pop. 3,754**      **Alt. 1,493**      **Map L-15**

**General**—Established in 1854 by A.H. Dobkins and named in 1860. The name, originally spelled Dublin, is said to have been a practice by early settlers who "doubled in" their wagons to escape Indian raids. Another version says the town was named after the capital of Ireland. In 1881, the town moved four miles to a site owned by J.D. Bishop in order to be near the newly-laid Texas Central Railroad. Dublin is known primarily for peanut crops and dairy farming, but is also supported by beef, feed and fertilizer.

In Erath Co., the city is 72 miles southwest of Fort Worth and 45 miles northeast of Brownwood. Hunters take deer, duck, dove, and quail in season. For information on dining, accommodations, or events, contact the Dublin Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-9-DUBLIN or 254/445-3422.

**Dr Pepper Bottling Co.**—Opened in 1891, the bottling plant in Dublin was the first franchise. The plant still uses pure cane sugar instead of artificial sweeteners. Museum features memorabilia; bottling done on Tues. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 221 S. Patrick. Tel. 254/445-3466.

**Lake**—Proctor. See LAKES listing.

**Old Doc's Soda Shop**—Features restored soda fountain where you can order food and drinks. Gift shop. In same building as the Dr Pepper Bottling Co. at 221 S. Patrick. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Tel. 254/445-3939. Admission.

## DUNCANVILLE

**Pop. 36,081**      **Alt. 727**      **Map K-18**

**General**—First known as Duncan Switch, the city was established when the Chicago, Texas and Mexican Central Railroad Co. wanted to build a railroad from Dallas to Cleburne in 1881. Name changed to Duncanville in 1882 when post office established. Today you will find an entrepreneurial spirit and diverse economy in this Southwest Dallas Co. city.

The city's 12 parks provide sites for recreation, picnics, and sporting events. Antique shops, arts and crafts, and boutiques are found within the downtown area.

Additional information on dining, events, and accommodations can be obtained from the Duncanville Convention and Visitors Bureau at 972/780-5099. Web site [www.ci.duncanville.tx.us](http://www.ci.duncanville.tx.us).

**Cedar Hill State Park**—See CEDAR HILL.

**Dallas Nature Center**—360-acre park in southwest Dallas County near Joe Pool Lake offers seven miles of hiking trails, picnic areas, visitor center and gift shop. Habitat for black-capped vireo and other birds, variety of Texas mammals, reptiles, fish, and insects. Mary Alice Perkins Bland Butterfly



Kevin Stillman/XTDOT

### Denton County Courthouse

Garden attracts a variety of native butterflies with wildflowers and reflecting pools. Open daily 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Take I-20 to Mountain Creek Pkwy exit; south 2.5 miles to 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy. Tel. 972/296-1955.

**Dr Pepper StarCenter**—A 95,000-square foot double hockey rink complex that offers hockey leagues, skating and hockey programs, and skating lessons.

**Duncanville Library Community Recreation Center**—A 58,000 square-foot facility features activities and programs for all ages. The library has a children's reading area, two quiet study areas, a genealogy area and a local history area. The recreation center is equipped with two gyms, a game room for board games, a teen room, a full-function fitness room and an aerobics room.

**Hiking and Biking Trails**—Several trails are dotted throughout the city and nearby parks. Dallas Nature Center, see above, offers six trails for hiking only. For information, 972/296-1955. Loyd Park at Joe Pool Lake features a 3.1-mile trail. For information, 817/467-2104. Boulder Park within the city features more than three miles of trails. For information, 972/556-0640. Cedar Hill State Park, see Cedar Hill, has two trails, a 2.5-mile and 7-mile course. For information, 972/556-0640.

**Lakes**—Joe Pool and Mountain Creek. See LAKES listing.

## EAGLE LAKE

**Pop. 3,664**      **Alt. 170**      **Map R-19**

**General**—Town and nearby lake named for Karankawa Indian legend of brave who bested his rival by crossing lake and returning with an eagle for an Indian maiden. Today noted as duck and goose hunting area. During annual migratory waterfowl season, hunters bag thousands at nearby hunting clubs. Area produces abundant rice harvests that exceed a million bushels annually.

Eagle Lake, a Texas 2000 Main Street City, is located in the Texas Independence Region and on the Texas Pioneer Trail covering four-county area. For additional information and map, contact the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce at 979/234-2780.

**Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge**—Sanctuary for Attwater, or coastal, prairie chicken covers 3,400 acres near San Bernard River. Rate of decline in bird population exceeded that of whooping cranes through middle years of this century. Recently established refuge has won support of landowners and conservationists in saving prairie chickens that once numbered hundreds of thousands. Special tours may be arranged by contacting Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, 979/234-2780.

**Lake**—Eagle. See LAKES listing.



Kevin Sullivan/TXDOT

**Edgewood Heritage Park Museum**

**Prairie Edge Museum**—Features exhibits dedicated to the collecting and preserving of natural history and cultural traditions in Colorado County, as well as fossils and Native American artifacts. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 408 East Main St.

**EDGEWOOD**

**Pop. 1,348** **Alt. 460** **Map J-20**

**General**—Because of a dispute between Canton and Wills Point over location of the Van Zandt County seat, Canton citizens wanted a shipping point other than Wills Point. They built a nine-mile road to a siding on the T&P Railroad in 1878, and Edgewood was born there. In 1890 a group from Mississippi settled in the town, and by 1915 the population had grown to 850.

**Edgewood Heritage Park Museum**—More than a dozen historical structures, along with such displays as animal-powered farm equipment and a syrup mill, preserve the history of the area. Included are cabins from the 1800s, blacksmith shop, country store, barber shop, schoolhouse, and a museum of tools, clothing, and other pioneer items. Docents in period dress often demonstrate pioneer skills. Open Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. On F.M. 859 four blks. north of U.S. 80. For information, call 903/896-1940. Admission.

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Fork, and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

**ELGIN**

**Pop. 5,700** **Alt. 579** **Map P-17**

**General**—In Bastrop County, the city was established as a flag stop on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872 and named for Robert Morris Elgin, the railroad land commissioner who laid out the townsite. City owes its existence to a major flood of the Colorado River in 1869. Originally, the railroad was to have run 10 miles east of Elgin. When the river rose 60 feet over its banks, the railroad surveyed a new line through Elgin to Austin. Economy is based on light industry, agriculture, and brick manufacturing, and at one time was called “The Brick Capital of the Southwest.”

No visit to Elgin would be complete without tasting Elgin’s hot sausage. It’s wonderful! Four sausage companies make the tasty specialty. Information on location is available at the visitor center. In fact, Elgin was named by the Texas Legislature as the “Sausage Capital of Texas”.

Be sure to visit the antique mall on U.S. 290 with more than 50 dealers offering a large variety of antiques and collectibles.

All through the city, keep an eye out for beautiful old homes. Also, downtown, a Main Street City, is recapturing its early look by refurbishing and reusing its historic buildings. Movies and TV commercials often use Elgin’s quaint streets as backdrops.

Elgin lies along the Presidential Corridor linking the George Herbert Walker Bush Library in Bryan/College Station with the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin.

Bed and breakfast accommodations are available in historic buildings in the city and surrounding area.

**Lakes**—Bastrop, Granger, and Walter B. Long. See LAKES Listing.

**Nofsinger Home**—Built in 1906 of brick from an Elgin clay pit, the two story structure has 12-foot ceilings and original woodwork and fixtures. The elegant home houses the Elgin City Hall and chamber of commerce offices at 15 North Main. Tours available Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 512/285-4515.

**ENNIS**

**Pop. 16,045** **Alt. 548** **Map K-18**

**General**—Established 1872 when railroad reached town; named for Cornelius Ennis, director of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Original railroad community is today a small city featuring diversified industry in metropolitan area; large cotton production in area. Ennis offers historic tours, antique shopping, lakes, parks, golfing, and several annual festivals, including the National Polka Festival held annually on Memorial Day.

As one of the first “Texas Branded” Tourist Communities, Ennis has preserved many buildings in historic downtown area, some of which are 110 years or older. Each April, Garden Club and chamber of commerce sponsor Bluebonnet Trails, one of the oldest wildflower events in Texas, featuring 40 miles of well-marked trails.

For information on dining, accommodations, and events, visit the Ennis Convention & Visitors Bureau Information Center at 002 East Ennis Ave., or call 972/878-4748. Visit the Web site at [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org) or email [ennis4u@swbell.net](mailto:ennis4u@swbell.net).

**Lake**—Bardwell. See LAKES listing.

**Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum**—Houses memorabilia from days Ennis was hub for Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Mementos include an 1897 edition of the Book of Rules for train operators, photographs of trains that stopped in town, and miniature replicas of the train station in its heyday. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 105 Main St. Admission. 972/875-1901.

**Texas Motorplex**—Premier NHRA racetrack hosting two annual national racing events, professional and amateur drag racing all year. October and May NHRA Nationals. Seats 30,000. On U.S. 287, five minutes from downtown Ennis. For racing information, call 972/878-2641.

**EULESS**

**Pop. 46,005** **Alt. 603** **Map J-18**

**General**—Early settlement called Bird’s Fort was established just south of the present city in 1841. The community began when settlers reached the

**Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum in Ennis**



Gay Shackelford/TXDOT





Freestone County Museum in Fairfield

confluence of Big Bear and Little Bear creeks on the eastern edge of present Eules, which is now part of the giant Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. A post office was founded in 1857 and named Estill's Station. Many of the settlers moved to present Eules and the post office closed in 1868. In 1881, Elisha Adam Eules, pioneer from Tennessee, built a home and cotton gin nearby. The settlement that grew around his gin was named in his honor.

Today the city is a thriving community in the middle of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Many national and regional businesses are headquartered here with the convenience to the D/FW Airport.

Eules is widely known for its trees; its Arbor Daze Festival each April promotes and celebrates the planting of trees through the city.

For additional information about the city, call 817/685-1420.

**Eules Hiking and Biking Trails**—The 12-ft. wide trails connect two major parks—Bob Eden Park at 2050 N. Industrial near Texas 121 and the Village of Bear Creek Park at 1951 Bear Creek Pkwy. near Texas 360. Along the way are covered bench areas, water fountains and beverage facilities.

**Texas Star Sports Centre**—Athletic facilities include a golf course, softball facility, as well as meeting/conference room facilities, in addition to baseball fields, softball fields, sand volleyball courts, soccer fields, driving range, playground, walking trails, fishing pond and pavilion. At 1501 S. Pilgrim St.

## FAIRFIELD

Pop. 3,094

Alt. 461

Map M-19

**General**—Freestone rock in this area gave county its name; county seat is recognized as banking, market, and shipping center. Rock quarry, sawmill, lignite coal mining, and oil and gas production, contribute to town's economy.

May - July is a fun time to visit area with acres and acres of peach trees producing delicious peaches. Fruit stands along highways during season.

**Fairfield Lake State Recreation Park**—1,460 acres adjacent to Lake Fairfield. Camping, rest rooms with showers, swimming beach, boat ramp, fishing pier, and fish cleaning shelter. A 4.5-mile hiking trail to primitive camping area.

From Nov. - Feb. the park is home to a number of bald eagles who winter in Texas. The park provides tours by reservation only. For information, call 903/389-4514. From I-45, take U.S. 84 east to F.M. 488, then northeast 2.3 miles to F.M. 2570, 1.3 miles to F.M. 3285/Park Rd. 64 and 3.2 miles to park entrance. Admission.

**Freestone County Museum**—Housed in century-old jail whose "guest list" supposedly included infamous John Wesley Hardin, Texas gunman-lawyer and reputedly "the deadliest preacher's son who ever lived." Period furnishings, historical documents, historical telephone display, and other artifacts.

Cannon on courthouse lawn is relic from the Val Verde Battery. It was captured by Confederate Forces on April 8, 1864 at Mansfield, LA., when federal troops made unsuccessful attempt to invade Texas.

Also check with museum for information and tour of Moody-Bradley House built in 1860; birthplace of W.L. Moody Jr. Local history club has restored house to original splendor. Open Wed. & Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 4 p.m. 302 E. Main St. one block E. of courthouse; admission. 903/389-3738.

**Lakes**—Fairfield, Richland-Chambers. See LAKES listing.

## FARMERS BRANCH

Pop. 27,508

Alt. 633

Map J-18

**General**—Extensive advertising by Texas Land and Emigration Co. in 1845-50 made this part of Peters' Colony, perhaps the best-known of all Texas settlements at the time. Many Dallas County firsts credited here, including first church, school, blacksmith shop. Population in 1946 was 800; city's growth parallels most Dallas suburbs. More than 60 Fortune 500 companies office here. Home of Brookhaven College.

Seventy-eight furniture and home accessory stores offer residential and commercial furniture buyers a variety of opportunities along the "Miracle Mile of Furniture" between Alpha and Midway Roads.

**Historical Park**—The 22-acre, tree-shaded park includes 14 historic buildings relocated and restored, including 1877 depot; oldest rock house in Dallas County, the 1856 Gilbert House that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Also, a turn-of-the-century, one-room school, a church built in 1891 in Renner, a rare 1885 Queen Anne Victorian Cottage, and a typical home of the 1930s and 1940s era that houses a visitor center. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 8 p.m. (Nov. - Mar. same hours, but close at 6 p.m.). Park closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Farmers Branch Ln. at Denton Dr. For information, call 972/406-0184.

## FAYETTEVILLE

Pop. 261

Alt. 411

Map Q-18/19

**General**—Along the Texas Pioneer Trail (Texas 159) lies the city formed by three families of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred. Later German, Czech, and Anglo-American immigrant helped to form the community. The city had several names: Wadis Post Office, Alexander's Voting Place and Lick Skillet (given by settlers arriving too late for festive occasions, found food devoured and were told to "lick the skillet.") Officially named by Philip J. Shaver, who laid out the town, for his birthplace, Fayetteville, NC.

Town had one of first bands in Texas, composed of German musicians, who played for meetings and festivals statewide. For more than 50 years a Czech band, conducted by Frank and John Baca, provided dance music and "Baca" music still enjoyed today.

In the middle of the town square sits the 1880 precinct house that was built by Fayette county residents to avoid trips to the county courthouse in La Grange. Benches around the square invite citizens and visitors "to sit a while." Its Seth Thomas tower clock, donated by the Ladies Do Your Duty Club in 1937, chimes on the hour. Antique stores, art galleries and restaurants surround the town square. On the 1st and 3rd Sat. nights a Baca Band fills the night with music on the square.

Bed and breakfast guest cottages available in town and surrounding area. Information on dining facilities, accommodations, and events may be obtained by writing the chamber of commerce at PO Box 217, Fayetteville, TX 78940, or by calling 979/378-4021 or 1-888-575-4553.

**Fayetteville Area Museum**—Situating in turn-of-the-century building on old courthouse square. Quaint museum, with German-Czech heritage, features exhibits from Baca Band memorabilia to early kitchen and drug store items. Open Sunday afternoons spring and fall, other times by appointment; just off Texas 159. 979/378-2210.

**Lake**—Fayette. See LAKES listing.

## FLATONIA

Pop. 1,377

Alt. 458

Map Q/R-18

**General**—Agricultural village just off I-10 half way between Houston and San Antonio, founded by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1873; named not for topography, but for a pioneer merchant, F.W. Flato. Waves of immigrants—English, German, Bohemian, Czech, and Italian—settled in and around Flatonia. Town most prominently celebrates colorful Czech traditions; for example, calling their annual (October) chili festival Czhlispiel. Local sausages and kolaches are popular. *Flatonia Argus*, weekly newspaper at



Michael Amador/7x00T

**One of several vintage structures, Historical Park in Farmers Branch**

214 Penn St., dates from 1875. City is a very well known train watching spot, especially with the crossrails that run north and south and east and west.

Shoppers find bargains in antique shops and boutiques in the historic downtown, as well as a delightful tearoom.

A self-guided walking tour and driving tour is available from the chamber of commerce. For additional information on dining, lodging and area events, stop by the office at 101 East Main St. in the E.A. Arnim Archives and Museum building, or call 361/865-3920.

**Arnim & Lane Mercantile**—A genuine country store dating from 1886, still operating with fascinating variety of antique and modern merchandise; choice browsing! Open weekdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. corner of East North Main St. and Penn Ave.

**E. A. Arnim Archives and Museum**—Wealth of historical miscellany from town and Fayette County in former bank building, includes antique furniture and household items, clothing, china and glassware, and historical documents. Also livery stable with wagons, buggies, vintage tack, and farm implements. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon. For information, call 361/865-3920.

**Railroad Tower**—One of the last manned switch towers for the Union Pacific Railroad, the manual controls remained in operation until 1997 when the rail switches became computerized. The chamber of commerce can arrange tours of the tower by calling 361/865-3920.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**—In nearby Czech village of Praha, modest frame church in picture-postcard setting dates from 1895. Remarkable interior: Common tongue-in-groove planks soar to classic vault; wooden pillars represent Gothic columns; painted with art nouveau style popular in 1890s—vines, ferns, and mock architectural details. Over altar, two small paintings unique in church ornamentation picture the main cathedral of Prague, Czechoslovakia, and a well-known convent outside that city.

Adjacent cemetery is site of annual Veterans Day (Nov.) memorial service, said to be largest attended in the United States. Nine graves honor Praha youth who fell in World War II, a heavy toll for one sparsely populated, rural Texas community. U.S. 90 2.7 mi. east to F.M. 1295, then south 8 mi. on F.M. 1295 to church and Praha.

The impressive Fort Worth/Tarrant County Convention Center spans an area of 14 downtown blocks. Fort Worth calls itself the "Museum Capital of the Southwest" and is known for an outstanding group of museums, plus a season of summer musicals, winter theater, symphony concerts, opera, ballet, and art galleries.

City is home of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Tarrant County Junior College, Texas Christian Univ., Univ. of North Texas Health Science Center, and Texas Wesleyan Univ.

Vast green parks and surrounding network of major lakes offer abundant opportunities for water sports and outdoor recreation. Burnett Park at Lamar and Texas sts., on land donated by cattle baron Samuel Burk Burnett, features sculptures, pools, and granite walkways.

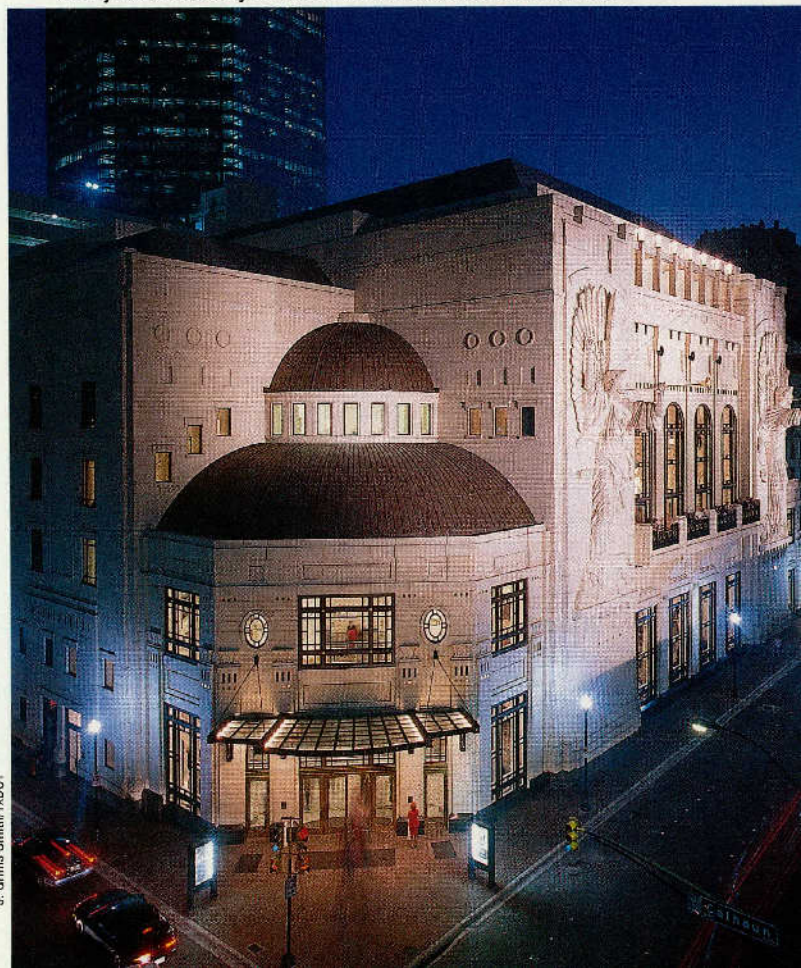
There's a calendar full of annual events, including the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show and Rodeo in late Jan. - early Feb. (one of the nation's best); Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival in April; Mayfest in May; Chisholm Trail Roundup and Chief Quanah Parker Comanche Pow Wow in June; Pioneer Days in Sept.; and Oktoberfest in Oct.

Check out the Fort Worth Outlet Square featuring 40 upscale retail outlets and an ice-skating rink in Fort Worth's Tandy Center adjacent to Sundance Square. Free subway connects to parking. 150 Throckmorton St. Tel. 1-800-414-2817.

**American Airlines C. R. Smith Museum**—This is an "airline" museum, not an "aircraft" museum; dedicated to C. R. Smith, the "father of American Airlines." Through interactive displays, films, videos, and hands-on exhibits, visitors see the operation of an airline—today and in the past. More than 80 small airlines merged to become American Airways in 1930; that name changed to American Airlines in 1934. A vintage Douglas DC-3, Flagship *Knoxville*, meticulously restored by retired AR pilots, mechanics and employees, was flown to Fort Worth and hoisted into its place of prominence. Open Tues. -Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Adjacent to American Airlines Flight Academy at Texas 360 and FAA Rd. southwest of D/FW Airport. 817/967-1560.

**Amon Carter Museum**—The newly expanded Amon Carter features American art. The 109,000-square foot building has three times the exhibition space as before, allowing four times the amount of artwork to be on view. First

**Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth**



J. Griffith Smith/7x00T

**FORT WORTH**

Pop. 534,694

Alt. 670

Map J-17

**General**—Grew from military camp established at close of Mexican War by Gen. Winfield Scott, and named for Gen. William Jenkins Worth who saw action in that war. Forty-two men of Company F, 2nd Dragoons, established the camp on June 6, 1849. Fort Worth to Yuma, AZ, stage line established 1850. Became seat of Tarrant County 1860. After the Civil War, became major shipping and supply depot for cattlemen.

Today Fort Worth is one of Texas' major cities with a wide range of industries including Lockheed, American Airlines, and Burlington Northern.

opened to house Amon G. Carter, Sr.'s collection of 400 paintings, drawings and works of sculpture by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, the museum has gradually expanded to include works from a vast array of artists, from Frederic Edwin Church to Georgia O'Keefe. The American photography collection, one of the largest in the country, was started in 1961 with Dorthea Lange's portrait of Charles M. Russell and now includes works by Matthew Brady, Man Ray, Alfred Stieglitz and Paul Strand, among others. In the Cultural District. See [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org). Telephone 817/738-1933.

**Bass Performance Hall, Nancy Lee and Perry R.**—Located in downtown's Sundance Square, this stunning performance hall is a permanent venue for the city's acclaimed symphony, ballet, and opera companies, as well as the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Broadway-style touring productions and special concerts are staged here as well. Bass Hall's striking facade features two 48-foot-tall heralding angels in Texas limestone. The building bears a beaux-arts revival design, with an interior that features a 2,056-seat audience chamber in a tiered horseshoe style. Modeled after select European opera houses. In its first year, it was selected one of the world's top 10 opera houses by *Travel & Leisure* magazine. Tours are Wed. and Fri. at 2:30 p.m. and at 10:30 Sat., depending on production/rehearsal schedules. At 555 Commerce St. For information, call 817/212-4200.

**Billy Bob's Texas**—World's largest honky-tonk with a 4,800-sq.-ft. rodeo area, 600 feet of bar rails, a 1,650-sq.-ft. stage for country/Western entertainment with top stars, shops, games, and restaurants. 2520 Rodeo Plaza. For information, call 817/624-7117. In the Stockyards National Historic District; open daily; hours vary.

**Botanical Garden**—A showcase of 150,000 living plants representing 2,500 species, displayed in both formal and natural settings. 10,000-sq.-ft. glass conservatory planted with more than 2,500 tropical plants native to Central and South America. Small waterfalls, ponds, and pathways throughout give visitors an idea what might be encountered in tropics. Garden Center open daily 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Conservatory open Apr. - Oct. Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 1 - 6 p.m.; Nov. - Mar. same hours but close at 4 p.m. on Sat., Sun. In wooded southwestern section of Trinity Park. Conservatory at 3220 Botanic Dr. in the Cultural District; open daily. Entrance to botanical gardens free; fee for conservatory. For information, call 817/871-7686.

**Casa Mañana Playhouse**—Under a geodesic dome, one of nation's most notable theaters-in-the-round. Setting for drama, musical comedies and the Casa Mañana Children's Playhouse. 3101 Lancaster. For schedule, tickets, and shows call 817/332-2272.

**Cattle Raiser's Museum**—History of the colorful Texas ranching industry portrayed in film, photos, and cowboy memorabilia. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Downtown at 1301 W. 7th St. For additional information, call 817/332-7064. Admission.

**Eddleman McFarland House**—Elegant Victorian residence. Open for tours Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tours on the hour. At 1110 Penn St. downtown. For information, 817/332-5875. Fee.

**Fire Station No. 1**—"150 Years of Fort Worth" traces city's colorful history. Open 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Second & Commerce sts. downtown. Call 817/732-1631 for additional information.

**Fort Worth Herd**—Longhorn cattle drives return to Cowtown! Each morning 15 Texas Longhorn cattle will be corralled in the Stockyards National Historic District and driven to the Trinity River's west fork to graze. Professional cowhands give visitors a presentation on the vital role the cattle industry played in the growth and prosperity of the city. For more information, call 817/336-HERD.

**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History/Omni Theater**—Traveling and permanent exhibits, 100,000 artifacts and specimens, the Omni Theater showing IMAX® films, and the Noble Planetarium offer an extraordinary learning environment with plenty of hands-on fun.

Permanent exhibits include KIDSPACE®, DinoDig®, Comin' Through Cowtown, Lone Star dinosaurs, Hands on Science, and ExploraZone®. KIDSPACE is an indoor discovery area designed for children six and under and their favorite adults. Through activities such as KidFish dock, Water works, and Build-a-House, children learn science by doing. DinoDig allows visitors to become amateur paleontologists and dig for dinosaur bones and fossils in a large outdoor discovery area. Three dig areas; bones range in size from a four-inch vertebra of a Tenontosaurus to a six-foot leg bone of a large sauropod.

The Omni Theater's curved screen engulfs viewers' entire field of vision to plunge into remote caves, soar through clouds, or visit some of the world's greatest places in big-screen glory. Astronomy programs are presented in the



Gay Shackelford/TxDOT

#### American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum in Fort Worth

Noble Planetarium. For information and schedule for the Omni Theater and Noble Planetarium, call 817/255-9300. Shows are presented regularly; during school year, theater and planetarium periodically closed to public for school-children.

Weekday and weekend classes are offered at Museum School® throughout the school year. Weekday classes offered in the summer.

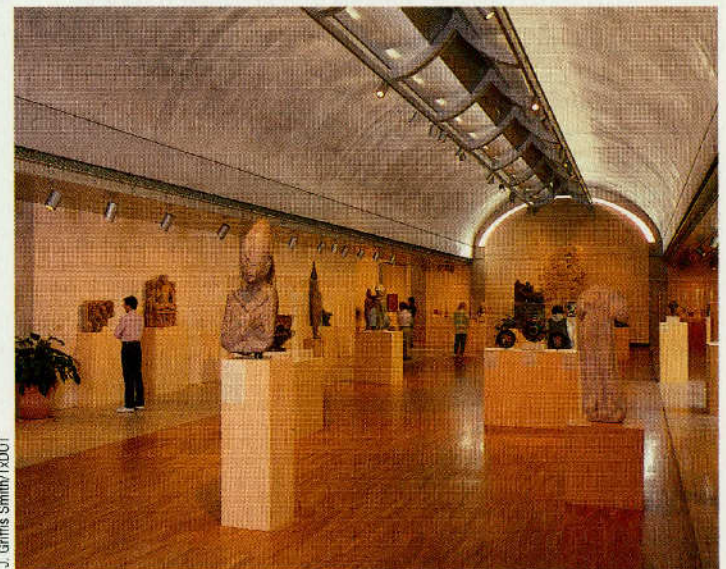
Museum is open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. noon to 5:30 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. For additional information, call 817/255-9300. At 1501 Montgomery St. in the Cultural District. Admission.

**Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge**—Growing from 35-acre Greer Island Nature Center, current 3,500-acre refuge offers interpretive center, hiking and self-guided nature trails. Bison herd intermingled with white-tailed deer often seen. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; 10 miles northwest of downtown (2 miles past Lake Worth bridge) on Texas 199. For information, call 817/237-1111.

**Fort Worth Zoo**—Mammals, birds, and reptiles from around the world. Zoo selected one of the top five zoos in America. Featured exhibits include: African Savannah at edge of a forest with groups of endangered black and white rhinos, giraffes, and African birds in a natural setting.

Koala Outback features koalas, red kangaroo and yellow-footed rock wallabies. This is one of ten zoos in the U.S. and the only zoo in Texas to display koalas. Visitors will view the koalas from a partially covered boardwalk that overlooks both an indoor and outdoor area.

#### Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth



J. Griffiths Smith/TxDOT



Anne L. Cook/TXDOT

**Flamingos at the Fort Worth Zoo**

Herpetarium acclaimed for naturalistic exhibits and collection of frogs, turtles, crocodiles, and hundreds of snakes. Asian Falls, carved out of existing hillside, is natural setting of grassy hills, waterfalls, and trees, where guests stroll along raised boardwalk to view Sumatran tigers, including the zoo's famous white tiger, "Neela." Exhibit also includes bears. World of Primates has representatives of all Great Ape species and includes indoor tropical rain forest housing lowland gorillas, colobus monkeys and free-flying tropical birds. Connecting outdoor exhibit features various primates including chimpanzees, orangutans, gibbons, bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees), and others.

Thundering Plains exhibit depicts American bison, Mexican wolves and wild turkeys in a natural setting. It's the first phase of Texas Wild!, a landmark exhibit which will showcase animals that are or once were native to Texas.

Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; extended hours seasonally. At Forest Park in the Cultural District. Admission. For information, 817/871-7050.

**Japanese Garden**—An enchanting six-acre garden of Oriental design featuring a pagoda, moon-viewing deck, teahouse, and meditation garden amid lush exotic plants. Open Nov. - Mar. Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Apr. - Oct. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. At 3220 Botanic Garden Dr. in Cultural District. Admission. For information, call 817/871-7685.

**Kimbell Art Museum**—Based on philanthropist Kay Kimbell's collection of 18th-Century portraits and old masters, multimillion-dollar collection now includes works from prehistoric to Picasso. The \$6.5-million innovative building of cycloid vaults by architect Louis Kahn provides unexcelled lighting and display areas for exhibits and touring exhibitions. Open Tues. - Thurs. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. noon - 8 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; closed holidays. 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd. in the Cultural District. For information, 817/332-8451.

**Lakes**—Arlington, Benbrook, Eagle Mountain, Grapevine, Joe Pool, and Worth. See LAKES listing.

**Log Cabin Village**—Seven authentic pioneer homes built during 1850s. Frontier tools, implements, furnishings. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4:30 p.m. In Cultural District at University Dr. and Colonial Parkway in Forest Park. Admission. Call 817/926-5881 for information.

**MD Resort**—Visitors can see a true Texas working cattle ranch. In addition, kids can meet different animals up close in the petting zoo. In the twin of Rhome, off I-35 N and 114 E. Phone 817/489-5150. Web site [www.mdresort.com](http://www.mdresort.com).

**Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth**—Painting and sculpture by contemporary artists; special traveling exhibits. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 1309 Montgomery St., Amon Carter Sq. in the Cultural District. The museum also operates facility in Sundance Square, an annex to the permanent collection showcasing special exhibits and a vast gift shop. Tel. 817/738-9215.

**Pate Museum of Transportation**—See CRESSON.

**Sid Richardson Collection of Western Art**—Free downtown museum featuring 60 works from collection of the late Texas oil man, Sid Richardson, whose favorite artists were Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. Open Tues. - Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. 309 Main St. in Sundance Sq. Tel. 817/332-6554.

**Six Flags Over Texas**—See ARLINGTON.

**Stockyards Championship Rodeo**—Professional cowboys and cowgirls compete most weekends throughout the year in air-conditioned comfort of Cowtown Coliseum in the Stockyards. Also features Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show. In National Historic District at 123 E. Exchange. For information, tickets, tel. 817/625-1025.

**Stockyards Collection & Museum**—Photos and memorabilia from early stockyard days, including sections on the Swift and Armour packing companies. Small railroad display emphasizes connection with stockyard. Women's area features crown and scepter of 1920 Stock Show Queen and quilt made from satin costumes female performers wore in 1936 Centennial show at old outdoor Casa Mañana. Sesquicentennial artifacts collected by wagon train through Texas in 1986 also featured. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. In Livestock Exchange Building at 131 E. Exchange Ave. Tel. 817/625-5087.

**Stockyards National Historic District**—Feel of the Old West recaptured along Exchange Ave. on city's North Side. Renovated Western-style stores and restaurants front traditional boardwalks. In season, Old West Amusement Park features a 1930s cowboy carousel.

The White Elephant Saloon features live country music nightly and it is the site of the "Last Great Gunfight of the Old West" reenactment every Feb.

Stockyards Station, a 165,000-sq.-ft. market center includes stop for Tarantula steam train and Western festival market in the renovated hog and sheep pens. Restaurants, shops, and galleries feature a variety of Western and Indian crafts. Historical walking tour available. 140 E. Exchange Ave. For additional information, 817/625-9715.

A Visitors Information Center provides details about area features, shopping and dining opportunities, along with Cowtown Rodeo schedule. Info center open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 130 E. Exchange Ave. For additional information call 817/624-4741.

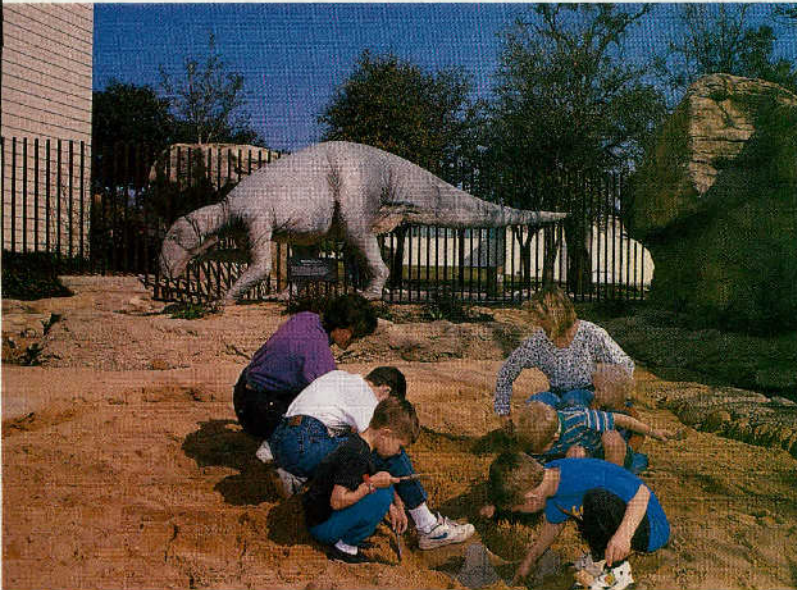
**Sundance Square Downtown Entertainment District**—Named for the Sundance Kid, who, with Butch Cassidy, once hid out in Cowtown. The 14-block area features cinemas, dining, live theaters, art galleries, museums and exciting night life. Bounded by Second, Fifth, Calhoun, and Throckmorton sts. downtown. Tel. 817/390-8711.

**Tandy Archaeological Museum, A. Webb Roberts Library**—On campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Archaeological items from the Holy Land including artifacts uncovered at Tel Batash-Timnah; interpretation of early Biblical periods. Seminary history area. Open. Mon. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Tue. 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Wed. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2001 W. Seminary Dr.

**Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth**



Fort Worth CV&B photo



Gay Sheahan/UTDOT

### DinoDig at Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

**Tarantula Railroad**—Beautifully restored steam excursion train makes daily round-trips between Grapevine and Fort Worth's Stockyards Station. While in Fort Worth, the Tarantula makes a cross-city excursion to the city's south side along ten-mile course to Eighth Avenue. Ticket office in Stockyards Station at 140 E. Exchange Ave. 817/625-RAIL (7245) OR 1-800-952-5717. Fare. Seasonal. (Also see Grapevine.)

**Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame**—Museum honors 32 current inductees who are Texas cowboys and cowgirls who have excelled in their careers. More than 30 exhibits house memorabilia on each inductee and features a continuously running video. Located at the Horse and Mule Barns on East Exchange Avenue. 817/625-9715.

**Texas Motor Speedway**—Second-largest sports facility in the country offers dual banked turns, allowing the speedway to host both Indy-style racing and NASCAR Winston Cup stock cars. It's so large that eight Texas Stadiums, home of the Dallas Cowboys, will fit in the infield of the raceway. There are 150,000 permanent seats and 194 skybox V.I.P. suites. Several races scheduled throughout the year, as well as driving schools and other special events. Located in north Fort Worth at I-35W and Tex. 114. For information, tours, and tickets, 817/215-8500.

**Texas Trail of Fame**—Set in the sidewalks and other public walkways throughout the Stockyards National Historic District, the Texas Trail of Fame features 1,500 bronze inlaid markers honoring men, women and groups who made significant contributions to the Western way of life. Honorees include Will Rogers, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Charles Goodnight, J. Frank Dobie and Amon Carter Sr.

**Thistle Hill**—Last surviving mansion of cattle baron era, restored to 1910 appearance. Opulent decor. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 1509 Pennsylvania. Admission. For information, call 817/336-1212.

**Vintage Flying Museum**—This is a nonprofit antique aircraft restoration facility at Meacham Airport that literally builds museums that fly. Vintage planes, land vehicles, and support

### Fort Worth's Stockyards National Historic District

equipment boast proudly of their days in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Also is home to OV-10 Bronco Association and Museum, and the Texas Air Command's collection of military helicopters. Usually open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. noon - 5 p.m., or weekday tours by appointment. For information, call 817/624-1935. Admission.

**Walking Tours**—Clara Wallace Ruddell's Cowtown Walking Tours cover several areas, including historic cemeteries and churches. The Tour of Historic Downtown Fort Worth leads visitors to places of interest in the downtown area and includes colorful tidbits about the city's past. Reservations required. Call 214/693-5915 or e-mail claracowtown@aol.com.

Tours of the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District are conducted daily from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. from the Visitors Center and include stops at the Livestock Exchange Building, Cowtown Coliseum, Stockyards Station, and more. For an additional fee, you can get a behind-the-scenes look at Billy Bob's Texas. For information, call 817/625-9715. Admission.

**Water Garden**—Spectacular park features water in all its aspects—sparkling, gurgling, bubbling, flowing, sprinkling, pouring—fountains, channels, cascades and pools amid geometric architectural features. Water runs 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Adjacent to convention center downtown.

**Will Rogers Memorial Center**—Complex is site of Fort Worth's Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, and one of nation's premier equestrian centers. Mounted statue of Will Rogers, famous cowboy humorist, on entrance grounds. In Cultural District at Amon Carter Sq. For information, call 817/871-8150.

**Visitor Centers**—The Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau operates visitor centers offering abundant details about local events, accommodations, dining, and points of interest. Visit the information center at 415 Throckmorton in the historic Sanger Building in Sundance Square, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; in the Cultural District at 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m., or in Stockyard National Historic District at 130 E. Exchange Ave., open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m.

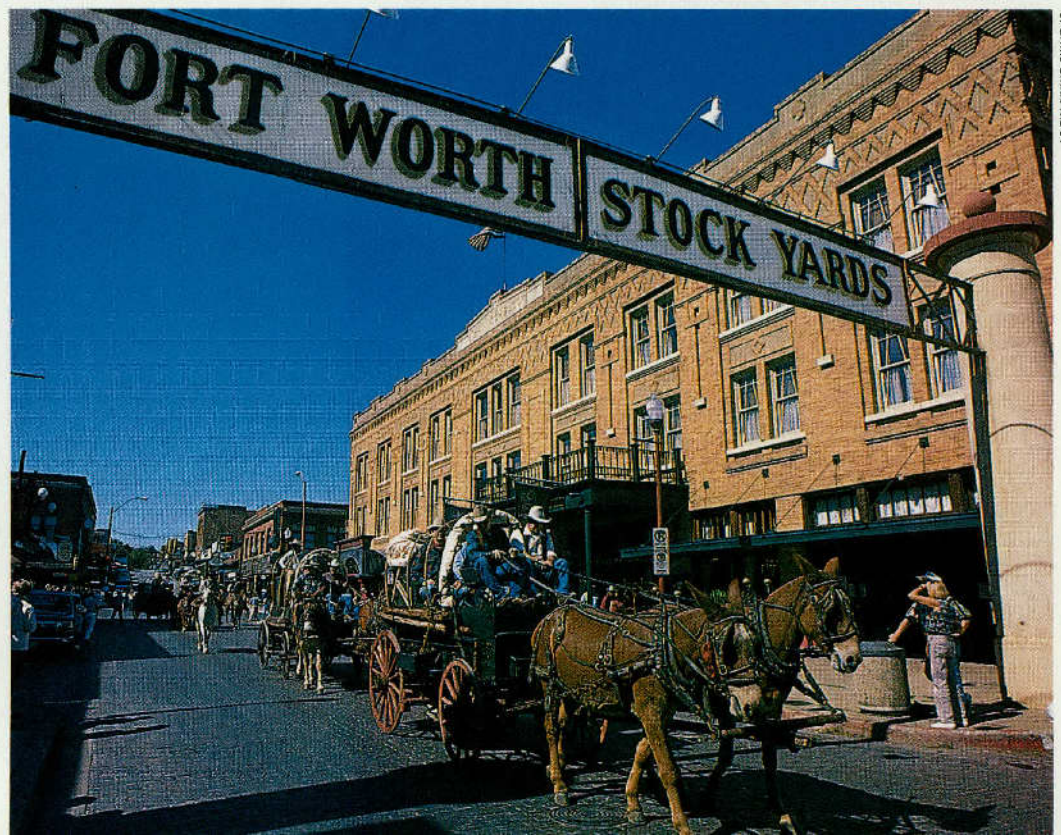
## FRANKLIN

Pop. 1,470

Alt. 450

Map N-19

**General**—Established under different name (Morgan) 1871, seat of Robertson County, named after Sterling C. Robertson, founder of Robertson's Colony. A popular health resort in last decades of the 19th Century. Mineral springs attracted visitors from throughout state. Today a shipping center for livestock, cotton, alfalfa, vegetables, fruits and pecans. Minerals include oil,



J. Griffin Smith/UTDOT



J. Griffin Smith/7x00T

**Shopping in Gainesville**

fuller's earth and lignite. Wild flowers, especially the Texas state flower, the bluebonnet, are beautifully profuse in spring.

The Robertson County Courthouse was built in 1881; in 1924, it was reconstructed and the original roofs and cornices removed and replaced with parapets and overhangs covered with tile, suggesting a Spanish Renaissance character. The courthouse and jail were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Booger Country Opera is usually the first Sat. of the month at nearby New Baden Community Center. And, while there, stop by the local general store established in 1884.

**Carnegie Library**—Established in 1914, the historic, renovated building received historical marker in 1987. Open weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. On U.S. 79.

**Lake**—Limestone. See LAKES listing.

**Walter Williams Grave**—In rural church cemetery a few miles southeast of Franklin is grave of last survivor of War Between the States. Walter Williams, Confederate soldier who survived all veterans, both South and North, is buried in Mount Pleasant church cemetery, F.M. 2446 southeast less than 4 miles.

**GAINESVILLE**

Pop. 15,538

Alt. 738

Map G-17

**General**—Originally a point on the California Trail, town was established 1850 (near Fort Fitzhugh, an outpost that dated from about 1845), but town's frontier location made it too convenient to hostile Indians who periodically raided until 1868. Stabilized conditions allowed growth around cattle and cotton. Seat of Cooke County and gateway to Texas on two major cross-country highways. Home of North Central Texas College. Recreational facilities include a large municipal park, swimming pools, golf course, and nearby lakes.

Shoppers find bargains at the Prime Outlets, Gainesville on I-35 north.

**Frank Buck Zoo**—Named in honor of the adventurer of "bring 'em back alive" fame and Gainesville native, Frank Buck. Founded in 1950, this 25-acre zoo is one of the oldest in the state. The zoo is undergoing an ambitious master plan that divides the facility into three geographic regions: African Savannah, North America, and South America. Each region displays animals in naturalistic settings with a focus on conservation. Located in Leonard Park, which offers parking, picnic tables and recreational facilities in the shade of oak trees. Exit 496B off I-35 and head west on California St. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (till 6 p.m. Jun. - Aug.) Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**Historic Homes**—City noted for brick-paved streets and 19th Century brick Victorian homes. Of some 26 historic homes, most are on Church, Denton, and Lindsay Streets. Also of interest are firehouse built 1884; Episcopal Church, 1884; First Methodist Church, 1892; Catholic Church in Lindsay, four miles west on U.S. 82. Other sites will be identified by chamber of commerce, Culberson at California St.

**Kinne's Jewelers Museum**—Quaint museum on the mezzanine of the jewelry store features a treasure of old items found in the attic and an old safe. Sparkling mesh handbags from the 1920s were found in the safe with the original \$50 price tag on them. Other items found include a sterling silver shaving soap stick and small sterling oil container, supposedly used when oiling a sewing machine. The store is one of three Texas jewelers listed in the Jewelers of America 100 Club (over 100 years old). Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. 210 E California St. For information, call 940/665-3931.

**Lakes**—Moss, Ray Roberts, Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Morton Museum of Cooke County**—Exhibits cover all facets of pioneer life, Indians, and geology, plus temporary displays from other museums and collections. Located in restored old firehouse. Open Tues. - Sat. noon - 5 p.m. 210 S. Dixon.

**Scenic Drives**—F.M. 678, F.M. 372, and F.M. 902 east and south lead through rolling hills of the Cross Timbers region, offering many panoramic views.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of the centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in the State Capitol, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Centers operated daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed, professional travel counselors, free services include information, maps, literature about every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. Approximately 5 miles north of Gainesville on I-35 (U.S. 77); operated by the Texas Department of Transportation.

**GARLAND**

Pop. 215,768

Alt. 551

Map J-18

**General**—Suburban city adjoining Dallas grew from farming community incorporated 1891. Several industries established during WW II. Long-established Resistol Hat Factory provided head-wear for "J.R. Ewing." Center for Performing Arts, Fifth & Austin sts., is home to Garland Symphony, Civic Theater, and summer musicals. Home of Amber Univ.

Firewheel Golf Park provides a challenging 36-hole municipal golf course. For information and tee time, 972/205-2795.

**Lakes**—Ray Hubbard and Lavon. See LAKES listing.

**Landmark Museum**—Displays early settlers' artifacts, old newspapers, farm implements, and quilts. Housed in former Santa Fe depot. Antique rail car on grounds. Also Lyles House, restored "matchbox style" home; exterior views only. Museum open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In Heritage Park, Museum Plaza & State sts. For information, call 972/205-2749.

**Surf and Swim**—Ride four-foot waves in Garland's municipal wave-action pool surrounded by grass beaches and pecan trees. Open daily Jun. - Sept. 440 Oates Dr. off I-635. For additional information, call 972/686-1237.

**Texas Travel Information Center, I-35 in Gainesville**



J. Griffin Smith/7x00T

## GATESVILLE

Pop. 15,591

Alt. 795

Map M-16/17

**General**—Name derived from nearby old Fort Gates; became county seat when Coryell County organized in 1854. Among city parks, Faunt Le Roy Park along Leon River offers picnicking, fitness course, and camping. Local firm, Medical Plastics Lab, produces anatomically correct human parts; tours are available.

Camping facilities are available within walking distance of the downtown area. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce in restored Cotton Belt depot has information and historical exhibits at 2307 Texas 36 south. For information on lodging, dining, and events, call 254/865-2617.

**Coryell County Courthouse**—Constructed 1897 of hand-cut and carved limestone, building is one of finest remaining examples of Romanesque Renaissance Revival architecture in Texas. Clock tower is copper-domed; elegant carved wood and polished stone; rotunda skylight is Texas Star-pattern art glass.

**Coryell Museum and Historical Center**—Antiquities from the area's churches, schools, and pioneer families; ranch chuckwagon. Unusual 1855 double-wall log jail has underground dungeon. Other exhibit includes the Lloyd and Madge Mitchell Collection which includes thousands of spurs, Western memorabilia, pocket knives, pocket and wrist watches, and more. Open. Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 119 N. Eighth.

## GIDDINGS

Pop. 5,105

Alt. 520

Map P-18

**General**—Established on H&TC Railroad when track was laid from Brenham to Austin in 1871. Settled chiefly by Wendish immigrants who moved to railroad from Serbin community 6 miles south. Notorious outlaw Bill Longley hanged here Oct. 11, 1878; historical marker at grave in cemetery on U.S. 290 at west city limit. Increasing oil production in area is major activity; area also rich in lignite, fuller's earth and clay.

**Lee County Courthouse**—The 1899 octagonal courthouse, identical in design but not material to Comal County courthouse, is on crest of divide between Brazos and Colorado River basins.

**Lee County Museum**—Housed in century-old home of Dr. William Edward York, prominent pioneer physician. Photos, books, clothing, artifacts of early history. Open Tues., Thurs., Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Grimes and Industry sts.

**Serbin Community/Wendish Museum**—Celebrated 125th anniversary Nov. 9, 1980. German-settled town 6 miles south on F.M. 2239 (not shown on most maps). The old Wendish church has unusual seating arrangement. Men were to occupy balcony, women and children sat in downstairs pews. Pulpit is at balcony level. Ball on steeple's weather vane has engraved history of church and Wendish pioneers.

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum displays antique furniture, tools, household items and artifacts typically Slavic and Wendish. Also documents and photos. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. North of St. Paul Lutheran Church, adjacent to Wendish Cemetery. For information, call 979/366-2441.

**Stuermer Store**—Local store in operation for almost 100 years. Old-time saloon restored to soda fountain and ice cream parlor. Some 9 miles east on U.S. 290. Bed and breakfast (breakfast served in old saloon area of store) available in historic 1860s hotel. Ledbetter Bed and Breakfast Conference Center offers bed and breakfast facilities, as well as a meeting place. For information, call 979/249-3066.

**Winedale Historical Center**—Restored plantation house of 1830s. See ROUND TOP.

## GLEN ROSE

Pop. 2,122

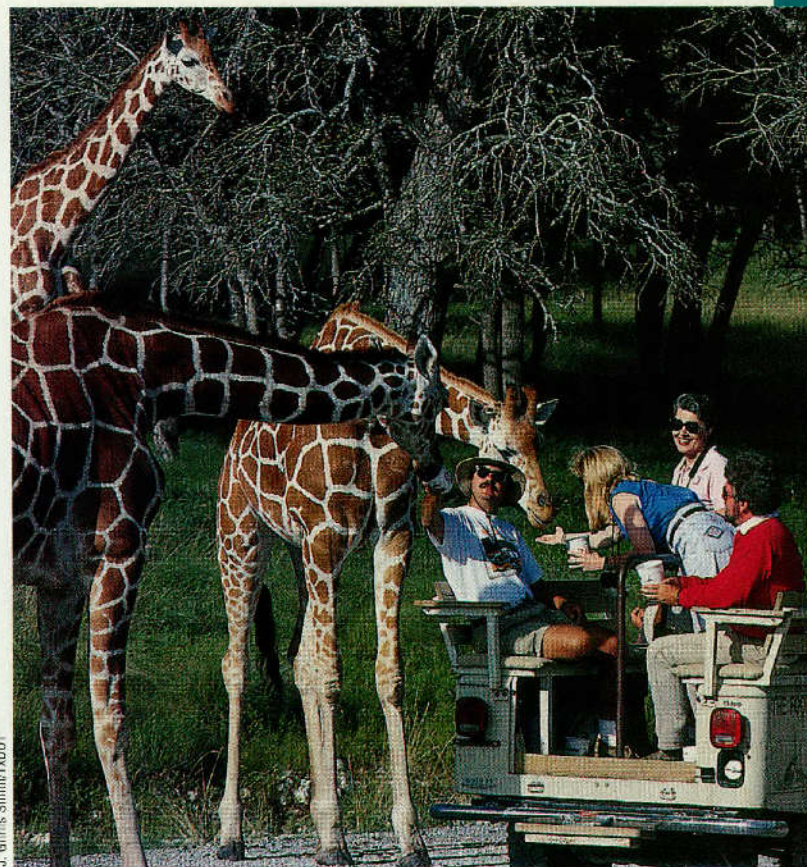
Alt. 680

Map L-16

**General**—Establishment of a trading post at site in 1849 was beginning of this present seat of Somervell County. Located at a picturesque spot on the Paluxy River, just above its confluence with the Brazos River. Several bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings. Squaw Valley Golf Course, owned by the county, is one of top municipal courses in the area.

Expo Center features events scheduled throughout year. For schedules, 254/897-4509.

For excellent camping facility, visit Tres Rios RV Park and Campground. This was originally built in 1919 as a YWCA camp. Today, 55-acre site offers tent camping, RV sites, cabins and motel rentals. Rivers provide canoeing, tubing, and fishing. For information, call 254/897-4253.



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

### Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Glen Rose

Visitors can see candle making demonstrations on Sat. from 1 - 3 p.m. at Elizabeth's Candles. Take U.S. 67 west; right on F.M. 205. Store open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. For information and reservations for tours, call 1-800-235-2004.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Glen Rose Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-888-DINO-CVB (346-6282) or 254/897-3081.

**Barnard Mill and Art Museum**—One of the first structures in city built in the 1860s, the new portion of the mill, which was built in the 1940s, houses art museum featuring oils, bronzes, and primitive artifacts. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Texas Historic Register. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On SW Barnard St. For information, call 254/897-2611.

**Comanche Peak Information Center**—Tours of nuclear power plant site; exhibit of control room simulator, film, and tick-tack-toe quiz. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. F.M. 56 north.

**Creation Evidences Museum**—Includes artifacts and fossil displays, Acrocanthosaurus bones, dinosaur footprint casts, and more. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; last tour begins at 3 p.m. Approximately four miles west via U.S. 67, F.M. 205. Admission. 254/897-3200.

**Dinosaur Valley State Park**—Unique, picturesque park on scenic area of Paluxy River. The Paluxy flows over solid rock that contains the best-preserved dinosaur tracks in Texas. It was here the first sauropod tracks in the world were discovered. The sauropods were plant-eating reptiles more than 60 feet long, weighing 30 tons. Two other tracks are also found in the riverbed, those of the duckbilled dinosaurs, only 30 feet long, and theropods, 12-foot-tall meat-eaters. Interpretive exhibits give visitors a glimpse of how Texas might have looked 100 million years ago. The 1,204-acre park also offers camping, picnicking, and nature trails. Approximately five miles west via U.S. 67, F.M. 205. Admission. 254/897-4588.

**Fossil Rim Wildlife Center**—Features some of the world's most endangered animals, like white rhino, cheetah, and Grevy's zebra, along with some 60 species that roam on 2,700 acres of unspoiled countryside. Enjoy gracious or exotic overnights at The Lodge or the Foothills Safari Camp. Other activities include petting pasture, café, Nature Store, picnic area, nature trail and learning center. Open daily except Christmas and Thanksgiving. Off U.S. 67, 3.5 miles west. Admission. 254/897-2960.

**Lakes**—Granbury, Pat Cleburne, Squaw Creek, Whitney. See LAKES listing.  
**Promise, The**—An historical, yet contemporary, re-enactment of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The musical drama with a cast of 80 is presented in open-air Texas Amphitheatre. Performances usually Fri. -Sat. evenings Jun. - Oct. For exact dates, 254/897-4341.

**Rough Creek Lodge**—This 11,000-acre ranch, lodge and conference center offers daily tours. Besides the lodge, there is tennis, water volleyball, sporting clays and five stand shooting courses for guests. An 80-acre lake advocates catch and release bass fishing. Upland bird hunting available. Take U.S. 67 nine miles south to County Rd. 2013. Reservations recommended for meals in the restaurant and for hunting trips. For information, call 1-800-864-4705.

**Somervell County Historical Museum**—Items depicting local history, fossils, relics. Open June - Labor Day, Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; Labor Day - May, Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Elm and Vernon sts.

## GONZALES

Pop. 7,202

Alt. 292

Map R-17

**General**—Often called the “Lexington of Texas” because first skirmish of Texas Revolution was fought here. Settled 1825 by Green C. DeWitt, American empresario from Missouri, named for Rafael Gonzales (then governor of joint state of Coahuila-Texas); town was designed by Mexican government. Interestingly, streets were named for saints, and markers today show original plan. Current seat of Gonzales County, center of large pecan, cattle and poultry production.

**Gonzales Memorial Museum**—Handsome monument to those who fought first battle of Texas Revolution, and for 32 patriots who later answered Travis’s call for help at the Alamo. Features replica of cannon that precipitated that first battle when Texans challenged Mexican troops to “Come and take it.” Mexican relics and Texana. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. E. St. Lawrence St.

**Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation**—Outstanding institution for treatment of victims of accidents and crippling diseases. Officially named Texas Rehabilitation Center. Adjoins Palmetto State Park 10 miles north on U.S. 183. Visitors welcome.

**Historical Trail**—Driving tour visits 86 historical points of interest. Trail marked with “Come and Take It” signs. Interpretive folder available at chamber of commerce in restored old jail on the courthouse square.

**Historic Sites**—Old jail, constructed 1887, in use as jail until 1975. Restored complete with cells, dungeon, gallows and jailer’s quarters. Museum, gun collection. Headquarters for chamber of commerce and historical society. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 414 St. Lawrence St. on courthouse square.

### Gonzales Memorial Museum



Gary Shackelford/TXDOT

### Old 1887 jail houses Museum in Gonzales

Eggleston House, built 1848, near Memorial Museum. Carefully restored log house is furnished with antiques revealing a picture of Texas pioneer life. Free tours may be arranged through museum curator or chamber of commerce. Open Wed. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. St. Louis St.

Confederate Square and Texas Heroes Square, two downtown plazas.

Battle of Gonzales markers are near community of Cost, southwest on Texas 97.

Near U.S. 90A/U.S. 183 intersection are earthworks of a Confederate fort.

**Independence Park**—Picturesque area on banks of Guadalupe River with picnic facilities, camping area with hookups, golf course, tennis courts, athletic fields. On U.S. 183 south.

**Lake**—Wood. See LAKES listing.

**Noah’s Land of Texas**—Drive through 275 acres where more than 110 species of rare and exotic animals from throughout the world roam Central Texas grasslands and woodlands. Visitors see ostrich, waterbuck, aoudad sheep, addax antelope, llamas, wildebeest, and others including charming little Sicilian donkeys. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Approximately 17 miles northeast of Gonzales on Texas 304 (5.5 miles north of I-10) to the wildlife park entrance. For information, call 830/540-4664. Admission.

**Palmetto State Park**—Of especial interest to botanists because of wide variety of plant life, 178-acre park is used as field laboratory by several Texas universities. Tent and trailer camping permitted, rest rooms, swimming, fishing, picnicking, nature study and hiking. Ten miles north via U.S. 183 and F.M. 1586 to Park Road 11. Admission.

**Pioneer Village**—Reconstructed houses built before 1900 show former way of life. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Just north of city on U.S. 183.

**Scenic Drive**—Park Road 11 through Palmetto State Park offers scenic vistas.  
**Texas Elks Crippled Children’s Hospital**—Maintained for treatment of children crippled by injury or disease. Adjoins Palmetto State Park, 10 miles north on U.S. 183. Visitors welcome.

## GRANBURY

Pop. 5,718

Alt. 725

Map K-16

**General**—Picturesquely situated on Lake Granbury; seat of Hood County. Settled 1854 by Thomas Lambert who united it with the settlement called Stockton to form nucleus of Granbury. Square is on National Register of Historic Places and the readers of *Texas Highways* magazine named this Victorian courthouse square “The Best Town Square in Texas”.

Kevin Sullivan/TXDOT



Granbury Cemetery is final resting place of Jesse James.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings; Convention and Visitors Bureau offers list.

Detailed area information available at Convention & Visitors Bureau's Visitor Center at 100 N. Crockett St. or call 817/573-5548.

**Acton State Historical Park**—Texas' smallest state park is grave site of Elizabeth Crockett, second wife of Davy Crockett. Monument erected by act of Texas Legislature 1911. About 6 miles east, U.S. 377, F.M. 167.

**Brazos Drive-in Theater**—Authentic 1950s drive-in movie, one of 12 still in operation in Texas. Open Fri. - Sun. at 9 p.m. during daylight savings time; otherwise, 7:45 p.m. For movie schedule, 817/573-1311. Admission.

**Elán Dinner Cruises**—Scenic 2-hr. cruises on beautiful Lake Granbury Thurs. - Sun. depart at 2 and 4 p.m. Don't be surprised if Mark Twain or French pirates join the cruise. There is also a breakfast/brunch cruise at 10 a.m.; dinner cruise at 7 p.m., and a 1-hr. moonlight cruise at 9 p.m. Sat. night murder mystery cruises are at 10 p.m. Cruises available Mar. - Nov.; private charter cruises available Dec. - Feb. For information and reservations, call 1-800-841-5309, or 817/279-0204.

**Granbury Carriage Company**—Carriage ride in a white French Vis-a-Vis, drawn by a Percheron horse, throughout city's historic district with narrated tour. Also serves as taxi service to bed and breakfast facilities and special request tours. Rides are Fri., Sat., and Sun. For information, call 817/279-6272 or 817/558-3536.

**Granbury Live**—Live entertainment in 1940s art deco theater, variety of nostalgia music concerts throughout the year. For information and show times, call 1-800-989-9062. Visit the Web site at [www.granburytx.com](http://www.granburytx.com). Admission.

**Granbury Opera House**—Built 1886; restored and reopened 1975. Plays, musicals, presented weekends Feb. through Dec. On square. Call for performance schedule, 817/573-9191.

**Great Race Automotive Hall of Fame**—From Victorian lines of the teens to the graceful Art Deco curves of the 1920s and 1930s, all cars are mechanical works of art. Exhibit changes annually. Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; other times by special request. At 114 N. Crockett. For information, call 817/573-5200.

**Gulch at Granbury, The**—Family entertainment park features Texas-size miniature golf course, golf driving range, baseball/softball batting cages, arcades, and sand volleyball courts. The Texas Twister Spin-n-Bump cars are gas-powered cars with "an attitude," spinning with super force. The beautifully landscaped park also has picnic pavilions and snack bar. Hours seasonal: Apr. - Aug. open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sun. noon - 10 p.m. Hours differ Sept. - Mar., but park is open weekends year around. 5100 E. U.S. 377. 817/579-1515.

**Historic Homes Tours**—Many of city's fine old homes are open during candlelight tour in December. Below are homes open for tours:

**Captain's House, The**—Built in the 1870s by James H. Doyle, this Queen Anne Victorian is two blocks from the square overlooking Lake Granbury. Home features original floors and stained-glass windows, with furniture dating back to the turn of the century. Doyle was business man instrumental in getting the first bridge built. He was known locally as "Captain." Tour Wed. at 2 p.m. At 123 W. Doyle St. For information, call 817/579-6664.

**Dabney House**—Built in 1907 by prominent banker Dan Cogdell as wedding gift to his daughter. Later owned by Dr. T. H. Dabney. Early 1900s charm with stained glass, antiques, and woodwork. Tours Thurs., Fri. at 11:30 a.m., or by appointment. Tour fee. 817/579-1260.

**Iron Horse Inn, The**—Home built in 1900 by D. C. Cogdell, local banker, who chartered First National Bank of Granbury in 1887, which is still in operation. Features include wide front door with coppered glass transom and slide lights. Tour Thurs. at 2 p.m. 616 N. Thorp Springs Rd. Tour fee. 817/579-5535.

**Pearl Street Inn**—Prairie-style home built in 1912 by lawyer B.M. Estes who fought for prohibition in 1887. A city councilman and mayor, Estes died in 1938; daughter lived here until 1954. Tour Thurs. at 1:30 p.m. Tour fee. 817/579-7465.

**Hood County Museum**—Housed in jail which was built in 1885 and used until 1978, the museum depicts history of Hood County from days of colonization. Open Sat. and Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; tours by arrangement. For information, call 817/573-5135. 208 N. Crockett. Admission.

**Lakes**—Granbury, Squaw Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Railroad Depot Museum**—Restored to its 1914 splendor, depot is representative of early 20th-Century rural Texas train stations. Open Tues. noon - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 109 E. Ewell. Call 817/573-9246 for information.



Kevin Stillman/TXDOT

### Palace of Wax in Grand Prairie

## GRAND PRAIRIE

Pop. 127,427

Alt. 528

Map J-18

**General**—Established at close of Civil War on Texas & Pacific Railroad with original name of Dechman. Renamed in 1873; incorporated 1902. Population spurred by large defense plants during World War II. Public recreation facilities include playgrounds, picnic areas, athletic fields, swimming, boating and golf (Great Southwest Golf Course has gold in sand traps, assaying about \$2.85 per ton and Tangle Ridge Golf Club rated one of the top in the state).

**Cedar Hill State Park**—See CEDAR HILL.

**Lakes**—Joe Pool and Mountain Creek. See LAKES listing.

**Lone Star Park**—Class I Thoroughbred and quarter horse racing in North Texas features the Post Time Pavilion with sports bar, restaurant and simulcast wagering with over 150 television screens and convenient wagering windows. The Grandstand features live racing on dirt and grass surfaces. The Grandstand is a seven story, glass-enclosed, climate-controlled building with penthouse suites, terraced-track side dining room, box seats, and outdoor seating. For racing information, call 972/263-RACE (7223). At I-30 and Beltline Road.

**Palace of Wax & Ripley's Believe It or Not!**—Dubbed an "Arabian Fantasy" because of huge onion domes, minarets and exotic detailing, the museum offers stunning displays—all in wax. Exhibits, in environmental settings, include Hollywood, history, horror, childhood fantasy, and religion.

The unusual, bizarre, and unbelievable displays in Ripley's Believe It or Not! are from the collection of a man who collected the world's most interesting artifacts. Enter overgrown ruins of a mystic temple and discover arts and weapons of primitive people, or walk over a bed of firey coals, if you dare! Visitors experience an earthquake, find themselves on the ocean floor in the undersea world of Atlantis, and hold onto their hats as they step into a Texas tornado and emerge safely to inspect the unbelievable things 200-mph winds can do.

Open 10 a.m. daily. 601 E. Safari Pkwy. (Belt Line Rd. exit from I-30 between Dallas and Fort Worth.) Admission.

**Traders Village**—This Texas-size flea market, with more than 1,800 dealers, is open every Sat. and Sun. year-round. The 118 acres feature shopping on a grand scale for bargain hunters. Special events include auto swap meets, chili and barbecue cookoffs, Indian Pow-Wow and more. Thirty restaurants offer a variety of food. There also is an on-site RV park. Open Sat. - Sun., 2602 Mayfield Rd. off Texas 360. Parking fee; free admission.

**Visitor Center**—The Grand Prairie Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a visitor center offering abundant details about local events, accommodations, dining and points of interest. Open daily. 2170 N. Beltline Rd., 972/263-9588, or 1-800-288-8386. Visit Web site at [www.gptexas.com](http://www.gptexas.com).

## GRAND SALINE

Pop. 3,028

Alt. 407

Map J/K-20

**General**—City grew from primitive salt works established 1845; now site of one of largest salt plants in nation. The salt dome under the city is about 1.5 miles across and some 16,000 feet thick; it could supply the world's need for salt for 20,000 years.

Historical marker in city details life of Wiley Post, famous aviator, who was born in Grand Saline.

**Depot Library/Civic Center**—Early 1920 railroad depot has been renovated and serves as city library and civic center. Displays include antique furniture and a porcelain doll collection. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 201 E. Pacific St.

**Grand Saline Museum/Salt Palace**—Present salt-block building, built in 1993, is only the third since original salt palace built for Texas centennial, 1936. The building serves as an information center and museum. Exhibits include early photographs of the city and its citizens, historic salt-related items plus mine memorabilia. Film shows tour inside salt mine. Open Tues. - Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. U.S. 80 at Texas 110 (Main St.) For information, call 903/962-5631.

**Lake**—Holbrook. See LAKES listing.

## GRAPEVINE

Pop. 42,059

Alt. 650

Map J-18

**General**—Prior to settlement in 1850, this well-watered location on the black land prairie was site of important negotiations with Indians and Gen. Sam Houston which led to the signing of the Treaty of Birds Fort which opened North Texas Settlement. Named for the wild mustang grapes that grew throughout the area. Population was 1,813 in 1950; growth parallels that of most Metroplex cities, and location of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport here has stimulated growth.

Much of Main Street is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A walking map tour of the historic renovated downtown area is available at Convention and Visitors Bureau in re-created Wallis Hotel building. (See Heritage Walking Tour.) The original 1891 hotel was near railroad depot; closed in 1926, the building was demolished in the 1930s. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. One Liberty Park Plaza. Three championship public golf courses are open daily.

### Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie



Michael Arndorfer/TXDOT

Large salt block sits outside Salt Palace in Grand Saline

Bed and breakfast accommodations are available in city.

Shoppers find bargains galore at Grapevine Mills mall and the Bass Pro Shops, both just off Texas 121 north of D/FW Airport.

**Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport**—One of the world's largest airports with over 2,000 scheduled domestic and international flights daily. Group tours available through D/FW Airport Public Relations Office.

**Grapevine Heritage Center**—Originally site of Cotton Belt Railroad depot and cotton docks. Three-acre site is being developed as heritage education center. The center houses artisans who demonstrate and teach their craft. Gifts and custom orders available. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 701 S. Main St.

**Grapevine Historical Museum**—Housed in restored railroad depot. Built in 1901, the depot served the city as a railroad station until abandoned by the railroad and moved off site in 1973. The Grapevine Heritage Foundation purchased this building, its original site, and moved it back. Museum displays local and pioneer history exhibits. Open Fri. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 707 S. Main St.

**Grapevine Opry**—Showcase of Country/Western entertainment in historic Palace Theatre. There's a foot-stompin', hand-clappin' family-style show every Fri. & Sat. night featuring local, regional, and national artists. 308 S. Main St. Admission.

**Heritage Walking Tour**—Convenient map provides information on Grapevine's historic homes and buildings. Much of Main Street is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For map and information, visit the visitor center in the historic 1901 Cotton Belt Depot at 701 S. Main St.

**Lake**—Grapevine. See LAKES listing.

**Tarantula Railroad**—Beautifully restored steam excursion train makes daily round-trips between Grapevine and Fort Worth's Stockyards Station. While in Fort Worth, the Tarantula makes a cross-city excursion to the city's south side along ten-mile course to Eighth Avenue. Turn-around in Grapevine is on a 1927 Santa Fe Railroad turntable. Ticket office at Cotton Belt Depot on Main St. For more information and schedule, call 817/625-RAIL (7245), or 1-800-952-5717. (Also see Fort Worth.)

**Visitor Center**—Located in the Founders Building, the visitor center, operated by the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau, can provide additional information on events, accommodations, and other visitor information. Open Sun. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 701 S. Main St. or call 817/410-3185.

**Wineries & Tasting Rooms**—Six vineyards and wineries have locations in Grapevine. The annual GrapeFest, in September, pays homage to the fruit of the city's namesake.

**Cap\*Rock Winery and Tasting Room** is located on historic Main Street in the heart of the downtown shopping district featuring an 11-foot long bar where customers can order two-ounce samples and discuss wines and grape growing in Texas. Open daily at 409 S. Main St. For information, call 817/329-9463.

**Delaney Winery & Vineyards** is a landmark along the freeway where a 10-acre vineyard produces several varieties of grapes. The winery architecture reflects a classic French-inspired style from the 18th century. Focal point of the facility is the huge Grand Barrel Room with soaring vaulted ceilings, lined with vintage French oak tuns, vats, and barrels. At 2000 Champagne Blvd. off

Lone Star Park photo

Texas 121; take Glade Road exit and continue on service road past Glade Road, then right on Champagne Blvd. Open for tours Tues. - Sat. noon - 4 p.m.; tours on the hour with the last tour at 4 p.m.; tour admission. Tasting begins at 12:30 p.m. with last tasting at 4:30 p.m.; tasting admission. For information, call 817/481-5668.

**Homestead Winery and Tasting Room** is in a historic home on Worth St., one block off historic Main St. This winery/tasting room provides its customers with personal attention that makes them feel right at home. Open Wed. - Sat. at 211 E. Worth St. Tel. 817/251-9463.

**La Bodega Winery & Tasting Room** is located in one of the world's busiest airports—Terminal 2E, Gate 6 at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Tasting room features a wide variety of Texas wine. For information, call 817/329-3145.

**La Buena Vida Vineyards** tasting room is in the heart of Grapevine's Historic District. It features a demonstration vineyard as well as a variety of wines. The vineyard is in Springtown and tours of vineyards are available by appointment. Tasting room open daily 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 416 East College St. off Main St. For information, 817/481-9463.

**North Star Winery and Tasting Room** is on historic Main Street adjacent to the old Cotton Belt Depot. It is in a registered historic building and offers wine sampling and everything for the wine enthusiast. Open daily at 814 S. Main St. Call 817/410-2675.

## GREENVILLE

Pop. 23,960

Alt. 594

Map H-19

**General**—Center of rich agricultural region featuring cotton; also home of more than 50 modern industries including electrical hardware, space electronics, agricultural chemicals, household rubber products, oil-field machinery, aircraft and clothing. Gateway to Lake Tawakoni. Audie Murphy, nation's most decorated soldier of World War II, was born in a rural area a few miles north of Greenville.

Fascinating antique stores, specialty shops, malls and outlet stores make Greenville renowned for bargain shopping.

**American Cotton Museum**—Artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to area's historic cotton industry. Learn about planting, growing, ginning, baling, spinning and weaving of cotton. Other exhibits include county's celebrities, such as White Sox baseball pitcher Monty Stratton and *Voyager* copilot Jeana Yeager. Mementos of America's most-decorated soldier of World War II, Audie Murphy, include medals, uniforms and photos. Historic Ende-Gaillard House, oldest house in the city, is on the museum grounds. Tours of the Greek-Revival-style structure are by appointment. Museum open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. (Closed Mon.) At 600 I-30 East. For information, 903/450-4502. Admission.

**Garden of Peace**—A 10-ft. x 30-ft. bas relief sculpture depicting "Peace in the World" and five free-standing doves. "Peace in the Soul," by Santa Fe artist Kirk Tatom is featured in the landscaped meditation garden. In Forest Park Cemetery on U.S. 69 South. Open during daylight hours.

**Lakes**—Lavon, Ray Hubbard, Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

**Mathews Prairie Preserve**—One hundred acres of virgin tallgrass blackland prairie. An excellent spot for birders, wildflower enthusiasts, and anyone looking for an idea of how the north central Texas area looked to early settlers. Take U.S. 380 west, and north on F.M. 903.

**Puddin Hill Bakery**—Scrumptious array of world-famous pecan fruit cakes and chocolate delicacies tempt visitors. Homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts served Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sun. 1 - 3 p.m. Store open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Nov. - Christmas open Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.) I-30 at Division St.

## GROESBECK

Pop. 4,291

Alt. 477

Map M-19

**General**—Dedicated in 1870 as townsite by Houston and Texas Central Railroad and named for one of its directors; became seat of Limestone County in 1873; trade center for area farms and ranches; site of several small manufacturing industries; limited oil and gas production; extensive lignite coal deposits.

**Fort Parker Memorial Cemetery**—Large monument and graves of settlers massacred by Indians in 1836. Two miles north on F.M. 1245 (not shown on most maps).

**Fort Parker State Park**—1,485 acres of wooded and open parkland offer natural beauty, varied recreational opportunities; on Navasota River and 750-acre Lake Springfield. Camping, trailers, fishing, swimming, nature study.



Grapevine's annual Grapefest is usually held in September

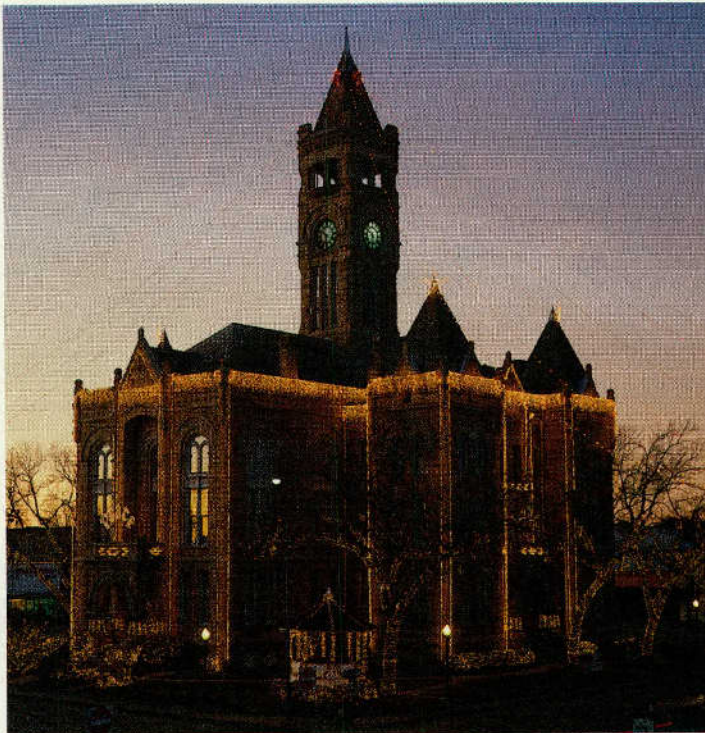
Nearby is restored Old Fort Parker. Park is 5 miles north via Texas 14, Park Road 28. Admission.

**Lakes**—Springfield, Limestone, and Mexia. See LAKES listing.

**Limestone County Historical Museum**—Artifacts and historical information on Limestone County and its people; memorabilia relating to Old Fort Parker. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., (till 4 p.m. Tues.); Sat. 2 - 4 p.m. 210 W. Navasota St. Admission.

**Old Fort Parker State Historic Site**—Established 1834 by Silas, James and John Parker families to protect settlement of eight or nine homesteads. In 1836, surprise attack by several hundred Comanches overran fort, killing five of the Parker family and carrying into captivity five persons including Cynthia Ann Parker, then age 9. She grew up, married a Comanche chief and lived with the Indians until captured with her 2-year-old daughter, Prairie Flower, 24 years later in 1860. She was mother of the last great Comanche chief, Quanah Parker. Cynthia Ann never became reconciled to her forced return to her white kinsmen, and tried several times to escape. Unhappy and virtual prisoners, both she and her daughter died about four years after they were separated from the wild, free life of the Comanche. Restored in 1936 and in 1967, fort has pioneer memorabilia, authentic log blockhouse and stockade. Operated by City of Groesbeck; open Labor Day to Memorial Day 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; summer, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Four miles north via Texas 14, Park Road 35. Admission.

**Old Springfield**—County seat 1838-1873, and only town in county 1838-1870. Historical marker on Texas 14 near entrance to Fort Parker State Park details history of the village; along park entrance road is old cemetery. Five miles north on Texas 14.



Kevin Stillman/XXOT

Christmas at the Lavaca County Courthouse in Hallettsville

## HALLETTSVILLE

Pop. 2,345      Alt. 232      Map R-18

**General**—Predominantly German/Czech community founded in 1838; named for Mrs. John Hallett who gave the land for the townsite. City has been Lavaca County seat since 1852. It is on the Lavaca River, equidistant from Houston and San Antonio. City's community park includes golf course, playground, campground with RV hookups. State Championship High School Rodeo established here, 1947. Hunters take deer, dove, turkey and wild hogs during seasons.

Ripley's Believe it or Not! once called Hallettsville the "13" city: in 1913 it had 13 letters in the name, 1300 population, 13 churches, 13 newspapers, 13 saloons.

**Lavaca County Courthouse**—Construction began in 1897 and was completed in 1899. The architect, Eugene T. Heiner, designed it after the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, PA. Visitors see original tile floor, artwork on vault doors, and the magnificent grand staircase. Building was entered on National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

**Lavaca Historical Museum**—Historical artifacts, photos, household furnishings focusing on county and area history; Old-Timers Baseball Hall of Fame. Includes restored carriage house and outhouse. Open Sat. - Sun., 2 - 5 p.m. 413 N. Main.

**Lay-Bozka House**—Built 1878-82 at cost of \$4,750 for Confederate veteran Dr. James Lay. Native stone walls, 18 to 24 in. thick. Unusual patterned mansard roof and rope molding. Drive-by viewing only. On U.S. 90A in city.

**Texas Championship Domino Hall of Fame**—Pictures, plaques, and stories of outstanding players; life history of dominoes. Tournament in January. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 - 11 a.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, U.S. 77 South.

**Texas Fiddlers Hall of Fame**—Memorabilia honoring Texas fiddlers; annual induction held in conjunction with Texas State Fiddlers Frolics, fourth weekend in April. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, U.S. 77 South.

## HAMILTON

Pop. 2,977      Alt. 1,154      Map M-16

**General**—Established as county seat when Hamilton County organized in 1858. Early settlers plagued with Indian raids. On the courthouse lawn stands a memorial to Anne Whitney, frontier schoolteacher killed while defending students during Comanche Indian attack.

The Hamilton County Courthouse is a native limestone building constructed in the late 1800s after three prior courthouses were burned. Numerous Historical Society items are housed in glass cases in the hallways.

Also on the grounds is a historical marker for Elsie Waerenskjold, pioneer whose writings brought many settlers to Texas from her native Norway. She is referred to as the "Lady with the Pen" who spoke out against slavery and called for temperance.

Performances throughout the year at the Texan Theatre at 110 S. Bell St. are provided by the Hamilton Civic Theatre. Call for schedule and playbill at 254/386-5216.

A Cultural District Walking Tour passes by historic buildings and houses. For a free map or information on accommodations, events, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 254/386-3216 or stop by at 204 E. Main St. **Hamilton County Genealogy Society Library and Central Texas Research Center**—One of the fastest growing genealogy centers in the state. Documents, books and publications covering most of the U.S. The Center houses numerous family histories and ancestral charts. The library, research center and community room is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 209 W. Henry St. For information, call 254/386-4566.

**Hamilton County Museum**—County artifacts, letters, newspapers, relics and photographs, housed in the old jail. Jail cells still operational. Exhibits change seasonally. Open Fri. 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 113 W. Henry St.

**Pecan Creek Park**—Ten-block linear park meanders through downtown along Pecan Creek. Includes playground and family areas. Plaza entrance one block north of courthouse.

## HEARNE

Pop. 4,690      Alt. 287      Map O-19

**General**—In Robertson County, the town developed in 1868 and was named for the Christopher Columbus Hearne family of Lowdes County, Alabama, who moved to Texas and established large cotton plantations. The city lies at the intersection of U.S. 79 and Texas 6, as well as the state's major east-west and north-south rail lines.

Rosie Lee Moore, the last live model for Quaker Oats Company's Aunt Jemima, was from Hearne. She toured for the company during the 1950s and '60s promoting their products, specially the pancake mix. She died in 1967 and is buried at the Hammond Colony Cemetery northeast of the city.

Murals depict the history of the area on buildings in the downtown Hearne Art District.

The Old Main Post Office built in 1941 now houses antiques and art. It also has tourism brochures and information during the week and on weekends when the chamber office is closed.

For information on events, lodging and dining facilities, call the Hearne Area Chamber of Commerce at 979/279-2351.

**Camp Hearne**—This WWII prisoner of war internment camp, 1942-47, once housed as many as 5,000 prisoners and personnel. The prisoners entertained themselves and passed the time with elaborate stage productions, musicals and the construction of numerous castles and fountains using available native materials. A scale model of the camp, built by women prisoners in the minimum security unit in Bryan, is on display at the Chamber of Commerce office. Many period photos of the camp are also on display. Numerous artifacts, as well as the remains of many of the stone castles and fountains, have been found during an archeological dig and study. Group tours to the camp site may be arranged with the Chamber. The Chamber is open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 201 S. Magnolia St.

## HICO

Pop. 1,341      Alt. 1,006      Map L-16

**General**—Pronounced "High-Koe". In northeastern Hamilton County, city was named by founder Dr. John R. Alford for his hometown in Kentucky. Original site was on Honey Creek; when the Texas Central Railroad was built nearby, the citizens moved two and a half miles to the railroad line. Hico was incorporated in 1883 and became the county's shipping center. Over the years the city prospered as a cotton and cattle market center; today ranching and tourism are major contributors to the economy.

Downtown area U.S. 281 and Texas 6 features antique stores, artist studio, restaurants, a leather shop, and much more. Free musical entertainment by local talent on Sat. night, as well as free horse-drawn buggy rides on Sat. nights provided by the Jersey Lilly Restaurant.

For those with a sweet tooth, the historical home of internationally known photographer Frank Rufus Wiseman, built in 1903, houses a chocolate company, as well as antiques.

One of the oldest Old Settler's Reunions, dating from 1882, is held annually each July on the picnic grounds in city park.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, call 1-800-361-HICO (4426) or visit us at [www.hico-tx.com](http://www.hico-tx.com).

**Billy the Kid Museum**—According to Hico Legend, Billy the Kid wasn't killed by Pat Garrett, but died of a heart attack on his way to the Hico News Review Office in Hico at age 90. No matter how Ollic L. "Brushy Bill" Roberts, alias William Bonney, alias Billy the Kid, died, the legend lives on. Museum features memorabilia on Pecan St. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 254/796-4004, or 1-877-BILLYKD (245-5953).

**Lakes**—Proctor and Whitney. See LAKES listing.

**Smooth Water Ranch**—This man-made 10-acre lake provides opportunities for watering skiing, including competition matches. Camping facilities for RVs available. Outdoor festivals feature Texas musicians during spring, summer and fall months. Open year around for camping; skiing available if weather permits. For information and admission fees, call 1-877-WE DO SKI (933-6754) or visit the Web site at [www.smoothwater ranch.com](http://www.smoothwater ranch.com). Located six mi. north on Texas 220.

**Texas Hoedown at the Timber Creek Ranch**—Experience ranch life at Timber Creek. Horseback riding, horseback camp outs, hay rides, saddle bag lunches, sunset champagne rides, and more. For information, call 254/364-2676. Located about ten miles southeast on Texas 6. Web site [www.texashoedown.com](http://www.texashoedown.com).

## HILLSBORO

Pop. 8,232

Alt. 634

Map L-17

**General**—Principal trade center and seat of Hill County, established 1853. In frontier tradition, first courthouse was log cabin. Chamber of Commerce office and Visitor Center is located at 115 N. Covington in old MK&T RR depot. Center of rich agricultural region; gateway to Lake Whitney; home of Hill College.

Known for restored Hill Country Courthouse after devastating fire of New Year's Day 1993. Home to many restored Victorian homes. Driving tours available pass renovated homes and restored downtown area. Downtown area offers more than 200 antique dealers, several bed and breakfasts, speciality shops, and historical sites.

Prime Outlets of Hillsboro on I-35 features more than 100 outlet shops for bargain shoppers to find everything from clothing to furniture to chocolate.

For information on accommodations, events, and restaurants, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 254/582-2481 or 1-800-HILLSBORO. You can also locate the city on the Internet at [www.hillsboro.net/chamber](http://www.hillsboro.net/chamber).

**Hill County Cell Block Museum**—A repository of Hill County history in building that served as jail 1893 - 1983; extensive selection of Indian artifacts. Also includes Willie Nelson Memorabilia Room. Open Sat., Apr. - Nov., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 200 block of N. Waco St. at Paschal.

**Hill Country Courthouse**—This restored 1890 building is available for tours through the Chamber of Commerce after complete renovation from a fire in 1993. The district courtroom features flooring from the State Capitol building and War memorials on the Courthouse grounds. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Lakes**—Aquila and Whitney. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Whitney State Park**—About 16 miles southwest. See WHITNEY.

**Texas Heritage Museum**—Commemorating the experiences of Texans during war time; the museum houses exhibits devoted to the Civil War era, Hood's Texas Brigade and World War I and II. More than 3,000 volumes, many rare, plus maps, photographs, correspondence and dioramas of the Civil War. Also the Audie Murphy Memorial Gun Museum & Weaponry Library. (Audie Murphy, son of a Central Texas tenant farmer, was nation's most decorated soldier in WW II.) Museum features historic firearms and edged weapons, historic artifacts, and historical art collection. Located at Hill College, part of the Harold B. Simpson History Complex. Open Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (except for major holidays). Admission is \$4.

## HONEY GROVE

Pop. 1,746

Alt. 668

Map G-19/20

**General**—An early settlement dating from the Republic of Texas. Legend says when first coming to Texas, David Crockett camped here and later wrote to friend, Samuel Erwin, describing the beautiful "honey grove." Erwin settled here in 1842 and named the town.

Drive-by tour maps of city's many restored Victorian homes available at library. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, built in 1883 (call 903/378-2207 to schedule appointment for tour), worth a drive-by.

Local Lakes Coffeemill and Crockett offer fishing and camping north off Texas 100. They are located in the Caddo National Grasslands.

**Bertha Voyer Memorial Library**—Features changing small exhibits. Open Tues. - Wed. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Fri., 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On square, corner of Sixth and U.S. 82. City Hall, one block north of library is oldest governmental building still in use in Fannin County.

## HUBBARD

Pop. 1,586

Alt. 627

Map L-18

**General**—City was established when the St. Louis and Southwestern Railway (Cotton Belt) extended its tracks through Hill County from Mt. Pleasant to Waco. It was named for Richard B. Hubbard, a former governor of Texas. Agriculture has been the primary support for the economy for many years; cotton was in abundance and the city had its own cotton exchange. Today, most of the land is ranch land, and the Hubbard Livestock Auction provides a market for a wide area of Central Texas. During the early 1900s the city was noted for its hot mineral wells and bath houses. People came from all over Texas in search of relief from rheumatism and other illnesses. The wells are still here along with five city lakes built after discovering the mineral water.

**Hubbard Museum**—Contains memorabilia of city's old buildings and businesses since 1889. Exhibits include photos and documents. There is an exhibit on Tris Speaker, late great baseball player born and buried in Hubbard. Speaker was the first Texan to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and also inducted in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Museum in renovated Historic Hubbard High School, which also houses library and meeting rooms. Museum open Wed. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. At 304 NW 6th St.

**Lakes**—Mexia and Navarro Mills. See LAKES listing.

## INDEPENDENCE

Pop. 140 (est.)

Alt. 32

Map P-19

**General**—Settled 1824 by John P. Coles, one of Stephen F. Austin's 300 original families in Texas. First called Coles Settlement, the village name was changed in 1836 to commemorate independence of Texas from Mexico. The town square was laid out for the Washington County courthouse, but Brenham won a heated county-seat election by two votes. On F.M. 50 a few miles north of Brenham.

### Antique Rose Emporium in Independence



J. Griffiths Smith/TXDOT



Irving is the home of Texas Stadium and the Dallas Cowboys

For visitor information, call the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 979/836-3695, or 1-800-225-3695.

**Antique Rose Emporium**—Eight acres of gardens specializing in older classes of garden roses, many brought to the area by settlers, along with native plants, old-fashioned garden perennials and herbs planted in display gardens. Historic Hairston-McKnight homestead's restored stone kitchen is focal point of garden. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed major holidays. On F.M. 50, just south of intersection with F.M. 390. For information, call 979/836-5548.

**Cemetery**—Many notables buried there, Sam Houston, Jr., Moses Austin Bryan, the Hoxey family and veterans of all U.S. wars from the American Revolution through World War II.

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

**Old Baylor Park**—On site of campus of Old Baylor University. Original home of John P. Coles relocated and restored here (open by appointment). Modern picnic facilities, rest rooms. One-half mile west on F.M. 390.

**Ruins of Old Baylor University**—Birthplace of present Baylor University (Waco) and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Belton). Four large stone pillars mark original site of Baylor's administration and classroom building; other ruins of six-acre original campus. See Old Baylor Park.

**Sam Houston Homesite**—Marked with large granite marker, stands on F.M. 390 across from entrance to Old Baylor campus. Mrs. Houston's 1863 home stands one block east of old Baptist church on F.M. 390.

**Scenic Drive**—F.M. 390 east and west from Independence offers attractive scenery and exceptional vistas. Especially colorful around mid-Apr. during bluebonnet season.

**Texas Baptist Historical Center**—Historic Independence Baptist Church, organized in 1839, third oldest Baptist church in Texas, where Sam Houston was converted in 1854 and baptized by Dr. R. C. Burlison. Present building erected in 1872. Church building and adjoining museum house many artifacts dating to pre-Civil War days. Mrs. Sam Houston and her mother, Nancy Moffette Lea, longtime members of the church, are buried within sound of the historic bell, just across the street from churchyard. Old records, family information and local travel information available at museum. Open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. At F.M. 390/F.M. 50 junction. 979/836-5117.

**Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park**—A few miles east on the Brazos River. See WASHINGTON.

## IRVING

Pop. 191,615

Alt. 470

Map J-18

**General**—Established 1902 by J.O. Schulze and Otis Brown as site to begin a watermelon farm. In 1906, Schulze and Brown donated much of Irving to the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railroad for depot and switching yard. Irving has had a growth surge from a population of 2,575 in 1950 to more than 190,000 today. The thriving commercial, industrial, and residential city borders on western edge of Dallas and the eastern boundary of D/FW International Airport. Home of North Lake College and the Univ. of Dallas.

A herd of five marble cows, sculpted by Harold Clayton, makes an unusual setting along Texas 114 near Rochelle Rd. Perfect photo of an urban cow!

For additional information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-2-Irving or on-line at [www.irvingtexas.com](http://www.irvingtexas.com).

**Dallas Cowboys Football Club/Texas Stadium**—The Pro Shop at the stadium is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, the Pro Shop's telephone number is 972/554-1804, or on-line at [www.dallascowboys.com](http://www.dallascowboys.com).

Stadium tours begin at the Pro Shop located at Gate 8 and include visiting the exclusive Stadium Club, viewing a private suite, press box, dressing room, and playing field. Tours run on the hour from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon. - Sat. and Sun. from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (No tours on game day or during special events.) Loop 12 at Carpenter Freeway. Admission.

**Las Colinas Complex**—Ultramodern multiuse complex on 12,000 acres includes Equestrian Center, farmer's market center, movie studio, business facilities, residential villages, hotel, restaurants, and shops.

Don't miss the spectacular Las Colinas Flower Clock at Texas 114 and O'Connor Rd. Flowers are planted at least eight times a year for perfect color year round. Great photo spot.

Mandalay Canal Walk, one level below street, is European-style canal walk featuring Venetian-built water taxis.

Centerpiece of Williams Square is striking *Mustangs of Las Colinas* sculpture, nine mustangs that appear to be splashing through a stream of water. Stroll across the plaza and visit the *Mustang Sculpture Exhibit* which includes an informative film about the mustangs and the creation of this sculpture. The sculpture took more than seven years to complete by African wildlife artist Robert Glen. The bronze mustangs are one-and-a-half-times life size, making them the largest equestrian sculpture in the world. The exhibit is in the West Tower of Williams Square and is open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information, call 972/869-9047. The complex is northwest of Texas Stadium, 2 mi. on Texas 114.

**Movie Studios of Las Colinas Tour, The**—Studio tour gives glimpse of behind the scenes at a working motion picture and television sound stage where such blockbusters as "Silkwood," "Robocop," and "JFK" were filmed, as well as "Walker, Texas Ranger," Discover how makeup and costumes perfect the illusion, and see famous costumes including those of Batman, Superman, and Darth Vader and the Storm Troopers in "Star Wars."

Also, the National Museum of Communications features large collection of communications memorabilia from the pen to the satellite.

The Studio Store is a perfect place to pick up travel souvenirs from favorite television shows and movies.

Regular tour times 10:30 a.m. (Sat. & holidays only), 12:30, 2:30 and 4 p.m. Summer tour times (mid-Jun. - mid-Aug.) 10:30 a.m. (Sat. & holidays only), 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Visit the Web site at [www.studiosatlascolinas.com](http://www.studiosatlascolinas.com). 6301 N. O'Connor Rd., Building One. 972/869-3456.

## KAUFMAN

Pop. 6,490

Alt. 440

Map K-19

**General**—First settled in 1840 by forty families led by Dr. William P. King, from Mississippi, who purchased land and built a fort on a hilltop that overlooked his new home. This became known as Kingsboro. As the community grew, the name changed to Kingsboro. In 1846 when the state established Henderson County, Kingsboro became part of that county. In 1848, land was taken from Henderson County to establish Kaufman County, named for David S. Kaufman. Three years later the community became county seat and renamed for the county. Just southeast of the Metroplex, Kaufman has prospered from a diversified economy. The city bills itself as the Red Tail Hawk capital of Texas.



LOOKUS/INMET PHOTO

### Museum at Fort Hood exhibits a variety of military hardware near Killeen

Historic buildings dot the town square. Visitors can stop by the chamber of commerce at 107 N. Jackson St. for additional information on accommodations, dining, and events, or call 972/932-3118.

Bed and breakfast accommodations available in city.

**City Lakes Park**—Two local lakes complement the scenery for this city park. Fishing, camping, picnic sites, and group pavilion available. Located 1.5 miles north of town square on U.S. 84. For information, call 972/932-2216.

**Dream Lake Ski Ranch**—Visitors can learn to slalom, barefoot, jump and trick ski from beginners through competition on this private, man-made ski lake. Spend the day or a week. Accommodations available, including club house access. Open daily May 1 - Labor Day 8 a.m. - sundown. For information, 972/452-3488.

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek. See LAKES listing.

## KEENE

Pop. 5,003

Alt. 693

Map K-17

**General**—Originally settled in 1852 when the railroad reached the area northeast of Cleburne in central Johnson County. Jeremiah Easterwood was among the early settlers and he built a Methodist church, which also served as a school. The community became known as Elm Grove. In 1894 the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists opened a school to train ministers. The assembly hall was built on the campus of Southwestern Union College that year and a post office opened called Keene. The training school is now a Level III university, Southwestern Adventist Univ., offering degrees in business, communication, education, nursing, and other academic areas. MBA and M.Ed. degrees also offered.

**The Museum of Student Life**—The museum features a historical work ethic with industrial exhibits from the town's early decades—broom making, chenille, stick horse, woodworking, printing, as well as an extensive Biblical sanctuary exhibit and many items reflecting local history. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. - noon. Also open the first Sat. of each month. Located at 300 N. College Dr. on the university campus. Donations accepted. For information, call 817/556-4731.

## KILLEEN

Pop. 86,911

Alt. 833

Map N-16/17

**General**—Edged by 217,000-acre Fort Hood. Named for civil engineer of Santa Fe Railroad that built across county in 1882. Largest city in Bell County; home of Central Texas College, Tarleton University Center - Central Texas. Killeen's rich cultural diversity offers visitors numerous dining, shopping, and entertainment options—from rodeos and stock-car racing to the culture of the stage.

Community theater productions are held throughout the year at the Center for the Arts, sponsored by Vive Les Arts Societe.

Additional information on events, accommodations, and attractions are available at the visitor information center in the restored Santa Fe depot,

including a guide to historical sites and markers. Operated by the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau, the center is open Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. At One Santa Fe Plaza. Tel. 254/526-9551, or 1-800-869-8265.

The Killeen Area Heritage Association sponsors historic exhibits at the Killeen City Hall, housed in the old Killeen High School, Avenue D at College St. The city offices are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri. A 24-hour storefront exhibit at the Municipal Courts building, 200 East Avenue D, demonstrates family life in the community before the coming of the Army in 1942. Killeen lies on U.S. 190, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Fort Hood**—Covering 339 square miles of Central Texas, the modern Army post is staffed with the largest collection of soldiers and fighting machines in the free world—the only two-division post in the nation. Home of the Army's III Corps, 1st Cavalry and the 4th Infantry Division.

**1st Cavalry Division Museum** exhibits more than 150 years of cavalry uniforms, equipment, arms from sabers to assault helicopters; emphasis on division combat during World War II, in Korea, and in Vietnam. Artillery, tanks, trucks and captured foreign weapons; at 761st Tank Destroyer Blvd.

**4th Infantry Division Museum** allows visitors to explore the history of the Division through a series of self-guided exhibits which use artifacts, text, and photographs showing soldiers in service to their country through three wars. In addition, the museum has a large number of historical vehicles on exhibits on the grounds.

Visitors are welcome at each Division's museums Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun. noon - 3:30 p.m. Closed Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Easter. Visitors stop at main gate entrance from U.S. 190 west of Killeen.

**Lakes**—Belton, Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

**Parks**—Ten city parks offer more than 250 acres for family recreation. Features include sports fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, picnic areas, and golf and youth centers.

## LA GRANGE

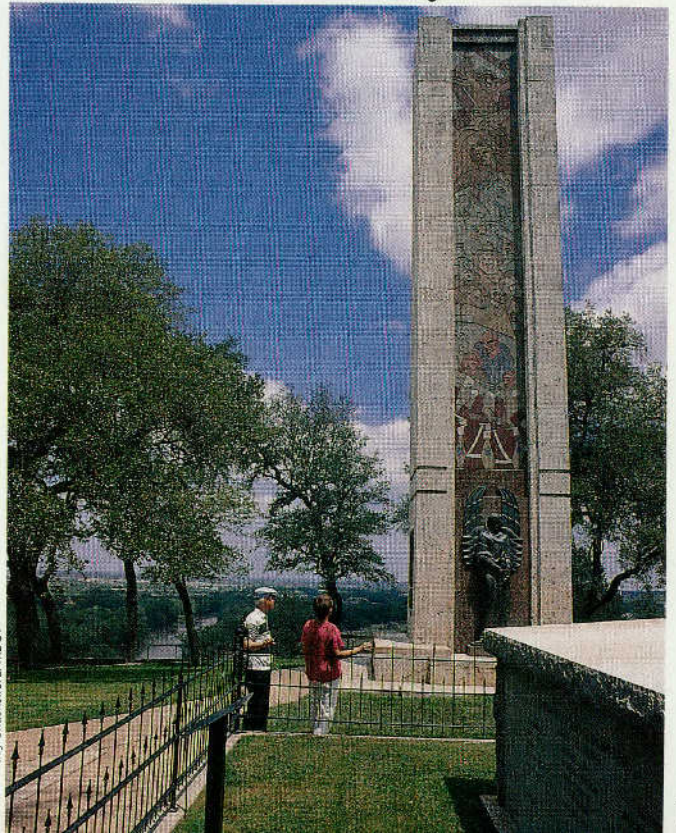
Pop. 4,478

Alt. 272

Map Q-18

**General**—Located where old buffalo trail later known as La Bahia Road crossed the Colorado River. Developed 1831, became seat of Fayette County 1837. County and town said named by early settlers for their home town and county in Tennessee. "Historic Oak" on north side of square has been muster point for men in six conflicts.

### Monument Hill State Historic Site at La Grange



Gay Shackerford/TUDOT

Selected as a Texas "Main Street" city, the downtown area includes 1890s courthouse, old county jail, 1886 MKT Depot, historical markers, walking tours, and St. James Episcopal Church, c. 1885, at 156 N. Monroe St.

City is pivotal point on the Texas Independence Trail and Texas settlement trails. For additional information and map, contact the chamber of commerce.

Czech, German, Antique and Cabin-styled bed and breakfast accommodations are available.

Contact La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce, on town square at 171 S. Main St., or call 800/524-7264 for information on dining, accommodations, and area attractions, or e-mail chamber@lagrangetx.org.

**Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives**—Local art and genealogical collections. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 855 S. Jefferson.

**Kreische Brewery State Historic Site**—Ruins of stone brewery and home built by stonemason Heinrich L. Kreische who came to La Grange in 1840s. His brewery was one of first commercial breweries in Texas with output of more than 700 barrels in one year. Guided tours tell the story of this German immigrant and details of his brewing process. Brewery is part of adjacent Monument Hill State Historic Site. May be viewed from overlook; tours only Sat., Sun. at 2 & 3:30 p.m.

**Lake**—Fayette. See LAKES listing.

**Monument Hill State Historic Site**—Final resting place of men who drew black beans of death after Mier Expedition against Mexico, and 41 of Capt. Nicholas Dawson's soldiers massacred by Mexicans at Salado Creek (one of five Texas streams named Salado) near San Antonio in 1842. Monument is handsome 48-foot marker of stone, bronze and polychrome. Visitor center; self-guided, wheelchair-accessible interpretive trail, nature trail, picnic sites, playground. Open daily, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Group tours with refreshments available: call 979/968-5658 for details. Two miles south off U.S. 77, Spur 92. Admission (includes Kreische Brewery tour when offered).

**Scenic Drives**—U.S. 77 southwest to F.M. 2436 to Hostyn. Be sure to stop by the Holy Rosary Catholic Church to see the Hostyn Grotto. First Texas highway roadside park 10 miles west on Texas 71; also, scenic overlook of Colorado River Valley. Other scenic drives throughout area, especially pretty during bluebonnet and Indian blanket flowering season.

**Stuermer Store**—See GIDDINGS.

**Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center**—This 72-acre site includes a replica of a Czech village, a wall depicting the names of Czech settlers who helped to found the city, walking trails in English and Czech, a gift shop and library to trace Czech ancestry. Call 888/785-4500.

**Winedale Historical Center**—Restored farm home and buildings of 1830s. See ROUND TOP.

## LANCASTER

Pop. 25,894 Alt. 512 Map K-18

**General**—For years, Lancaster (Lank-aster) was the second largest city in Dallas County. It still retains the look and feel of a small town although only minutes from metropolitan Dallas. Some of the finest Victorian homes in the county are preserved here. Extensive restoration of the downtown area was accomplished in the late 1970s; then, on April 25, 1994, a tornado struck the city doing extensive damage to the downtown and residential areas. Friends, neighbors, and citizens joined forces for the massive cleanup, and today Lancaster is rebuilding and restoring.

During the War Between the States, a pistol factory here produced the huge Colt .44 Dragoon revolver that collectors call the "Tucker & Sherrod Confederate Colt." Memorabilia of the CSA foundry and gun factory are preserved in the city library.

**Confederate Air Force Wing**—The Dallas-Fort Worth Wing of the CAF is housed at Lancaster Airport. Among WWII warbirds on display are an F4U Corsair, a T-33 jet, an R4D submarine hunter, and others, plus collection of WWII artifacts. The prize of the collection, one of two remaining flyable Japanese Zeros, is usually here Feb. - Apr. for maintenance checkup. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Airport is on F.M. 1382 (Belt Line Rd.), six miles east of I-35E in southeast Dallas County.

## LEWISVILLE

Pop. 77,737 Alt. 490 Map J-17/18

**General**—First settlers at present townsite were John and Augustus King, 1844, who received land through the Peters' Colony, jointly owned by U.S. and

# FUN

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British businessmen. The colony was plagued by lawsuits and disputes, once leading to a mob attack and burning of the land office. In 1855 town got its first mill, trading post, dry goods store, and the first cotton gin in Denton County. The Dallas and Wichita Railway arrived in 1881 and city became significant trading post. Today's growth is stimulated by the expanding Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and convenient proximity to the D/FW Airport.

Visitors can take advantage of the city's 23 public parks, with amenities ranging from hiking trails, biking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming, disc golf, tennis, athletic fields and amphitheater. One of the city's largest parks is nestled along the south shore line of Lewisville Lake and offers a swim beach, 110 RV camping sites, picnic facilities and an 18-hole disc golf course.

Golfers find Tour 18's re-creation of the 18 most

famous golf holes in America all in one a challenge, while The Tribute offers the 18 links holes from Scotland where the game of golf originated, as well as the 18-hole course at Bridlewood. Lake Park Golf Course on Lake Lewisville features 18 holes, an executive 9-hole part 3 course, and an 18-hole miniature golf course, and driving range. Other local courses include Castle Hills, an Arnold Palmer planned course, Coyote Ridge Golf Course, and Indian Creek Golf Course.

For additional information on the city, including events, its 150 dining establishments, or its 1,200 hotel rooms, call the Lewisville Visitors Bureau at 972/436-9571.

**Lakes**—Grapevine, Lewisville, and Ray Roberts. See LAKES listing.

**Old Town**—The city's unique store fronts, some dating from the turn of the century, provide setting for many antique shops and malls, boutiques, and craft stores. Restaurants feature menus graced with Old Town ambiance. Exit 452 from I-35E and east on Main St. to Old Town.

**Vista Ridge Amphitheater**—Carved into a hillside, the amphitheater seats 800 people; however, including the surrounding grounds, 2,000 enjoy outdoor concerts each Tues. night during summer. Many bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic suppers for a music-filled evening under the stars. Take I-35E and E.M. 3040 exit. For information, call 972/219-3550.

## LEXINGTON

Pop. 1,178 Alt. 456 Map P-18

**General**—Oldest settlement in Lee County dates from early 1850s. Arrival of railroad in 1890 brought business and population growth. Interesting gazebo on town square is center of civic events.

**Pioneer Village**—Three authentic log cabins, restored and relocated just north of the town square. One was built by George Washington Guthrie, a veteran of the battle of San Jacinto and the War Between the States. Local and pioneer history displays and occasional special exhibits. Open May - Oct. 1st, Mon. - Fri. 9 - 11 a.m., 2 - 4 p.m., Sat. 2 - 4 p.m.

## LOCKHART

Pop. 11,615 Alt. 518 Map Q-17

**General**—Originally called Plum Creek, town is near site of fierce Indian battle that took place Aug. 12, 1840. Large war party of Comanches successfully



swept down Guadalupe Valley all the way to the Gulf Coast, killing settlers, stealing horses, plundering and burning settlements. A volunteer force of settlers and Texas Rangers met the returning war party and defeated them at what is called the Battle of Plum Creek. Present city named for Byrd Lockhart, pioneer surveyor. Town was southern terminus of Chisholm Trail in 1870s.

Today city is center for agriculture, farming, oil and other diversified industries.

For information on historical markers, dining, accommodations, and historical homes tour, contact the Lockhart Chamber of Commerce at 512/398-2818, or stop by the office at 205 S. Main St. Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Caldwell County Courthouse**—Stands in the middle of Lockhart's square, built of Muldoon limestone with red Pecos sandstone trim; completed 1894. Affectionately said "ugly enough to be beautiful." Flamboyant design with cupolas, turrets and gewgaws typical of period; cost \$65,000. History on historical marker.

**Caldwell County/Jail Museum**—Red brick structure represents rare example of Norman castellated architectural style. In former cells, county museum exhibits furniture from early settlers' homes, frontier kitchen and pioneer room. Also early farming implements. Open 1 - 5 p.m. Sat. & Sun. at 315 E. Market St.

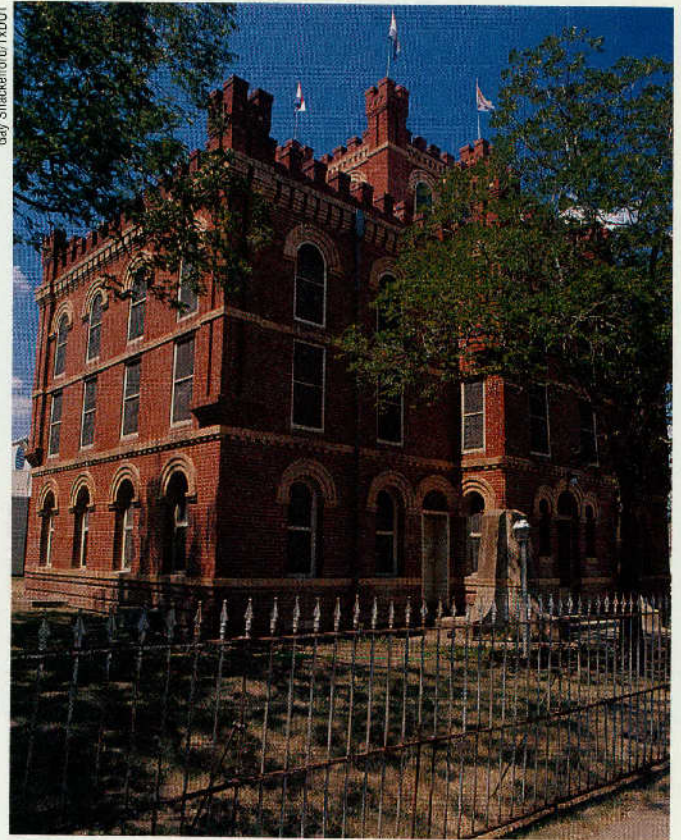
**Dr. Eugene Clark Library**—Built for \$6,000 in 1899, is oldest continuously used library in Texas. Modeled after the Villa Rotunda in Vicenza, Italy. Of sightseeing interest are stained-glass windows, ornate fixtures, and stage from which touring orators spoke, including President William H. Taft. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. 217 S. Main. Renovations to the building has temporarily relocated the library to 901 Bois d'Arc St.

**Emanuel Episcopal Church**—One of Texas' oldest Protestant churches, built 1856 of stone and wood, still in use as originally constructed with only minor alteration. Church and Walnut sts.

**Lockhart State Park**—257 acres feature swimming, fishing, picnicking and 9-hole golf course, rustic recreation hall overlooking picturesque valley. Campsites, RV and trailer facilities. About four miles southwest of Lockhart via U.S. 183 and F.M. 20. Admission. 512/398-3479.

**Noah's Land Wildlife Park**—See GONZALES.

Gay Shackerford/TXDOT



Caldwell County/Jail Museum in Lockhart

The city's world famous Watermelon Thump Festival is the last weekend in June and its water tower is painted to look like a giant watermelon.

For information on accommodations, events, and dining facilities, stop by the Luling Chamber of Commerce in the historic Walker Bros. building at 421 E. Davis St., or call 830/875-3214.

**Noah's Land Wildlife Park**—See GONZALES.

**Oil Museum**—This quaint museum preserves the heritage of the oil industry in the area since its discovery in 1922. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the same building as the chamber of commerce at 421 E. Davis St.

**Palmetto State Park**—A rare botanical garden, almost tropical profusion of plants, includes an amazing variety, many found nowhere else in Southwest. On San Marcos River, 178-acre park is used as field laboratory by several Texas universities. Descriptive folders interpret nature trails. Tent and trailer camping, rest rooms, swimming, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and nature displays. Seven miles south of Luling on U.S. 183, Park Road 11. Admission.

**Scenic Drive**—Park Road 11 through Palmetto State Park.

## LULING

Pop. 5,080

Alt. 418

Map Q-17

**General**—Established 1874 as terminus of a branch of Southern Pacific Railroad. In early years a cattle center, shipping point and end of freight trail from Chihuahua, Mexico. The crossroads frontier settlement was once known as "the toughest town in Texas." Oil discovered 1922, and today visitors will see active wells in and around the town, some on such incongruous spots as church lawns, residential back yards and city parks. Many of the bobbing pump jacks are decorated as animals and cartoon characters; popular photo sites.

Oil well in Luling



Gay Shackerford/TXDOT

## MCGREGOR

Pop. 4,727

Alt. 713

Map M-17

**General**—Established 1882 at junction of St. Louis Narrow Gauge and Santa Fe Railroads 14 miles west of Waco. Originally named McGregor Springs in honor of Dr. G. C. McGregor. Historic downtown district dates from 1900. Highlights include an old-fashioned hardware store, antiques, arts, crafts, and gift shops.

McGregor *Mirror* office displays antique printing equipment used to publish McGregor *Plaindealer*.

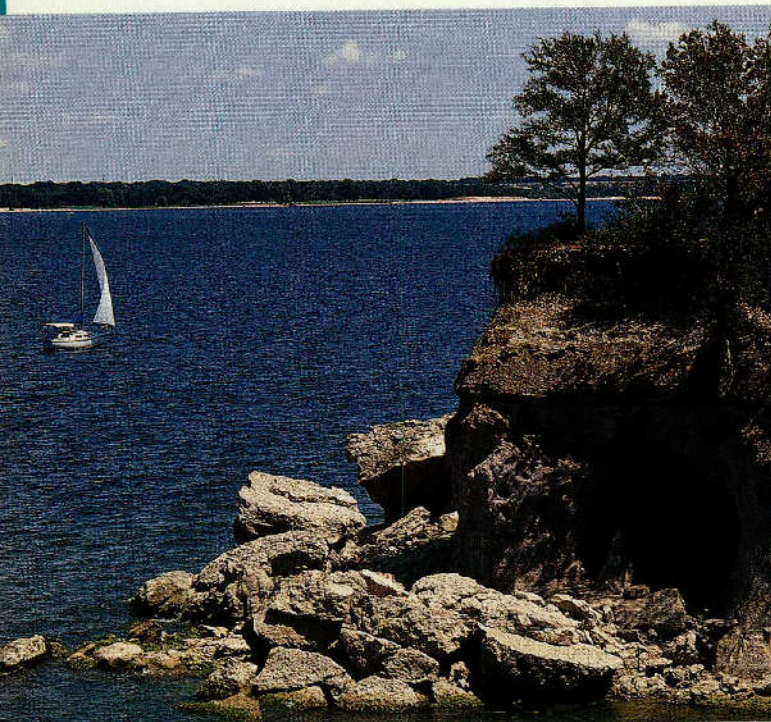
Major industries are filing equipment supplier; cargo trailer factory, A&M beef cattle research station, and plumbing distribution.

Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* from Chicago to Los Angeles stops here, the only Amtrak station in McLennan County.

**Amster Park**—Swimming, fishing, and pit volleyball, horseshoes and picnic facilities attract visitors to this park just off Texas 317 north of the city.

**McGinley Memorial Library**—Public library occupies old Ritz Theater. Balcony houses original projection equipment and movie memorabilia. Open afternoons Tues. - Fri. and Sat. morning. 317 Main St. 254/840-3732.

**Spradley Telephone Museum**—Features telephone equipment and memorabilia dating from 1890 through 1952. At 921 W. 3rd St. 254/840-3482.



Jack Lewis/TX001

Lake Texoma

**McKINNEY**

Pop. 54,369                      Alt. 612                      Map H-18

**General**—Settled 1845, seat of Collin County. City and county named for Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and leader in establishment of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) in Texas. A wide variety of local industries contributes to city's economy.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau by calling 1-888-649-8499.

**Bolin Wildlife Exhibit**—Mounted animal trophies from several states and foreign countries; Mobil Oil Co. memorabilia centered around turn-of-the-century storefront, along with 1913 Model T, 1928 Model A truck and roadster, pioneer life and early transportation exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m. 1028 N. McDonald (Texas 5).

**Chestnut Square**—Five quaint Victorian and Greek Revival-style houses, a chapel and country store, built between 1853 and 1910, are open Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 10 a.m. Mar. - June and Sept. - Nov. The houses are furnished in period attire. Just south of the square on Chestnut St. For information, call 972/562-8790. Admission.

**Collin Co. Youth and Farm Museum**—Dedicated to preserving Collin Co. agriculture heritage. Features collection of antique farm equipment and artifacts from North Texas farms from the 1930s. Open Tues. 1 - 5 p.m. North on U.S. 75 to U.S. 380, west to F.M. 7461, north on county road 166. Approximately 4 miles northwest of city.

**Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary**—Natural history exhibits of flora, fauna and geology. Native live animal exhibits. Nature store and classes for all ages. Nature trails through 275-acre wildlife sanctuary. Scenic picnic area. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. South 2 mi. on Texas 5; east 1 mi. on F.M. 1378. 972/562-5566.

**Lakes**—Lavon, Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Old Post Office Museum**—Built in 1911 at cost of \$60,000, handsome building includes walkways and peepholes used by postal inspectors. Local and pioneer history exhibits related to Collin County, plus traveling exhibits. Open Tues. 1 - 5 p.m. Chestnut and Virginia sts.

**Parks**—Wilson Creek Park incorporates Towne Lake Recreation Area, a 20-acre lake with paddleboats, sailboats, food concessions, fishing and sand volleyball. Park also includes softball and soccer complexes, bike trails and community center. Between Eldorado Pkwy and Louisiana St. east of U.S. 75.

**Storybook Ranch**—Party ranch featuring hayrides and Western museum town of "Drybones". The quaint town features an Opry house, bank, saloon, hotel, barber shop, marshall's office and jail, and other buildings one would find in pioneer town. Open to the public Thursday nights 6 - 9 p.m. for dinner

in the lodge and hayrides. Other times for groups with reservations. At 3701 Custer Rd. For information, call 972/562-8308.

**Third Monday Trade Days**—Antiques, arts and crafts, and other items attract shoppers on the weekend preceding the third Mon. of the month. Vendors sell Fri., Sat., and Sun. Located on On U.S. 380 two miles west of U.S. 75. For information, call 972/542-7174 or visit the Web site at [www.tmtd.com](http://www.tmtd.com).

**MADISONVILLE**

Pop. 4,159                      Alt. 292                      Map N-20

**General**—County seat of Madison County, the city is located on a league of land granted by the Mexican government to Job Starks Collard, a member of Stephen F. Austin's Colony. In 1854 Collard donated 200 acres of land for the county seat. Both the county and city are named for President James Madison. Madisonville is located at the crossroads of I-45 and Texas 75 which runs north-south, and historic Texas 21 (*El Camino Real*) which runs east-west from Natchitoches, La., on to Mexico City. The city is a center for agriculture trade as well as diversified industry. Some 400,000 pounds of fresh mushrooms are produced weekly at Monterey Mushrooms, Inc. The fresh mushrooms are harvested, packed and distributed to commercial centers in Texas and other states.

For information on lodging, dining facilities, and events, call the Madison County Chamber of Commerce at 936/348-3591.

**Historic Inn**—**Woodbine Hotel and Museum** was built in 1904 as hotel/boarding house by Jake and Sarah Shapira. Completely restored and furnished, the building bears an official State of Texas Historic Landmark medallion and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is run as a bed and breakfast today. Tours are available unless there is a reception scheduled. For information, call 936/348-3333. At 209 N. Madison St.

**MARLIN**

Pop. 6,628                      Alt. 383                      Map N-18

**General**—Established in 1830s, early settlers suffered numerous attacks by Indians, with out-numbered colonists often on losing side. Sites of such conflicts marked about town. In the early 1890s drillers struck hot artesian well whose curative qualities made town a spa and health resort for thousands who came to bathe in the "miracle" waters.

Today the water is again leading the way as residents investigate the promise of geothermal energy. A hospital and the chamber of commerce are heated by hot spring water. In 1903 the city built a municipal health center on the site of the first hot artesian well drilled in 1893. The pavilion became a popular gathering place for the townspeople and visitors who gathered for the "healing" waters. The Main Street program has renovated the pavilion including the building of a hot mineral water foot bath for weary visitors.

The Brazos Rehab & Fitness Center offers hot mineral water therapy using the famous Marlin mineral water.

Historic downtown area features quaint turn-of-the-century storefront buildings where shoppers find antique shops and other stores. The Palace Theatre Association produces live shows throughout the year in restored Vaudeville-era theater.

Vacation area with excellent fishing and golf. Two miles west of city. Falls on the Brazos Park offers fishing, canoeing, swimming and camping. (Fee for overnight.)

For more information about the city and it's attractions, accommodations, and events, call 254/883-9203.

Bed and breakfast accommodations available in historic buildings.

**Falls County Museum**—History, local and pioneer exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 4 p.m. 141 Railroad St.

**MERIDIAN**

Pop. 1,491                      Alt. 791                      Map L-17

**General**—Established on the Fourth of July, 1854, as seat of newly created Bosque County. A small log-cabin courthouse was first structure erected in town. Today a retail center for agricultural activities. Popular state park is nearby.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

**Lake**—Whitney. See LAKES listing.

**Meridian State Park**—Scenic 503 acres on Bee Creek in Bosque Valley, with 70-acre lake. Facilities include camping and trailer sites, screened shelters, group camp and opportunities for fishing, swimming, boating and hiking.

Tawakoni Indians lived in the area until the mid-1800s. Four miles southwest of Meridian via Texas 22, Park Road 7. Admission.

## MESQUITE

Pop. 124,523

Alt. 491

Map J-18

**General**—One of fastest-growing cities in state (1950 population was 1,684). Adjacent to east city limit of Dallas. Established 1872 as stop on T&P Railroad, named for nearby Mesquite Creek. More than 1,115 acres of parks, 2 golf courses, 4 public swimming pools and recreation centers.

Hot air balloonfest in July attracts some 250,000 to see hot air balloons from all over the U.S. along with aircraft flyovers, parachute jumps, arts, crafts, and musical entertainment.

**Celebration Station**—Kids of all ages love the entertaining games, shows, and challenging rides. Food court. Open 10 a.m. daily Memorial Day to Labor Day; winter hours Mon. - Thurs. 2 - 9 p.m.; Fri. 2 - midnight; Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight; Sun. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. 4040 Towne Crossing Blvd. For information, 972/279-7888.

**Devil's Bowl Speedway**—One-half-mile racetrack features all types of vehicle races, including sprint cars, super modifieds, modifieds, and motorcycles. Races Fri. - Sat. Mar. - Nov. U.S. 80, exit Lawson Rd. Admission. For racing information, 972/222-2421.

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Lavon, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing. **Light Crust Doughboys Hall of Fame and Museum**—Many Texans remember the group's Texas Western swing music from the 1930s. Members of the original band included Bob Wills, Milton Brown, and Herman Arnspiger. The Doughboys still perform today and were named by the 74th Legislature as official music ambassadors for the State of Texas. The exhibit includes vintage film clips, programs, billboards, a 1955 TV script, Texas Western swing awards, and a suit worn by a Doughboy in the early 1950s, when Neiman Marcus provided the group's wardrobe. The museum is in McWhorter-Greenhaw Hardware Store on the downtown square at 105 Broad St. Art Greenhaw, president of the hardware store, is a member of the band. Open during store hours Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For information, call 972/285-5441.

**Mesquite Championship Rodeo**—Established in 1958 as an experiment in ongoing rodeo; has become popular attraction with coverage on The Nashville Network. Facilities include grandstand seating for 6,500, restaurant, air-conditioned suite that can be rented for parties and rodeo viewing. Pony rides and Kiddie Korral for youngsters. Performances Fri., Sat. nights Apr. - Sept. Near LBJ Freeway (I-635) and Military Parkway Exit. For schedule, 972/285-8777.

**Samuell Farm**—340-acre farm features a variety of animals to experience life on a working farm. Maintained to recall farming days of 1800s to early 1900s. Features include ponds for fishing, picnic tables, hayrides, hiking and horse trails. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 100 E. U.S. 80 East, exit Beltline Rd. For information, 972/670-7866.

## MEXIA

Pop. 6,563

Alt. 534

Map M-19

**General**—Established 1871, named for Mexican General José Antonio Mexia whose family donated townsite. The general first served under Santa Anna, but later joined an uprising against the Mexican dictator. The rebellion failed, and the city's namesake died before a firing squad.

Natural gas discovered nearby in 1912; oil gusher blew in nine years later. Resulting boom brought rowdy period marked by violence and martial law. As in most cases, the boom faded quickly, and Mexia today is a small, quiet city devoted to modern agriculture, oil and gas production.

**Confederate Reunion Grounds State Park**—Site of reunions of Confederate States of America veterans from 1889 till 1946. Historic features include 1872 Heritage House, the 1893 dance pavilion, Mordecai Yell's two-story log cabin, and a CSA cannon. Scenic nature trails with footbridges, fishing in Navasota River, picnicking. Open daylight hours. Six mi. south on Texas 14, 3 mi. west on F.M. 2705 (not shown on most maps).

**Fort Parker State Park**—1,485 acres of wooded and open park land offer natural beauty, varied recreational opportunities. On Navasota River and 750-acre Fort Parker Lake. Camping, fishing, swimming, nature study. Nearby is restored Old Fort Parker. Park is 5 miles southwest on Texas 14, Park Road 28. Admission.

**Lake**—Mexia. See LAKES listing.

**Mexia Public Schools Museum**—The museum features school memorabilia dating from the 1920s for both Mexia and Dunbar schools, including 1943-1945 newspapers. Museum is on the second floor of the old 1923 high school building at 616 N. Red River. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information call 1-800-467-1306.

**Old Fort Parker State Historic Site**—Established 1834 by Silas and James Parker and other members of the family of Elder John Parker. The private fort was to protect a settlement of eight or nine families. However, in 1836 a mass attack by several hundred Comanches overran fort, killing five of Parker family and carrying into captivity five persons including Cynthia Ann Parker, then 9 years old. She grew up, married a Comanche chief and lived with the Indians until captured with her two-year-old daughter, Prairie Flower, 24 years later in 1860. She was mother of the last great Comanche chief, Quanah Parker. Cynthia Ann never became reconciled to her forced return to the life of her white kinsmen and tried several times to escape. Unhappy and virtual prisoners, both she and her daughter died about four years after they were separated from the wild, free life of the Comanche. Restored in 1936 and again in 1967, old fort has pioneer memorabilia, authentic log blockhouses and stockade. Open daylight hours; closed Mon. & Tues. Eight miles southwest on Texas 14, Park Road 35. Admission.

**Tehuacana Hills**—Highest point between Houston and Dallas, a focal point of history for nearly 200 years. In 1797 Philip Nolan's trading expedition found peaceful Tehuacana Indians farming here. Fierce Cherokees destroyed farming tribe around 1830. Tehuacana Academy, organized 1852, provided incentive for founding of Trinity Univ., now located in San Antonio. Silvery-towered former administration building dominates the site. Once again classes are being held in the administration building under the fitting name of Trinity Institute. Homecoming is usually held in the spring.

## MIDLOTHIAN

Pop. 7,480

Alt. 700

Map K-18

**General**—Settlers started arriving here in the 1840s. The William Alden Hawkins and Larkin Newton families were the first to obtain permanent land titles at the site under the authority of the Peters Colony. As with many Texas towns, growth came when the railroad arrived. In 1883 the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad constructed a rail line from Dallas to Cleburne. Local legend says that one of the civil engineers surveying the route noted the area looked like his hometown, the Lothian Valley in Scotland. The name stuck and Midlothian was used on survey maps to identify this area of Ellis County. The Fort Worth Railroad further spurred development with a line from Fort Worth to Waxahachie. The town incorporated in 1888.

Today the city is situated within the D/FW Metroplex, 25 miles from both cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. The city bills itself as the "Cement Capital of Texas" and the "Steel Capital of Texas" due to the number of cement and steel manufacturers in the area.

### Confederate Reunion Grounds State Park near Mexia



Stan A. Williams/ixDOT



Pete Smith

**Mother Neff State Park, first state park in Texas, on Leon River near Moody**

For additional information on accommodations, events, and restaurants, contact the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce at 310 N. 9th St., or call 972/723-8600. You can also visit the Web site at [www.midlothian.org](http://www.midlothian.org).

**Lake**—Joe Pool. See LAKES listing.

**Larkin Newton Cabin**—The cabin is built from hand hewn red cedar logs about five inches thick. It is one of the few remaining Peters Colony structures in North Texas. The cabin was moved to a downtown city park. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**MOODY**

**Pop. 1,400**

**Alt. 783**

**Map N-17**

**General**—Established 1852 as Perry, Tex., by settlers from Perry, Ill. Renamed in 1881 to honor Col. W. L. Moody, director of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, when that line built through. Moody Drug, established 1881, is one of oldest drug stores in Texas; the *Moody Courier*, established 1889, is city's second oldest business. City's varied architecture is of interest. A Texas A&M experimental farm is 5 mi. north.

**Mother Neff State Park**—First state park in Texas, site donated by mother of Gov. Pat Neff. Shady 259-acre site on Leon River. Fishing, picnicking, playground, tent and trailer camping, nature study, hiking. West 8 mi. via F.M. 107, Texas 236. Admission.

**MOULTON**

**Pop. 944**

**Alt. 375**

**Map R-18**

**General**—Established in the 1850s in Lavaca County at the headwaters of the Lavaca River. In 1887, the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad built north to Waco, within two miles of the community. A railroad station was constructed and named Topeka; however, realizing the economic potential of the rail connection, the old community gradually drifted over to the new station, which inherited the name, post office, and business of Old Moulton. City boasts a Czech-German heritage which is still evident. Today, it is a center for agribusiness and manufacturing.

In season, hunters take white-tailed deer, quail, and dove.

City park includes a picnic area, small lake, playground, jogging trail, tennis courts, baseball field, and hookups for RV camping.

City's quaint storefronts are reminiscent of late 1800s, complete with porches and benches. Shoppers find old-fashioned antique shops and boutiques downtown.

Several historical markers are found within the city, as well as the original Old Moulton townsite.

**Moulton Public Library and Museum**—Extensive collection of historic photographs and documents of city and Lavaca County. Museum established to perpetuate the strong Czech-German heritage and the city's history.

Rotating exhibits throughout the year. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 102 S. Main St.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**—Built in 1924, over the years has had many renovations. In the spring of 1994, parishioners rededicated the church after an extensive renovation. Many of the church members provided much of the work to restore its original design—an early 20th-Century Gothic style church with a long nave, a pair of side aisles supported by ten columns, stained glass windows, and a chancel. At the corner of Church and Pecan sts.

**MOUNT VERNON**

**Pop. 2,286**

**Alt. 418**

**Map H-21**

**General**—In 1849, Stephen and Rebecca Keith donated land for a townsite. Since there were two other Mount Vernons, the post office was called Keith and then Lone Star before taking the name Mount Vernon. Franklin County was formed from part of Red River County in 1875. Cotton and farming were important crops at that time. Today the economy is more diversified through oil, dairies, farming, and light industry.

Several historical markers are located in town and the outlying area. Mount Vernon is a Main Street City.

The downtown area still reflects a small-town atmosphere. The central plaza has a picturesque gazebo and park benches. On the north side of the square is a Grecian-style 1912 grey limestone courthouse with a chiming clock tower.

Mapped and marked for year-round use are trails for bicycling, hiking, as well as a Bluebird Trail, Indian Heritage Trail, and equestrian trail. Check with the chamber of commerce at 109 S. Kaufman St. for trail maps or for additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, and events. Telephone 903/537-4365.

**Franklin County Museum**—Housed in old city hall, museum features displays of butterflies, bird eggs, violins, wood carvings, and arrowheads. Many exhibits rotated throughout year. Temporary home for Genealogical Archives. Open Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon. At 111 S. Kaufman St. For information, call 903/537-7012.

**Lakes**—Cypress Springs, Bob Sandlin, Monticello, and Welsh. See LAKES listing.

**Majors-Parchman Farmstead**—This 1883 Victorian farmhouse has original outbuildings, a small barn, smokehouse, chicken coop, and an outhouse. There is also an 1870 log cabin on the property for visitors to study log construction. It serves as headquarters for the Franklin County Historical Association. Open Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At the corner of Kaufman and Tolbert sts. For information, call 903/537-4760.

**Parks**—Little Creek Park features volleyball courts and has facilities for tennis, baseball, soccer, basketball, and picnicking. In addition to playground equipment, there's a swimming pool open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Dogwood Park, Walleye Park, Overlook Park, Mary King Park, and W.D. Guthrie Park comprise 850 acres of public parks around Lake Cypress Springs. RV hookups and picnic facilities allow visitors to enjoy fishing, boating, water skiing, and hiking at the popular lake. For information, contact the Franklin County Water District, PO Box 559, Mt. Vernon 75457, or call 903/588-2352.

**MUENSTER**

**Pop. 1,556**

**Alt. 970**

**Map G-17**

**General**—Founded in 1889 by Emil and Carl Flusche on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad. The German brothers wanted to call their settlement Westphalia, but after discovering a town of that named had already been established, they called their colony Muenster, for the capital of their native Westphalia, Germany. Oil was discovered in the 1930s with pump jacks dotting pastures and fields in every direction. Until then, the economy was dairy farming and agriculture. Today, the rural community's economy is rich with agricultural products, as well as diversified manufacturing. Muenster's traditional German customs and Texas hospitality blend well and visitors are always "willkommen."

Information on events, accommodations, and dining opportunities are available from the chamber of commerce at 1-800-942-8037.

**Keep Muenster Beautiful Park**—The park, in the heart of downtown, features a fountain, statues, benches, antique-style lighting, and an ornate gazebo. The city has twice won the Governor's Community Achievement Award for beautification, preservation and cleanup efforts.

**Lakes**—Moss, Ray Roberts, Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Muenster Museum**—Housed in the home of Ben Seyler, Muenster's first fire chief. Among prized collections are 1890 Edison Victrola, 1876 Mason Hamlin pump organ used in city's first school, and other exhibits which include memorabilia of Muenster and Cooke County. Open Thurs. and Fri. noon - 4 p.m. and by appointment. 420 N. Main St. For information, call 940/759-2227.

## NAVASOTA

Pop. 6,789

Alt. 215

Map P-19/20

**General**—Area settlement began as early as 1822. City established in 1859 when Houston & Texas Central Railroad built through and platted town. Other railroads followed, and city became cotton processing and shipping center for region. Downtown area is listed on National Register of Historic places and features a collection of shops filled with treasures of past and present.

Be sure to visit the LaSalle House, a Queen Anne Victorian built in 1897 which features antiques, collectibles, and rare and antique books at 412 E. Washington St. Tours of the house each Sat. and Sun.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic Victorian mansion.

Driving tours, location maps, and visitor packets available through local chamber of commerce or by calling 936/825-6600 or 1-800-252-6642.

**Horlock History Center**—In two-story Eastlake home built in 1892. Authentically furnished; three rooms devoted to exhibits which reflect the ethnic diversity of the area. Open Fri. & Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 1215 E. Washington St. (Texas 105).

**La Salle Monument**—130 years before first Anglo-American settlers, the French arrived in Texas led by Robert René Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle. It was a mistake: He was actually seeking mouth of Mississippi River, but series of misadventures brought his fleet of three ships to Matagorda Bay. He established a coastal colony called Fort Saint Louis. Two years later while exploring inland, one of his men murdered La Salle near present Navasota. Statue on Texas 90 downtown honors the French trader-explorer.

**Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park**—Six miles southwest on Brazos River, via Texas 90. See WASHINGTON.

## NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

Pop. 55,635

Alt. 650

Map SS-4

**General**—Pioneer W.S. Peters brought first settlers as part of a land grant in 1848. Dairy farms flourished here prior to World War II. City established in 1953 when the North Richland Hills Civic League was denied annexation to neighboring Richland Hills. As with most towns in the Metroplex, city has grown in recent years, making it the third largest in Tarrant County. Home of Tarrant County Jr. College Northeast Campus.

Iron Horse Golf Course is a challenging 18-hole municipal course designed by Dick Phelps that traverses through hardwood forest, meandering creeks, and under a railroad trestle. Train depot-styled clubhouse. For information and tee time, 817/485-6666. 6200 Skylark Cir. (Meadow Lakes exit off N.E. Loop 820.)

For information on shopping, dining, and points of interest, call the city's Economic Development Department at 817/581-5567.

**Blue Line Ice Complex**—Facility features three sheets of ice (1 Olympic size, 2 NHL regulation size) along with full service pro-shop, party/meeting rooms, game room/arcade, and restaurant. At 9100 Cardinal Lane. Call 817/788-5400 for information and schedule.

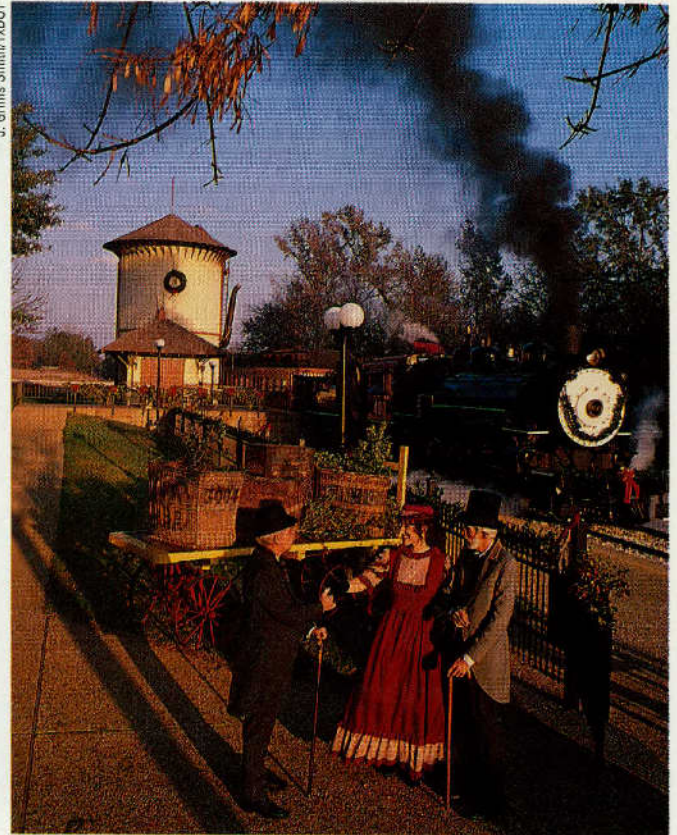
**Davis Blvd. Catfish Ponds**—Try your luck! Ponds stocked weekly for public fishing. Pavilion picnic area available. Open weekends 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; closed during winter. 7712 Davis Blvd. Tel. 817/514-6233. Admission and fees per pound of catch.

**Imagisphere**—A children's museum featuring hands-on activities including a "Mini-Vet Clinic" where children take stuffed animals out of their cages and weigh them on a scale and study x-rays of a variety of animals; a walk through "Rainforest Wonders" complete with sounds and scents; a geology center; and lots more. At 7624 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 716. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. For information, call 817/589-9000, or visit the Web site at [www.imagisphere.org](http://www.imagisphere.org).

**Mountasia Family FunCenter**—A 36-hole miniature golf course takes golfers through caves, waterfalls, and other obstacles. Also features Can-Am go-cart racetrack, bumper boat ride, and baseball & softball batting cages. 7,000-sq.-ft. clubhouse includes latest video games available. 8707 Grapevine Highway. Tel. 817/788-0990. Admission.

**NRH Gallery**—Contemporary art gallery. Hosts major exhibits in association with schools, libraries, and businesses through the D/FW region. Open Tues. -

J. Griffis Smith/XPDOT



Texas State Railroad Historical Park in Palestine-Rusk area

Fri. noon - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 6515-1 Smithfield Rd. (In Historic Smithfield, see below). For information, 817/281-5991.

**NRH<sub>2</sub>O**—Municipal-owned water park features a fountain entrance and shallow wading stream, children's play area, wave pool, 600 linear ft. "endless river," water slides, sand volleyball court, meeting pavilion, arcade, gift shop, and concessions. All-inclusive admission ticket. Open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun. - Thurs., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. during summer. From N.E. Loop 820, take Texas 26 north to 9001 Grapevine Hwy. For information, call 817/656-6500.

**Parks**—Five parks are found throughout the city offering places to picnic and play. Most noted is the Adventure World Park, a 10-acre facility fully handicapped accessible. Playground offers recreational play while teaching skills to children. Included is a mock train and helicopter; a fitness section with sit-up and pull-up bars; and abstract equipment. Adventure World is on Starnes Rd. between Holiday and Douglas Lanes.

**Smithfield**—Historic community annexed by city in 1958. Community named for Eli Smith, on whose land the townsite was located. Cattle trails to the north went through the area prior to the arrival of the St. Louis and Southwestern of Texas Railroad. Historical markers at Smithfield Depot, cemetery, Masonic Lodge and three churches along Main St. and Smithfield Rd.

## PALESTINE

Pop. 17,598

Alt. 510

Map M-20

**General**—In 1840s it was discovered that the seat of Anderson County, a village called Houston (not the major city of Harris County) was two miles off center. Taking literally the legislature's guidelines that county seats should be at center of counties, new town of Palestine was created as county seat; former community faded away. More than 1,600 historic landmarks are found here with self-guided walking tour brochures available from Tourist Information Center.

**Davey Dogwood Park**—More than 200 acres in picturesque landscape of rolling hills, clear flowing streams, forests and meadows; picnic areas and scenic overlooks from paved roads winding through the park; featured area during annual Texas Dogwood Trails, late Mar. - early Apr. Just north of Palestine on N. Link St. For dogwood information call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 903/723-3014, or 1-800-659-3484.

**Eilenberger's Butternut Baking Company**—Famous since 1898 for fruitcakes baked from an Old World recipe. Also pies, cakes and specialty items. 512 N. John St. 903/729-0881.



Paris CA18 photo

Crape Myrtles decorate Paris' downtown plaza

**Engeling Wildlife Management Area**—11,000-acre wildlife habitat with deer, fox, wolves, squirrels, rabbits, alligators, coyotes and bountiful birds. Fishing, and day-use campsites. North of U.S. 287, 20 miles northwest. Tel. 903/928-2251.

**Howard House Museum**—This is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. It was built in the mid-1880s, and it has been designated a Texas Historical Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission. It was constructed by Judge Reuben Reeves who sold it to Col. George Robert Howard in 1850. It remained in the Howard family until it was sold to the city in 1963. Period furnishings and exhibits. For information, call 903/729-5094 or the visitor information center at 903/723-3014. At 1011 N. Perry St.

**Lakes**—Jacksonville and Palestine. See LAKES listing.

**Museum for East Texas Culture**—Rooms in old (1915) schoolhouse display artifacts and special interest exhibits. One authentic vintage classroom. Railroad memorabilia, including refurbished caboose; recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Admission (free Tues.). In Reagan Park, 400 Micheaux Ave. 903/723-1914.

**Palestine Community Forest**—700 acres of pines and hardwoods with scenic drives leading to four lakes. Fishing, boating and picnicking. Sumac, yaupon and sweetgum trees add accents of brilliant color during autumn. Access from intersection of Texas 19/U.S. 287 a few miles northwest of Palestine.

**Pilgrim Church**—Authentic reconstruction of original 1833 house of worship, said to be the first Protestant church in Texas. Four miles south of Elkhart on F.M. 861 (not shown on most maps).

**Scientific Balloon Base**—Operated by NASA. Balloons as large as 300 feet in diameter periodically launched to make studies of upper atmosphere and outer space. Tours may be arranged through public relations officer at the base by calling 903/729-0271.

**Texas State Railroad**—Operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., antique steam engines traverse the 25-mile route to Rusk through dense East Texas woodlands. Operates weekends Mar. - May, then daily except Mon. - Wed. through first of Aug. and weekends through Oct. Reservations recommended. (In Texas call toll-free 1-800-442-8951 or 903/683-2561.) On display is the huge locomotive 610 that was restored to pull the Bicentennial Freedom Train in Texas in 1976, an 1899 wooden T&P business car and an old baggage car. Terminal is at state park four miles east on U.S. 84. Fee for train ride. Also see RUSK.

**Visitor Center**—Literature and maps on city and surrounding area, a self-guided walking tour of downtown Palestine with informational plaques along the route, and information on events and accommodations is available during weekday business hours, in the historic (1914) Carnegie Library building at 502 N. Queen at Crawford St. A photo collection of Palestine in its early days is on display. 903/723-3014 or 1-800-659-3484.

## PARIS

Pop. 25,898

Alt. 592

Map G-20

**General**—Founded 1839 on divide between Red and Sulphur Rivers; became seat of Lamar County 1844; settled by diverse frontier society including Sam Bell Maxey, West Point graduate, attorney and Confederate general. Retired outlaw Frank James (brother of Jesse) clerked in a local dry goods store. Home of John Chisum, who became one of the West's foremost cattle barons. Notorious frontier outlaw queen, Belle Starr, tended a farm near town.

The Paris Visitors and Convention Council at 1651 Clarksville St. will provide walking and driving tour maps that include some 34 points of interest, including the 1920s downtown architecture and historic sites. The Council also has information on private art, the Hayden Museum of American Art, which is open by appointment. Stop by for information, or call 903/784-2501, or call 1-800-PARIS TX (727-4789).

Today a commercial/marketing center for fertile agricultural region; home of Paris Junior College.

For information on events, accommodations, dining, or medical facilities, call the Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau at 903/784-2501, or 1-800-727-4789.

**A. M. and Welma Aikin Archives**—Replica of Senator Aikin's Austin office; mementos of his 46-year career, much of which was devoted to Texas education; also historical archives for Delta, Fannin, Lamar, and Red River counties. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. - noon. In Mike Rheudasil Learning Center, Paris Junior College. For information, call 903/784-9411.

**Evergreen Cemetery**—Dating from 1866, large cemetery contains more than 40,000 graves, including many early Texas patriots. Many unusual, hand-some carved headstones and monuments. S. Church St. at Jefferson Rd.

**Lakes**—Crook and Pat Mayse. See LAKES listing.

**Plaza Gallery**—Located in restored 1917 two-story shop on the west side of the downtown plaza, this museum is an extension of the William and Elizabeth Hayden Museum of American Art. Features and promotes work produced by artists who are residents of Lamar County. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call 903/737-9699. At Eight West Plaza.

**Sam Bell Maxey State Historic Structure**—Gem of Victorian architecture built by Confederate General Maxey 1868, occupied by family for almost a century. Restored and furnished as state historic site. The Maxeys were avid gardeners; restoration includes landscaped grounds and small Victorian gar-

### Heritage Farmstead Museum (Farrell-Wilson Farmstead) in Plano



Michael Amador/TXDOT

den in original dimensions. Guided tours Wed. - Fri. by appointment; Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. & Tues. 812 S. Church St.; admission. For information, 903/785-5716.

## PILOT POINT

Pop. 3,538

Alt. 674

Map H-18

**General**—Settled near site of large post oak grove which was a prominent landmark for pioneer travelers and a lookout point for the Indians. Dripping Spring, just north of the grove, encouraged settlement, as did the rich rolling black land prairies. The public square of the town was plotted and laid out by George Newcomb on Christmas Day, 1854. Goods were hauled from Jefferson to supply the needs of the community until the Texas and Pacific built to the city. Today town is center for agriculture and varied businesses.

**Lakes**—Ray Roberts and Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Ray Roberts Lake State Park**—*Isle du Bois Unit* includes 1,397-acre scenic playground among wooded area on south side of Ray Roberts Lake; camping, boating, swimming, and fishing. Overnight group pavilion and day-use group picnic area also available. 12-mile multiuse trail for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use (your horse). Admission. For information, call 940/686-2148.

## PLANO

Pop. 222,030

Alt. 655

Map J-18

**General**—First settled in 1845; named Fillmore for Millard Fillmore. Name changed in 1851 when post office was granted. In 1881 most of city was destroyed by fire. Another major fire in 1895 also destroyed many businesses. Many early buildings survived and are described in historical guide available at chamber of commerce. Historic downtown with brick streets has undergone a revitalization project with brick sidewalks, turn-of-the-century lampposts, and plaza to enhance specialty shops, boutiques, galleries, and restaurants. With the growth of nearby Dallas, city grew from 3,695 in 1960 to 72,331 in 1980.

City has become known as "Balloon Capital of Texas" with hot-air balloon races scheduled in Sept. Large arts & crafts fair held in conjunction with balloon festival. For information, call 972/422-0296.

**Heritage Farmstead Museum (Farrell-Wilson Farmstead)**—Built in 1891, was center of working farm until 1972. Four-acre site includes preserved windmill and outbuildings. Listed in National Register of Historic Places. Guided tours. Open June - Aug. Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Sun., 1 - 4 p.m. Sept. - May open Thurs. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Sun., 1 - 4 p.m. (Note: Last tour leaves 1 hour before closing time.) 15th St. at Custer Rd. Admission. Call 972/424-7874.

**Interurban Railway Station Museum**—Between 1908 and 1948 the Texas Electric Railway ran from Denison to Waco, linking Dallas to smaller cities. Plano's Interurban Station was completed in 1908. Building, restored to its original condition, contains memorabilia of railway history. Taller portion of building housed large transformers that converted AC power generated in McKinney to the 600-volt DC power used by interurban cars. Outside, not open to public, is electric car being restored. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. In Haggard Park, 901 E. 15th St. For information, call 972/461-7250.

**Lake**—Lavon. See LAKES listing.

**Mountasia Fantasy Golf**—A 54-hole miniature golf course takes golfers through caves, waterfalls, and other obstacles. Can accommodate 500 golfers. 7,000-sq.-ft. clubhouse includes latest video games available. At 2400 Premier Dr. off U.S. 75 (between Park and Parker Rd.). Admission. For additional information, call 972/424-9940.

**Parks**—Award-winning park system includes one outdoor and two indoor pools, 21-court tennis center, municipal golf course, outdoor learning center, playground, playground for handicapped children, and a hike-and-bike trail system 15 miles long connecting seven park sites.

**Southfork Ranch**—Many visitors to D/FW enjoy a visit to Southfork Ranch, made famous by the "Dallas" TV series, a number one hit in 96 countries where shown. Visitors can tour mansion and grounds, and see the gun that shot J.R., Lucy's wedding dress, and other memorabilia from the show in "Dallas Legends: Fact to Fantasy" museum dedicated to history of the TV show. There's also "Lincolns and Longhorns" Western store featuring original Lincoln Continental Jock Ewing drove in the show. Open daily. From U.S. 75 North, take exit 30 and drive east on F.M. 2514/Parker Rd. about six miles; turn right on F.M. 2551 (Hogge Rd.) and there's the ranch. 972/442-7800. Admission.



J. Griffith Smith/ixDOT

Texas Renaissance Festival near Plantersville

## PLANTERSVILLE

Pop. 212 (est.)

Alt. 325

Map P-20

**General**—Village in Grimes County founded about 1885 on the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad; thrived as agricultural center and wagon-making site in late 1800s. Each fall the community about 45 miles north of Houston, on Texas 105/F.M. 1774, is major gateway to the Texas Renaissance Festival.

**King's Orchard**—Pick your own fruit during season in the "King's" orchard near the Texas Renaissance Festival grounds. Select fresh, plump strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, or figs. All grown naturally and virtually chemical free. Orchards usually open Mar. - Sept., Tues. - Sun. (closed Mondays). The "King" doesn't allow anyone in orchard during rain or lightning storms. During inclement weather, call the orchard hotline for fruit availability. 11282 County Rd. 302, just off F.M. 1774 between Magnolia and Plantersville. 936/894-2766, or on the internet at [www.kingsorchard.com](http://www.kingsorchard.com).

**Texas Renaissance Festival**—On seven weekends in the fall (Oct. - Nov.), drive 6 miles south of Plantersville on F.M. 1774 and discover medieval Europe on 237 wooded acres—men wearing plumed hats and embroidered waistcoats, women in elegant long gowns with the deeply scooped necklines of the 16th Century, harlequin jesters, minstrels, armored knights, magicians and raffish gypsies. There's jousting, juggling and dancing, and a feast from the King's banquet hall: giant turkey legs, sweet mead wine, roasted corn, apple dumplings, and much. For information, call 1-800-458-3435 or log on the internet at [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com). Admission.

## RICHARDSON

Pop. 91,802

Alt. 630

Map J-18

**General**—Settlement called Breckinridge before Civil War, town grew around new station on T&NO Railroad when built through area in 1872; renamed for railroad official. Remained a rural village until affected by enormous Dallas growth, distinguishable from Dallas only by city limit markers.

With a base of defense related industries and spurred by the deregulation of the telephone industry, Richardson experienced tremendous growth and is now home to over 500 high tech and telecommunications companies located in a five square mile area known nationally as the Telecom Corridor

City has 25 parks covering 1,014 acres offering fitness trails, swimming pools, and tennis courts. Most residents live within a one-half mile radius of a park.

Breckinridge is the largest with 370 acres, three pavilions, 12 soccer fields, a 10-acre lake and hike/bike trails. Sherill Park Golf Course offers 36 holes of beautifully manicured fairways and greens.

**Owens Spring Creek Farm**—Commercial sausage-making firm maintains a showcase farm and small museum with old-time blacksmith shop, farm



Jack Lewis/TXDOT

**Visitors at Spring Creek Farm in Richardson with giant Belgian horse**

kitchen, antiques, and vintage sausage-making equipment. Belgian horses, Shetlands, and small farm animals.

**Miss Belle's Place**, a two-story farmhouse, c. 1887, one of oldest houses in Richardson, is furnished to reflect turn-of-the-century era when house contained a private school conducted by Miss Belle. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Off Texas 5, 2 miles NE of its intersection with U.S. 75, at 1403 E. Lookout Dr. For information, 972/235-0192.

**Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library**—Stamp hobbyists will find "The Language of Philately" display panels intriguing, along with stamp collection exhibits and over 18,000 books and journals. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. In Eugene McDermott Library, Univ. of Texas at Dallas, 2601 N. Floyd Rd.

**ROANOKE**

**Pop. 2,810** **Alt. 643** **Map J-17**

**General**—In Denton County, the first settlement was on the original land grant of Travis Wright in 1847 at the confluence of Denton and Henrietta creeks. Following several floods, settlers move the settlement to higher ground. When the Texas and Pacific railroad missed the community by a few miles, settlers again moved to the rail center. City named Roanoke for city in Virginia. Growth today parallels that of other cities in the D/FW Metroplex.

For additional information for events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the chamber of commerce at 817/491-1222.

**Fire Museum**—City's first fire truck, purchased in 1923, is back home after 25 years. The 1923 American La France fire truck was used by the City of Dallas first, then the City of Worth. Fully restored, the truck is the highlight of exhibits. At the corner of Main and Ash sts.

**Lakes**—Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Roberts. See LAKES listing.

**ROCKDALE**

**Pop. 5,439** **Alt. 474** **Map O-18**

**General**—Centrally located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 77 and 79, Rockdale is in south-central Milam County. It was named in 1894 by Mrs. B.F. Ackerman whose husband had sold the International-Great Northern Railroad most of the acreage for the townsite.

Recreational opportunities abound including hunting, fishing, and boating in the rolling Central Texas hills. Ten acres of public parks, public swimming pool and tennis courts also provide recreation. Valhalla Farms, one of three sanctioned training tracks in Texas, is located just north of the city for horse racing enthusiasts.

Rockdale was home to George Sessions Perry who published numerous novels. Rockdale presently hosts the Rockdale Christmas Ball annually the

Jack Lewis/TXDOT

first Sat. in Dec. which features \*western swing music by members of the original Bob Wills Texas Playboys.

**Alcoa**—The Aluminum Company of America has operated the largest aluminum smelting plant in the U.S. here since 1952. Free guided tours of the facilities' smelter, power plant, and mining operations depart the chamber of commerce office every Wed. and Sat. at 9 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the chamber at 512/446-2030.

**Lakes**—Georgetown, Granger and Somerville.

**Visitor Center**—For information on dining, accommodations, and events, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 1203 W. Cameron Ave. (U.S. 79) Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The unique rock house is made of petrified wood. Tel. 512/446-2030.

**ROCKWALL**

**Pop. 17,976** **Alt. 596** **Map J-19**

**General**—Founded 1854, became seat of Rockwall County (the smallest county in Texas) in 1874. Named for subterranean rock formation that has been the subject of study for years. Although there has been speculation the wall was built by prehistoric man, geologists believe the phenomenon is a finger of the Balcones Fault with the "wall" formed when geologic stress split the formation. A scenic golf course is near Lake Ray Hubbard.

**Lake**—Ray Hubbard. See LAKES listing.

**Rockwall County Historical Museum**—Housed in Manson-La Mareaux-Hartmen House, oldest house in Rockwall, portions of which date to 1850. Exhibits include dental tools of Texas' first formally trained woman dentist, other medical artifacts, furniture, books and pictures. Antique farm equipment and a windmill are displayed outside. Open Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. In Harry Myers Park at 901 E. Washington St.

**Texas Queen**—On Lake Ray Hubbard; 105-foot double-deck paddle wheel-er offers dinner cruises Wed. - Fri., Sun. Reservations required. Departs from Elgin B. Robertson Park. Dalrock Rd. exit south off I-30 East. 972/771-0039.

**ROUND TOP**

**Pop. 77** **Alt. 390** **Map Q-18**

**General**—One of the smallest incorporated cities in Texas; established in 1835 as Jones Post Office. In 1854 Round Top Academy was founded; advertised tuition for the five-month session was \$10, with board, laundry, fuel and lights to cost an additional \$12 to \$15 per semester. School closed in 1861.

Round Top lies along the Texas Pioneer Trail covering four-county area. For additional information and map, contact Henkel Square.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**—Center of Lutheran faith in Fayette County; dedicated 1866. Stone construction and simple lines show German architectural influence. Unique pipe organ of hand-shaped cedar. One block west of Texas 237.

**International Festival-Institute's Concert Hall, Round Top**





**Henkel Square**—In split-rail fence on town square, several dwellings and structures, c. 1820-1870, with superb collection of Anglo- and German-American furnishings, utensils, and quaint decorative art of the period. Project of the Texas Pioneer Arts Foundation. Open Thurs. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Admission.

**International Festival-Institute**—Founded by acclaimed pianist James Dick. One concert weekend scheduled every month from Aug. - Apr. For six weeks in June and July, students in residence from throughout the world join distinguished artists and teachers in performances of orchestral, chamber and solo repertoire. All concerts are in air-conditioned Festival Concert Hall on the 80-acre permanent campus. Tours of restored building can be arranged. For performance schedules, call 979/249-3129. Texas 237, five blocks north of Henkel Sq.

**Moore's Fort**—Built in 1828 by famed Indian fighter Col. John Henry Moore at bend in Colorado River that is present site of La Grange. Moved to Round Top for restoration. On Texas 237.

**Sterling McCall Old Car Museum**—Vehicles from the prized collection of Sterling McCall, Houston automobile dealer, characterize the evolution of the automobile industry. In addition to the cars, there is also a collection of antique gasoline pumps and glass globes providing a glimpse in the oil and gas industry. Open Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. South on Texas 237. Admission. For information, call 979/249-5089. Web site [www.oldcarmuseum.com](http://www.oldcarmuseum.com).

**Winedale Historical Center**—Restored 19th-Century farmstead with plantation homes, log cabins, fireplace kitchen, smokehouse and barns. For four weeks in July and August, Shakespearean plays are held in the old barn by University of Texas at Austin students. Center for study of ethnic cultures of Central Texas; operated by Univ. of Texas at Austin. Open Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Group tours Mon. - Fri. with at least two days notice. Four miles east of Round Top via F.M. 1457 and F.M. 2714 (not shown on most highway maps). Admission.

## SAINT JO

Pop. 977

Alt. 1,146

Map G-17

**General**—Originally known as Head of Elm when established in 1856 on springs that were headwaters of Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Renamed for Joe Howell who laid out the townsite. Howell allegedly opposed the sale of liquor in town, thus giving both himself and town the name of "Saint Jo." The community on U.S. 82 between Wichita Falls and Sherman was important watering stop where Chisholm Trail and California Road crossed. Indian raids took place as late as 1874.

**Stonewall Saloon Museum**—Authentically restored saloon displays historic items related to era of cattle drives and other pioneer artifacts. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; (closed Jan., Feb.). North corner of town square.

## SALADO

Pop. 3,475

Alt. 695

Map O-17

**General**—Charming village on I-35 south of Temple in Central Texas dates from Texas' early days. The town grew around the Sterling C. Robertson home and plantation, and was incorporated in 1867. Named for Salado (salty) Creek, town prospered with the founding of Salado College in 1860, and was prominent on the Chisholm Trail. First farmer's Grange in Texas established 1873. But when bypassed by the railroad, the late 19th Century's ultimate transportation mode, college closed and town dwindled to the status of an isolated village.

Today's visitors find a fascinating variety of shops—art galleries, antiques, crafts and women's fashions. Several outstanding craftsmen and artists reside in Salado. Also excellent restaurants, drive-by historic sites. Eighteen listings on National Register of Historic Homes.

The chamber of commerce can provide additional information by calling 254/947-5040.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic building.

**Central Texas Area Museum**—Small, excellent showcase of local history, but open irregularly for group appointments and on special occasions several times a year. Across from Stagecoach Inn.

**Lake**—Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

**Pace Park & Salado Creek**—Tree-shaded picnic area beside picturesque Salado Creek, which was Texas' first designated natural landmark. Site was an Indian campground long before recorded history. Since Main St. was part of the Chisholm Trail, ruts from wagon wheels still appear in the bedrock of the creek just north of the park.



Gay Shackelford/7000T

### Shopping in Salado

**Stagecoach Inn**—Originally the Shady Villa Inn, a prominent site on the Chisholm Trail in the 19th Century. Inn's guest book reads like a frontier Who's Who: Gen. George A. Custer, Robert E. Lee, Sam Houston, Jesse James and Shanghai Pierce. The primary old frame structure is today restored as a notable restaurant, surrounded by modern motor inn. Off I-35, Salado exit.

## SAN FELIPE

Pop. 868

Alt. 155

Map Q-19

**General**—Known as the "Birthplace of Anglo-American Settlement in Texas," San Felipe de Austin was named for Stephen F. Austin, who located his first Texas colonists here in 1823. Historic village was home of Texas' first English-language newspaper (the "Gazette," 1829), origin of Texas postal system, and saw beginning of legendary Texas Rangers. Location of Conventions of 1832 and 1833, and Consultation of 1835—meetings that led to Texas Declaration of Independence. Community razed by fire and occupied by Santa Anna's invading Mexican army in 1836; restored after Texan victory at San Jacinto. Stephen F. Austin Park Assn. operates information center at San Felipe Post Office where literature and information are available.

San Felipe lies on I-10, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

City is pivotal point on the Texas Pioneer Trail covering four-county area. For additional information and map, contact local information center.

For additional information on dining facilities, accommodations, and other opportunities, call the Town of San Felipe at 979/885-7035.

**Stephen F. Austin State Park**—664-acre park is in two sections, historical and recreational. Historical section is near an old ferry crossing of Brazos River; includes replica of Austin's dog-run log cabin where he conducted business of the first colonists. Dominating many monuments and historical markers is magnificent statue of Stephen F. Austin, "The Father of Texas." Restored J. J. Josey Store, built in 1847, is now museum displaying merchandise of pioneer era. (Open Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; admission.) Recreational portion of park offers picnic, camping and trailer sites, group recreational hall with kitchen facilities, screened shelters and golf course; also dining hall. Nature trail, and fishing in Brazos River. Just north of San Felipe on Park Road 38. Admission.

## SCHULENBURG

Pop. 2,699

Alt. 344

Map Q-18

**General**—Established in 1873 as GH&SA Railroad (now part of Southern Pacific) was moving west, town was named for Louis Schullenburg who donated land for depot. Schullenburg is German word meaning "school town."

German-Czech heritage is reflected in offerings of city's eating establishments.

Wolters Park, at south end of Bohlmann St., includes area for picnicking, rest rooms and other recreational facilities. Also includes Jacob Wolters' 1835 log cabin.

City lies along the Texas Pioneer Trail covering four-county area; noted for many historic buildings, homes, and historical markers. Chamber of commerce at 101-B Kessler Ave. (U.S. 77) has information and map.

**Painted Churches Tour**—Hand-painted murals, frescoes and other historic art offer much beauty and culture to the beholder. Tour includes churches in Dubina, Ammannsville, Praha, and High Hill. Reservations for 10 or more persons required with the chamber of commerce. For information, call 979/743-4514.

**Schulenburg Historical Museum**—Exhibits depict life in early days of this rural German-Czech community. Open. Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. At 631 N. Main St.  
**Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum**—Museum tells the story of brothers Victor and Joe Stanzel, whose dreams of flying turned into a hobby and later a successful toy business. Their work encompassed more than 20 patents, including one for a single-line control device that revolutionized model airplane flying. Among the displays is the original Tiger Shark, the first-single-line control model. Hands on activities include learning how air pressure gives planes their lift, or seeing how an engine works. Open Wed. - Fri. 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 4 p.m. At 311 Baumgarten St. For information, call 979/743-6559.

## SEAGOVILLE

Pop. 10,823

Alt. 430

Map K-18

**General**—In southeastern Dallas County, first settlers arrived in the 1860s. In the 1870s, more pioneers settled in the area, including the town's founder, T. K. Seago, who built a general store there in 1876. The community was known as Seago until 1910 when the post office name was changed to Seagoville. Seagoville's growth has paralleled that of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

The Seagoville Federal Correctional Institute is located here.

For information on events, accommodations, dining opportunities or other area attractions, contact the chamber of commerce office at 972/287-5184.

**D.I.S.D. Environmental Learning Center**—This Dallas Independent School District learning center has more than 500 acres to explore and discover through guided activities with interactive exhibits featuring world ecosystems, animal and plant facts, and pond habitats. There is also a working barn with a variety of livestock to observe, live amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds for observation, a fossil collection, and a large area of native Texas plants for botanical study. The facility also includes three nature trails, The Post Oak Woodland Trail, The Old Field Trail, and the Bird Ponds Trail, which are open daily. For information on the learning center and hours open to the public, call 972/749-6900. At 1600 Bowers Rd.

### Sebastopol House State Historic Site in Seguin



Gay Sackeloff/TXDOT

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Lavon, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

**Post Oak Preserve**—This preserve is part of the D.I.S.D. Environmental Learning Center located opposite of the Center. The site is densely wooded; however, several clearings are scattered through the preserve. Both small mammals and larger predators make this preserve home. Birds are everywhere. A small 19-acre lake lies at the southern end of the preserve. For information, call the Learning Center at 972/287-4010. At 1600 Bowers Rd.

## SEALY

Pop. 5,248

Alt. 203

Map Q-19

**General**—Sealy is a market and manufacturing center in southeastern Austin County. Anglo-American settlement began in the 1820s when Stephen F. Austin's colony was founded a few miles to the northeast. When the railroads arrived they began shipping produce of local farmers and ranchers. Town was named after George Sealy, a director of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad. The community is rich with its Anglo, Czech, and German heritage.

A self-guided driving tour features historic homes, businesses, churches, and the home of the original Sealy Mattress.

A number of farms raise horses of all sizes, including miniature horses. They accept visitors for tours of the ranches with appointments. For information and schedules, contact the convention and visitors bureau's visitor center.

Several golf courses provide year round golfing. For information, contact the convention and visitors bureau visitors center.

Information on the driving tour, horse ranches, golfing, as well as accommodations, dining, shopping, and area events may be obtained from the Sealy Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor Center at 309 Main St. or by calling 979/885-3222.

**Haynes Mattress Factory**—Daniel Haynes moved to Sealy in 1881 and entered the mattress business in 1885. His first patent was taken out in 1889. He sold the first factory and built this one in 1909. The machinery and equipment still stand as it did at that time. Haynes is known for his construction and patent of the "Sealy Mattress." Tours of the old factory offered on the third Thurs. of the month from 8 a.m. - noon., or by appointment. For information, call 979/885-3264. Admission.

**Heritage Park/Santa Fe Park Museum**—Artifacts from the early days of Sealy and Austin County are displayed, some back to when the town was part of San Felipe de Austin, Colonial Capital of Texas. There is also a collection of memorabilia from Huey Long, one of the original Ink Spots. His guitar, personal photos and other items are displayed. In the complex is the old Sealy jail, one of the original settler's prairie home, and a work caboose from the railroad. Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. the first Sat. of the month. At Main and Silliman sts. For additional information, contact the Sealy Convention and Visitors Bureau at 979/885-3222. Admission.

**Scenic Drive**—Texas 36 north from I-10 is on a local bluebonnet trail which is particularly pretty in the spring when the bluebonnet bloom. The drive passes through farm country over hills and valleys covered with oaks and cedar trees.

**Lone Star Raceway Park**—This 56-acre complex is for both cars and motorcycles. The 1/8-mile raceway features Pro-Mod cars, Rear Engine Dragster/Top Fuel Dragster races. It is also open as a testing facility for cars or motorcycles. Test and tune along with races Sat. 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Sun. races 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Feb. - Nov.). At 120 Old Columbus Rd. on the south side of I-10. Take Beckendorff exit no. 713. For information call 979/885-0731.

## SEGUIN

Pop. 22,011

Alt. 520

Map R-16

**General**—One of the oldest towns in Texas, founded in 1838 by a group of Rangers and named after in honor Juan N. Seguín, distinguished Mexican-Texan who served in Sam Houston's army that won Texas independence. He later served as a Texas senator and mayor of San Antonio.

Guadalupe County is noted for its pecan harvest with nuts shipped across the nation. In fact, right on the courthouse lawn, Seguin proudly displays "the world's largest pecan." Also, today hundreds of charming 19th- and 20th-century homes are found on tree-lined streets.

**Juan Seguín Statue**—In the heart of downtown, a handsome bronze sculpture pays tribute to the Tejano patriot Juan N. Seguín. Dispatched by Sam Houston to urge settlers to flee from Santa Anna in the Runaway Scrape, Juan Seguín came to be called "the Paul Revere of Texas." He also fought with the other Texans at San Jacinto. Made a Colonel by Texas President David G.



J. Griffiths Smith/7/2001

### Lake Somerville State Park in Somerville

Burnet, Seguín went on to serve as a Senator of the Republic of Texas and as Mayor of San Antonio.

**Juan Seguín Burial Site**—On a hillside across from the coliseum, a monument marks the grave of Texas patriot Juan Seguín. The inscription on the grave recounts his life.

**Lakes**—Lake Placid is small lake on Guadalupe River southwest of city. Lake McQueeney, 5 miles northwest, is touted as "water ski capital of Texas."

**Max Starcke Park**—One of finest municipal parks for a city of this size in nation. River Drive along Guadalupe River, beneath towering oak, live oak and pecan trees. Golf course, swimming pool, Kids' Kingdom playscape, hike-and-bike trails, fishing piers, pavilions, and picnic area. At Guadalupe River off Texas 123 south.

**Sebastopol House State Historic Site**—Also known as Zorn Home; built early 1850s, fronted by traditional high-columned porch. Probably named for Russian naval base during Crimean War. Unusual split-level T-shaped residence made of limecrete (an early form of concrete) and detailed with Greek-Revival style architecture. Exhibits recount its construction. Open Fri. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 704 Zorn St. Admission.

**Wave Pool**—Catch a wave in the gigantic wave pool in Starcke Park East. Ride the waves or play in the splash pool. Playground and picnic area under giant pecan trees. Open May - Aug.

**Texas Lutheran University**—This highly rated university has a student population of 1,500 at its 184-acre campus between U.S. 90 and U.S. 90A.

**Fiedler Museum in Langner Hall** has geological displays. An adjoining rock garden is open at all times and includes trail guides just outside the gate.

**Jackson Auditorium** is the home of the Mid-Texas Symphony.

**Schuech Fine Arts Center** houses a recital hall, little theater, and gallery.

**"True Women" Tour**—Pioneer women come alive in Janice Woods-Windle's popular novel that became a CBS mini-series filmed on location in Texas. Escorted tours visit sites in the book. For additional information, call 830/379-6382.

**Visitor Information**—Self-guided tours of historic sites at the Chamber of Commerce, 427 N. Austin St. Call 1-800-580-7322 or visit the Web site [www.visitseguin.com](http://www.visitseguin.com).

**Walnut Springs Memorial Rose Garden**—Stagecoach route down to the crossing on walnut Branch, marked by fieldstone walls lined with roses.

## SHERIDAN

Pop. 225 (est.)

Alt. 268

Map R-19

**General**—Developed as a farming community in the early 1900s and named for Hugh Sheridan, who sold land to develop the area. In 1908 post office was established and in 1909 the town was recorded in the Colorado County clerk's office. Today the city is on U.S. 90-A and derives its income from cattle ranching and the Sheridan oil and gas field.

During season, hunters take white-tailed deer, turkey, dove and wild hogs.

**Splashway Family Waterpark**—This five-acre park features a wave pool, an 800-foot lazy river, volleyball pool, children and toddler pools, a lily pad crossing pool, three large waterslides, a sandy beach, and a covered pavilion. Also on site are baseball fields, 21 wooded RV camping sites with full hookups, and walking-hiking-biking trails. The waterpark is open weekends during May, daily Jun. - mid-Aug. and weekends through mid-Sept. Rollerblading and skateboarding during the off-season. In Sheridan Community Park. For information, call 979/234-7718. Admission.

## SHERMAN

Pop. 35,082

Alt. 728

Map G-18

**General**—Established as county seat when Grayson County organized in 1846. First laid out a short distance west of present location, but because of scarce firewood and water, moved to present site in 1848. City named after Gen. Sidney Sherman, the Republic of Texas cavalry officer credited with the famous slogan, "Remember the Alamo!" Early establishment of several colleges, as well as a drama club, earned Sherman title of "Athens of Texas." Today an educational, medical, commercial, and industrial center with a large number of Fortune 500 industries located here. Numerous historical markers in and around city.

Historical driving tour and antique shopping brochures available at chamber of commerce at 307 W. Washington St., Suite 100 Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Several antique shops are centered around intersection of Lamar and Travis Streets.

Home of Presbyterian-affiliated Austin College, chartered 1849, located first in Huntsville, 1852; moved to Sherman and enrolled first students here in 1878. Campus features fountains, an unusual solstice calendar and other outdoor sculpture, and a notable library which includes a rare copy of the Book of Kells.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and area information, stop by the chamber of commerce at 400 N. Crockett, Suite 1, Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., or call 903/893-1184.

**C.S. Roberts House**—Beautiful Victorian home that belonged to long-time family of Sherman currently maintained by the Sherman Preservation League. This Eastlake-style house was built in 1886. It is part of Heritage Row, an area of elegant Victorian homes along S. Crockett St. Driving maps available from chamber of commerce. Tours Sat. & Sun. noon - 4 p.m. at 915 S. Crockett St.

**Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge**—On Lake Texoma approximately 15 miles northwest. See DENISON.

**Kelly Square**—Shopping opportunities in beautifully restored three-story turn-of-the-century building; art galleries, antiques, foods, specialties. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 115 S. Travis.

**Lake**—Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Red River Historical Museum**—In old Carnegie Library with preserved 1933 WPA murals. History of Grayson County; pictures and artifacts. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. 301 S. Walnut.

## SHINER

Pop. 2,070

Alt. 350

Map R-18

**General**—Shiner was founded in 1887 when the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built, and it was named for the town site donor, H.B. Shiner. The town grew as a trade center for Czech and German farmers. Agriculture is still important today with cattle and poultry. For information on accommodations, dining, and events, contact the Shiner Chamber of Commerce at 361/594-4180.

Tours of long-time wire works company making made-to-order wire products since 1898 are available with advance notice. The Gaslight Dinner Theatre



LOU LAMIS/STREET

**Southwest Dairy Center in Sulphur Springs**

in historic opera building usually offers three performances during the year. Check with the local chamber of commerce at 810 N. Avenue E., or call 361/594-4180.

**Edwin Wolters Memorial Museum**—Displays include guns, furniture, utensils, natural history and memorabilia of early Shiner history. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m., and second and fourth Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 306 S. Ave. I. For information, call 361/594-3774.

**Parks**—Welhausen Park in downtown occupies a city block. Facilities include quaint gazebo and playground equipment.

Green-Dickson Municipal park offers RV camping facilities, picnic area, baseball field, tennis and basketball courts. Park open 6 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. Call 361/594-3362 for information.

**Spotz Brewery**—Home to the Shiner family beers, the brewery is the second oldest and last independent brewery in Texas. It has been making beers since 1909; even with its recent expansion that tripled its brewing capacity, it is still one of the smallest breweries in the state. After the tour, visitors are invited to the hospitality suite. Brewery tours winter Mon. - Fri. at 11 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m.; summer tours 10 & 11 a.m., 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Gift shop open 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 - 5 p.m. For more information, call 361/594-3383, or 1-800-5-SHINER. Visit its Web site at [www.Shiner.com](http://www.Shiner.com). At 603 E. Brewery St. (Texas 95).

**SMITHVILLE**

**Pop. 3,901** **Alt. 324** **Map Q-17/18**

**General**—Established about 1827 in rich farming area, the city is still devoted to agriculture. The city is on the eastern edge of the "Lost Pines of Texas." Its historic downtown is home to antique shops, specialty boutiques, and restaurants.

The Lower Colorado River Authority's Richards Riverbend Park on the Colorado River has camping facilities, a fishing pier, picnic tables, playground, and rest rooms. Park entrance is off U.S. 71.

**Buescher State Park**—1,730 acres of rolling, scenic parkland in "Lost Pines" region, also includes groves of huge live oaks festooned with Spanish moss. Camping, shelters, trailers permitted, rest rooms, picnicking, fishing on Lake Buescher, nature study, hiking. Three miles north via Texas 71/95, F.M. 2104. Scenic Park Road 1 connects this park with Bastrop State Park 15 miles west. Admission.

**Central Texas Museum of Automotive History**—See BASTROP.  
**Railroad Historical Park and Museum**—Features old Union Pacific and Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Katy) cabooses, photographs, railroad memorabilia, and vintage motor car. Museum depicts history of railroad in Smithville and its importance to the community. Katy Depot constructed from materials salvaged from former station built in the 1890s. Park's gazebo is topped by cupola

from 1896 city hall. Park with picnic tables and playground is open daily. Museum open during business hours Mon. - Fri. Adjacent to chamber of commerce at 102 West First St. For information, call 512/237-2313. Admission for museum.

**SOMERVILLE**

**Pop. 1,704** **Alt. 250** **Map P-19**

**General**—Railroad division point for two branches of Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, city is named for railroad's first president. Settlers arrived soon after town was surveyed in 1883. Population and development increased after establishment of railroad tie plant in 1890s. City is trade center for surrounding agricultural areas, and is gateway to huge Somerville Reservoir. There are four U.S. Army Corps of Engineer parks, one city park, and two state parks around the huge lake. Big Creek and Yegua Creek parks have a half-mile-long nature trail.

Somerville lies on Texas 36, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

**Lake**—Somerville. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Somerville State Park**—Two sites on Lake Somerville offer camping areas, boat ramps, fishing, swimming, trail bike area. Birch Creek Area on north shore some 15 miles west via Texas 36 north, F.M. 60 west, Park Road 57 south. Nails Creek Area on south shore some 32 miles southwest via Texas 36 south and F.M. 390 west to Burton, F.M. 1697 northwest and local road northeast. Admission.

**Somerville Historical Museum**—The museum is in Heritage Square which contains two of the first lots platted in the city in 1883. The museum is housed in an early 1900 building, formerly a saloon with upstairs rooms. It features archaeology, local and pioneer exhibits. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. Texas 36 at Eighth St. For information, call 979/596-2383.

**STEPHENVILLE**

**Pop. 14,921** **Alt. 1,283** **Map L-16**

**General**—Seat of Erath County, began in 1850 with settlement by Stephens brothers in area; one, John, donated original townsite. Among several industries is one of the largest tree nurseries in the Southwest. Area is state's leading producer of popular Coastal Bermuda range grass and county is one of state's largest dairy producers. Home of Tarleton State Univ.

**Historical House Museum Complex**—Includes 1869 Victorian home with period furnishings and relics of area history. Also carriage house, reconstructed log cabin, c. 1854, 19th Century church. Open Fri. - Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 525 E. Washington St. Admission.

**SULPHUR SPRINGS**

**Pop. 14,551** **Alt. 530** **Map H-20**

**General**—Post office first known as Bright Star, but changed its name to Sulphur Springs in 1871 for the many mineral springs in the area. Leading dairy county in the southwest with some 490 dairies. Also extensive beef cattle production, as well as center for national and regional manufacturing facilities. Hopkins County Regional Civic Center Complex includes meeting rooms, theater/auditorium, livestock exhibition area, indoor rodeo arena.

Romanesque Revival 1894 Hopkins County courthouse is almost identical to those in Wise and Ellis Counties. Original cost of the impressive red granite and limestone structure was \$75,000.

**Cooper Lake State Park**—Two units on Cooper Lake: Dr.'s Creek features 42 multi-use camping facilities with water and electricity, boat ramp, 3/4-mile hiking trail, playground, sandy beach, and day-use picnic facilities, all ADA approved. South Sulphur unit features the same amenities. From I-30, take Texas 19 north to F.M. 71 West, then F.M. 3505 north to South Sulphur Unit's park entrance. Admission. For information, call 903/395-3100 for Dr.'s Creek and 903/945-5256 for South Sulphur; for reservations, call 512/389-8900.

**Hopkins County Museum and Heritage Park**—This 11-acre complex is home for growing number of original historic houses, shops, and mills moved to the site. The county's oldest brick structure, the Atkins House, built in 1870, is here. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 416 N. Jackson St. Admission.

**Lakes**—Cooper and Fork. See LAKES listing.

**Music Box Gallery**—Collection of more than 150 music boxes, started in 1919 when Belgian royal family gave Leo St. Clair a music box. Includes many sizes, varieties. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - noon. 611 N. Davis St. in library. Donations accepted; for information, call 903/885-4926.

**Southwest Dairy Center**—Built in dairy-barn style, complete with silo, center tells the story of the dairy industry. Exhibits recall early-day milk production and manufacturing, a 1930s kitchen scene with mother separating cream while child churns butter, and early-day barn scene. There's also an old-time soda fountain dispensing malts, milk shakes and sundaes, and a general-store gift shop. Center's mobile dairy classroom, complete with cow and calf, travels to schools and events to tell the dairy story. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed Sun.. In Civic Center Complex, 1210 Houston St. (Texas 11). Donations accepted; for information, call 903/439-MILK (6455).

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Lavon, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.  
**Visitor Center**—For information on the city, area events, accommodations, and dining facilities, visit the information center at the Factory Store of America mall on I-30, or call 1-888-300-6623.

## TEAGUE

Pop. 4,557

Alt. 499

Map M-19

**General**—Dating from establishment of machine and car shops by Trinity & Brazos Valley Railway, city is named for niece of railroad magnate B.F. Yoakum. The T&BV was called the "Boll Weevil Line" in the first decades of the 20th Century because so many special trains ran to conferences about combating the insect devastation in Texas cotton fields. Area has large deposits of coal, lignite, oil, sand, and clay. Natural gas production has become important in recent years.

City park offers picnicking, recreational facilities, and swimming pool.

**Burlington-Rock Island Railroad Museum**—Trinity & Brazos Valley Railway was purchased by Burlington and Rock Island lines in 1905; in 1936 inaugurated first streamlined passenger train in Texas, the "Sam Houston Zephyr," between Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston. The old two-story 1906 brick depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a museum with varied relics from golden age of railroads, plus county historical items. Also on site is the Col. B.A. Philpott log house built in the early 1850s. Col. Philpott served with the Confederate Army during the War Between the States and returned to Freestone County following the war. The log house is complete with period furnishings. Open Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 208 S. Third Ave. Admission.

### Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple



Gay Shackelford/TXDOT



Jimmy May

Relics from Golden Age of Railroads are at the Burlington-Rock Island Railroad Museum in Teague

## TEMPLE

Pop. 54,514

Alt. 736

Map N-17

**General**—Established 1880, first years of growth as railroad town on Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, and Missouri, Kansas and Texas lines. Today retail trade and agricultural center, one of the Southwest's leading medical centers, and growing industrial producer.

Medical facilities include Scott and White Santa Fe Center, King's Daughters Hospital, Scott and White Hospital and Clinic, Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center and Texas A&M Univ. School of Medicine.

Location of Temple College. Diversified industrial products, railroad shops, computer equipment, furniture, plastics, and oil field machinery; championship municipal golf course.

Temple lies on U.S. 190, a segment of the Ports to Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

The Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Association's permanent home is here; pioneer city currently being developed on land at Nugent Ave. and Eberhardt west of the city. Shows are scheduled first weekend in October & April featuring historic tractors, engines and allied activities and displays. Visit the Web site at [www.tedtea.org](http://www.tedtea.org).

In 1989 city was designated "Wildflower Capital of Texas." Self-guided tours and weekend events are held in March and April.

For additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, events and shopping, contact the City of Temple, Office of Tourism, Two North Main St. or call 254/298-5720, or visit the Web site [www.ci.temple.tx.us](http://www.ci.temple.tx.us).

**Czech Heritage Museum**—Czech contributions to the ethnic diversity of Texas are highlighted in a comprehensive exhibit at SPJST (Czech) Insurance Co. Building. Preserved artifacts include 1530 Bible, 1895 handmade dulcimer and other antique musical instruments, clocks, colorful Old-World costumes, and quilts more than 150 years old. Also extensive archives of Czech immigration to Texas. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays; 520 N. Main.

**Lakes**—Belton and Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

**Miller Springs Natural Area**—When Lake Belton overflowed its spillway in 1992, Mother Nature carved out a huge canyon and created a wetlands below. This is being preserved as a natural area offering hiking, bird-watching, and wildlife photography. Miracle Mile, a fully accessible boardwalk trail, allows people with disabilities to view the wetlands and restored native prairie below. Open dawn to dusk. From I-35, take Texas 36 north to F.M. 2305, then to the northside of dam on F.M. 2271. For information, call 254/298-5720.

**Medicine & Science Discovery Center of Central Texas**—The restored 1910 Santa Fe Depot in downtown Temple is home to this new feature, which is dedicated to providing hands-on experiences for children in the sciences of medicine and affords visitors the opportunity to learn about the diverse medical community in Central Texas. At 315 W. Avenue B. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 12 - 4 p.m. Call 254/298-5172.



Pete Smith

Puppets dressed in ethnic costume at Czech Heritage Museum in Temple

**Railroad and Heritage Museum**—Housed in restored 1910 Santa Fe Depot, exhibits devoted to pioneer farm, ranch and home articles, hand tools, clothing, and the early days of railroading in Texas. Retired steam engine and other railroad equipment. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 315 W. Ave. B. Tel. 254/298-5172. Admission.

**Temple Lake Park**—172 acres on Lake Belton feature a boat-launching ramp, camping, picnicking, fishing, boating and lake swimming. Nine mi. NW on F.M. 2305.

**The Grove Country Life Museum**—W.J. Dube General Store features collection of tins, boxes, products and old equipment—scales, coffee grinders, tools, hardware and patent medicines. Planters State Bank recalls early banking days and blacksmith shop demonstrates lost art. U.S. post office and Cocklebur Saloon complete the museum. Open for tours Sat., Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Grove lies 15 miles northwest of Temple on Texas 36. Admission.

## TERRELL

Pop. 13,606

Alt. 530

Map J-19

**General**—First settlers in the area 1848; town organized about 1873 when railroad built through. Currently banking-market center for agricultural area featuring cotton, beef cattle and dairying; 33 local industries include garments, steel, aluminum, plastic and wood fabrication. Home of Southwestern Christian College and Trinity Valley Junior College, accredited junior colleges.

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Tawakoni, and Ray Hubbard. See LAKES listing.

**Silent Wings Museum**—Dedicated to airborne personnel of WW II with special emphasis on role of glider pilots. On exhibit is one of only two restored WW II 15-place CG-4A transport gliders. Also Link Trainers, combat photos, uniforms, weapons and memorabilia of WW II era. Many VCR tapes of gliders in action. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At municipal airport, 2 mi. north of I-20 via Texas 34 (Exit 501) and Airport Rd.

**Terrell Heritage Museum**—Historical items of local history. In Carnegie building built in 1904 that served as public library until 1984. Art exhibits on first floor; historical museum upstairs. Usually open Wed. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.; for information, 972/563-5703. 207 N. Frances St.

## THURBER

Pop. 8 (est.)

Alt. 1,100

Map K-15

**General**—Founded 1888 by Texas & Pacific Coal Company (now owned by Sun Oil Company), flourished as coal mining town; reached a population of 10,000. Town was totally owned by company; believed to have been first city with totally unionized industries. Electricity provided in 1895, one of first towns in world with complete electric service. Miners recruited from through-

out world; 18 nationalities represented. With discovery of high grade clay, brick manufacturing added in 1897. Thurber brick paved roadways throughout the state, including Austin's Congress Ave. and Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth. The mines closed in 1926; brick plant in 1931. City was abandoned in 1933 and almost entirely razed. Atop New York Hill, large brass plaque shows location of significant structures when Thurber thrived. The restored 100-year-old St. Barbara's Church, Thurber Cemetery, a furnished miner's house, and an authentic Italian bocci ball court give a glimpse into the past. Restaurants display photos of Thurber in its heyday. An annual Thurber reunion is held on the second Sat. in June. The site is some 70 miles west of Fort Worth on I-20 at Texas 108.

## VAN

Pop. 2,362

Alt. 512

Map K-20

**General**—Van is in central Van Zandt County at the intersection of I-20 and Texas 110. In 1894 Henry Vance established a post office and the name Van was chosen when the post office named it for Vannie Tunnell and postmaster Vance. On Oct. 14, 1929, oil was discovered under the Jarman #1. Van became a boom town with about 30 structures, some hotels, built within 10 days. It still remains an oil-related town; however, the economy has shifted to more diversified industries, as well as agriculture.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, call the Van Area Chamber of Commerce at 903/963-5051.

**Lakes**—Cedar Creek, Fork, Holbrook, and Palestine. See Lakes listing.

**Van Area Oil and Historical Museum**—The museum is in an old warehouse originally built in 1930 by the Pure Oil Co. to house oil field materials used in the development of the oil field. All of the oil derricks in the Van field have disappeared; however, the museum obtained a derrick and relocated it on the grounds as a reminder of bygone days. Displays include various types of oil-related memorabilia as well as history of the area and city. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Day, and Christmas. At Texas 16 and County Rd. 1501. For information, call 903/963-5435.

## VAN ALSTYNE

Pop. 2,502

Alt. 632

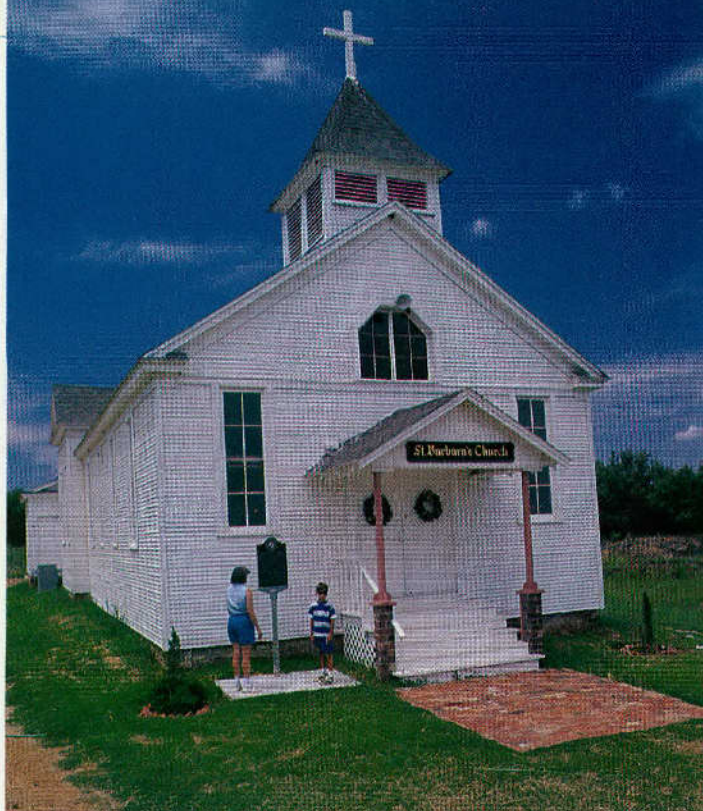
Map H-18

**General**—Settlers established rural homesteads in the 1840s; town laid out by Scott McKinney in 1853. Named for railroad stockholder Mrs. Marie Van Alstyne, when town was made a stop on the line. In 2002 the city will open the new Forrest Moore Park with walking and jogging trails, sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, a pavilion and a playground. Just off U.S. 75 between Dallas and Sherman.

### Terrell Heritage Museum



Kevin Stillman/TX00T



Gay Shaekeford/TXDOT

**St. Barbara's Church, Thurber**

**Van Alstyne Historical Museum**—Features old horse-drawn buggy, c.1880s; historical material on the area's prominent families; equipment used by early undertakers, old caskets, grave liners, and cooling boards. Open Mar. - Sept., Mon. - Fri. 1 - 4 p.m., at 216 E. Jefferson.

**Visitor Information**—Van Alstyne Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 698, Van Alstyne, TX, 75495. Telephone 903/482-6066. Web site, [www.vanalstynetx.com](http://www.vanalstynetx.com).

## WACO

Pop. 113,726

Alt. 427

Map M-18

**General**—One of Texas' major cities, located in rich agricultural region of the Brazos River Valley. Modern industry thrives, but city retains flavor of its past when five "C's" were its support: cattle, cotton, corn, collegians, and culture. Large, cold springs on the Brazos River were long popular with the Waco Indians. First non-natives to see area were remnants of De Soto's band in 1542. Texas Ranger fort established near Indian village in 1837; first white settlers came 12 years later. Great plantations along the Brazos prospered briefly, but Civil War wrecked plantation economy and scattered population. Renewed Western movement and Chisholm Trail through Waco brought another boom—and frontier wildness that nicknamed the town "Six-shooter Junction."

Today known for educational, cultural, and recreational facilities. Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo, first week in Oct., is professional rodeo with entertainers, livestock and horse shows, and fine arts exhibits.

Institutions of higher learning are Baylor Univ., McLennan Community College, and Texas State Technical College.

A beautiful scenic riverwalk meanders along the Brazos River from Fort Fisher Park past the suspension bridge and through Cameron Park to Herring Avenue.

**Armstrong-Browning Library**—On campus of Baylor Univ., world's largest collection of works and memorabilia of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Fifty-six stained-glass windows, each depicting a Browning poem, in 18th-Century Italian Renaissance-style building. Contains numerous Renaissance paintings and bronze sculptures. Open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. Tel. 254/710-3566.

**Art Center, The**—Features rotating exhibits of various media including paintings, sculptures, woodcarvings, pottery, and weaving. Beautiful Mediterranean-style one-time home with courtyard, Loggia, and colonnades. Sits on a bluff with magnificent views of Brazos and Bosque River valleys. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1300 College Dr. Tel. 254/752-4371. Admission.

**Cameron Park Zoo**—51-acre natural habitat zoo near the Brazos River amid pecan, elm, live oak, burr oak, cottonwood, bamboo, and mesquite trees.

Recreational, as well as educational; check out the signboards at viewing points for animal trivia questions. Home for gibbon apes, Sumatran tigers, white rhinos, giraffes, zebras, antelopes, as well as other species. Also home to a Herpetarium. Two restaurants: Gibbon Island and African Treetops Village. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Open extended hours in summer.) Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. 1701 N. 4th St.; take Exit 335A from I-35. For information, call 254/750-8400. Admission.

**Dr Pepper Museum**—A fountain drink mixed in The Old Corner Drug Store in the 1880s was dubbed a "Waco" by early patrons because it could not be found outside the city of Waco. It later acquired the name Dr Pepper. R.S. Lazenby, Waco beverage chemist and patron of the drug store, became interested in the new drink and began extensive research. In 1885, after some two years of testing, blending, and processing, the new flavor was originated and put on sale commercially. So perfect was Lazenby's work that the formula has remained basically unchanged. Museum housed in original 1906 bottling plant, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It features restored operating soda fountain along with other Dr Pepper memorabilia with interactive audio visual displays. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. (open extended hours in summer) at 300 S. 5th St. For information, 254/757-1024. Admission.

**Earle-Harrison House & Gardens on 5th Street**—One of state's finest antebellum Greek Revival houses, built in 1858-59 by Dr. and Mrs. Baylis Wood Earle. Mrs. Earle sold the mansion in 1872 to her brother, Gen. Thomas Harrison, one of Waco's six Confederate generals. House is constructed of cypress from East Texas and plantation-made brick. Detached kitchen is the repository of the Gov. Pat M. Neff kitchen collection. Gardens include five acres of flowers, pond and rare double gazebo. Home tours Sat., 1:30 - 5 p.m.; Garden open for self-tours Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sat., 1:30 - 5 p.m. At 1901 North 5th St. Tel. 254/753-2032. Admission.

**Historic Homes**—Four gracious Southern mansions: Fort House (503 S. 4th St.), East Terrace Palacio (open Tues. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 100 Mill St.), McCullough House (407 Columbus St.), Earle-Napier-Kinnard House (814 S. 4th St.). All houses open Sat. - Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Special tours during annual Brazos River Festival (last full weekend in Apr.) and the Holidays-on-the-Brazos Celebration (first full weekend in Dec.). Tel. 254/753-5166. Fee.

**Homestead Heritage Crafts Village**—On a 350-acre working homestead, craftsmen create handmade furniture, wrought-iron pieces, pottery and other items. At Brazos de Dios, visitors will find craft workshops at the Potter's House, the Heritage Forge Blacksmith Shop, and Homestead Heritage Furniture. Visitor Center and gift shop. From I-35, take Exit 343 west on F.M. 308. Turn north on F.M. 933; west onto Halbert Lane. For information, call 254/829-2060.

**Lakes**—Brazos, Waco. See LAKES listing.

**Martin Museum of Art**—Museum features exhibits by national and international artists and touring historical art shows. Permanent collection of modern and contemporary painting, sculpture and prints. Open Tues. - Fri.

### Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco



Gay Shaekeford/TXDOT



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT

**Dr Pepper Museum in Waco**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. noon - 5 p.m. Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center, Baylor Univ. Campus. 254/710-1867.

**Parks**—Network of 36 spacious municipal parks, unrivaled in Southwest, led by 416-acre Cameron Park with scenic vistas and miles of quiet walking paths; one of the state's largest natural municipal parks—all in heart of the city.

**Performing Arts**—Waco is blessed with local theatrical groups, as well as symphony orchestra. For symphony performances, call 254/754-0851. The **Hippodrome Theatre** is a renaissance of a classic, Spanish Colonial style building built in 1914. For schedule, call 254/752-9797. The **Waco Civic Theatre** is a community theater featuring seven shows each season. For information, call 254/776-1591.

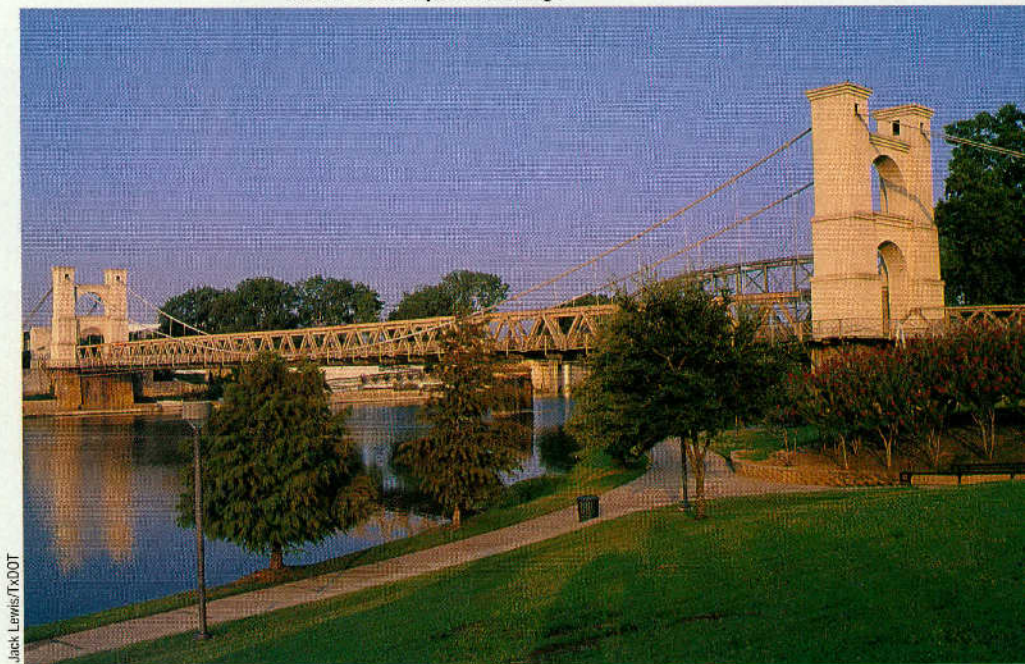
**Strecker Museum**—Indian life and lore, geological, biological, and anthropological collections. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed holidays. Sid Richardson Bldg., Baylor University campus. Tel. 254/710-1110.

**Gov. Bill & Vara Daniel Historic Village** turn-of-the-century Texas village with more than 20 buildings, including a hotel, church, saloon, cotton gin, and residences. Center open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1108 University Parks Dr. Tel. 254/710-1160. Admission.

**Ollie Mae Moen Discover Center**—Children of all ages will enjoy in the activities offered at the Center. You can make electricity, grind corn, surround yourself with a giant bubble, and pet animals and reptiles. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 220 S. 4th St (parking lot and entrance on 3rd St.). 254/757-0922. Admission.

**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum at Fort Fisher**—Built near the site of original Texas Ranger fort established 1837. Displays commemorate history and heritage of Texas Rangers. Famous collection of guns and weapons from the Old West; Indian artifacts and Western art. I-35, Exit 335B in Fort Fisher Park. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 254/750-8631. Admission.

**Texas Sports Hall of Fame**—Sports memorabilia highlight nationally known Texans for their achievements, including golfers like Byron Nelson, Lee Trevino, Don January, Babe Didrikson Zaharias; boxer George Foreman; and baseball's Nolan Ryan, to name a few. Video features historic sports events in the Tom Landry Theater. There's also the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame, Tennis Hall of Fame, and the Texas High School Halls of Fame for football, basketball, and



Jack Lewis/TXDOT

baseball. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 1108 S. University Parks Dr., next to Fort Fisher Park. Tel. 254/756-1633. Admission.

**Visitor Information Center**—Details about Waco attractions and events, free maps, directions, literature, accommodations and dining information. Provided daily by Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau 254/750-8696 or 1-800-WACO-FUN. University Parks Dr. off I-35 (Exit 335B). 24-hr. recorded phone message of events, 254/752-WACO. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun.

**Waco Suspension Bridge**—Built in 1870 and still in use as pedestrian crossing of Brazos River from Indian Spring Park to Martin Luther King Park. This famous Waco landmark provided cattle and cowboys following the Chisholm Trail with the only span across the Brazos River.

**WASHINGTON**

**Pop. 265 (est.)**

**Alt. 200**

**Map P-19**

**General**—Known as Washington-on-the-Brazos or Old Washington, the town was established in 1834 near the location of a Brazos River ferry that had operated since 1822. The town achieved prominence during the Texas Revolution in 1836 as the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the drafting of the Constitution of the newly born Republic of Texas. From 1842 to 1846, Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital of the Republic. Through the 1840s and 1850s the town flourished as a retail and commercial center for the cotton-producing Brazos Valley. The little village today (southeast of Bryan-College Station) lies just off Texas 105 between Brenham and Navasota.

For visitor information, call the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 979/836-3695, or 1-800-225-3695.

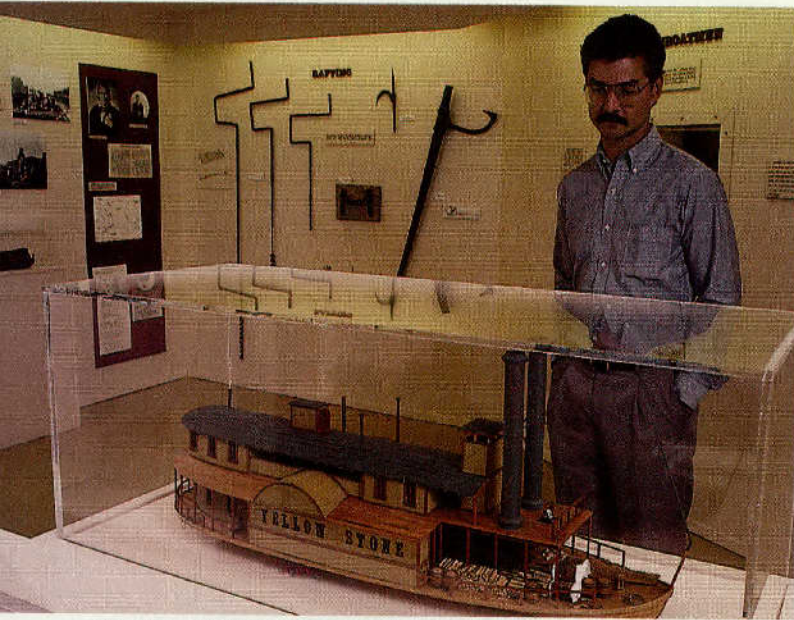
**Star of the Republic Museum**—In Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, museum is dedicated to presenting the history of the Texas Republic through state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits, publications, and media presentations. Exhibits depict all aspects of the Republic period, including social life, agriculture, transportation, politics, and military affairs. Additionally, the museum's research library is accessible to the public. Administered by Blinn College.

The Museum's Discovery Center features interactive displays for visitors to experience the Republic period, exploring the early events and individuals in Texas History. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 936/878-2461 for special programs and group rates.

**Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park**—The 270-acre park includes the site where Texas declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836. Visitors can commemorate this event in a replica of Independence Hall. A Visitor Center includes exhibits about the town of Washington and the convention of 1836 and offers a complete description of park activities and facilities.

**Waco's Old Suspension Bridge**





J. Griffin Smith/PhotoDOT

### Star of the Republic Museum at Washington offers exhibits, activities, displays

The park also includes *Barrington Living History Farm*, a working farm of the 1850s centered around the home of Anson Jones who was the last President of the Republic of Texas. Open Wed. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Park facilities include restaurant; conference center; education center; outdoor amphitheater; picnic area; and nature trails. Call 936/878-2214 for tour times. Open daily 8 a.m. to sundown for day-use activities; no overnight camping. Texas Independence Day celebration is annually on weekend nearest Mar. 2. Entrance on F.M. 1155. Fee for tour. Web site [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com).

## WAXAHACHIE

Pop. 21,426

Alt. 585

Map K-18

**General**—Name derives from Indian word meaning “cow (or buffalo) creek.” Now seat of Ellis County, town was once squarely on the Chisholm Trail. Town is noted for abundance of elaborate Victorian-style homes with “gingerbread” trim. Several movies have been made in the city featuring its old buildings and homes. For a map of historic homes and buildings and where movies have been shot, visit the chamber of commerce, Mon. - Thurs., 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 102 YMCA Dr., or call 972/937-2390.

Born in Atlanta, Bessie Coleman grew up here. She became the first black person in the world to become a licensed pilot in June of 1921. In 1995 the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in her honor.

The late Paul Richards called Waxahachie home, too. He was a long time player and manager for the Chicago White Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Houston Astros and Atlanta Braves. He also served as special advisor to Eddie Chiles and the Texas Rangers. Richards Field, named in his honor, is home for the high school baseball team.

**Chautauqua Auditorium**—Built 1902, rare survivor of the Chautauqua circuit that brought live talent for religious and cultural events to rural towns around the turn of the century. With advent of radio, Chautauqua waned and ended in 1930s. Today site of city events, restored structure is on National Register of Historic Places. Situated in 55-acre Getzendaner Park on S. Grand Ave. off W. Main.

**Ellis County Courthouse**—Elaborate structure of red sandstone and granite, built 1895 for then-lavish cost of \$150,000. Italian artisans were imported for exterior stone carving. (Recurring face said to be Mabel Frame, railroad telegraph operator with whom one sculptor became enamored.) Clock uses windup mechanism weighing 250 pounds; bell-striker weight exceeds 800 pounds.

**Ellis County Museum**—Historical artifacts, photos, household furnishings and toys depict history of the region. In restored 19th-Century building on courthouse square. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., closed Mon.

**Lakes**—Bardwell and Joe Pool. See LAKES listing.

**Nicholas P. Sims Library**—Original structure built 1904, is classic example of Roman Doric architecture. Gold leaf and Carrara marble used in interior;

exterior features enameled brick, copper cornices and carved replica of the Greek torch of knowledge. Contains over 33,000 volumes. 515 W. Main.

**Scarborough Faire**—Springtime Renaissance fair features arts, crafts, foods, and medieval entertainment—wizards, jugglers, jesters, and puppet shows. Costumes of royalty and rascals, poets and peasants. In rural setting eight weekends mid-Apr. through early June on F.M. 66, 1.6 mi. west of I-35E. Admission.

## WEATHERFORD

Pop. 19,000

Alt. 1,052

Map J-16

**General**—Originated in 1850s when selected as seat of Parker County. Named after Jefferson Weatherford, member of the Texas Senate when county was created. In early years town was last settlement on the Western frontier, on route of wagon trains operating between Fort Worth and Fort Belknap. Southwest area of town boasts many Victorian-style residences built in late 1800s. Industries include oil field equipment, silicone and plastic products. Home of Weatherford Junior College, established 1869, oldest continuing two-year college in Southwest.

Stop by the chamber of commerce in the old Santa Fe Depot to receive map for driving and walking tours around the city. The chamber also has information on restaurants, accommodations, and events.

**Chandor Gardens**—Created and built by renowned artist Douglas G. Chandor, the gardens are Chinese- and English-style. Water features include a 40-ft. waterfall, grottos and fountains. Stone pathways line an English lawn-bowling green and climbing roses ascend a lofty pergola. Open mid-Mar. - mid-Nov., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Closed the month of August. Group tours during week by appointment. For information, 817/613-1700 or visit the Web site at [www.chandorgardens.com](http://www.chandorgardens.com). Admission.

**First Monday**—Evolving from trades day held when court was in session on first Monday of each month when farmers and ranchers brought produce and livestock to town; event now features variety of “trash and treasures,” produce, and still some livestock. Held on Sat., Sun. preceding first Monday every month. At U.S. 80/180, three blocks east of courthouse.

**Holland Lake Park**—Municipal park is 10-acre living museum of nature with marked nature trail that explores three different ecosystems. Site of G. A. Holland's double-log cabins that were awarded a Texas Centennial Historical Marker in 1936. Playground and picnic facilities. Off Clear Lake Rd., Exit 409 from I-20.

**Lake**—Weatherford. See LAKES listing.

**Oliver Loving's Grave**—Known as “Dean of Texas Trail Drivers,” Loving came to Parker County from Kentucky about 1855. Wounded by Indians during a drive with Charles Goodnight, he died at Fort Sumner in 1867 after traveling in secret without food for five days. Loving's son and Goodnight

### Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie



Gay Shackelford/PhotoDOT

returned his body over 600 miles by wagon for burial in Weatherford. State historical marker granted in 1977 for his grave in Greenwood Cemetery at Front & Mill sts.

**Parker County Courthouse**—After three previous structures were destroyed by fire, present courthouse was begun in 1884 and dedicated in 1886. Designed by architect Wesley Clarke Dobson of Waco who designed nine other Texas courthouses, the Victorian building is constructed of limestone quarried locally at a cost of \$55,555.55. Seal inside marks the exact center of the county. A good photo opportunity for visitors. Junction of U.S. 80/180 and Texas 171.

**Peter Pan Statue**—Bronze statue sculpted by artist Ronald Thomason honors Weatherford native Mary Martin who created the role of Peter Pan on Broadway. (Miss Martin's childhood home is at 314 W. Oak St.; not open to the public.) Statue stands in front of library at 1214 Charles St. where room contains some original musical scores, costumes, and other memorabilia on Miss Martin.

**Santa Fe Depot**—Restored 1909 all-brick structure was one of first in area to be built with concrete floors. Now houses chamber of commerce office and visitors center. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Three blocks east of courthouse at 401 Ft. Worth St.

## WEIMAR

Pop. 1,981

Alt. 408

Map Q-18

**General**—In western Colorado County, city was founded in 1873 on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad and originally named Jackson Station. Name changed to Weimar because the land reminded many German settlers of their home in Germany. The city is on land of the original Stephen F. Austin Colony and is rich in history. Incorporated in July 1875, it became an early cotton center. Today the city is still an agriculture production center as well as a modern business community.

Weimar Gedenke is celebrated annually on the Sat. before Mother's Day. Gedenke is a German word which means "remember." Celebration includes beauty pageant, parade, and home-baked goods.

St. Michael's Catholic Church, established in 1888, was destroyed by storm six months after completion; present building with its conservative Gothic style interior was built in 1914. On State Historical Register.

Library is housed in old train depot and is on State Historical Register. Caboose, adjacent to depot, used as library office.

**Weimar Heritage Society Museum**—Focuses on exhibits tracing city's history beginning with original land grant. Displays include a turn-of-the-century doctor's office, farm and ranch implements, photos, and other memorabilia. One room dedicated to World Wars I & II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The museum also features a pharmacy section that includes items such as pharmaceutical tools, patent medicine, glass bottles, and a wide assortment of mortars and pestles. It also featured an old-fashioned soda fountain and a doctor's office with period equipment and tools, medicine bags, examining table and surgical instruments. Open Wed. 2 - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 125 E. Main St. (U.S. 90).

## WEST

Pop. 2,692

Alt. 648

Map M-18

**General**—Originally established as Bold Springs, the town was renamed West in 1881 when the railroad laid lines through the area. The community was named for Thomas W. West who sold land for the railroad and for businesses wanting to locate close to the rail depot. West became a successful businessman, owning a hotel, furniture store and bank. Czechoslovakian immigrants came to the area purchasing the rich farmland. Many descendants of the original settlers continue to farm the lands with wheat, maize and cotton.

Czech traditions remain today and can be seen in cooking, baking, arts, crafts, and the love for polka music. The Texas Legislature recognized West as the "Czech Heritage Capital of Texas" and "home of the official Kolache of the Texas Legislature."

Since 1976, thousands converge on the city each Labor Day Weekend for the Westfest celebration. The event features music, arts and crafts, and plenty of Kolaches and sausage. For information, write to Westfest, Inc., PO Box 65, West, TX 76691 or call 254/826-5058. Visit the Web site at [www.westfest.com](http://www.westfest.com).

Bed and Breakfast accommodations available in historic building. Bakeries and restaurants feature Czech foods and numerous stores feature antiques, arts and crafts, and imported Czech crystal and jewelry.



Scarborough Faire in Waxahachie

**Katy Depot Museum**—Old photographs depict relationship between the railroad and the community. Also included is a photo exhibit of the staged head-on collision involving two trains near West in 1896 that attracted national attention. An information center for the city is also in the depot. Open Thurs. and Fri. 3 - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

**Lakes**—Aquilla, Navarro Mills, Waco, and Whitney. See LAKES listing.

## WHITESBORO

Pop. 3,760

Alt. 840

Map G-18

**General**—In 1848 Ambrose B. White arrived here and established White's Westview Inn that became a stagecoach stop along the western route for the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. White was elected mayor after the city was incorporated in 1873. Whitesboro is in western Grayson County on U.S. 82 and one of the key cities to recreational activities at Lake Texoma and Lake Ray Roberts. The city serves the needs of lake visitors with shopping for everything from antiques to zucchini.

Numerous historical markers are in the area and bed and breakfast accommodations are available.

The annual Peanut Festival on the 3rd Sat. of Oct. honors area peanut farmers. The Younger-Sullivan House was built in 1889. The ornate Victorian home is available for local receptions and for tours with appointment.

For additional information for dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce at 903/564-3331.

**Cross Timbers Hiking Trail**—The trail begins at Juniper Point recreation area built by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1969. The trail is 14 miles long and is well marked; mile posts have been erected along the way as reference points. Adjacent to Lake Texoma 12 miles north of city.

**Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge**—11,300 acres of land and water offers food and haven for migrating and wintering waterfowl on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma. Some 300 bird species have been recorded on the refuge that's visited by 135,000 people each year. In addition to huge flocks of migrants passing through each fall and spring, observers may see killdeer, snowy egrets, rails, plovers and sandpipers in summer; great blue herons and other wading and shore birds in winter; native white-tailed deer and other animals year round. When oil was discovered on the refuge in 1951, development proceeded with care. Significantly, some 200 carefully main-

tained wells produce vital energy today in harmony with the wildlife that perches on, feeds by, and rests near the well sites. Self-guided driving tour of the refuge. Visitor center has interpretive displays, information, and bird lists. From U.S. 82, go east to F.M. 901, then north to refuge.

**Lakes**—Ray Roberts and Texoma. See LAKES listing.

**Whitesboro Water Well**—This well served as a watering stop for trail drivers along the Butterfield Stage Line until 1902. The well was rediscovered and rebuilt and a historical marker gives details. Located downtown on Main St.

## WHITNEY

Pop. 1,833

Alt. 585

Map L-17

**General**—Established 1879 when the Texas Central Railroad crossed Hill County; named for Charles Whitney of New York, a major railroad stockholder. Now an agricultural/recreational center, gateway to immensely popular Lakes Aquilla and Whitney, one of the leading water sport and lake resort areas of Texas. This lakeside resort town is near many RV parks and three golf courses. For information on accommodations, dining facilities and events, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 254/694-2540.

**Arts Unlimited**—Features collection of artists' paintings, ceramics, and other crafts. Six rooms of locally handmade goods. Open Sat., Mon. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and by appointment. 213 N. Brazos St.

**Lakes**—Aquilla, Whitney. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Whitney Cycle Ranch**—Motorcyclists find trails challenging along rolling terrain beside Brazos River. Races held 1st, 3rd, & 5th Suns. 10 a.m. Camping available. Trails also open for practice. West on Texas 22 to F.M. 2960 (Iron Springs Rd., not shown on most highway maps). Admission.

**Lake Whitney State Park**—1,315 acres on eastern shore of Lake Whitney. Facilities and features include camping areas and trailer sites, screened shelters, airstrip, three boat ramps, docks, picnicking, swimming and fishing. Access via F.M. 1244, 2.5 miles west. Admission.

**Old Fort Graham**—U.S. military post established in 1849. As line of settlement moved westward, the need for the fort was less and troops withdrawn in 1853. Original location in Lake Whitney bed. When lake was built, much of the ruins and rock transported to new site and used in the reconstruction. One-room rock building houses mementos of early days of Whitney and other artifacts. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. North on F.M. 933 to F.M. 2604 to Pioneer Cove.

## WILLS POINT

Pop. 3,496

Alt. 518

Map J-19

**General**—First settled near T&P Railroad in 1873 as Iola; renamed for William Wills, whose log cabin served as resting place for travelers between Shreveport and Dallas and referred to as "the Wills point." Today, downtown features quaint 1890s buildings, original brick streets; center for ranching, livestock, agriculture and recreation. ("Gateway to Lake Tawakoni")

The city calls itself "the bluebird capital of Texas," and features bluebird festival in April.

**Bruce Park**—Right in the heart of downtown, this small park features the preserved home of William Wills. Other period items include an old wagon and farm implements. On Second St., just off U.S. 80.

**Historical Society Museum**—In old T&P depot; features memorabilia for city and Van Zandt County. Open on Sat. before first Monday of month Jun. - Aug. 1 - 5 p.m. U.S. 80 & 5th St.

**Lake**—Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Tawakoni State Park**—Located on the southeast side of the lake, this 320-acre park has facilities for camping, hiking, swimming, and fishing. From U.S. 80, take F.M. 47 or F.M. 751 north to Lake Tawakoni and Wind Point Park.

**Wiley & Son Exotic Game & Gun Ranch**—Longhorn cattle, exotic animals and thousands of old and new guns on display. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 12 miles south on F.M. 47.

## YOAKUM

Pop. 5,731

Alt. 366

Map R-18

**General**—Yoakum is located partially in western Lavaca County and partially in eastern DeWitt County. In its early years, Anglo-Americans used this site for gathering herds of bawling Texas Longhorns that were driven to market along the Chisholm Trail. With arrival of San Antonio and Aransas Pass RR

in 1887, townsites established. Today, city derives its economy from 12 leather goods manufacturers. The Land of Leather Days Festival, held on the last weekend of February, salutes the leather industry and features one of the largest CASI Chili Cook Offs in the state; leather factory tours; carnival; arts and crafts outdoor mall; food booth; country and western dances; LATIGO Classic bullride, and a golf tournament. Once, Yoakum called itself the "Green Wrap" tomato capital of the world and still commemorates this heritage with an annual Tom Tom Festival, usually first week of June.

**Country Music U.S.A.**—Started as a Rotary Club fund raiser in 1977, this music review is now a successful, award-winning opry, capturing the Country Music Organizations of America (independent) opry award multiple times. Dinner usually precedes the show, which is held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Yoakum Community Center. Admission proceeds benefit local projects.

**Heritage Museum**—San Antonio and Aransas Pass RR artifacts are displayed. Leather Room features history of the leather industry from Chisholm Trail drives to first tannery; along with vintage leather products from 1900 to the creative workmanship in leather goods today. Vintage leather products from 1900. Open Tues., Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 312 Simpson St.

**Carl & Mary Welhausen Library**—This unique historical building once housed the municipal power plant. The beautifully restored library is designated a recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. located at 810 Front St.

**Additional Visitors information**—Call the Yoakum Area Chamber of Commerce at 361/693-2309 or visit the Web site [www.YoakumUSA.com](http://www.YoakumUSA.com). Contact Yoakum City Hall at 361/293-6321.

## YORKTOWN

Pop. 2,271

Alt. 266

Map S-17

**General**—First settler, 1846, was John York. Road from Indianola to San Antonio, surveyed in 1848, went by way of the York home, and the surveyor, Charles Eckhardt, built a home at site of Yorktown. York was killed by Indians and Eckhardt moved away, but German, Czech and Polish immigrants using the road settled the area, and greetings are often given in those languages today. A famous live oak tree, hundreds of years old, is in front of the Lutheran church.

**Yorktown Historical Museum**—In two historic buildings, both on National Register of Historic Places, museum preserves history of city and area. Open Mar. - Nov., Sun., Thurs. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Dec. - Feb. Sun. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. W. Main & Eckhardt sts.

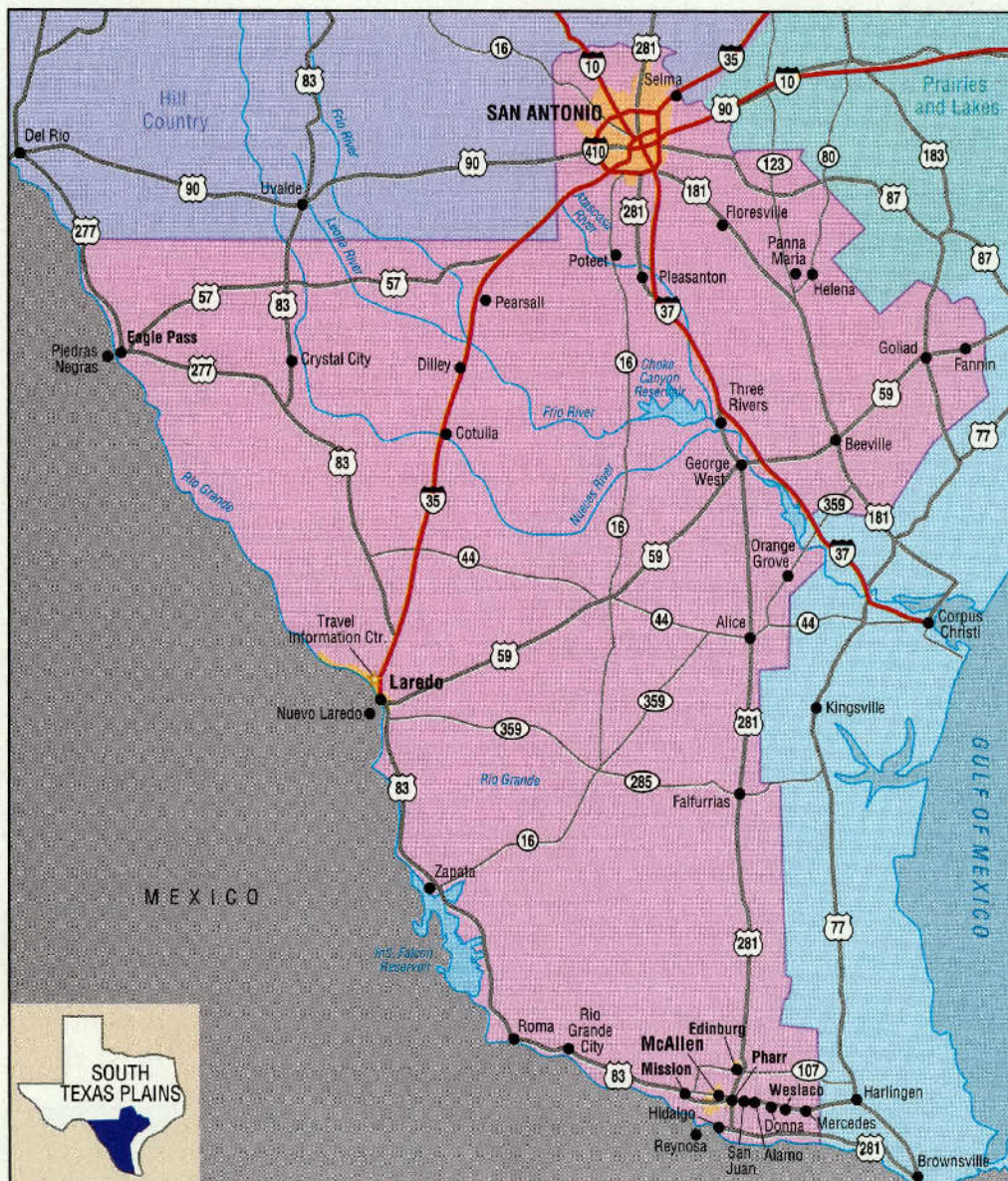
**Lake Whitney is one of the most popular water recreation areas in the nation**



Laurence Parent



# SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS



**S**ay hello to the Alamo—and adios to the winter blues and the summer doldrums. Soak up some sun in the tropical Rio Grande Valley. Stroll the streets of Laredo. Attend a fiesta, admire a Picasso, and savor a salsa-spiced snack. You will soon find that there is nothing *plain* about the South Texas Plains. Throughout the year, this fascinating region, from San Antonio to the Rio Grande, offers delights *muy especial!*

Here, where Texas and Mexico come together, you will experience the excitement of a zesty TexMex blend of languages, music, cuisine, and customs. And you will reap the benefits of some of the most interesting attractions and activities this side of the border.

Play golf and tennis year round. Birdwatch in a host of prime birding spots. Explore museums and historical sites famous the world over. Shop in malls and markets and boutiques that offer an amazing array of merchandise. And pluck luscious grapefruits and oranges right from the trees. You will never lack for entertaining diversions in the South Texas Plains.

Let's learn a little more about this exciting region of Texas.

*Detailed information about each site appears following this introduction.*

## THE VALLEY, THE BORDER, AND POINTS SOUTH

Folks who vacation in the lower Rio Grande Valley often call it the "Magic Valley"—and with good reason. Cities and towns in this tropical tip of Texas brim with extra excitement for visitors, offering frequent fiestas, rollicking RV rallies, and numerous welcoming parties. Add to these benefits the proximity of South Padre Island's great saltwater fishing, water sports, and scenic seashore and you have a tempting variety of vacation possibilities.

In the winter, the Valley's temperate climate brings generally balmy weather, ensuring extra days for golf, tennis, swimming, fishing, and basking in the sun. On both sides of the border, you find shopping chock-full of bargains, such as wrought-iron furnishings, jewelry, and leather goods. Bird-watching is

superb in places such as the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. And the area's agricultural bounty serves up delicious fresh vegetables, like onions, and carrots and cabbage, and citrus fruits, such as grapefruits and oranges.

Cities and towns in the lower Rio Grande Valley form a closely woven tapestry. One town gives way to another before you even realize you have exchanged city limits. But each community boasts its own characteristics and each offers something interesting to visitors.

In McAllen, visit the McAllen International Museum and view the excellent exhibits of Mexican folk art, including multicolored masks and costumes. If you are in a shopping mood, look for antiques (especially those from Mexico) in shops sprinkled throughout the city, and search for gifts and specialties in La Placita, a complex of shops in refurbished historic homes. After your shopping jaunt, take the kids to Mountasia and you can all enjoy the rides, video arcade, and miniature golf.

By the way, if you spy birds of bright hues flitting about in McAllen's trees, you may be seeing the red-crowned parrots and green parakeets that call the city home, or you could be gazing at green jays, the "city birds" of McAllen.

Just east of McAllen, Pharr gives you a chance to whirl with the Wurlitzers at Smitty's Juke Box Museum. And, you can tick away some time at Ye Old Clock Museum, where a collection of some 2,000 timepieces dates to 1690.

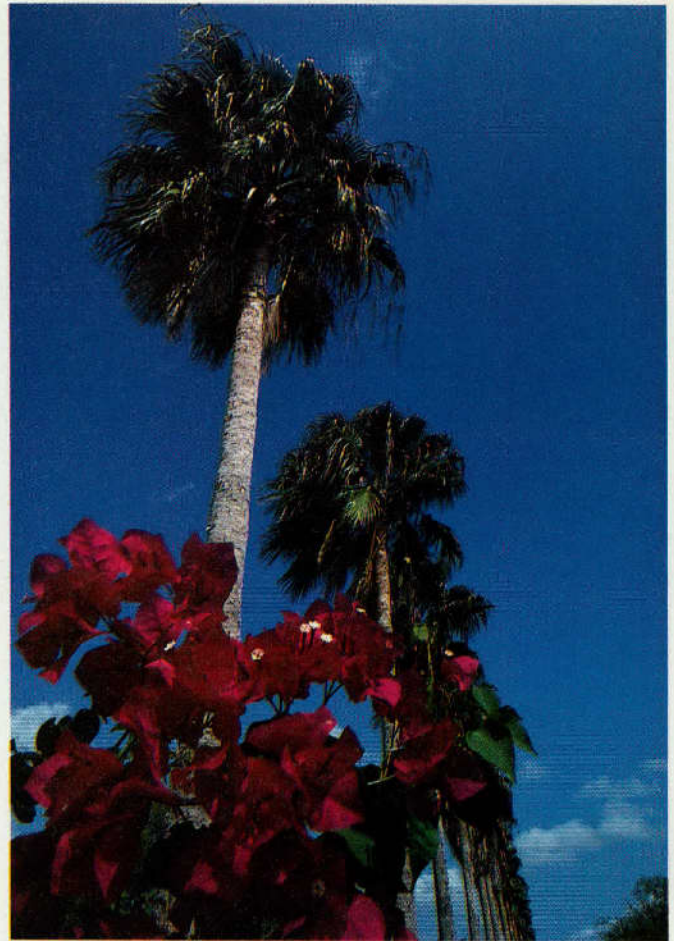
Admire the crimson bougainvillea blooms that edge the highway at adjacent San Juan, then seek out the Shrine of La Virgen de San Juan del Valle. The shrine harbors a small, wooden statue of Our Lady of San Juan that remained unscathed after a fire destroyed the church where it once stood.

At nearby Alamo, hike or drive the impressive Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, where plants, wildlife, and rare birds find haven. In winter and early spring, you can ride a tram through the refuge. Also visit Sunderland's Cactus Garden, just north of Alamo, and marvel at the 25-foot-tall *Pachycereus pringlei*, or elephant's cactus, one of the largest nursery-grown cacti in Texas.

In Weslaco, the Valley Nature Center offers a pleasant trail through five acres of natural vegetation, including a butterfly garden, lily pond, and cactus gardens. At Mercedes, kick up your heels—or at least lift them—and let one of several world-renowned custom bootmakers measure your feet and fashion for you a truly fine pair of boots.

Mission, sometimes called the "Home of the Grapefruit," is a gateway to nearby Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, which encompasses 589 acres of native flora and fauna. Birders treasure this park, which harbors birds from the eastern and western United States, as well as species from southern Mexico. Spring migrations bring unusual sightings, such as the clay-colored robin, green kingfisher, blue bunting, and rose-throated becard. (You can even rent bird-observation blinds here.) Mexican ground squirrels, ocelots and jaguarundi also live in the park's luxuriant vegetation.

For a sampling of great Western action, watch the cowboys at Edinburg's Sheriff's Posse Rodeo and Quarter Horse racing every Saturday evening. If it's warm weather time, you can cool off at the Edinburg Municipal Waterworks by zipping down the 125-foot, figure-eight water slide and diving into one of three pools.



Palm trees and bouganvilleas in the Rio Grande Valley area

If you want to shop, dine, and sightsee across the border, you have several options here, including crossing the Rio Grande into Mexico at Hidalgo to enter Reynosa and at the small town of Progreso to visit Nuevo Progreso.

Next, head for Laredo, some 143 miles northwest of McAllen on U.S. 83. Along the way, you can visit Rio Grande City, where the 1899 La Borde House, a historic inn, offers lodging in rooms sporting late 19th Century decor. Here, you can also spend a moment of quiet reflection at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, a replica of the famous shrine in Lourdes, France.

In Roma, the impressive Roma National Historic Landmark District gives you a chance to view some 38 historical buildings that date between 1848 and 1928. The town, along with Zapata, is a gateway to Falcon Reservoir, owned jointly by the United States and Mexico.

As you enter Laredo, be sure to stop by the Texas Travel Information Center on I-35. Here, friendly travel counselors greet you with a "howdy" and ¡bienvenidos! and provide you with great maps and Texas information. And of course they can tell you about interesting things to see and do in *los dos Laredos*, "the two Laredos." (Laredo's sister city, Nuevo Laredo (New Laredo) lies just across the border.)

A major international border crossing, Laredo gives you a fine sampling of history along with great border-style entertainment. Established by a Spanish land grant in 1755, Laredo has existed under seven flags. The intriguing Republic of the Rio Grande Building and Museum relates the city's history as capital of the unsuccessful Republic of the Rio Grande.

Nearby, beautiful San Agustín Church occupies an honored site on San Agustín Plaza.

#### View of the Rio Grande and Roma



J. Griffin Smith/TXDOT



Sean A. Williams/iXDOT

### Town Square in Piedras Negras, Mexico, across border from Eagle Pass

Though the present church has stood here since 1872, today's structure is the third building since San Agustín was established by the bishop of Guadalajara in 1760. The first church was built in 1767.

Shopping is great in Laredo, with several malls and many specialty shops. And, just across the international bridge, Nuevo Laredo brings you more shopping, plentiful restaurants, and nightclubs that never seem to close.

Every February, Laredoans stage the patriotic and exuberant Washington's Birthday Celebration, a 16-day extravaganza filled with parades, balls, street parties, pageants, concerts, and fireworks. For a kick, enter the festival's Jalapeño Eating Contest. You will never forget it.

On the eastern edge of the city, Lake Casa Blanca International State Park invites you to camp, picnic, and try your bass-fishing skills on 1,656-acre Lake Casa Blanca. Another interesting outdoor site, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, on the campus of Laredo Community College, provides a wonderful opportunity to view plants and animals found along the Rio Grande Watershed. Before you leave the border area, explore bustling Eagle Pass and neighboring Piedras Negras across the Rio Grande. Eagle Pass is home to the restored stone buildings of Fort Duncan, where a museum chronicles the old fort and the history of the area. In Piedras Negras, where a chef invented the tasty snacks called nachos, you can celebrate this culinary achievement at a festival each October.

### THE NORTH OF THE SOUTH

Travel from Laredo toward San Antonio and you drive through vast sections of brush country, land punctuated mostly by cactus and mesquite. In Cotulla, where Lyndon B. Johnson once taught school and writer William Sydney Porter (O. Henry) once lived, you can visit the Brush Country Museum and learn about this prickly area through displays of memorabilia and photos of ranch life.

A few miles north, Dilley honors the watermelon—the gem of its agricultural bounty—with a giant watermelon statue, whereas, just up the road, Pearsall salutes its phenomenal peanut crop with a large monument to the tasty legume. While you're paying homage to South Texas' appetizing array of vegetables and fruits, be sure to take a look at the statue of the "world's largest strawberry" in Poteet, about 30 miles south of San Antonio. And don't forget the likeness of Popeye at Crystal City, west of Dilley. The celebrated cartoon sailor salutes this winter garden area's plentiful spinach and vegetable production. Between them, Dilley, Pearsall, Poteet, and Crystal City serve up a veritable feast of fun monuments.

Along the U.S. 281 corridor between the lower Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio, lie several interesting towns, including Alice (named after the daughter of Captain Richard King of King Ranch fame), which offers a host of pleasant city parks and outdoor band concerts in the summer. Stop by the South Texas Museum for a look at the history of the area.

George West is home to the West Hotel Emporium, a 1919 hotel that now boasts antique and arts and crafts boutiques. North of George West, Three

Rivers provides fishing, picnicking, and camping opportunities at the city-operated Tips Park on the clear and scenic Frio River and at nearby Choke Canyon State Park on Choke Canyon Reservoir.

Head east from George West to Beeville. Here, in the Beeville Art Gallery and Museum, you can view antique furnishings, paintings, and sculptures housed in the home of early settlers. Then set your sights on Goliad, where Goliad State Park and Presidio La Bahía bring Texas history to vivid life.

Goliad State Park harbors a beautifully reconstructed replica of the 1749 mission, Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, popularly called Mission Espíritu Santo. Established in 1749, the mission served the Spanish Franciscans in their efforts to Christianize the Indians.

Nearby Presidio La Bahía, an excellent example of a Spanish frontier fort, was built in 1749 to protect the work of the mission. In March of 1836, the presidio housed Colonel James W. Fannin Jr., and more than 300 Texian troops after their surrender to Mexican forces during the Texas Revolution. (Fannin Battleground State Historic Park marks the site of Fannin's surrender at the town of Fannin, about 10 miles east of Goliad.)

A week after they surrendered, Fannin, his men, and other prisoners were executed at the order of Mexican General Santa Anna. Their graves lie a few hundred yards from Presidio La Bahía. After this massacre, the Texian Army added "Remember Goliad!" to the fabled cry, "Remember the Alamo!"

Today, you can examine interesting historical exhibits at the mission museum and at a museum at the presidio. Religious services still take place in Presidio La Bahía's chapel. You can camp and picnic at the state park, as well.

The presidio grounds also harbor the General Zaragoza State Historic Site, which honors General Ignacio Zaragoza, who was born at La Bahía. Zaragoza's outnumbered and ill-equipped Mexican army troops routed French forces at Puebla, Mexico, in 1862. The battle date, Cinco de Mayo (May 5), is a national holiday in Mexico. Several Texas cities celebrate the day, as well.

Northwest of Goliad lies tiny Panna Maria. Established in 1854, the village is probably the oldest Polish community in the United States. Here, you can visit St. Joseph's School Museum, the site of the oldest Polish school in the U.S., and view many artifacts depicting the life of Polish pioneers.

Between Panna Maria and San Antonio, you can, believe it or not, enter the Promised Land. Of course you will be visiting Floresville's Promised Land Dairy, which boasts one of the largest registered all-Jersey herds in the world. Here, the kids will enjoy the petting barnyard and the whole family can savor delicious treats in the ice cream parlor and play a fun round of miniature golf at the nine-hole course.

### Roma dancers



Jack Lewis/iXDOT



J. Griffith Smith/Tx007

**Presidio La Bahia in Goliad****SAN ANTONIO**

Take a look at a Texas map. Notice something? All roads in the south central part of the state lead to San Antonio. Follow them. You will find much to enjoy in this multicultural and historical treasure of a city.

San Antonio offers just about every pleasant vacation element that you could want. Exciting history. Terrific restaurants. Wonderful hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast lodgings. Sensational museums. Super theme parks and entertainment centers. Splendid shopping and music and sports. And celebrations and festivals and fiestas just about every week of the year.

First, explore the sites that encapsulate the city's history. Begin in the heart of downtown at the small adobe building whose distinctive façade you recognize immediately—the Alamo. Pause for a quiet moment inside the hallowed chapel of this famed shrine to liberty, formally called Mission San Antonio de Valero. Examine the stirring displays in the chapel and in the Long Barrack Museum, then stroll the beautifully landscaped grounds. The hustle and bustle of the surrounding city will fade as you remember the brave men who died here in March of 1836. You can tip your hat, too, to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who have maintained this important shrine so devotedly since 1905.

You will also want to explore the chain of four additional missions—Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada—that stair-step along the San Antonio River and form the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. These majestic missions, which were established in the first half of the 18th Century, illustrate vividly the work of Franciscan missionaries in bringing Spain's religion and dominion to Mexico and Texas. Mission San José is particularly lovely, with its famed ornamental "Rose Window," and its gristmill, granary, and beautifully landscaped grounds. For an exhilarating experience, attend one of the mariachi masses that take place at San José each Sunday.

The King William District provides a look at the important contributions made to San Antonio by the prominent German merchants who settled here. Several restored homes serve as bed and breakfast lodgings. You can visit the Steves Homestead Museum, in a house built in 1876, and the lovely 1859 Guenther House, which today encompasses a museum, gift shop, and popular restaurant.

The city's many museums offer an assortment of subjects to explore, including cowboys, pioneers, Texas Rangers, military medicine, history and science, transportation, and even the circus. Art finds marvelous venues here as well, including the outstanding San Antonio Museum of Art and the magnificent McNay Art Museum, where paintings by artists such as Cézanne, Gauguin, Picasso, and O'Keeffe join sculptures by Rodin and Hepworth.

Downtown, in HemisFair Park, the Institute of Texan Cultures features dynamic exhibits that highlight the varied ethnic and cultural makeup of the people of Texas. Visit in June and you can attend the Institute's annual Texas Folklife Festival. During this tremendously popular celebration, participants dress in ethnic costumes and demonstrate their ancestors' customs, music, and foods. You can join in. Great fun!

Ready for some mouthwatering barbecue or enchiladas or a steak as big as a platter? Or, maybe you want to shop for a special Texas memento, or sip a margarita while you listen to terrific jazz. Well, you will find restaurants, shops, and clubs galore when you take a stroll along one of the most famous pathways in the world—the River Walk.

Descend a stairway alongside one of the several bridges that cross the San Antonio River and you find yourself one floor below street level. Here, you can follow the walkways amid lush foliage beside the cypress-lined river, or you can hop aboard a colorful river cruiser for an entertaining narrated tour. Watch for unusual and artistic touches along the river, such as the mosaic at the Navarro Street bridge that marks the Old Mill Crossing, and the bas-relief of an Indian chief on the street level of the Commerce Street Bridge. The River Walk brims with neat surprises.

Family fun abounds in San Antonio. Chill out at Splashtown—San Antonio, and say hi to your heroes and heroines in wax at the Plaza Theater of Wax. Check out the wild rides, like "Poltergeist" and "Scream," and the top-notch live musical productions at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Make the acquaintance of porpoises, penguins, and beluga and killer whales, as well as giant Clydesdale horses, at SeaWorld San Antonio. Here, too, you can ride pulse-pounders such as the "Steel Eel," with a 15-story drop, and the "Great White," an inverted coaster.

If you are shopping for gifts and furnishings with artistic Mexican flair, try areas such as La Villita and El Mercado, where you can also dine on tasty TexMex specialties and listen to thrilling mariachi music. Then, visit the shops and restaurants and clubs of Sunset Station to cap off a rousing day.

San Antonio doesn't forget sports enthusiasts, either, with professional basketball and minor league baseball. Golf courses here are among the best in the state, and tennis courts and swimming pools abound.

And, oh, yes, don't miss the marvelous San Antonio Zoo and the beautiful Botanical Gardens. San Antonio's riches just go on and on.

So, you see, the South Texas Plains can enchant and entertain you with a nonstop fiesta of attractions. In this exciting region of Texas, you will enjoy one of the most special vacations of your life! ¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!

**The Alamo in San Antonio**

J. Griffith Smith/Tx007





George Miller photos

**Bird-watching is popular at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo**

## ALAMO

Pop. 14,760

Alt. 99

Map Z-16

**General**—In irrigated area of southern Hidalgo County; incorporated 1924 and named for Alamo Land and Sugar Co. Abundance of vegetables and citrus; is winter resort-retirement area; also one of Valley's gateways to Mexico, via U.S. 281 to Nuevo Progreso.

**Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge**—About 2,000 acres of thick, brushy growth, typical of Valley before agricultural development. Preserves and protects abundant wildlife and plant species, many found nowhere else in U.S. Rare birds prominent during winter season. Interpretive wildlife tram operates late Nov. - mid-Apr.; admission for tram ride. Private cars use 7-mile wildlife drive on days when tram isn't operating. Walk-through access any time during daylight hours. Three self-guided nature walks; one for wheelchairs. Visitor center open weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (closed federal holidays). Entrance 0.4 mile east of U.S. 281/F.M. 907 intersection, some 7.5 miles south of Alamo.

**Sunderland's Cactus Garden**—Five acres of native and exotic cacti and succulents; among thousands of plants is the largest nursery-grown cactus in Texas, a 25-foot specimen of *Pachycereus pringlei*, native to small area of Baja California. Many rare species propagated here from seed. Cactus shop and gardens open Sun. - Fri.; guided group lecture tours by appointment on Sunday. North of Alamo 0.7 mile on F.M. 907 at F.M. 495.

## ALICE

Pop. 19,010

Alt. 205

Map V-16

**General**—Seat of Jim Wells County. First called Bandana, then Kleberg, the town was finally named Alice after the daughter of Captain Richard King, who established the King Ranch. When the Texas Mexican Railroad and the San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railroad intersected the city, the community became the world's largest cattle shipping point from 1888 to 1895. Town is a dividing point between brush country to the west and coastal plains to the east; also between the border region and rest of Texas. Oil was discovered in 1930s, and town became hub for petroleum business and continues to serve in this capacity for agribusiness, tourism, and as distribution center for South Texas. Beefmaster cattle breed was developed here.

Town's lifestyle is outdoor oriented. Eleven city parks offer sports fields, tennis courts, swimming pools and 18-hole municipal golf course. Outdoor band concerts on summer evenings. Hunters seek white-tailed deer, javelina, wild turkey, quail, and dove.

For additional information on events, attractions, accommodations, and dining facilities, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 612 E. Main St., or call 361/664-3454.

**Lakes**—Alice and Corpus Christi. See LAKES listing.

**South Texas Museum, The**—Small museum focuses on distinctive history and traditions of this South Texas region. Exhibits trace habitation from American Indian to 20th Century farm, ranch, railroad, and oil activities, with emphasis on pioneer ranch and household artifacts. Includes mounted wildlife and livestock specimens. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; at 66 S. Wright St. 361/668-8891.

## BEEVILLE

Pop. 13,129

Alt. 214

Map T/U-17

**General**—On Poesta Creek, originally named Maryville for Mary Hefferman, only survivor of a family massacred by Indians in 1853. Became seat of Bee County, 1860, and renamed "Beeville-on-the-Poesta." Largest retail center in six-county area. Home of Bee County College, Chase Field Criminal Justice Complex, and various manufacturing industries.

Hunters take deer, wild turkey, quail, dove, and javelina when in season. Freshwater fishing in area rivers.

For information on area events, accommodations, and attractions, contact the Bee County Chamber of Commerce; 361/358-3267.

**Beeville Art Gallery and Museum**—Housed in historic Esther Barnhart House, originally home of the Hodges family, early Beeville settlers. Antique furnishings from Barnhart family and other area residents; paintings and sculptures from Barnhart family collection. Village Exchange (museum gift shop) offers books, prints, and souvenirs. Open Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 401 E. Fannin St. 361/358-8615.

**Lakes**—Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon. See LAKES listing.

**Parks**—Among eight city parks is 200-acre Veterans Memorial Park that offers picnicking, playground, pavilions, 9-hole golf course. Off F.M. 351 north of U.S. 59.

## COTULLA

Pop. 3,614

Alt. 442

Map T-14

**General**—(Co-tool-la) County seat of La Salle County, the city lies on I-35 in the northwestern part of the county. It was named for Joseph Cotulla, a Polish immigrant, who established townsites upon learning that the International-Great Northern Railroad was extending its railroad line through La Salle County. Its economy has been largely based on cattle and sheep ranching. Oil discovered in the 1950s helped boost the economy. Lyndon B. Johnson and short-story writer O. Henry once called Cotulla home.

**Brush Country Museum**—The museum features memorabilia of the city and county. Hundreds of photos offer a glimpse of ranch life in the first half of the 20th century. The museum is housed in former school where LBJ taught. Open Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - noon; 2 - 4 p.m.; Wed. and Fri. 1 - 4 p.m. At 112 North Front St.

**Lake**—Choke Canyon. See LAKES listing.

## CRYSTAL CITY

Pop. 7,190

Alt. 581

Map T-13

**General**—Seat of Zavala County, primary center for packing, processing and shipping vegetables; also serves a large ranching region. Most famous for its spinach crop, this winter-garden area also produces large quantities of onions, carrots, tomatoes and peppers.

**Popeye Statue**—Whimsical salute to area spinach crop depicts the cartoon sailor man; a favorite spot for snapshots with children; downtown city square.

## DILLEY

Pop. 3,674

Alt. 542

Map T-14

**General**—Established in 1865, the city was originally known as Darlington. Dilley is in southern Frio County on I-35 and the International-Great Northern Railroad. Agriculture and ranching are economic mainstays here, and the city is known for its sweet, juicy watermelons. Also grown in the area are peanuts, tomatoes, spinach grain sorghum and cotton. During the 1980s the area experienced another oil boom with the invention of horizontal drilling. Oil production and oilfield services continue to contribute to the economy.

Ornate downtown buildings are examples of the 1920s era. Dilley is on the central flyway of migratory birds and birdwatchers have documented more than 250 species. Bird lists and maps are available at the chamber of commerce office. During season, hunts take white-tailed deer, dove, quail, javelina and turkey. Fishing is also popular in the Frio River.





Richard Stockton

**Donna Hooks Fletcher Museum is housed in Nation's oldest American Legion Hall, Donna**

For additional information on accommodations, events, and dining, contact the Dilley Chamber of Commerce at 830/965-1742 or stop by the office at the corner of Miller and Main sts.

**Art and Wildlife Collection**—Western landscape oil paintings are displayed in the lobby of the Dilley State Bank. Many trophy mounts native to the Dilley area are also shown in the lobby. The facility is open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed most holidays. At Texas 85 West.

**Parks**—Adventure park east off Texas 85 has picnicking facilities, softball and baseball diamonds, basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pool, a scenic miniature golf course, and a lighted jogging trail. City Park on Main St. has a delightful gazebo and picnic tables and grills are available.

**Watermelon Statue**—A giant watermelon in the City Park honors the famous, juicy watermelons grown in the area. Harvesting usually begins mid-June and the melons are shipped to all points in the U.S., as well as Puerto Rico and Europe. Good photo opportunity.

## DONNA

Pop. 14,768

Alt. 88

Map Z-16

**General**—Founded as station on St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railroad in 1906; named for Donna Hooks, daughter of a townsite promoter. Today a retail center for ranching and intensive agriculture of Rio Grande Valley; hosts abundant winter visitors.

**Donna Hooks Fletcher Museum**—Memorabilia, photos and artifacts from town's founding; vintage furniture, hand tools, farm and household articles, restored bar from early-day Blue Goose Saloon. Housed in historic American Legion Hall (oldest in nation), 318 S. Main. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call 956/464-9989. Fax 956/464-5507.

**Donna Wet Lands**—City of Donna started this project in 1999 in an effort to promote the area's wildlife, and is home to excellent birding and butterfly gardens. For guided tours, call the Donna Chamber of Commerce at 956/464-3272.

**Donna Visitor Center**—Information on local restaurants, lodging, attractions, events, and historical sites. At 921 Miller Ave., open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## EAGLE PASS

Pop. 22,413

Alt. 797

Map T-12

**General**—First U.S. settlement at site on Rio Grande began during Mexican War with establishment of temporary Camp Eagle Pass. In 1849 permanent Fort Duncan was founded. After Civil War, the site became burial plot of the Confederacy when, on July 4, 1865, Gen. Joseph Orville Shelby, on his way to Mexico to offer his troops' service to Maximilian, paused in the middle of the Rio Grande stream to bury the last Confederate flag to fly over his men.

Stan A. Williams/ixDOT

Today an international gateway and tourist center, seat of Maverick County, and retail shipping center for 40,000-acre irrigated winter-garden region. International bridge to Piedras Negras, just across Rio Grande, connects U.S. 57 with Mexico 57 that leads to Monclova, Saltillo, San Luis Potosi and Mexico City. Portions of the route through scenic areas of Sierra Madre. Sportsmen enjoy fishing for the famous (and huge) Rio Grande catfish, and hunting for white-tailed deer and upland game birds.

Eight miles south of city is 125-acre site being developed as federal reservation for Kickapoo Indians, a tribe that for years had special border-crossing permission.

Campuses for Southwest Texas Jr. College and Sul Ross State Univ. are also here.

**Fort Duncan**—Established 1849 and occupied by three companies of 1st U.S. Infantry Regiment. During Civil War, post was occupied by Confederate troops of Frontier Regiment. Federal troops reoccupied post 1868; it remained under military authority until 1916. Many restored stone buildings form center of municipal park.

**Fort Duncan Museum**—Housed at Fort Duncan post headquarters building, the museum includes exhibits, artifacts, and photographs from colonial period, early exploration, Civil War, and early 20th Century covering Texas, Northern Mexico, and Eagle Pass. Open Mon. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Donations accepted. For information, call 830/773-1714.

**Guerrero**—28 miles south of Piedras Negras, on Mexico Highway 2, lies the Spanish Colonial Villa de Guerrero with Mission San Bernardo ruin, claimed as the single most important Colonial ruin in Coahuila. From Guerrero, the famed Camino Real crossed the Rio Grande into Texas.

**Lucky Eagle Casino**—Operated by the Kickapoo Indians, this handsome facility features bingo hall, and Las Vegas-type games. Also features restaurant and sports bar. Off F.M. 1021 (El Indio Highway) at Rosita Valley Rd. Hours vary according to season; for information, call 1-888-255-8259

**Piedras Negras**—A comfortable walking distance from downtown Eagle Pass, across the Rio Grande, is the busy Mexican city of Piedras Negras; population about 280,000. Handicraft items at bargain prices in many shops and traditional Mexican market area. Restaurants and popular night clubs; bullfights at intervals throughout summer months. A "nachos" festival is held very October to celebrate the origin of the internationally savored "nacho" snack in this city.

## EDINBURG

Pop. 48,465

Alt. 91

Map Y-16

**General**—First named Chapin for townsite promoter; renamed Edinburg in 1911. Hidalgo County seat and western gateway to Lower Rio Grande Valley;

### San Juan Plaza in Eagle Pass





Kevin Stillman/XPOT

### Hidalgo County Historical Museum, Edinburg

center of vast vegetable and citrus culture. Industries include food processing, furniture, foundry products, fertilizers, oil, and dairy products. Home of Univ. of Texas-Pan American.

**Edinburg Municipal Waterparks**—Family fun at three-pool swimming facility featuring 125-foot figure-eight water slide, water basketball, sand-pit volleyball, barbecue grills, and picnic tables. Open each Sat. - Sun. from Apr. through Aug. at 123 E. Palm Drive. Also Fountain Water Park at 22nd and Kuhn St. Admission. For information, 956/381-5631.

**Edinburg Visitor Information Center**—Housed in the renovated train depot built in 1927, the center has information on attractions, accommodations, dining facilities, and area events. Operated by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, the facility is at 602 W. University. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 956/383-4972, or 1-800-800-7214.

**Hidalgo County Historical Museum**—Excellent interpretation of the Hispanic-accented area's colorful history; includes pioneer ranch and home items, clothing, early documents, and photos. Housed in restored county jail. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 121 E. McIntyre St. Admission.

**International Racetrack Association**—Drag racing every other Sat. Feb. - Nov. Nine miles north on U.S. 281; adjacent to Edinburg airport. For information, 956/318-0355 or 687-5702.

**Lake**—El Sal del Rey. See LAKES listing.

**Sheriff's Posse Rodeo**—Rodeo cowboys demonstrate calf roping, bull-riding, and Quarter Horse racing every Saturday evening at rodeo arena 2 miles south of Edinburg via U.S. 281; 0.5 mile west on Wisconsin Rd.; free admission except during full-performance rodeos.

## FALFURRIAS

Pop. 5,297

Alt. 109

Map W-16

**General**—Established 1883, Falfurrias is Spanish for "Heart's Delight," the name of a local wildflower. Seat of ranch-oriented Brooks County, nationally noted for cattle breeding and meat production. Beefmaster breed of cattle originated in county. Dairying began when the town's founder, Ed Lasater, divided 60,000 acres of ranchland into small dairy farms in the early 1900s. To provide an outlet for these products, Lasater constructed the Falfurrias Creamery, still famous for its "sweet cream butter." Other agriculture products include cotton, peanuts, vegetables, and melons.

Hunters take deer, turkey, javelina, and many types of birds in season.

**Don Pedrito Shrine**—Falfurrias tell the tale of Don Pedrito, a Mexican faith healer born in Jalisco, Mexico. Legend said he was cured through faith and given the gift of healing in a vision. He came to Los Olmos Ranch in 1881 and for some 25 years thousands of people came to him to be cured.

Thousands still visit the shrine each year. Take Texas 285 east 2 mi., F.M. 1418 north to shrine. Texas Historical marker at site.

**Heritage Museum**—Pictures, weapons, and other mementos of early frontier heritage as well as artifacts of pioneer days in Brooks County. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. 300 N. St. Mary's St. (U.S. 281).

## FANNIN

Pop. 125 (est.)

Alt. 143

Map T-18

**General**—Community in eastern Goliad County. Named for James W. Fannin Jr., Texas Revolutionary hero.

**Fannin Battleground State Historic Site**—A handsome monument marks site where Col. James W. Fannin Jr. and his men surrendered to Mexican army after Battle of Coletto Creek Mar. 20, 1836. Though Fannin believed surrender was on honorable terms, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna overruled local Mexican commander's clemency petition and ordered the Texans (some 342) executed at Goliad about a week later. See GOLIAD. Park is open daily. Facilities include water, rest rooms, electricity, and picnic accommodations. One mile south on Park Road 27.

## FLORESVILLE

Pop. 5,868

Alt. 389

Map S-16

**General**—Named for early rancher, Don Francisco Flores de Abrego, who established his ranch about six miles northwest in 1832. In 1833 nucleus of present town founded on land donated by Flores family; became Wilson County seat, 1885. Growing season of 285 days; marketing point for water-melons, flax, cotton, beef cattle, dairy and poultry products. Huge peanut statue on courthouse lawn recognizes peanut crop grown in area.

**Canary Islanders Cemetery**—Established prior to 1732 by islanders who formed first organized civil settlement in Texas at San Fernando de Bexar, now San Antonio. Several Texas families trace lineage from those colonists. Off U.S. 181 some two blocks north at Texas 97/F.M. 536 intersection (Plum & 10th sts.).

**Promised Land Dairy**—This is home to one of the largest registered all Jersey herd in the world. The farm is on 1,100 acres just outside the city. The dairy produces ice cream the old fashioned way and uses only Texas-grown fruits and nuts when possible. Gift shop and ice cream parlor feature old-fashioned ice cream cones and a wide variety of sundaes, as well as hot meal and deli sandwiches. There is also a petting barnyard where children of all ages can feed and pet the animals, and a 9-hole miniature golf course. Restaurant/gift shop hours, Sun. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tours daily. Call for extended seasonal hours. Three miles west on Texas 97. For information, 210/216-7464.

## GEORGE WEST

Pop. 2,524

Alt. 162

Map U-16

**General**—The city is near the center of Live Oak County and was named for its founder, George Washington West. West, a rancher, set out to build a town on the site of his ranch. He built a courthouse, school, highways, bridges, waterworks, light plant, and a hotel. Became seat of county in 1919. Town chiefly a retail center and shipping point for surrounding ranch and farm area. Area is highlighted by excellent hunting and fishing.

Stop by West Hotel Emporium. It's in a renovated 1919 hotel and features arts and crafts boutiques. Open Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. At 100 Houston St. (Business U.S. 59).

**Buck West House**—This was once the home of the nephew of George West, and it is one of the oldest homes in the city. The renovated facility houses the chamber of commerce office. For information on accommodations, dining, and events, stop by the office at 404 U.S. 281, or call 361/449-2033. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Grace Armantrout Museum**—Many of the museum's artifacts were donated in trust to the citizens of Live Oak County by Grace Armantrout. Displayed are a piano, housewares, collections of seashells, rocks, china, glassware, firearms, smoking pipes, eyeglasses, art, furniture, and early farm implements. On U.S. 281 one-half mile south of town. Open Wed. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. noon - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. For information, call 361/449-3325

**Lakes**—Choke Canyon and Corpus Christi. See LAKES listing.

**Live Oak County Museum**—Historical relics and documents of early Live Oak County. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., county courthouse.

**GOLIAD****Pop. 1,975****Alt. 187****Map T-17**

**General**—One of Texas' oldest municipalities; area inhabited long before recorded history. Early Spanish explorers list an Aranama Indian village at site, then called Santa Dorotea. In 1749 Spain established a mission and a nearby *presidio* (fort) for protection. "Remember Goliad" became a Texas Revolution battle cry honoring Col. James W. Fannin Jr. and his men who were massacred at Goliad. Memorial services at grave of Colonel Fannin and his troops on weekend near Mar. 27. City celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1999.

**Fannin Plaza**—City park at S. Market and Franklin sts. Includes Texas Revolution cannon, memorial shaft and several historical markers. Nearby is "hanging tree" on courthouse lawn, and Market House Museum.

**General Zaragoza State Historic Site**—Both a state park and international historic site, reconstructed birthplace and statue of one of Mexico's most famous military figures, Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza (1829-1862). Mexican general and liberal leader was minister of war under Juárez. In 1862 he commanded outnumbered, poorly equipped Mexican army in defense of the Central Mexico city of Puebla against elite French force. Zaragoza flung back attacking army, inflicting heavy losses and forcing its withdrawal to east coast; Zaragoza died of typhoid fever on Sept. 11, 1862. It is not generally known that this French army had proposed to march into Texas to establish aid and supply line to Confederate forces—but they reckoned without Zaragoza. The battle date, Cinco de Mayo (May 5), is a national holiday throughout Mexico, and is celebrated here and in several Texas cities. Site is two miles south off U.S. 183 at Presidio La Bahía.

**Goliad State Park**—184-acre park features reconstructed, refurbished replica Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, generally called Mission Espíritu Santo. Excellent interpretive displays, plus camping and picnicking area, rest rooms and river fishing spots. Mission established 1749 to Christianize Indian inhabitants of the area. One mile south off U.S. 183. Admission.

A junior-size Olympic swimming pool, across the highway and not a part of the state park, is operated by the city of Goliad. Open 2 - 8 p.m. in summer. Pool closed on Wed. For information, call 361/645-3405.

**Grave of Col. James W. Fannin Jr. and Men**—Monument marks grave of Colonel Fannin and his men who had surrendered to Mexican forces during the Texas Revolution, and were massacred at the order of General Santa Anna on Palm Sunday morning, March 27, 1836. Two miles south of Goliad off U.S. 183, a few hundred yards from Presidio La Bahía.

**Lake**—Coletto Creek. See Lakes listing.

**Market House Museum**—Quaint structure with cupola on the courthouse square. First public use on Aug. 30, 1853; in 1886, building became a firehouse with meeting hall. Local volunteer fire department used the building until 1964 and restored for use as museum in 1967. At Franklin and Market sts. 361/645-8767

**Presidio La Bahía**—As conquistadors of centuries ago explored new lands for "God, Gold and Glory," the Church played an integral part in colonization and dominion over vast New World empires. Missions were often first permanent Spanish settlement in new areas. To protect mission endeavors, a *presidio* (fort) was usually built nearby and manned by Spanish military forces.

Such was Presidio Santa Maria del Loreto de la Bahía, established in 1749 near Mission Espíritu Santo. It grew into one of the more important forts on the Spanish frontier, and is the finest example of a complete Spanish *presidio* in Texas. Its chapel is still in regular use for religious services.

Excavation and restoration of massive stone walls and other structures of fort have been completed by Kathryn O'Connor Foundation.

It was in this *presidio* that Fannin's men, during 1836 Texas Revolution, were imprisoned after their surrender, and were massacred in violation of honorable terms upon which they had laid down their arms.

A museum houses articles discovered during restoration, memorabilia of the Texas Revolution, and artifacts indicating nine levels of civilization at the site. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. except major holidays. Two miles south off U.S. 183, immediately south of San Antonio River. Call 361/645-3752 for information. Admission.

**Visitor Center**—For information on accommodations, restaurants, and events, stop by the chamber of commerce office Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. at 131 S. Courthouse Square, or call 361/645-3563. Visit the Web site at [www.tisd.net/~goliadcc](http://www.tisd.net/~goliadcc).

**HELENA****Pop. 35 (est.)****Alt. 305****Map S-16**

**General**—Though a few homes remain in rural Karnes County, Helena is a ghost town—killed, so they say, by one gunfight too many. Helena was established in 1852 near routes of famed Chihuahua Trail and Indianola-San Antonio Road. It was a boisterous frontier settlement with more than its share of outlaws and sudden death. During a saloon shooting one night in 1884, 20-year-old Emmett Butler, son of area's wealthiest rancher, Col. William Butler, was killed. Unable to determine who fired the fatal shot, Butler vowed to kill the town that killed his son. He persuaded the railroad, then building across South Texas, to bypass Helena by offering free land miles away. Other towns sprang up along railroad; Helena lost its county seat, and its citizens drifted away. Today old courthouse and other silent ruins are testimony to Butler's vow. On Texas 80 between Karnes City and Gillett.

Historic buildings around the square include a small turn-of-the-century farmhouse, a barn, the old post office, and one of the four original jail cells. All open same hours as Courthouse Museum.

**Courthouse Museum**—Helena's abandoned courthouse is now a museum of area history with early trail, ranch and home artifacts, tools and implements. Upstairs area features early courtroom setting. Schoolroom setting recalls days when building was used as a school, 1894 - 1945. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**HIDALGO****Pop. 7,322****Alt. 95****Map Z-16**

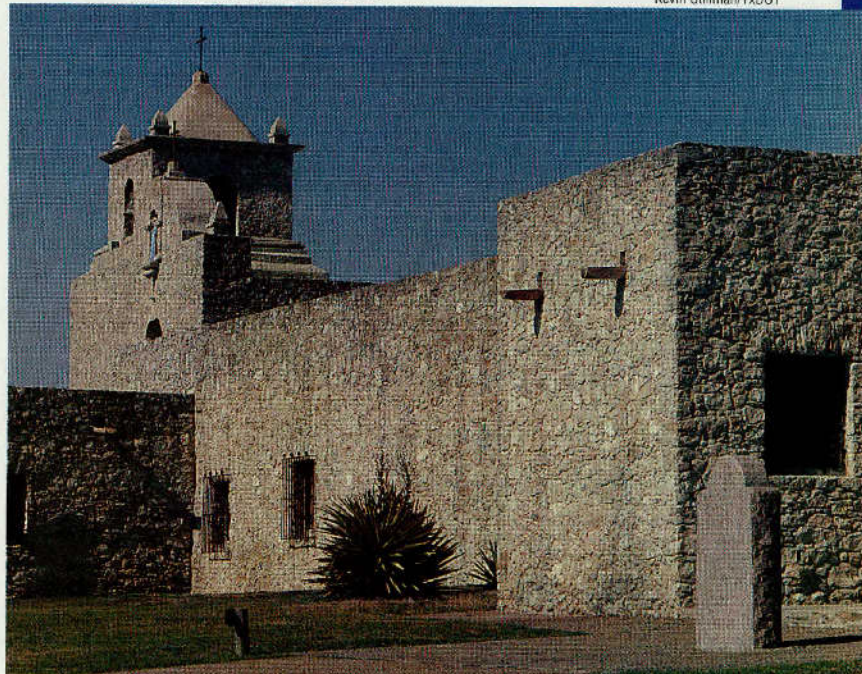
**General**—Hidalgo is on the Rio Grande south of McAllen in southern Hidalgo County at the junction of Texas 336 and U.S. 281. Members of José de Escandón's colony settled in the area as early as 1749. Over the years the course of the Rio Grande forced residents to move the town's buildings inland. For half a century, 1852-1902, the city served as the county seat, before the county government was moved to Edinburg. The first international toll suspension bridge was constructed in 1926 to Mexico's border city Reynosa. Today, the Hidalgo-McAllen-Reynosa International Bridge is one of the major ports of entry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, serving 11 million people within a 250-mile radius.

The Valley's subtropical climate attracts outdoor enthusiasts year round. Golfers can choose from the area's numerous courses. Nearby wildlife refuges host birders from throughout the world.

For information on accommodations, dining facilities, and events, stop by the Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce at 611 E. Coma St., or call 956/843-2734. **Hidalgo Pumphouse Heritage & Discovery Center**—Restored historic structure offers a hands-on experience and includes exhibits on the effects of

**Presidio La Bahía in Goliad**

Kevin Stillman/TxDOT



irrigation on the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It contains the only remaining steam pumps in the nation, and is listed as a National Register of Historic Places Landmark and a Texas Recorded Historic Landmark. When the pumps were built in 1909, the landscape was dotted with horses and cows. After the pumps began distributing water to some 72,000 farms, agriculture boomed and the scenery changed from vast ranchland to a garden of orchards and cotton fields. Open Tues. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 2 - 6 p.m. At 902 S. 2nd St. For information call 956/843-8686. Admission.

**Killer Bee**—The discovery of the first Africanized bee in the United States was found just outside Hidalgo in 1990. The fiberglass and steel insect, originally built as a float for Hidalgo's Borderfest Parade, now sits adjacent to city offices at 704 E. Texano.

**Mexico**—Reynosa is a charming Mexican city just across the Rio Grande. Several fine restaurants long famed for elaborate wild-game dinners; occasional Sun. afternoon bullfights. Gift shops cater to U.S. visitors with wealth of hand-craft items in the Zona Rosa (tourist area), and in traditional Mexican market in midtown. Several hotels offer van service to and from International Bridge. Access via Texas 336 to McAllen-Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge.

Another popular destination for Mexico-bound visitors is Monterrey. The drive is easy thanks to the new *Autopista*, an excellent highway from Reynosa straight into the heart of the city.

## LAREDO

Pop. 176,576

Alt. 438

Map W-13/14

**General**—Rich in south-of-the-border flavor, city is the major international crossing along U.S.- Mexican border. Established by Spanish land grant 1755; became county seat when Webb County organized in 1848. City has served under seven flags. Today this bustling border city, known as the Gateway to Mexico, has a diversified economy stemming from such sources as retail and wholesale consumer products, importing and exporting (Laredo is nation's

largest inland port), petroleum and natural gas, feeds and fertilizers, brick and tile, and visitors from both sides of Rio Grande. Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International Univ. call Laredo home.

Recent "maquiladora" industry, a binational manufacturing system where U.S. products are assembled in plants on the Mexican side, is prominent in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo.

Since 1898 the Washington's Birthday Celebration has honored George Washington as first Western Hemisphere leader to free a New World country from the dominion of European rule; sixteen-day February fiesta celebrated on both sides of the border includes parades, fireworks, dances, and impressive Abrazo coronation ceremony on International Bridge II. Festivities strengthen friendly ties between Texas and Mexico.

For more information on dining, lodging, and area events, contact the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-361-3360 or visit the Web site at [www.visitlaredo.com](http://www.visitlaredo.com).

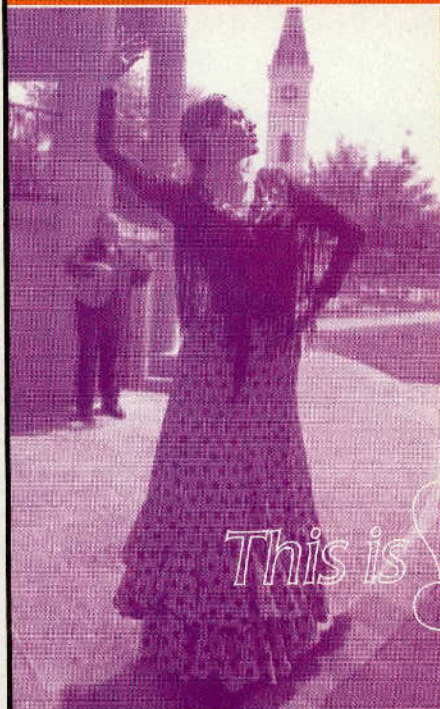
**Fort McIntosh**—Established by Army in 1848 immediately following Mexican War, fort was in continuous use until May, 1946. It was originally among series of border forts guarding against Indian attacks and was base for border patrol. Laredo Community College now on grounds. The old guard-house, chapel, warehouse, living quarters, infirmary, commander's house, and commissary remain in use as college department facilities and housing for faculty and students. The original earthen fort is now part of the Paso Del Indio Nature Trail. West End of Washington St. on banks of Rio Grande.

**Lake Casa Blanca International State Park**—371-acre park near eastern city limits on the Bob Bullock Loop (Loop 20), just north of U.S. 59. Picnic facilities, RV facilities, camping, rest rooms, dump station, boat ramp, and fishing pier. The 1,656-acre lake is among the state's best for largemouth bass fishing and is also an excellent spot for birding and wildlife watching.

**Lakes**—Casa Blanca, Falcon. See LAKES listing.

**Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center**—Away from the hustle and bustle of the downtown area on the campus of Laredo

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Michael Amador/TXDOT

### Texas Travel Information Center in Laredo

Community College, this oasis offers a learning experience about plants and animals found in the Rio Grande Watershed. Four outdoor ponds feature a breeding pair of American alligators in one area, large gar, catfish and bass in another, one with five species of turtles, and another featuring a wetland area where young alligators are placed. The planted area includes more than 50 types of native vegetation numbered for easy identification. A cactus garden, wildflower hill, and two areas of South Texas brush plants can also be examined. Indoors, species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and rodents are displayed in aquaria and terraria. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. during the college's class days and Sat. 9 a.m. - Noon on Laredo Community College Campus at West End Washington St. For information, call 956/764-5701. Admission.

**Laredo Center for the Arts**—Houses galleries that present changing exhibits of work by local, national, and international artists. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 500 San Agustín. Tel. 956/725-1715.

**Laredo Children's Museum**—Through hands-on experimentation and exploration, museum encourages the explorer and inventor in children. Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. West End Washington St. on campus of Laredo Community College. 956/725-2299. Admission. Branch museum located at Mall del Norte, 5300 San Dario, just off I-35.

**Nuevo Laredo**—Founded 1848, "New Laredo" across border is bustling city. Fine hotels, motels, and restaurants cater to large flow of visitors throughout year. Tourist and market areas located within comfortable walking distance from downtown Laredo. Shoppers find profusion of gift shops specializing in jewelry, crystal, onyx, metallic arts. *El Mercado*, traditional marketplace two blocks from international bridge, features handicrafts, baskets, hand-dyed cloth, serapés, clothing, leatherwork, silver goods—all with Mexican flair.

The Nuevo Laredo Turf Club, within walking distance from international bridge, offers wagering via live transmission from major U.S. and Mexican horse and greyhound tracks; restaurant and bar, opens 11 a.m. daily.

On seasonal basis, bullfights are held at the Luis Longoria Plaza de Toros bullring, six miles from the bridge.

**Republic of the Rio Grande Building/Museum**—Learn about the time when Laredo was its own country. Seven flags have flown over quaint, one-story building. Whitewashed plaster covers walls of rock and adobe that measure more than two feet thick. Now a museum, building served as capitol of unsuccessful Republic of the Rio Grande; displays guns, saddles, household goods of frontier homes with emphasis on period of Rio Grande Republic, 1839-41. Located at 1000 Zaragoza St., just south of San Agustín Plaza. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Webb County Heritage Foundation Trolley tours are also available Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m., Sat. 10 a.m. Admission. For information, call the Webb County Heritage Foundation at 956/727-3480.

**San Agustín Cathedral**—Originally built in 1767; present structure, third on site, dates from 1872. Was elevated to the rank of Cathedral on Aug. 9, 2001. Part of the Webb County Heritage Trolley Tour. On San Agustín Plaza in heart of old Spanish section.

**Texas Travel Information Center**—One of the centers provided by the state at key highway entrances to Texas, in State Capitol Complex, and at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry. Operated daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's. Staffed by uniformed, professional, bilingual travel counselors,

free services to all visitors include information, maps, literature on every part of the state, and expert assistance in charting routes. On I-35 north of Laredo, off mile marker 18; operated by Texas Department of Transportation.

**Washington's Birthday Celebration Museum**—Displays of sparkling gowns, photos and other memorabilia are displayed telling the story of Laredo's Washington's Birthday Celebration, now more than a century old. At 1000 Zaragoza St. For information, contact the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/361-3360.

## McALLEN

Pop. 106,414

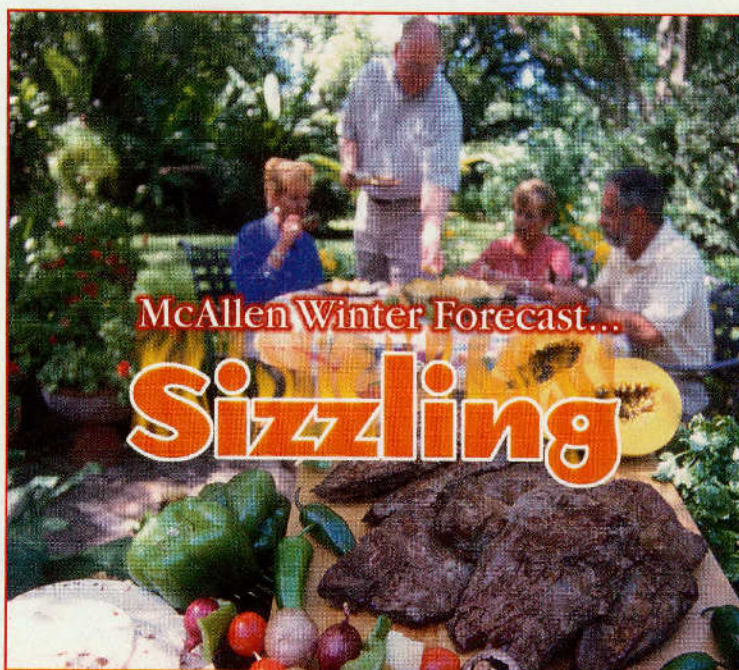
Alt. 122

Map Z-16

**General**—McAllen is in Texas' lush lower Rio Grande Valley, noted for subtropical climate, access to Mexico and tourist facilities catering to thousands of summer and winter visitors. It's a great destination for birders and other nature-oriented visitors. Many Midwesterners and Canadians spend entire winter here, strolling amid blossoming citrus groves. Mobile home parks and tourism organizations cater to visitors with planned daily activities such as dances, tours, bridge, domino and shuffleboard tournaments, shows, and concerts. Economy based on tourism, citrus, vegetables, oil, gas, international trade with Mexico and conventions that enjoy extensive facilities.

Outdoor activities are enjoyed year-round due to the subtropical climate. Golf is very popular and there are numerous courses available.

This area is one of the best birding locations in the entire country. Several wildlife refuges and state parks offer excellent bird watching activities. The McAllen Marsh on Idela St. is a popular place for birding when the ponds are full. Birders often see grebes, black terns, and black-necked stilts. Flocks of red-crowned parrots and green parakeets are frequently seen and heard throughout the city. Debate ensues over whether the birds are escapees or have been pushed to the northern reaches of their habitat. Nonetheless, they are thriving in McAllen. Best time to find them is at dusk.



In McAllen, enjoy sizzling barbecue, tropical climate and genuine South Texas hospitality all year round. Golf, swim, bird-watch, square dance, explore nearby Mexico. Do it all! Send or call today for your free Visitor's Guide. Then join your friends in McAllen, the Texas Tropics. Tell us more about McAllen!

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P.O. Box 790, McAllen, TX 78505-0790

Or call 1-877-MCALLEN (622-5536) • [www.mcalenchamberusa.com](http://www.mcalenchamberusa.com)



John Salschedt/TXDOT

### Visitors cross the border from McAllen for shopping in Reynosa, Mexico

Several citrus groves and fruit and vegetable growers offer tours. The McAllen Information Center can provide the information and location.

Shoppers find La Placita a great place to shop in renovated historic houses in the downtown area at 301 South Main St. Antique hunters enjoy several good antique stores sprinkled throughout the city, many specializing in Mexican antiques and furnishings.

**McAllen International Museum**—Variety plus! The city's showplace for traveling art exhibits, as well as from the museum's own collections featuring Mexican folk art, colorful masks, and costumes in Ethnography Gallery. Museum also features paintings and sculptures, as well as "hands-on" exhibits on science and natural history. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1900 Nolana.

**Mexico**—Reynosa is a charming Mexican city some 8 miles south of McAllen, just across the Rio Grande. Several fine restaurants long famed for elaborate wild-game dinners; occasional Sun. afternoon bullfights. Gift shops cater to U.S. visitors with wealth of handicraft items in the Zona Rosa (tourist area), and in traditional Mexican market in midtown. Several hotels offer van service to and from International Bridge. Access via Texas 336 to McAllen-Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge.

Another popular destination for Mexico-bound visitors is Monterrey. The drive is easy thanks to the new *Autopista*, an excellent highway from Reynosa straight into the heart of the city. The McAllen Chamber of Commerce has an office located in Cintermex which can supply visitors with detailed information about the city.

**Mountasia**—A fun-filled park for kids of all ages. Games include miniature golf, bumper cars, bumper boats, go-karts, video arcade and restaurant. Open Mon. - Thurs. 1 - 11 p.m., Fri. 1 - midnight; Sat., 11 a.m. - midnight; Sun. noon - 11 p.m. On U.S. 83. For information, call 956/682-9761.

**Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge**—About 16 miles southeast. See ALAMO.

**Visitor Center**—The McAllen Visitors' Information Center is located in the chamber of commerce. Information on attractions, accommodations, dining, events, as well as information on the Mexican borders towns of Reynosa and Monterrey is available. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 1-877-MCALLEN (622-5536) or visit the Web site at [www.mcallenchamberusa.com](http://www.mcallenchamberusa.com). At 10 N. Broadway.

## MERCEDES

Pop. 13,649

Alt. 61

Map Z-16

**General**—Mercedes refers to itself as "Queen City of the Valley" or "La Reina del Valle." It is one of the oldest towns in the Rio Grande Valley. The townsite was first located two miles east of the present site and named Lonsboro by Lon C. Hill, who had been active in bringing St. Louis and New York financiers to the area to look into land and irrigation possibilities. The present site in southern Hidalgo County was part of the Capisallo Ranch, and is named for Mercedes Díaz, wife of Porfirio Díaz, president of Mexico.

Today, Mercedes is a center for agriculture and varied industries, and it is well known for custom-made boots. The city's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico offer abundant recreational opportunities.

More than 100 native and indigenous shrubs and trees were planted on the Mercedes Civic Center grounds by volunteer Fleet Lentz for Texas' 150th Anniversary. Visitors, as well as school children, often visit the site to see the collection of native plants found in the surrounding four counties. The Center is at 530 E. 2nd St.

For information on historical markers, dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Mercedes Chamber of Commerce at 956/565-2221 or stop by the office at 316 S. Ohio St.

**Doll Display**—More than 500 dolls from 40 countries are displayed in the city's municipal building. The collection includes dolls from 11 tribes of native Americans, former presidents, and several movie stars. Some dolls date back to 1890. In the Mercedes Municipal Building at 400 South Ohio St. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Vintage Farm Equipment Museum**—Outside display of vintage farm equipment is displayed third week in March and for special events. The museum is on the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show grounds at 1000 North Texas Ave. For information, call the chamber of commerce at 956/565-2221.

## MISSION

Pop. 45,408

Alt. 134

Map Z-16

**General**—Established in 1824 by Oblate Fathers on site three miles south of present town; priests said to have planted orange grove that was one of first experiments with citrus culture in lower Rio Grande Valley. City is commercial center for vast citrus-truck-crop area and more than 30 industrial plants. Excellent birding opportunities are found at the Mission Nature Park off F.M. 494. Annual Texas Citrus Fiesta is held in late January. For more information, contact the Mission Chamber of Commerce at 800/580-2700 or visit the Web site [www.missionchamber.com](http://www.missionchamber.com).

**Anzalduas Park**—Hidalgo County park at Anzalduas Dam on the Rio Grande. Rest rooms, covered bird-observation pier, pavilion, boat dock, and paved roads. Picnicking in shady wooded area; grills available. About three miles south, near La Lomita Chapel.

**Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park**—600-acre area set aside to preserve native flora and fauna of lower Rio Grande Valley. On banks of Rio Grande, park offers camping, picnicking, rest rooms and showers, group shel-

### Los Ebanos Ferry near Mission



Stan A. Williams/TXDOT



Jack Lewis/DOI

Tiny La Lomita Chapel near Mission

ter, fishing, bird-watching, and nature study. Some 200 species of birds have been sighted, including such rare specimens as Audubon's oriole, hooded oriole, zone-tailed hawk, and red-eyed cowbird. Nature and hiking trails. Route of the Old Military Road of U.S. Army from Fort Ringgold to Brownsville was near the present park entrance; evidence of thoroughfare still visible. About 6 miles southwest via U.S. 83, F.M. 2062 and Park Road 43. Admission.

**La Lomita Chapel**—Hidden away in Texas mesquite, La Lomita (Little Hill) Chapel was first built in 1865, an adobe overnight way station for Oblate padres who regularly traveled on horseback between Brownsville and Roma. Tiny (12 by 25 feet) structure rebuilt of sandstone in 1889, still exhibits original brick floors, rough, heavy-beamed ceilings shaped from native trees, an outdoor "beehive" oven, and original water well. Chapel still used for private services such as weddings. Surrounding seven-acre park provides picnic facilities, cooking grills, rest rooms, brick walkways, and historical site signs. Three miles south via F.M. 1016.

**Los Ebanos Ferry**—Only existing hand-operated ferry on U.S.-Mexican border. Carries three cars at a time. In 1975 ferry was recognized with state historical marker. Crosses Rio Grande from area of ebony trees (los ebanos). Fourteen miles west on U.S. 83; 3 miles south on F.M. 886. Operates 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

**Shary-Shivers Estate**—Was home of John H. Shary, known as father of Texas citrus industry, first to grow fruit commercially. Later the home became the valley residence for Governor and Mrs. Allan Shivers. Across from house is Shary Memorial Chapel and park, maintained as memorial to Shary; Shary and wife interred in chapel. No public tours, but grounds are quite beautiful and well worth the trip. Four miles north, on Shary Rd. (F.M. 494).

## ORANGE GROVE

Pop. 1,288

Alt. 190

Map V-16

**General**—In Jim Wells County, the townsite was part of the Ventana Ranch. In 1889 when the railroad reached the area, ranch owners donated land to the railroad for a stop on the ranch. In 1908, 2,500 acres of land were cut from the ranch lands for the development of the town. A large portion of the land was sold to German settlers from other predominantly German Texas towns. Town named for the growing citrus industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Today, prime farms and ranching facilities sustain the economy. Year-round hunting opportunities abound in the area. Nearby lakes and the Texas coast provide excellent boating and fishing facilities.

For additional information on events, accommodations and restaurants, contact the Orange Grove Chamber of Commerce at 361/384-1300.

**Orange Grove Area Museum**—Historic artifacts and other memorabilia recall the history and German influence in the area. Exhibits include a replica of an early dry-goods store, the old post office front from the 1920s, and one of the first pianos to arrive in the area in the early 1800s (It has only 85 keys.) Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 119 S Eugenia St. For information, call 361/384-2231.

**Lake**—Corpus Christi. See LAKES listing.

**Lake Corpus Christi State Park**—See MATHIS.

## PANNA MARIA

Pop. 96 (est.)

Alt. 175

Map S-16

**General**—Reputed to be the oldest Polish settlement in America; is certainly the mother of Polish settlements in Texas. Established Dec. 1854 by Polish Catholics; because of a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, immigrants named their new town Panna Maria, meaning Virgin Mary in Polish. Early years of the colony were severely difficult, plagued by disease, climate extremes and outlaws who infested the region. Neighboring cowboys often ridiculed the strange, non-English-speaking foreigners. The community established the first Polish school in the United States, and other villages like Cestohowa, Pawelekville and Kosciusko sprang from this original settlement.

Today, the older generation still speaks an antiquated Silesian dialect (difficult for modern Polish speakers to understand), but Polish is no longer taught in local schools, and the language is being lost.

Visit the community cemetery and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, topped by a cross carried from Poland by the original colonists more than a century ago. During the renovation of the church in 2000, the old painted ceiling was restored. The church is open daily. A museum near the church may be visited by request at the Visitors' center. Southeast of San Antonio, just off Texas 123 between Stockdale and Karnes City; near Helena ghost town (see HELENA).

**Panna Maria Visitors' Center**—Administered by the Panna Maria Historical Society, the center is housed in the 1875 Pilarczyk Store. Souvenirs, handmade crafts, religious articles, local foods, as well as information and guided tours are available. A bed and breakfast facility is available in a newer convent no longer used by the nuns. Visitors' Center hours Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. For information, 830/780-4471.

**St. Joseph School Museum**—Housed in the oldest Polish school in the U.S.; artifacts (many from 19th-Century Poland) depicting life of Polish pioneers. The second floor was originally a convent for the teaching nuns. A project is underway to raise funds to restore the entire building. Museum may be visited by request at the Visitors' Center.

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**PEARSALL**

Pop. 7,157

Alt. 646

Map S-14

**General**—Established on International-Great Northern Railroad 1880; seat of Frio County and primary retail center for large area of diversified agriculture and livestock production. Giant peanut monument downtown salutes area's primary crop (over 55 million pounds marketed annually). Cotton, grain sorghum and vegetables grow on 54,000 irrigated acres. Honey is available from local honey producers. Fishing is available in Frio River and smaller streams; during seasons hunters take white-tailed deer, javelina, dove and quail.

**Old Frio County Jail Museum**—Features items used by Frio County early settlers. Open Tues. - Sat. Building also houses the offices of the Pearsall Chamber of Commerce. Located at the corner of Pecan and Medina sts.

**PHARR**

Pop. 46,660

Alt. 107

Map Z-16

**General**—Established in 1909, named after Henry N. Pharr, sugar planter from Louisiana. Center for winter vegetables, citrus and cotton. Home to Winter Texans; visitors find modern RV resorts and tourist-related activities. Access to Mexico is available via U.S. 281 and the Pharr/Reynosa International Bridge.

St. Jude's Catholic Church's beautiful gardens offer a peaceful setting for quiet meditations. Gardens always open; 505 S. Ironwood.

**Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge**—About 4 miles east of the Pharr/Reynosa International Bridge. See ALAMO.

**Smitty's Juke Box Museum**—For a bit of nostalgia, stroll by displays of jukeboxes, lovingly restored by the owner. Collection spans the whole era of music machines. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 116 West State. For information, call 956/787-0131.

**Visitor Center**—Supplies information concerning local events, historic buildings and tourist sites. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pharr Chamber of Commerce Building 308 W. Park. For information, call 956/787-1481.

**Ye Old Clock Museum**—This private collection houses more than 2,000 clocks dating back to 1690. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. at 929 East Preston Ave. For information, call 956/787-1923.

**Atascosa River Park**—Towering oak and pecan trees shade picnic area; also tennis courts, athletic fields, and a specially designed playground for children. Off U.S. 281 in town.

**Longhorn Museum**—Documents development of the American cowboy in area, from 1500s to present day. Indian and pioneer artifacts, ranch and farm implements, exhibits devoted to Texas Longhorns, wild mustangs, oil and coal fields. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Texas 97 west.

**POTEET**

Pop. 3,305

Alt. 525

Map S-15

**General**—In center of truck-farming region; called the "Strawberry Capital of Texas." Also extensive ranching, dairying, and production of peanuts, hay and forage grains.

**World's Largest Strawberry**—Celebrating the distinction of producing 40 percent of Texas' strawberries is a monument to the favorite fruit. Giant replica is seven feet tall and weighs 1,600 pounds. Also monument of Poteet Canyon, Steve Canyon comic strip character named for city.

Strawberry Festival held in early Apr. draws thousands to pay tribute to the sweetness of this region's fruit. In addition to judging and auction of strawberries, such events as a rodeo, fiddlers contest, and dances are held, along with fireworks and a variety of entertainment.

**RIO GRANDE CITY**

Pop. 11,923

Alt. 238

Map Y-15

**General**—Port of entry with international bridge between U.S. and Mexico; seat of Starr County. Area included in José de Escandón's Colony of 1753; when Gen. Zachary Taylor established Fort Ringgold in 1848, it added population and permanence.

**Fort Ringgold**—One of Texas' best preserved old military posts; named for Maj. David Ringgold, first army officer killed in Battle of Palo Alto (see BROWNSVILLE) that opened Mexican War. Established after Mexican War for protection against Indians and to assure Rio Grande as national boundary; deactivated in 1944. Among distinguished landmarks are Lee House, once occupied by Col. Robert E. Lee when he commanded Department of Texas before the Civil War, and old post hospital. Portions of fort are now part of Rio Grande City school system. Off U.S. 83 at east limit.

**Historic Inn—La Borde House**—Completed 1899 as home and border store by French merchant-riverboat trader. Converted to hotel operated by family until the 1930s. Designed by Parisian architects; combines European, Creole and Texas border styles with shady verandahs, courtyard, patio. Nine rooms and parlor restored and furnished in turn-of-century decor. Operates as hotel and restaurant; 601 E. Main St. (U.S. 83).

**Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto**—Replica of venerable shrine in Lourdes, France; contains statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and peasant girl whose visions led to establishment of original shrine. Near Starr County Courthouse at 305 N. Britton.

**ROMA**

Pop. 9,617

Alt. 200

Map Y-14

**General**—Founded in 1765, part of José de Escandón's Colony, around mission established 16 years earlier. On banks of Rio Grande, town was important riverboat shipping point until coming of railroads and highways. (Rio Grande is no longer navigable.) Homes, stores and ancient mission resemble town lifted bodily from interior of Mexico. Producers of film "Viva Zapata" chose Roma for outdoor scenes.

The Roma National Historic Landmark District encompasses most of the original townsite and highlights 38 identified historical structures and features that date between 1848 and 1928. The Conservation Fund, representing The Meadows Foundation, was joined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to form the Roma Restoration Project to restore historical buildings and to accomplish as much of the work as possible with local craftspeople. Although not open to the public, the buildings and restoration work can be viewed from the city's plaza.

**Falcon State Recreation Park**—572.6 acres on shores of Falcon Reservoir offer cabins, camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, trailer sites with electricity, rest rooms with showers, and snack bar. About 14 miles northwest via U.S. 83, F.M. 2098, Park Road 46; also accessible from Zapata. Admission.

**Lake**—Falcon Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**PLEASANTON**

Pop. 8,266

Alt. 374

Map S-15

**General**—Established 1858 but preceded by much earlier Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American ranching activities, town bills itself as "Birthplace of the Cowboy," epitomized by bronze statue in front of city hall. Hunters seek white-tailed deer (among largest in Texas) as well as dove and quail during fall-winter hunting seasons.

**Smitty's Juke Box Museum in Pharr**

Pharr Chamber of Commerce





Michael Amador/TXDOT

**The Alamo, Texas' most famous shrine, in San Antonio**

**Roma Historical Museum**—Changing exhibits trace influence of American, Spanish and Mexican cultures. Historic arts and crafts. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## SAN ANTONIO

Pop. 1,144,646

Alt. 701

Map R-15

**General**—In 1718, at an Indian village in a pleasant wooded area of spring-fed streams at the southern edge of the Texas Hill Country, Spain established Mission San Antonio de Valero (later called the Alamo). A customary accompanying presidio (fort), San Antonio de Bexar (Bay-her), protected mission endeavors. Today's city and county names derive from those 18th-Century Spanish beginnings that predate founding of the United States by more than half a century.

Several other Spanish missions soon followed, but the city's real growth dates from establishment of a villa (civil settlement) in 1731, Spain's first step to colonize Texas. Original colonists were Spanish Canary Islanders, to whom many Texas families proudly trace their roots. San Antonio remained the chief Spanish, then Mexican stronghold in Texas until the Texas Revolution.

Among many nationalities, German builders and businessmen were prominent settlers in the 19th Century. Today, San Antonio is colorfully accented by its multicultural heritage.

Institutions of higher learning include University of the Incarnate Word, Our Lady of the Lake Univ., St. Mary's Univ., National Univ. of Mexico, Trinity Univ., San Antonio College, Palo Alto College, St. Philips College, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and the Univ. of Texas at San Antonio.

Art museums and theaters are among the state's finest; its symphony orchestra rates with the nation's best, and San Antonians' love for fiestas is unsurpassed!

Some of those popular events include the the Holiday River Parade and Lighting Ceremony in Dec., the Texas Folklife Festival in Jun., the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo in mid-Feb., and the Starving Artists Show held at La Villita and along the River Walk each Easter.

Fiesta San Antonio spans 10 days the third and fourth weeks of Apr. This major event includes art exhibitions, coronation of King Antonio, Pilgrimage to the Alamo, concerts, band festivals, Battle of Flowers Parade, King's River Parade, Fiesta Night Parade, flower and fashion shows, musical productions, balls and street dancing, fireworks, and the fabulous series of "Nights in Old San Antonio."

For literature and details about city attractions and events, and for a schedule of the San Antonio Streetcars—an inexpensive, fun way to get to many of the city's downtown attractions—see Visitor Information.

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, built as part of 1968 HemisFair, features 241,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space, banquet halls, meeting rooms, and international conference center, and theatre for the performing arts. "The Confluence of Civilizations" mural on facade of theater is by Juan O'Gorman of Mexico. With extension of San Antonio River actually flowing into heart of the center, river boats provide an unusual means for convention delegates to travel from riverside hotels to meetings.

The Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Baseball Stadium is the home for the San Antonio Missions. The beautiful facility is at Callaghan Rd. and U.S. 90 West. For schedule and ticket information, call 210/675-7275.

San Antonio is noted for excellent golf courses with numerous municipal courses throughout the city. The newest are La Cantera Golf Course near Six Flags Fiesta Texas at 16401 La Cantera Parkway, and the Quarry Golf Course, 444 E. Basse Rd., was named one of the top municipal golf courses in the state. For more golfing information, call the San Antonio Visitors Center at 210/270-6700 or 1-800-447-3372.

**The Alamo**—On the east side of Alamo Plaza is the most famous spot in Texas where 189 defenders fell on March 6, 1836, after repeated attacks by Mexican General Santa Anna's army. Mission San Antonio de Valero, (The Alamo) was established in 1718 as the city's first mission. The chapel, one of the most photographed facades in the nation, and the Long Barrack are all that remain of the original fort. The Long Barrack Museum and Library are near the chapel. The museum contains relics and mementos from the Republic of Texas and offers narrations on the fall of the Alamo. The Alamo is in the heart of the city, bordered by beautifully landscaped grounds.

The Alamo is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 and 25; restricted hours Mar. 6. Alamo Plaza. For information, call 210/225-1391, or visit the Web site at [www.thealamo.org](http://www.thealamo.org).

**Alamo Cenotaph**—Dominating the plaza in front of the Alamo, the monument was designed by Pompeo Coppini, eminent Italian-born sculptor who adopted Texas as his home. Names of those who died at the Alamo are inscribed in marble.

**Alamodome**—160,000-sq.-ft. building provides facilities for basketball, football, concerts, and other events. It is the only domed stadium in North America with two permanent ice sheets. It's home for the Alamo Bowl, college football, and home games of the San Antonio Spurs. Tours Tues. - Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (No tours if event is scheduled.) 100 Montana St. For information, call 1-800-884-3663. You can also visit the Web site at [www.alamodome.com](http://www.alamodome.com). Admission.

**Alamo Museum - D.R.T. Library**—The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, located inside the Alamo walls and south of the Alamo shrine, is open to the public for research. The focus of the collection is the period of the Texas Republic, 1836-1846. Collections feature extensive material on the Alamo, including files on each of the Alamo defenders, and on San Antonio history. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; restricted hours Mar. 6. Closed Dec. 24 and 25. Visit the Web site at [www.drtil.org](http://www.drtil.org), or call 210/225-1071 for more information.

**Botanical Garden**—33 acres of formal gardens, fountains, and natural areas; Native Texas Area, South Central Xeriscape, Endangered Species Project, Formal Gardens, Biblical Garden, Garden for the Blind, Japanese Garden, and Children's Garden. (All walkways wheelchair accessible.)

Also featured are several Texas houses, reconstructed on the site to help illustrate and interpret the regional theme of the Native Texas Area.

Included is the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, a 90,000-square-foot complex of below-ground greenhouses that use the earth's insulation to limit plant exposure to the elements. Only the pyramidal glass roofs are visible from above ground. Sixteen feet below ground several ecosystems surround a courtyard and pond.

Also located in the facility is the Carriage House Kitchen and the Garden Gate Gift Shop. Open daily (Mar. - Oct. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Nov. - Feb. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.); closed Christmas and New Year's Day. At 555 Funston (just north of Fort Sam Houston). For information, call 210/207-3255 or visit the Web site at [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org). Admission.

**Brackenridge Park**—Includes rustic stone bridges and winding walks, gleaming pools, and Japanese Tea Garden. On occasion the Sunken Gardens Theater presents entertainment. Also, the *Brackenridge Eagle* miniature train takes visitors on a 3.5-mile ride around the park. Numerous picnic spots; bridle paths. Adjacent to San Antonio Zoo.

**Buckhorn Saloon and Museum**—This amazing museum has more than 4,000 items in its collection, including "Old Tex," a Longhorn steer with an 8-ft.9-in. spread on his horns. The saloon features an old bar more than a century old and offers table service and authentic old-West entertainment.



Bob Penning/700T

### San José, the "Queen of Missions"

Gunfighters face off at high noon every Sat. and Sun. Also check out the Buckhorn Arcade for fun and games. On the way out, be sure to see the gift shop. At 318 E. Houston St. For information, call 210/247-4000, or visit the Web site at [www.buckhornmuseum.com](http://www.buckhornmuseum.com). Admission.

**Carver Community Cultural Center**—Center traces its historic roots back some 85 years. Facility is both a gallery for contemporary art exhibits and a theater for performing artists. 226 N. Hackberry. 210/207-7211.

**Casa Navarro State Historic Site**—Former home of eminent statesman, rancher, José Antonio Navarro. Site consists of three restored structures: his home, kitchen and office. Navarro was among signers of Texas Declaration of Independence. Restored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.; authentic period furnishings, personal memorabilia. Open Wed. - Thurs. 1 - 4 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 228 S. Laredo St. Admission.

**Cowboy Museum**—Visit a replica of a Western town and see how the people of the Old West lived. Many artifacts enhance this walk through history. Also cowboy collectibles gift shop. Open daily, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. 209 Alamo Plaza. For information, call 210/229-1257. Admission.

**Diamond W Longhorn Ranch**—Popular chuckwagon supper and cowboy show features chuckwagon display, cowboy memorabilia, an old general store, roping, and old-fashioned cowboy stage show. Open daily 6:30 - 9 p.m. Reservations required. 18725 Bandera Rd. near Helotes on Texas 16. For information and reservations, call 210/695-4888.

**Friedrich Wilderness Park**—Operated by city of San Antonio as a nature preserve. Provides nesting habitat for black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler. Five miles of hiking trails. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (til 8 p.m. Apr. - Sep.). I-10 west to Camp Bullis exit; west on frontage road to park. Donations accepted. For information, call 210/698-1057.

**General Cos House**—Outstanding example of early San Antonio dwelling, in La Villita. Was scene of signing on Dec. 9, 1835, of Articles of Capitulation by Gen. Perfecto de Cos after Texans had captured San Antonio from Mexican forces. Interior not available for public viewing.

**Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center**—Dedicated to preserve, promote, and develop the arts and culture of the Chicano/Latino/Native American peoples. Six programs include dance, literature, media arts, theatre arts, and visual arts. Home of annual Tejano Conjunto Music Festival, Cine-Festival Film Festival, Hecho a Mano arts market, and the San Antonio Inter-American Book Fair and Literary Festival. 1300 Guadalupe St. Visit the Web site at [www.guadalupeculturalarts.org](http://www.guadalupeculturalarts.org), or call 210/271-3151 for more information.

**Guenther House**—Historic house was built by Carl Hilmar Guenther, founder of Pioneer Flour Mills, in 1859. Restored by the company as a museum, restaurant, and retail store. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Restaurant hours Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 205 E. Guenther St. Tel. 210/227-1061.

**HemisFair Park**—Site of 1968 Texas World's Fair, now a focal point of downtown entertainment and recreation. The 750-foot Tower of the Americas

offers two sky-high dining levels serving lunch and dinner, plus an observation deck with panoramic view of the city. Observation deck open 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily; admission. Also on the grounds is Institute of Texan Cultures and Mexican Cultural Institute. (See individual listings of each.)

A water garden, around Tower of the Americas, features calm water flowing into rushing waterfalls. Walkways, wading ponds, and observation decks.

**Hertzberg Circus Museum**—This unusual museum contains more than 20,000 items of Big Top memorabilia, including a priceless collection of antique posters, Tom Thumb's carriage and an intricately detailed scale model of the three-ring circus. Weekends often feature classic film series, jugglers, mimes, and magicians. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 210 W. Market St. For information, call 210/207-7810.

**IMAX® Theatre, San Antonio**—Now two IMAX® screens double the excitement of the award winning IMAX presentations as you soar through the clouds or explore beneath the ocean. IMAX three-dimensional features brings images right to your lap.

"Alamo...The Price of Freedom," is a larger-than-life IMAX re-creation of the 13-day siege and fall of the Alamo and the story of the 189 defenders who fought and died there. Shown seven times a day on a giant screen with a six-track stereo sound system.

Theaters open daily at 9 a.m. In Rivercenter Mall, 803 E. Commerce St., across from rear entrance to the Alamo. For schedule of films, call 210/247-4629. Visit the Web site at [www.IMAX-SA.com](http://www.IMAX-SA.com).

**Institute of Texan Cultures**—Here's history not concerned with dry events, but with the people who accomplished them—people who created the robust kaleidoscope that is Texas today. Twenty-six ethnic and cultural groups featured in a rich variety of exhibits—where they came from and what they did, their food and clothing, their music and festivals. Don't miss the multimedia show four times daily in the Institute's central dome. It's a great place to discover the roots of Texas. Open Tues. - Sun., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. HemisFair Park. For information, call 210/458-2300. Admission.

**King William District**—Area settled by prominent German merchants in late 19th Century, designated state's first Historic District. Virtually all homes and mansions have been or are being restored.

**Lakes**—Braunig, Calaveras, Canyon, Medina. See LAKES listing.

**La Villita**—(The Little Village) One of the original settlements of San Antonio, this restored village captures charm of the past amid narrow streets, shaded patios, and authentic adobe houses with small restaurants, arts, and craft shops. Beside the river in heart of downtown, a romantic setting for city fiestas and cultural events. Bounded by S. Alamo and Nueva sts.

*Ameson River Theatre* in the open air of the River Walk below La Villita presents Latin-flavored and other performances several times weekly during much of the year.

**Lone Star Trolley Tours**—One-hour fully narrated tours of historic downtown aboard classic turn-of-the-century style trolleys. The custom-built red and green trolleys are air conditioned and introduce visitors to the history and beauty of the Alamo City. Trolleys are wheelchair accessible. Boarding and tickets at Plaza Theatre of Wax at 301 Alamo Plaza. For information, call 210/224-9299.

**McNay Art Museum**—Housed in what was the home of the late Marion Koogler McNay, the museum opened in 1954 as Texas' first museum of modern art. Marion McNay left her art collection, her Mediterranean-style residence, and an endowment for the advancement and enjoyment of modern art. Focusing primarily on 19th and 20th century European and American art, artists featured include Cézanne, Picasso, Gauguin, Matisse, O'Keeffe, and others. The museum's collection of prints and drawings is one of the best in the Southwest and its Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts is one of the finest in the world. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 6000 N. New Braunfels St. For information, call 210/824-5368.

**Majestic Theatre**—Opened in 1929; closed in 1974; reopened in 1989 as a performing arts center, the Majestic is said to be one of the finest "atmospheric" theatres ever built. Completely restored, and entered on the National Register of Historic Places, the theatre combines Baroque, Spanish Mission, and other motifs from Greek and Roman traditions to create a fantasy environment. For performance schedules call 210/226-3333. 224 E. Houston St.

**Mercado, El**—Like a typical market from the interior of Mexico: piñatas, jewelry, clothing, leather goods, cascarones, pottery, music and art galleries. Have some enchiladas, margaritas, explore the shops, listen to music and people-watch. Don't be surprised to find yourself in the middle of a fiesta! Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (till 8 p.m. Jun. - Aug.). Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter. Downtown at Santa Rosa and West Commerce sts.

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**Mexican Cultural Institute**—Library and display of Mexican art and crafts. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 600 HemisFair Plaza. For information, call 210/227-0123.

**Military Bases**—Since San Antonio's founding as a presidio more than two centuries ago, the military has been an integral part of the city. Most military installations require a visitor's pass, which usually may be obtained at the gate. For security reasons, some areas are restricted.

**Brooks Air Force Base**—Founded in 1918 and scene of history's first mass paratroop drop. Includes USAS School of Aerospace Medicine, Air Force Medical Support Agency, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, among others. It is a blending of scientific medical, environmental, acquisition and instructional expertise.

**Fort Sam Houston**—Established in 1845 and moved to its present location in 1876, this installation has long been one of the Army's most important installations. The focal points of this National Historic Landmark, the Quadrangle and Watchtower, look down upon the Headquarters of the Fifth Army. As the "Home of Army Medicine," the post includes the Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command, the Army Medical Department Center and School, and Brooke Army Medical Center.

**Fort Sam Houston Museum**—Chronicles the growth and development of the post from 1845, when the post occupied the historic Alamo, up to the present. Exhibits depict the post, the uniforms and equipment of the soldiers stationed here, important events and some of the distinguished Americans who lived here, including John J. Pershing and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Featured are the Buffalo Soldiers, the Rough Riders, and the Birth of Military Aviation. Self-guided tour maps of the historic sites on post are available. Open Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Building 123 on Stanley Rd. For information, call 210/221-1886.

**U.S. Army Medical Department Museum**—Museum depicts the history of military medicine since 1775. Exhibits chronicle the progress of the medical arts and science which conserve the fighting strength of the Army and their impact on American society from the evacuation of casualties from the battlefield and the conquest of diseases. The contributions of distinguished Army doctors such as Walter Reed are featured. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Building 1046 at the intersection of Stanley Road and Harry Wurzbach Highway. For information, 210/221-6358.

**Lackland Air Force Base**—History and Traditions Museum is open Mon. - Fri. (except holidays) and is free to the public. Collections include aircraft equipment dating from World War I to current jet engines and aircraft displays. "Gateway to the Air Force" aptly describes Lackland, where many airmen first train.

**Randolph Air Force Base**—Official Air Force Records Center, also provides pilot training. The base's famous landmark, dubbed the "Taj Mahal,"

has become a symbol of professional flight training to thousands of Air Force pilots.

**Missions of San Antonio**—In addition to the Alamo, which is managed by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, four other San Antonio missions form the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. They were established by Franciscan friars in the early 18th Century. A map for the "Mission Trail" driving route (signed on city streets) is available from the Visitor Information Center. All missions are open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción**—Established in 1731, more than 20 years under construction. Massive church with twin towers and cupola is oldest unrestored stone church in U.S., standing as completed in 1755. Adjacent cloister arcade is partly restored. Church acoustics are equated with the Mormon Tabernacle. 807 Mission Rd.

**Mission San Francisco de la Espada**—Also established 1731, favorite of many students of Spanish period in Texas, and popular with photographers. The little church building, restored several times, is still in use. Ruins of walls that once surrounded the mission compound; foundations of a granary; baluarte, or fortified tower, can still be seen. Near the mission is an aqueduct over Piedras Creek, part of mission's irrigation system built in 1740s. System includes dam on San Antonio River and acequia (irrigation ditch) still in use after more than 200 years. The aqueduct is a National Historic Landmark.

**Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo**—Known as the "Queen of Missions," is both a State and National Historic Site. Founded 1720; church built between 1768-82. Entire mission compound has been restored, including outer wall with Indian dwellings, granary and workshops. Rebuilt flour mill outside north wall was originally constructed about 1790, first in Texas. Visitors are fascinated by rich facade of domed church, and by sculptured exterior of sacristy window known as "the Rose Window," or "Rosa's Window." In granary is model of mission as it looked in late 1700s. 6701 San José Dr. at Mission Rd. Visitor center open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For information, call 210/932-1001.

**Mission San Juan Capistrano**—Like both Espada and Concepción, established 1731. Extensive restoration work has been carried out. Besides charming little chapel with open bell tower, there are ruins of a larger church that was never completed. Restored missionary residence displays artifacts from Spanish colonial period. Church still serves community of Berg's Mill, now part of city. Graf Rd. off Mission Rd.

**Monarch Collectibles**—Dolls of every description can be found in the quaint Queen Anne-style house. More than 3,000 dolls on display. Miniature doll houses, furniture, and accessories. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 2012 NW Military Hwy. For information, 210/341-3655.

**Natural Bridge Caverns and Wildlife Ranch**—See NEW BRAUNFELS.  
**O. Henry's House**—William Sydney Porter worked in San Antonio in 1895 while writing columns and editing his newspaper, the *Rolling Stone*. His old

#### Sidewalk cafes, boutiques and hotels line the River Walk in San Antonio



house, formally moved to a local brewery, is now downtown between San Fernando Cathedral and El Mercado, a place he frequently visited. Workers numbered every block and beam in the house before dismantling, moving and reconstructing it at its new location. House is furnished with Victorian-era pieces. Open daily 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. At the corner of Dolorosa and Laredo sts.

#### **Pioneer, Trail Drivers, and Texas Rangers Memorial Museum**—

The "Trail Drivers" collection of artifacts recalls the days of the great trail drives between 1886 and 1895 when more than 10 million cattle were driven north out of Texas; saddles, branding irons, spurs. "Pioneer Room" reflects the life-style of early Texas settlers. "Rangers" collection honors those early lawmen. Outdoor sculptures depict a Texas Ranger (by Richard Cook) and a trail driver (by Gutzon Borglum). Open May - Aug. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sept. - Apr. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 3805 Broadway. For information, call 210/822-9011. Admission.

**Plaza Wax Museum**—More than 250 lifelike wax figures in theme settings: Hollywood, Horror, Freedom's Journey, Religion, the Children's Land of Make Believe and much more. Heralded as one of the most entertaining wax museums in the world. The museum features stars such as Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, the Three Stooges and characters such as Pinocchio and Cinderella. Open daily at 9 a.m. Across from the Alamo at 301 Alamo Plaza. For information, call 210/224-9299. Admission.

**Ripley's Believe It or Not!**—Experience the ultimate adventure and explore theme galleries filled with over 500 one-of-a-kind oddities and artifacts from the beautiful and bizarre world-famous collection of Robert Ripley. Featuring items such as the world's smallest painting, hand-carved 1,000 piece miniature circus, and authentic dinosaur eggs. Step into a Texas hurricane and see what 200 m.p.h. winds can do. In same facility as Plaza Wax Museum. Call 210/224-9299 for information. Open daily at 9 a.m. Across from the Alamo at 301 Alamo Plaza. Admission.

**River Walk**—One level below the busy streets of downtown, the Paseo del Rio is San Antonio's premier visitor experience! The enchanting San Antonio River meanders several miles through midtown beneath giant cypress trees and palms, accented by tropical foliage and flowering shrubs. The popular River Walk is edged by hotels, art and gift shops, restaurants and sidewalk cafes, boutiques, and live music. Half-hour scenic riverboat cruises (fee). River Walk access from various locations including Rivercenter Mall lagoon, and city streets including South Alamo, Losoya, Presa, Navarro, St. Mary's, Market, Commerce and Crockett.

**San Antonio Children's Museum**—This bilingual hands-on museum is two blocks from the River Walk in the heart of downtown just a short distance from the Alamo. Designed as a walking tour of the city, children and their families can check out historical landmarks featured in the more than 80 interactive exhibits. Included is a life-size airplane with control tower for role playing; a front-end loader to drive; and Alamo, the cow in the Okie Dokie Kiddie Corral to milk; and a bear to care for in the teddy bear hospital. Open Sep. - Memorial Day Mon. 9 a.m. - noon; Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Summer hours Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. For information, call 210/212-4453. Admission.

**San Antonio Museum of Art**—Since its opening in 1981, the museum has become home to an array of Greek and Roman antiquities, Asian art, Latin American art, and European and American paintings. Housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery that was built in 1884, the museum continues to grow. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art is the home for the museum's permanent collection of Spanish Colonial/Republican, modern/contemporary, folk art and pre-Columbian art. The American and European Painting gallery holds works from popular favorites John Singer Sargent, Francis Copley, and Andrew Wyeth. Parking is located in front of the museum entrance and on the west side of the main building. Open Tues. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. 200 W. Jones Ave. between Broadway and St. Mary's St. For information, 210/978-8100, or visit the Web site at [www.sa-museum.org](http://www.sa-museum.org). Admission, except free Tues. 3 - 9 p.m.

**San Antonio Zoo**—An oasis inhabited by more than 3,500 animals of 750 different species, just five minutes from the Riverwalk and Alamo. One of the top zoos in North America, this AZA (American Zoo and Aquarium Association) accredited zoo was established in 1914 boasts a highly naturalistic environment set in a former limestone quarry. The San Antonio Zoo is the first zoo outside of Africa to produce a white rhino calf, and other achievements include the successful reproduction of Chilean flamingos, whooping cranes, fossa and snow leopards. The San Antonio Zoo Eagle miniature train winds

through Breckenridge Park for two miles providing a relaxing 18-minute ride. Cost for the train ride is \$1.75 for kids 3-11 and \$2.25 for ages 12 and over. Wheelchair access, restaurant and gift shop. Open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (till 6 p.m. during the summer). Near downtown at 3903 N. St. Mary's at Brackenridge Park. Admission is \$5 for kids 3-11 and seniors; \$7 for ages 12 and over.

**San Fernando Cathedral**—Construction began on the cathedral shortly after Canary Island colonists, who were given land and title by King Phillip V of Spain, settled in what is now known as San Antonio in 1731. Completed in 1750, San Fernando now stands as the oldest cathedral sanctuary in the U.S. and remains an active parish of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The cathedral has numerous links to history: damaged by fire in 1828, it was the site of the marriage of Jim (Don Santiago) Bowie, future hero of the Alamo, to Ursula de Veramendi in 1831; Gen. Santa Anna raised the red flag of "no quarter" from the cathedral during the siege of the Alamo in 1836; a new dome replaced one that collapsed in 1872; and it is now the geographical center of San Antonio. After undergoing renovation, was rededicated in 1977. Site of historic papal visit in 1987. 115 Main Plaza between West Market & West Commerce sts. downtown.

**SeaWorld San Antonio**—Everything is bigger in Texas, and SeaWorld San Antonio is no exception! It's the world's largest marine life adventure park with more than 25 major shows, rides, educational experiences and family attractions for all ages. SeaWorld San Antonio counts the "Steel Eel" hyper-coaster and "Great White" inverted coaster among its newest additions.

"Shamu Visions" show, starring world-famous Shamu and companion killer whales, incorporates TV technology to bring guests incredible close-ups of the monarchs of the sea on a two-story-high video screen.

Other popular SeaWorld shows include "Symphony of the Sea," featuring graceful beluga whales and high-flying Pacific white-sided dolphins; "Fools with Tools," a comedy caper in which sea lions Clyde and Seamore muddle through a home repair nightmare along with their otter and walrus sidekicks; and the Intensity Games, an action-packed water ski and sports spectacle.

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There's plenty of fun for the entire family at this beautiful 250-acre show-place. The Lost Lagoon water park features a huge wave pool, towering water slides and kid-sized activity area, Lil' Gators Lagoon. Kids can play and splash at Shamu's Happy Harbor, a children's area featuring a maze of leaky pipes and valves, slides, net climbs, and other colorful, creative play elements. Guests also can cool off on Texas Splashdown, the longest and tallest flume ride in Texas, and on Rio Loco, a twisting, turning, churning river rapids ride.

Speaking of rides, "The Steel Eel" begins with a pulse-pounding, 15-story drop, reaches speeds of 65 mph and features non-stop peaks, valleys and camelbacks which create maximum "air time," or weightlessness, the signature characteristic of a hypercoaster. Visitors also can dive deep on the "Great White," the park's thrill-packed inverted coaster. Riders dangle their legs from the coaster ski-lift style and go heels-over-head five times.

Mysterious hammerhead sharks and a rainbow of tropical fish cruise the depths of Sharks/The Coral Reef while more than 200 perky penguins frolic in the ice and snow of the Penguin Encounter.

SeaWorld San Antonio guests can visit the world-renowned Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale horses; feed and touch Atlantic bottlenose dolphins at the Marine Mammal Pool, or take a stroll through the Texas Walk sculpture garden where life-size bronze statues of famous Texans are located.

Also available for an additional price is Dinner with Shamu, a backstage, poolside buffet dinner and photo session with killer whales and trainers. For those who want to delve deeper into the marine sciences, the Education Department offers an array of field trips, workshops and camps, including in-residence Adventure Camps for junior high and high school students.

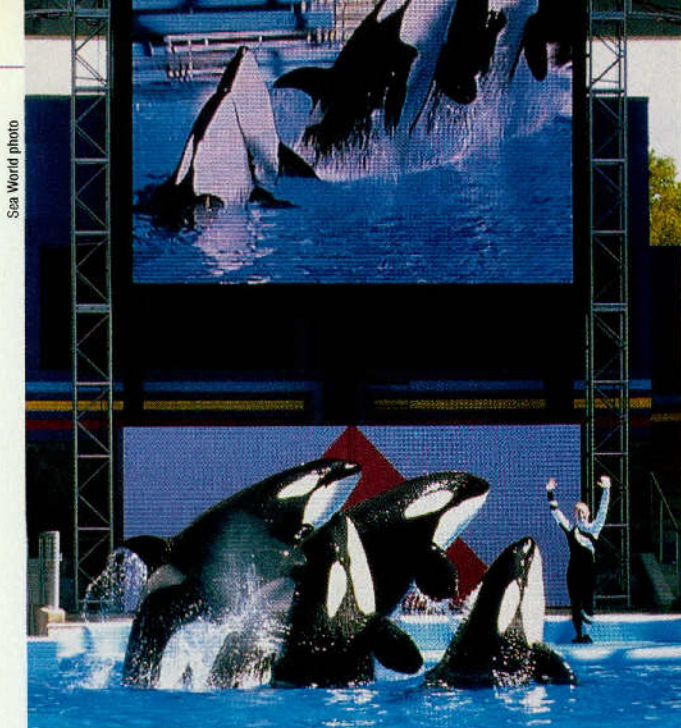
SeaWorld also offers SeaLion Interaction Program (SLIP), a two-hour educational adventure culminating in participants donning wetsuits and getting into the water with California sea lions. SLIP is similar to the popular Beluga Interaction Program (BIP), an up-close, in-the-water encounter with beluga whales. For Dine with Shamu, SLIP, or BIP reservations, call 210/523-3900.

The park is open weekends and some weekdays in spring; daily during summer; weekends in fall through Oct. 29. For schedule and information, call 210/523-3611 or check SeaWorld's Web sites: [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com) and [www.seaworld.org](http://www.seaworld.org). At Ray Ellison Dr. and Westover Hills Blvd. off Texas 151, 16 miles northwest of downtown. Admission.

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas**—Set in a limestone quarry, the 200-acre theme park surrounded by 100-foot cliffs highlights Texas culture and music.

Attractions include such rides as Poltergeist, which catapults riders to a speed of 60 mph in 3.4 seconds, then sends them on a track loaded with curves

## El Mercado in San Antonio



Shamu the Whale stars at Sea World of Texas in San Antonio

and upside-down flips; Scream, a tower which lets 36 passengers at a time enjoy fantastic shot and free-fall patterns while experiencing 4 Gs of gravitational pull; and Boomerang, a super coaster which throws riders for a loop—then through a corkscrew, then through another loop—and then all over again, but backwards!

The Park also has pair of cool water attractions at Armadillo Beach to beat the heat—Lone Star Lagoon, with a million-gallon wave pool shaped like the State of Texas, and the five-story Texas Treehouse, topped by a Texas-sized cowboy hat that fills with 400 gallons of water, then systematically tips over, drenching everyone below.

Top-notch live show productions are also part of the excitement. Fiesta Texas is a "town built just for fun" where the cultures, history, spirit and fun of Texas and the Southwest are dramatized in the rides, shows and other family entertainment. Themed areas include *Los Festivales*, a nonstop fiesta atmosphere featuring the strong roots of San Antonio's Mexican and Spanish heritage with two theaters and restaurant; *Crackaxle Canyon* recalling the days of 1920s boomtowns, including narrow gauge railroad and train station, two theaters, rapid-river ride, a world-class wooden roller coaster, the "Rattler," and restaurants featuring traditional Texas-style barbecue; *Spassburg* ("Spass" means "fun") reflects German influences in Texas Hill Country with Sangerfest Halle restaurant and music hall, early 1900s-style carousel, train station, and children's rides; *Rockville* salutes nostalgic days of Texas in the 1950s with everything from high school gym to corner malt shop. "Rockin' at Rockville High" show is consistently named one of the top entertainment theme park shows in America.

*Fiesta Bay Boardwalk* is a '50s-'60s-era boardwalk that features a 90-ft. Ferris wheel, Thunder Beach Speedway go-carts, and Screamin' Skycoaster.

For information, call 1-800-IS FIESTA (473-4378). Open daily summer; weekends spring and fall. The park celebrates Fright Fest during Oct. with specially themed shows and entertainment. Closed Dec. - Feb. Off Loop 1604 and I-10.

**South Texas Medical Center**—Organized in 1947 by San Antonio Medical Foundation to create a world-class medical center for patient care, education, and research. Today, the 900-acre complex includes The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital, Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital, St. Luke's Baptist Hospital, Child Guidance Center, Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, Health Careers High School, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Medical Center, Southwest Mental Health Center, Cancer Therapy and Research Center, Grossman Cancer Center, American Heart Association, Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, Methodist Hospital, and Methodist Children's Hospital of South Texas, Ronald McDonald House, and the Winston School. Take I-10 west to Wurzbach Rd.; south on Wurzbach Rd. to complex.

**Southwest School of Art and Craft**—One of only a handful of non-degree-granting professional level art schools in the nation, the school offers

Sea World photo

Michael Amador/TXDOT

classes for adults, children and teens at a range of skill levels. Visitors can see contemporary art exhibitions and lecture by visiting artists. The picturesque grounds of the historic Ursuline Campus, once a girls' school and convent. Other guided tours, a sales gallery and a weekday lunch restaurant are available. The adjacent, contemporary Navarro Campus features a large gallery for contemporary art. Exhibition hours are Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Ursuline Sales Gallery is open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Restaurant hours for lunch is Mon. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tel 210/224-1848. 300 Augusta St. at Navarro St., across from Central Library.

**Spanish Governor's Palace**—In 1772, San Antonio became seat of Spanish government in Texas, headquartered at 10-room Spanish Governor's Palace on Military Plaza. It was to this adobe-walled structure that Moses Austin came in 1820 for permission to bring a colony of U.S. citizens into Spanish Texas. Many commandants of Presidio de Bexar and Spanish governors lived and ruled here. Building is typical of colonial Spain with carved doors, low-beamed ceilings, grape arbor and mosaic-tiled patio. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and the Battle of the Flowers Holiday. 105 Military Plaza. For information, call 210/224-0601. Admission.

**Splashtown-San Antonio**—18 landscaped acres of cool water thrills right in the heart of the city. The popular waterpark features Kid's Kove, a children's area with scaled-down rides and slides for the younger set. More than 50 rides include the Siesta Del Rio, a relaxing river ride, the largest wave pool in South Texas, and the Lone Star Luge that sends visitors twisting and sliding the length of two football fields. Starflight, a soaring double-tube ride, is a trip through total darkness. The popular park also has concession stands, sand volleyball courts, and basketball courts. Open mid-Apr. - late May weekdays, daily through mid-Aug., and weekends until mid-Sept. I-35 at Coliseum Rd. Admission. Tel. 210/227-1100, or visit the Web site at [www.splashtownsa.com](http://www.splashtownsa.com).

**Streetcars**—Utilizing rubber-tired replicas of antique cars, five routes of VIA San Antonio Streetcars reach historic districts and other sites of visitor interest. Route maps available at hotels and Visitor Information Center. Small fare.

**Sunset Station**—All aboard! The complex is a destination for great entertainment, food and live music, as well as shopping all set in the historic backdrop of the 1902 Southern Pacific train station in the historic St. Paul Square District. Sunset Station showcases San Antonio's rich cultural diversity. With four music stages and five dance floors, there are musical choices to suit everyone's style, as well as an array of specialty restaurants. At 1174 E. Commerce St. For information, call 210/222-9481 or visit the Web site at [www.sunset-station.com](http://www.sunset-station.com).

**Texas Adventure, The**—Some visitors call it a 200-seat time machine! It's the first Encountarium F/X Theatre of its kind where special effects bring ghost-like images to life reliving the struggle for Texas Independence with the Alamo drama as its centerpiece. A cannon fires and a cannon ball races overhead; muskets shoot and a lamp shade on a wall across the room falls; the sky erupts with fire much like it did during the legendary battle. Other items include historical displays, souvenir store, and snack bar. Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.; first show is at 10 a.m. with shows every hour. For information, 210/227-8224. 307 Alamo Plaza. Admission.

**Texas Highway Patrol Museum**—Museum honors Texas state troopers of yesterday and today. The Hall of Fame shows the faces and tells the stories of officers who have died in the line of duty. Exhibit honors the Medal of Valor recipients. Other presentations include Texas Highway Patrol artifacts. Visitors learn about the day-to-day duties of a state trooper and how they must react when faced with danger. Open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 812 S. Alamo St. For information, call 210/231-6030.

**Texas Star Trail, The**—Historical 2.6-mile walking tour designated by blue disks in sidewalks, with 80 historic sites and landmarks identified. Brochure/map available from the San Antonio Conservation Society, 107 King William St. For information, call 210/224-6163.

**Texas Transportation Museum**—Features antique horse-drawn and gas-powered vehicles, three model railroads, and other railroad memorabilia. Garden railroad runs the last Sun. of the month. Open Thurs., Sat., Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11731 Wetmore Rd. Group tours for Thurs. morning train rides require reservations. 210/490-3554. Admission.

**Vietnam and Korean Veterans Memorial**—Vietnam memorial depicts a scene from the Battle for Hill 881 South—a radio man calling for help for a wounded comrade. Korean statue depicts a Marine and a soldier sitting back-to-back in an outpost bunker in the subzero cold of North Korea in winter of

1950. In Veterans Plaza at corner of E. Martin and Jefferson sts. in front of Municipal Auditorium.

**Visitor Information Center**—The San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a full-service visitor information center that provides an extensive inventory of helpful brochures and other promotional materials concerning events and sites in and around the city. Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, and at noon day of Battle of Flowers Parade during Fiesta San Antonio in April. 317 Alamo Plaza. Tel. 210/207-6700 or 1-800-447-3372. Visit the Web site at [www.sanantoniovisit.com](http://www.sanantoniovisit.com).

**Witte Museum of History and Science**—Extensive exhibits covering natural history and natural science of Texas; dioramas of Texas flora and wildlife. Rebuilt on grounds are four early Texas houses and furnished log cabin. Slide presentation about San Antonio's history and contemporary scene.

**H-E-B Science Treehouse** is on the museum grounds beside the San Antonio River. It features four levels of hands-on science exhibits for all ages. Visitors can launch a tennis ball two stories high, play music with laser beams, lift themselves up with pulleys, and surf the Internet. A real two-level treehouse is connected to the main Science Treehouse building by elevated walkways and contains binoculars for observing wildlife. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Tues. 9 p.m.); Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 3801 Broadway. For information, call 210/357-1900. Admission, except free Tues. 3 - 9 p.m.

## SAN JUAN

Pop. 26,229

Alt. 102

Map Z-16

**General**—In irrigated valley of Rio Grande on Missouri Pacific Railroad; organized 1909, name derived from Spanish name given town organizer John Closser. One of South's largest plants for manufacture of concrete irrigation pipe is here. Colorful banks of scarlet bougainvillea edge the highway. On special days, San Juan invites visitors to "pick a grapefruit" free.

# ESCAPE



Just steps from the Riverwalk, in the heart of historic downtown San Antonio, the Plaza San Antonio is a destination in itself. Reflecting the spirit and culture of Texas' most historic and romantic city, the Plaza has the appeal of a resort, amenities and services of a four-diamond hotel and offers many options for the fun-seeking family and the discriminating traveler

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**Shrine of La Virgen de San Juan del Valle**—An elaborate Catholic church, completed in 1954, included many imported objects of art. It was destroyed by fire after an airplane crash (apparently deliberate) in 1970. A wooden statue of Our Lady of San Juan was, however, undamaged. Ten years later the small statue was placed in a new shrine built mostly from small contributions. North of downtown on Business U.S. 83 and Raul Longoria Rd.

## SELMA

Pop. 788

Alt. 875

Map FF-8

**General**—Settled in 1847 in a region that was open range country. A post office was established in late 1870s, but San Antonio's growth eclipsed that of all other Bexar County communities.

**Retama Park**—Located on 226 acres, this beautiful racetrack opened for live racing in 1995. Features Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred races. Post time for races is 7 p.m., except on Sun. and holidays, when post time is 2 p.m. Grandstand features both open air and enclosed and air-conditioned levels with food courts, restaurants, and bars. Open year around for simulcasting (televized racing) from tracks around the country. For schedules and information, call 210/651-7000. Exit 174-A off I-35. Admission.

**Verizon Wireless Amphitheater**—Located near Retama Park, this brand new large outdoor venue hosts headlining musical acts. Venue can hold 20,000. At Lookout and Evans rds. 210/657-8300.

## THREE RIVERS

Pop. 1,878

Alt. 145

Map T-16

**General**—First called Hamiltonburg, name changed to site location near confluence of Atascosa, Nueces, and Frio rivers. Commercial center for farming and ranching, uranium mining, and oil refineries. First glass factory in Texas established here in 1913.

During season hunters take deer, quail, and dove.

**Choke Canyon State Park**—Park features fishing and boating on 26,000-acre Choke Canyon Reservoir, an impoundment of the Frio River. Camping, rest rooms, and picnicking. The townsite of Old Calliham, within the park, provides campsites, screened shelters, 7-lane boat ramp, rock jetty, fishing pier, swimming area, fish-cleaning stations, trails, concession facilities. Fee.

**Lake**—Choke Canyon Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**Tips Park**—31-acre park one mile west off Texas 72 on Frio River. Camping, fishing, and picnic areas.

## WESLACO

Pop. 26,935

Alt. 70

Map Z-16

**General**—Name from initials of W.E. Stewart Land Company that promoted townsite in the irrigated Rio Grande Valley in 1919. Located in heart of immense citrus, vegetable and cotton-producing area. Food processing industries; home of more than 6,000 Winter Texans.

Charming city hall, built in 1928, features intricate cast-stone sculpture adorning entryway and cupola of the Spanish Moorish building. Interior stairway is set with colorful Spanish tiles in geometric designs; a designated historical site at 500 S. Kansas Ave.

Harlon Block Memorial features simple, but elegant monument to local Marine, who participated in the famed flag-raising on Iwo Jima. The monument is located at the Texas Army National Guard Armory, 1100 Vo-Tech Dr.

The public library is one of the most modern facilities in the Rio Grande Valley. It, too, boasts Old-Mexico style, complete with Spanish open courtyard. 525 S. Kansas Ave.

**Bicultural Museum**—Artifacts accent daily lives of region's Hispanic and Anglo settlers; a colorful cultural blend. Open Wed., Thurs. 1 - 3 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. Donations accepted. 515 S. Kansas Ave.

**Nuevo Progreso, Mexico**—Seven miles south on F.M. 1015 and U.S. 281 east, this popular city hosts U.S. visitors with gift shops, shopping markets, nightclubs, restaurants, and cocktail rooms. Bargains in pottery, leather goods, silver jewelry, woven rugs, hand-blown glass, and many other hand-crafted items. Toll bridge crossing. See MEXICO: Entrance and Exit Regulations.

**Rio Grande Valley Tourist Information Center**—Free literature, maps, and information about attractions and accommodations throughout the Valley. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Valley Chamber of Commerce, U.S. 83 Expressway at F.M. 1015.



Randy Green/TXDOT

**Campers often include pets, like these visitors to Falcon State Recreation Park near Zapata**

**Valley Nature Center**—Is composed of a half-mile nature trail winding its way through five acres of native Valley vegetation and also includes butterfly gardens, ponds and cactus gardens. The indoor Exhibit Hall features interactive children's exhibits of native wildlife and habitat, as well as a Gift Shop. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. at 301 S. Border in Gibson Park. For information, call 956/969-2475.

**Weslaco Visitor Center**—Where to stay, what to eat, local attractions, events, historical sites, and recreational ideas. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. U.S. 83 Expressway at Airport Dr. exit, north access road.

## ZAPATA

Pop. 4,856

Alt. 311

Map X-14

**General**—Earliest civilized settlement in present Zapata County was Hacienda Dolores founded by José Vasquez Borrego in 1750. (Ruins designated a state historic site.) Town was named in honor of Antonio Zapata, hardy Hispanic pioneer and fierce Indian fighter. When the historic old town on banks of Rio Grande was flooded by Falcon Reservoir, new Zapata was built on U.S. 83. Zapata County seat is headquarters for large ranching area and Falcon Reservoir visitors.

Inquire locally about the nature conservatory, which rescues and rehabilitates birds and animals.

The shores of Lake Falcon are perfect for birdwatching. Almost any prized birds on any birder's list can be seen here, the white-collared seedeater, the green jay, kiskadee flycatcher, and the fall migration of hummingbirds. The lake is also home to the white pelican, white-faced ibis, and osprey.

For information on events, accommodations, and other area attractions, call the Zapata County Chamber of Commerce at 956/765-4871, or 1-800-292-LAKE (5253).

**Col. Antonio Zapata Museum**—Houses artifacts such as arrowheads, antique, furniture and clothing. Focus of museum often changes with loaned exhibits of photos from family ancestral collections. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. On South U.S. 83. For information, call 956/765-3062.

**Falcon State Recreation Park**—572.6 acres on shores of Falcon Reservoir. Facilities include boat launch, air-conditioned shelters, three-mile hiking trail, camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, trailer sites with electricity, rest rooms with showers, and seasonal snack bar, and 3,500-foot air strip. About 28 miles south via U.S. 83, F.M. 2098, Park Road 46. Admission.

**Lake**—Falcon Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

**La Paz County Historical Museum**—In typical, 200-yr.-old Mexican home. Exhibits include photos of old Zapata, antique ranch furniture, early doctor's equipment, and early cooking utensils. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sept. - May. At Benavides Elementary School in San Ygnacio, about 25 miles north on U.S. 83. Inquire at school office for directions.



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**A**

**Abilene, Lake**—Adjacent to Abilene State Park, 595-acre lake offers fishing, swimming, boating and other water sports as well as lakeside camping. About 15 miles southwest of Abilene. Also accessible from Buffalo Gap.

**Alan Henry, Lake**—City of Lubbock lake built for water supply in southeast Garza County on the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River some 65 miles from the city. Samuel W. Wahl Recreational Area offers hiking, picnicking, camping, hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities. For information and fees, call 806/775-2602.

**Amistad International Reservoir**—Joint project of United States and Mexico, Amistad (friendship) Dam impounds waters of the Rio Grande just below its confluence with Devil's River. Toll-free access to Mexico across the dam. Fishing, boating and sightseeing are superb on clear blue waters. Lake Amistad Resort and Marina near south end of U.S. 90 bridge over the reservoir; Rough Canyon Marina off U.S. 277/377 on the Devil's River arm of the reservoir.

**Amon G. Carter, Lake**—1,848-acre reservoir provides variety of water sports including boating, skiing, swimming and fishing, plus picnicking and camping facilities at lakeside. About 6 miles south of Bowie via F.M. 1125.

**Aquilla Lake**—Impoundment began in April 1983 on this lake with a normal surface area of 3,280 acres. About 10 miles southwest of Hillsboro via I-35, F.M. 310.

**Arlington, Lake**—Scenic 2,275 acres owned and operated by the city. Popular for boating, sailing and skiing, plus municipal and commercial parks. Not shown on most maps. In southwest Arlington off Loop 303.

**Arrowhead, Lake**—On Little Wichita River, covering 16,200 acres. recreation areas offer swimming, fishing, boating and picnicking, including the facilities at Lake Arrowhead State Park (see WICHITA FALLS). About 14 miles southeast of Wichita Falls via U.S. 281 south and F.M. 1954 east; also accessible from Archer City and Henrietta.

**Athens, Lake**—Popular 1,520-acre impoundment offers boat ramps, a commercial marina, picnic sites, camping area with RV hookups, swimming, and fishing for crappie, bass and catfish. About 4 miles east of Athens via Texas 31 east and F.M. 2495 south. Athens Marina provides public access for boating and fishing. Facilities include restaurant, full-service RV hookups, boat launch, and barge rental. Located at the F.M. 2495 bridge. For information, fees, call 903/677-7490.

**Austin, Lake**—1,830-acre Lower Colorado River Authority impoundment begins within western edge of Austin, winds 20 miles up the Colorado. Very popular for boating and skiing; shoreline dotted with marinas, clubs and leisure home developments. Emma Long Metropolitan Park at lakeside.

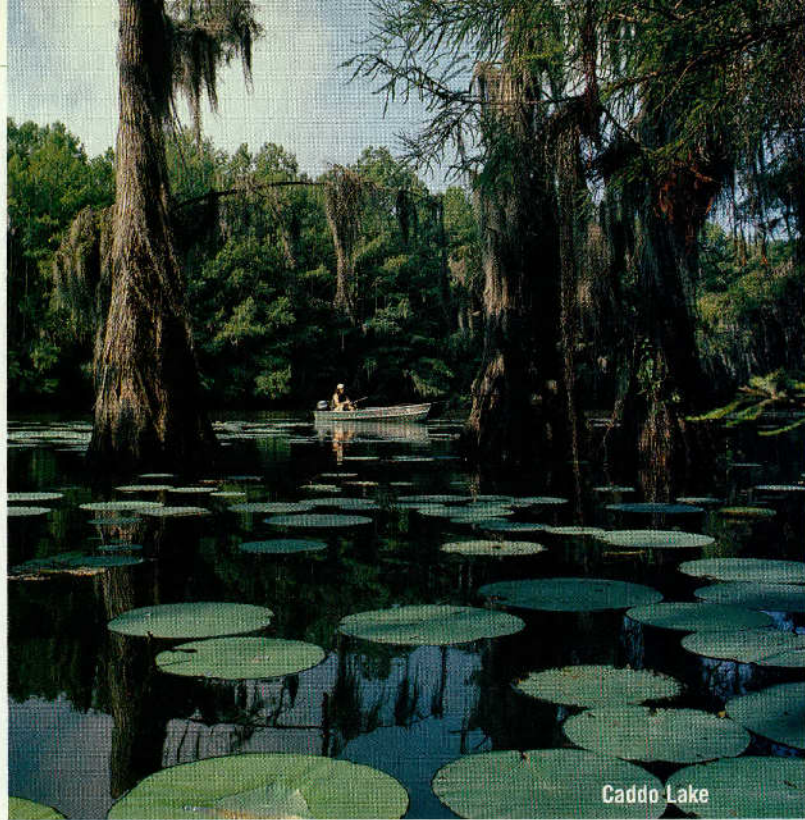
**B**

**B. A. Steinhagen Lake**—13,700-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment. Modern public parks, marinas and camps are at lakeside. Popular for fishing, boating and swimming. Also location of Martin Dies Jr. State Park (see JASPER). For details on lake facilities, contact project headquarters at dam off F.M. 92. Midway between Jasper and Woodville.

**Balmorhea, Lake**—Impoundment on Sandia Creek covering 573 acres. Boating and fishing are permitted on lake that provides water for irrigating thousands of surrounding acres. Three miles southeast of Balmorhea via local road from U.S. 290.

**Bardwell Lake**—3,570-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on Waxahachie Creek offering full range of water sport activities. At lakeside are parks with boat launching ramps, camping, and picnic areas. Fishing, swimming, boating and water skiing. Obtain details at project headquarters, north end of dam via local roads about 4 miles southwest of Ennis. Also accessible from Bardwell, Corsicana and Waxahachie.

**Bastrop, Lake**—906-acre constant-level lake set amid low hills and the "lost pines." Two recreational areas, on north and south sides of lake. Picnic areas, fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, boat launching ramps. North area access via Texas 95 north, F.M. 1441 east. South area access via local road north from Texas 21 north; admission.



Caddo Lake

**Belton Lake**—Scenic 12,300-acre impoundment of Leon River and several creeks. Corps of Engineers lake with 13 public parks offering camping and picnic areas, boat-launching ramps, and marina facilities; also fishing for crappie, catfish, and panfish. For details, visit the Corps of Engineers headquarters area at the dam, junction of F.M. 2271 and F.M. 439. Just northwest of Belton via Texas 317 north, F.M. 2271 west; also accessible from Killeen and Temple.

**Benbrook Lake**—3,770-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Corps parks at lakeside offer wide range of facilities for outdoor recreation: camping and trailer areas, rest rooms, drinking water, boat rentals and launching ramps, fishing supplies, snack bar. Obtain details from project headquarters at the dam. Lake Shore Dr. from U.S. 377 at Benbrook. A few miles southwest of Fort Worth, also accessible from Cresson and Crowley.

**Bob Sandlin, Lake**—9,460-acre reservoir on Big Cypress River offers commercial marinas, fishing barges, cabins, restaurants, boat ramps; excellent fishing. Bob Sandlin State Park, 640 acres on F.M. 127 and F.M. 21, offers full range of day use and overnight camping facilities, including picnic sites, screened shelters, trails, boat ramp and fishing pier. Information and maps at lake headquarters off F.M. 3417 from U.S. 271 south of Mount Pleasant; also accessible from Pittsburg. Lakes Cypress Springs and Monticello (which see) are immediately adjacent.

**Bonham, Lake**—1,020-acre lake on Timber Creek supplies water for city of Bonham. Park near dam on south shore provides picnic sites, camping, rest rooms and dump station. Four miles north of Bonham on Texas 78.

**Brady Creek Reservoir**—2,020-acre reservoir on Brady Creek affording wide range of water sports activities at edge of the scenic Hill Country area. Fishing throughout year. Lakeside facilities include boat ramps, docking and service, resorts, camps, plus leisure homes. About 3 miles west of Brady via F.M. 2028.

**Brandy Branch Reservoir**—Power plant cooling reservoir, built in 1983, reached its 1,242-acre pool level in 1985. A boat ramp is provided, bank fishing is limited, and there are no camping facilities. Between Marshall and Longview, off I-20 on F.M. 3251 (exit 610) 3 miles south.

**Braunig, Lake**—1,350-acre reservoir on Arroyo Seco, tributary of the San Antonio River, owned and operated by City of San Antonio. Fishing, boating and lakeside picnic areas. A few miles southeast of San Antonio off I-37; also accessible from Floresville and Elmendorf.

**Brazos, Lake**—Stabilized course of Brazos River through Waco. Parks and campsites on lake.

**Bridgeport, Lake**—13,000-acre impoundment on the West Fork of Trinity River. Swimming, excellent year-round fishing, campsites, picnic areas, boat rentals, launching ramps and services at lakeside. Site of 3,000-acre Sid Richardson Boy Scout Camp. Four miles west of Bridgeport off U.S. 380; also accessible from Decatur.

**Brownwood, Lake**—7,300 acres among pleasant hills; 95-mile shoreline. Commercial camps and boat docks at many locations; swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing and camping. Location of several religious and youth camps; also Lake Brownwood State Park (see BROWNWOOD). About 23 miles north of Brownwood off Texas 279.

**Buchanan, Lake**—23,060-acre Lower Colorado River Authority impoundment, the highest and broadest in series of six Highland Lakes. Water sports and fishing are superb with generous space for boating, skiing, sailing. Innumerable beaches, docks, marinas, and leisure home developments at lakeside. Public and commercial camps, boat ramps. At Lake Buchanan community on Texas 29; also accessible from Llano and Burnet.

**Buffalo Springs Lake**—Small 200-acre lake on Double Mountain Fork of Brazos River is very popular for fishing, boating, picnicking and weekend outings. About 9 miles southeast of Lubbock via U.S. 84 south, F.M. 835 north.

## C

**Caddo Lake**—Huge expanse of 26,800 acres spreads over portions of both Texas and Louisiana. Because maze of channels can be confusing, state has marked 42 miles of "boat roads" on Caddo. Fishing is superb. Many camps and marinas are at lakeside, including Caddo Lake State Park (see KARNACK). Lake is a few miles north of Karnack, also accessible from Jefferson and Uncertain.

**Calaveras, Lake**—3,624-acre impoundment on Calaveras Creek is among pre-eminent Texas bass lakes. Boat ramps and lakeside picnic facilities; accessible a few miles southeast of San Antonio off U.S. 181 south and Loop 1604.

**Canyon Lake**—8,240-acre Corps of Engineers lake, one of most scenic in Texas, spreading among steep-shouldered, evergreen hills. Public parks along shore offer camping/trailer areas, picnicking, and boat ramps. Two yacht clubs, two marinas, a ski club, and fishing groups schedule a host of activities. Lake fishing is excellent. About 20 miles north of New Braunfels via Texas 46 and F.M. 2722 north, or via F.M. 306 north of I-35; also accessible from Sattler, San Marcos and Blanco.

**Casa Blanca Lake**—1,656-acre lake built as recreational facility also supplies water for excellent Casa Blanca Public Golf Course. Lake, 10 minutes from downtown Laredo, offers boating, complete bait-tackle shop, boat rentals, skiing and good fishing; picnic grounds and swimming area. Lake record is largemouth bass, 9.38 lbs.

**Cedar Creek Reservoir**—Huge 33,750-acre impoundment, the lake offers numerous campsites, picnicking areas, excellent fishing; swimming and boating; one of the most popular in North Central Texas. About 10 miles west of Athens north of Texas 31, also accessible from Malakoff, Trinidad, Kemp and Mabank.

**Champion Creek Reservoir**—1,560 acres with lake campsites and picnic areas, boat docks, swimming and fishing facilities. About 7 miles south of Colorado City off Texas 208.

**Childress and Baylor, Lakes**—Adjacent lakes are used as water supply for Childress; also provide boating, fishing, camping area with RV sites and dump station. Both excellent fishing for catfish, crappie, and perch. About 9 miles west of Childress off U.S. 287.

**Choke Canyon Reservoir**—Midway between San Antonio and Corpus Christi, the 25,733-acre reservoir on the Frio River has been heavily stocked with largemouth, striped and Florida bass, crappie, sunfish, and channel and blue catfish. State park (see THREE RIVERS) provides camping, rest rooms, picnicking. The townsite of Old Calliham, within the park, provides campsites, screened shelters, 7-lane boat ramp, rock jetty, fishing pier, swimming area, fish-cleaning stations, trails, and concession facilities. About 3 miles west of Three Rivers on Texas 72.

**Cisco, Lake**—A 445-acre lake in the shape of an irregular cross between scenic hills. Excellent fishing and water sports. City park offers picnicking, miniature golf, primitive camping area. Unusual rock formations interest mineral collectors. About 4 miles north of Cisco off Texas 6.

**Clear Lake**—Joint mouth of Clear Creek, Armand and Taylor Bayous in the NASA area of southeast Houston; egress into Galveston Bay. Rentals available for sailboats, power boats, jetskis, waterskis, windsurfers, canoes, and parasailing. Fishing both for fresh- and saltwater species. Access from NASA Road 1 or F.M. 2094 between I-45 and Texas 146 southeast of Houston.

**Coleman, Lake**—190-acre Press Morris Park (city of Coleman) on 2,000-acre lake enhances visitor enjoyment of water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, and glimpses of wildlife. Lake record fish: largemouth bass, 8.06 lb. About 17 miles north of Coleman off U.S. 283.

**Coletto Creek Reservoir**—Popular South Texas lake covering 3,100 acres. Public recreation areas provide picnicking, camping, RV hookups, cabins, rest rooms, boat ramps and docks. Midway between Goliad and Victoria off U.S. 59. For information, call 361/575-6366. Visit the Web site at [www.colettocreekpark.com](http://www.colettocreekpark.com).

**Colorado City, Lake**—Dotting the shore of this 1,612-acre lake are popular fishing camps, boat ramps, picnic and camping areas, and 500-acre Lake Colorado City State Park (see COLORADO CITY). Fishing and most water sports enjoyed year round. About 7 miles southwest of Colorado City off I-20 west, or Texas 163 south.

**Conroe, Lake**—20,985-acre impoundment on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, partly edged by Sam Houston National Forest. At lakeside are several marinas with boat ramps and boat rentals (including sailboats); campgrounds. Dam and observation point off Texas 105 west of Conroe. Other access from I-45 via F.M. 1097 west, and F.M. 830 (not shown on most maps) west. Excellent for native game fish, catfish, and introduced species including striped bass and walleye.

**Cooper Lake**—19,000-acre impoundment on the South Sulphur River. A four-lane boat ramp near the dam at Tira Access and a two-lane ramp at John's Creek Access near Klondike provide boating access. Cooper Lake State Park has two units: Doctor's Creek unit on the northside of the dam offers camping, fishing, boat ramps, swimming beach, and picnic facilities, all ADA approved; South Sulphur unit on the south side of the lake offers the same amenities. Access from Cooper, Commerce, Klondike, and Sulphur Springs.

**Corpus Christi, Lake**—19,336-acre reservoir on Nueces River, popular South Texas water sports and recreational area. Swimming, boating, fishing, sailing and skiing. Large areas of submerged brush in upper reaches of 27-mile-long lake provide prime fish habitat. Fishing camps and marinas accessible at several spots around shore, plus fine facilities at Lake Corpus Christi State Park (see MATHIS). A few miles west of Mathis off Texas 359 south; also accessible from Alice.

**Crook, Lake**—920-acre lake operated by city of Paris for recreation and water supply; lighted picnic areas and campsites. Water skiing is popular sport, and anglers find excellent fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish, catfish, and hybrid striped bass. The scenic lake is about 3 miles northwest of Paris off U.S. 271.

**Cypress Springs, Lake**—Set in scenic piney woods area, 3,400-acre lake offers abundant visitor facilities: shoreline parks, picnic and campgrounds, RV hookups, commercial marinas, boat ramps, rest rooms, swimming beach. Five parks include Walleye Park, Dogwood Park, Mary King Park, Overlook Park, and W.D. Jack Guthrie Park. Birders are finding many species for bird watching. Anglers seek black bass and catfish. Access 8 miles southeast of Mount Vernon via Texas 37 south, F.M. 2723 east. Also accessible from Pittsburg.

## D

**Daniel, Lake**—950-acre on Gonazles Creek south of Breckenridge. Lake is operated by city of Breckenridge for recreation and water supply. Primitive camping is allowed and there are picnic sites around the lake. Fishing; no swimming. The scenic lake is about 7 miles south of Breckenridge via U.S. 183 and F.M. 576.

**Diversion Lake**—3,419-acre impoundment on Wichita River (tributary of Red River). Popular for water sports and fishing, with record hybrid striped bass weighing in at 10.53 lb. About 27 miles southwest of Wichita Falls via U.S. 82/277 west to Dundee, then F.M. 2846 north; also accessible from Mankins, Electra and Vernon.

## E

**E.V. Spence Reservoir**—14,950-acre lake west of Robert Lee is called a "showcase lake for striped bass." Two water-district recreational areas, operated by concessionaires, offer boat ramps, supplies, camping.

**Eagle Lake**—Private 1,200-acre impoundment widely known in goose and duck hunting circles. Site of very popular hunting clubs and shooting resorts (see EAGLE LAKE). No fishing or boating. Lake is adjacent to town of Eagle Lake.

**Eagle Mountain Reservoir**—9,200 acres on West Fork of Trinity River for recreation and Fort Worth water supply. All water sports plus extensive service and recreational facilities: trailer areas, rest rooms, snack bars, boat rentals and launching ramps, fishing supplies. Fishing good year round. Twelve miles northwest of Fort Worth via F.M. 1220; also accessible from Azle and Rhome.

**Eddleman and Graham, Lakes**—On Salt Creek, tributary of Brazos River, the two connected by canal form impoundment of more than 2,500 acres.

Fishing, boating and lakeside campsites. Two miles northwest of Graham off U.S. 380 west; also accessible from Newcastle and Olney.

**Ellison Creek Reservoir**—Daingerfield city park areas on the 1,516-acre lake offer picnicking, playgrounds, swimming area, boat ramp, and fishing pier. No overnight camping. Fishermen take black bass, crappie and catfish. At Lone Star 8 miles south of Daingerfield via U.S. 259.

**El Sal del Rey, Lake**—Name translates as "The King's Salt," water accumulates in shallow depression during wet seasons, evaporates to leave deposits of crystallized rock salt. Salt lake is some 20 miles west of Raymondville off Texas 186.

F

**Fairfield Lake**—Only public access to the 2,350-acre impoundment is at Fairfield Lake State Park (see FAIRFIELD). Park offers abundant range of visitor amenities; anglers seek native largemouth and lunker Florida bass, hybrid white/striped bass, channel catfish, and panfish including bluegills and rears. Access 7 miles northeast of Fairfield via F.M. 488, F.M. 1124 and Park Road 64.

**Falcon Reservoir**—Owned jointly by U.S. and Mexico. Numerous private and public facilities, including excellent Falcon State Park (see ROMA or ZAPATA). Famed for excellent fishing, especially black bass and huge catfish. About 14 miles northwest of Roma off U.S. 83; also accessible from nearby towns of Falcon, Lopeno and Zapata.

**Fayette (Power Project) Lake**—Very popular bass-fishing lake. Primitive overnight camping permitted; no potable water. Access only at entrance station; about 10 miles east of La Grange on Texas 159; entrance fee. Also accessible from Fayetteville.

**Fork, Lake**—On Lake Fork Creek, lake's acreage is 27,690 at conservation level. Little clearing of timber was done prior to impoundment, making for excellent fish habitat. Boat launch ramps are at Lake Fork Bridge on F.M. 515 and on south shore on Texas 154. Maps and information available at lake headquarters at dam on Texas 182. Accessible from Emory, Quitman, Winstboro and Alba.

**Fort Phantom Hill, Lake**—Covers 4,246 acres with 29-mile shoreline. Encircled by paved highways, lake south of old fort ruins (see ABILENE) has numerous campsites, marinas and other facilities for water sports and outdoor recreation. Ten miles northeast of Abilene via F.M. 600; also accessible from Anson.

**Fryer, Lake**—(Not shown on most maps.) Pleasant recreation spot along beautiful Wolf Creek. 700-acre county park popular with fishermen, boaters, swimmers, picnickers; RV camp sites. Access 12 miles southeast of Perryton off U.S. 83.

G

**Georgetown, Lake**—On North Fork of San Gabriel River, 1,310-acre lake is well-stocked with channel cat and smallmouth bass. Boat speed restricted in designated fishing area. Three public use areas; boat launch ramps; camping areas, with RV hookups. Primitive hiking, camping trail, The Good Water Trail, is around upper end of lake. About 4 miles west of I-35 at Georgetown via F.M. 2338.

**Gibbons Creek Reservoir**—Waters of the Hog, Plum, Cedar, Cat, Gibbons and Sulphur Creeks are impounded to form the 2,490-acre reservoir. Fishing for bass, catfish and crappie is good. Day use only, 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Closed Wednesday and major holidays. About 22 miles east of Bryan on County Road 164 off F.M. 244, 0.25 miles north of Texas 30.

**Gladewater, Lake**—800-acre impoundment on Glade Creek is constant level lake. Boat dock and launching area large enough for 75 vehicles with trailers. Fishing pier and two-acre swimming beach. Rest rooms, concessionaire. Garland Ferguson Park, on the west side near the spillway, has a family-size gazebo to rent for family gatherings, as well as picnic tables, tennis and basketball courts, a baseball field, and playground equipment. No overnight camping facilities are available on the lake. Off F.M. 2685 north of U.S. 80 in Gladewater.

**Graham and Eddleman, Lakes**—On Salt Creek, tributary of Brazos River. Fishing, boating and lakeside campsites. Two miles northwest of Graham off U.S. 380 west; also accessible from Newcastle and Olney.

**Granbury, Lake**—8,700-acre impoundment at De Cordova Bend on Brazos River. Parks, camps and service facilities for outdoor recreation dot the 103-mile shoreline. Picturesque lake holds several fish records. Lake edges the city for which it is named. Lake also accessible from Acton.

**Granger Lake**—Opened in 1981, Corps of Engineers lake was stocked with channel catfish and Florida largemouth bass. Hiking trail along scenic shoreline, swimming beach at Wilson Fox Park. Boat ramps, camping with hookups, free picnic areas. Headquarters at dam, 7 miles east of Granger on F.M. 971. Also accessible from Taylor, Bartlett and Georgetown.

**Grapevine Lake**—7,380-acre Corps of Engineers reservoir, parks at lakeside offer campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps, marina service, swimming, and fishing supplies. For details on facilities contact project headquarters at south end of dam off Texas 21. About 27 miles northeast of downtown Fort Worth off U.S. 377. Also accessible from Arlington, Dallas, Denton, Grapevine, Irving and Lewisville.

**Greenbelt Lake**—2,025-acre reservoir on Salt Fork of Red River offers rare water-recreation pleasures to large area of the Texas Panhandle. Also boating, water skiing. Five miles north of Clarendon off Texas 70.

H

**Hawkins, Lake**—One of four small Wood County lakes. Lakeside facilities cater to boaters, fishermen and campers at Lake Hawkins Camp Park. A few miles northwest of Hawkins via F.M. 14; also accessible from Mineola.

**Holbrook, Lake**—653-acre Wood County lake, a county-operated campground is at lakeside. Water sports, swimming beach, and fishing. On Keys Creek, 4 miles northwest of Mineola off U.S. 69; also accessible from Quitman.

**Hords Creek Lake**—510-acre conservation reservoir popular for all water sports, fishing, camping and picnicking. Three Corps of Engineers-administered parks offer excellent facilities. Boat launching ramps, nature trail, fishing supplies and other services available. About 8 miles west of Coleman off Texas 153.

**Houston County Lake**—A small impoundment of 1,282 acres on Little Elkhart Creek, popular with area fishermen and boaters. Lakeside picnic and camping areas. Inquire locally for details of facilities. About 7 miles southwest of Grapeland via F.M. 227; also accessible from Crockett.

**Houston, Lake**—12,240 acres, owned by City of Houston, popular with residents of upper Texas coast. Fishing, water sports. About 18 miles northeast of Houston via U.S. 90 east to Barrett Station, and north on F.M. 2100. Also accessible from Humble via F.M. 1960 east.

**Hubbard Creek Reservoir**—Large impoundment covering 15,250. Fishing excellent all year. Visitors may rent boats or launch their own at several public and commercial ramps. Other activities include swimming, water skiing, sailing, camping and picnicking. About 6 miles northwest of Breckenridge, accessible via U.S. 180 west, or off U.S. 183 north.

I

**Imperial Reservoir**—Covering 1,530 acres, the reservoir provides irrigation and water recreation in an arid region of West Texas. Fishing, swimming, boating and related water sports. Access off Texas 18 between Monahans and Fort Stockton.

**Inks Lake**—803-acre Lower Colorado River Authority reservoir, one of series of Highland Lakes. Very scenic; excellent year-round fishing; popular for boating and water sports. Lakeside docks; marinas and leisure homes; also Inks Lake State Park and Highland Lakes Golf Course (see BUCHANAN DAM). South of Buchanan Dam via Park Road 4; also accessible from Llano and Burnet.

J

**J.B. Thomas, Lake**—Large lake of 7,820 acres on Colorado River whose waters and 75-mile shoreline attract thousands. Wide range of water sports and recreational activities include swimming, boating, skiing, camping and excellent fishing. About 20 miles southwest of Snyder via Texas 350 south, F.M. 2085 west; also accessible from Big Spring.

**Jacksboro, Lake**—125-acres popular for picnics, boating, skiing, swimming, camping and fishing. Anglers fish for bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Off Texas 59 northeast of Jacksboro.

**Jacksonville, Lake**—1,320 acres rated by area fishermen as one of best bass lakes in Texas. Skiers and boaters enjoy the waters, while picnicking and camping are popular along scenic wooded shore. Screened shelters, camper hookups, electricity, water and dump station, gasoline and rest rooms. Fishing guide available. About 4 miles south of Jacksonville off U.S. 69; also accessible from Rusk.

**Joe Pool Lake**—7,470-acre lake along Dallas, Tarrant Counties line, impounds water from of Mountain Creek. Parks include Loyd, Britton, and Lynn Creek. Cedar Hill State Park offers lakeside activities on more than 2,000 northshore acres. Excellent fishing. Reservoir accessible from Arlington, Dallas, Grand Prairie and Waxahachie.

## K

**Kemp, Lake**—Wichita Falls municipal lake on Wichita River. Many campsites available around the 16,540-acre lake, as well as service facilities for boaters and fishermen. About 48 miles southwest of Wichita Falls accessible off U.S. 183/283 north of Seymour; also accessible from Vernon and Wichita Falls.

**Kickapoo, Lake**—Popular water sports facility for large surrounding area, covers 6,200 acres at spillway crest. Swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, and picnicking. On North Fork of Little Wichita River about 12 miles northwest of Archer City off Texas 25; also accessible from Wichita Falls.

## L

**Lake O' the Pines**—Large 18,700-acre Corps of Engineers reservoir; one of the most attractive lakes in East Texas. Excellent fishing, boating, sailing, water skiing, swimming and camping. For details of facilities contact reservoir headquarters at east end of Ferrell's Bridge Dam, F.M. 726. About 10 miles west of Jefferson via F.M. 729; also accessible from Gilmer, Ore City, Lone Star, Daingerfield and Avinger.

**Lavon Lake**—Large Corps of Engineers reservoir covers 21,400 acres. Four large parks with hookups for campers; also day-use parks, motorcycle riding trail, one park (Caddo) especially for handicapped. Boat ramps, marina services, swimming beaches, duck hunting in specified area. Obtain details at project headquarters west end of dam off Texas 78 about 10 miles north of Rockwall; also accessible from Dallas, Plano, McKinney, Farmersville, Lavon and Wylie.

**Leon Reservoir**—1,590 acres hosting fishermen, water sport enthusiasts, campers. Country club and golf course at lakeside, plus boat docks, fishing and marina services. About 6 miles southeast of Eastland via F.M. 570 and F.M. 2214; also accessible from Ranger.

**Lewisville Lake**—(Formerly Garza-Little Elm Reservoir.) Immensely popular for water sports and outdoor recreation in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Picnic areas, RV and tent camping, pavilion, 24-hour fishing barge, swimming beach, and excellent public facilities available. Marinas, boat rentals, launching ramps. Swimming, water skiing, sailing, camping, trailer and picnic areas. For details on facilities contact project headquarters at west end of dam off I-35E and Justin Rd. about 27 miles north of downtown Dallas, 972/434-1666. For details on Lake Park, contact the City of Lewisville Parks and Leisure Services, 972/219-3550. Also accessible from Denton, Frisco and McKinney.

**Limestone, Lake**—On upper Navasota River, lake's normal surface area is 14,200 acres, but lake level is variable depending on rainfall and water use. Recreational facilities include boat ramps, primitive camping areas; boating, fishing for bass, crappie, catfish and panfish. Accessible from Groesbeck via F.M. 937 south; also accessible from Buffalo and Centerville.

**Livingston, Lake**—Huge 82,600-acre reservoir on the Trinity River. A host of lakeside parks, camps and marinas offer complete range of services for camping, boating, and fishing, including Lake Livingston State Park (see LIVINGSTON). Accessible west of Livingston off U.S. 190 and by many F.M. roads on both sides of the lake.

**Lost Creek Reservoir**—Located two miles downstream from Lake Jacksboro, this lake has approximately 450 surface acres. Average depth is 45 feet and the rock cliffs along the lake shore provide excellent location for fishing. A public boat ramp and dock is on the southwest side of the lake, just off Texas 59.

**Lyndon B. Johnson, Lake**—(Formerly Granite Shoals Lake.) 6,375 acres, one of most scenic in series of Highland Lakes on Colorado River. Lakeside marinas, boat rentals, launching ramps. Fishing is rated excellent. Water skiing and sailing popular. Just south of Kingsland, accessible from F.M. 1431 edging the lake's east side; from F.M. 2900 and other F.M. roads that lead to recreational areas on the lake's west shoreline.

## M

**McClellan, Lake**—Small lake of 325 acres provides water for several towns and very popular recreation in Panhandle region. Wooded picnic areas, camping with RV hookups, boat ramps, swimming, fishing for black bass, crappie,

blue cat, and hybrid white/stripers. Some 28 miles south of Pampa via Texas 70 and F.M. 2477 east.

**Mackenzie, Lake**—896 acres in scenic and historic Tule Canyon; offers facilities for picnicking, camping, RV hookups, boat ramps, swimming area. Water skiing popular; fishing for largemouth bass, walleye, striped bass, and catfish. Access 12 miles northwest of Silverton via Texas 86 west, Texas 207 north.

**Marble Falls, Lake**—Small 780-acre impoundment on Colorado River, one of series of Highland Lakes. Fishing good year round. Boating, sailing, swimming and skiing very popular. Launching ramps, city parks, picnic facilities and swimming pool at lakeside. Lake is impounded within city of Marble Falls, winds nearly six miles up the Colorado.

**Martin Creek Lake**—5,020-acre East Texas lake popular with fishermen and boaters. State park (see TATUM) on north shore offers camping, picnic area, boat ramp, bait, tackle. Some 4 miles southwest of Tatum via Texas 43, and local road south from F.M. 1716 intersection.

**Marvin, Lake**—Small lake in National Grasslands area offers campsites, cottages, boat rentals, picnic grounds. Fishing for bass, channel catfish and sunfish. Nature trails popular during fall foliage season. Abundant deer, wild turkey, squirrels and waterfowl attract hunters during fall-winter seasons. Access 11 miles east of Canadian via F.M. 2266.

**Medina Lake**—5,575-acre impoundment on Medina River, long popular for water sports and excellent year-round fishing. About 23 miles southeast of Bandera via Texas 46 east to Pipe Creek; F.M. 1283 south; also accessible from Castroville.

**Meredith, Lake**—Built by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, beautiful blue lake covers 16,500 acres. Facilities include marina (renting boats and house boats), seven boat launching ramps, 11 campgrounds, and nine picnicking areas. Fishermen take walleye, bass, crappie and catfish. Obtain details and lake map at park headquarters, Texas 136 one mile east of Fritch. Also accessible from Borger, Stinnett, and Amarillo.

**Mexia, Lake**—Navasota River and lesser streams form the 1,200-acre recreational spot for boating, swimming, skiing, lakeside camps, and excellent year-round fishing. About 8 miles west of Mexia off U.S. 84; also accessible from Groesbeck.

**Miller's Creek Reservoir**—1,900-acre lake provides water for several towns. Development of recreational facilities is pending. No boat ramps, but fishing is permitted. Access some 16 miles east of Munday via U.S. 277 to Goree; F.M. 266 south, F.M. 1608 east; also accessible from Seymour.

**Mineral Wells, Lake**—State park surrounds this small 646-acre lake that has long been popular for fishing and swimming. For state park facilities see MINERAL WELLS. About 3 miles east of Mineral Wells via U.S. 180.

**Monticello Reservoir**—2,000-acre companion impoundment to Lake Bob Sandlin. Popular year round, but especially during winter when fishermen seek bass in the lunker category. County park offers picnicking, boat ramps, camping sites and electric hookups. Access 8 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant via F.M. 127.

**Moss Creek, Lake**—Local lake serves as an auxiliary water supply and recreational facility for Big Spring. Open 6 a.m., may stay overnight. Fishing, boating (limited to 15 h.p. motor), swimming, camping facilities, groceries and bait available. Good area for birding. From Big Spring take I-20 east to county road. Approximately 10 miles southeast of city.

**Moss Lake**—1,125-acre Gainesville city lake popular with local fishermen. No picnicking or camping facilities. Anglers seek native black bass, Florida bass, Kentucky bass, and sand bass. Some 12 miles northwest of Gainesville via F.M. 1201.

**Mountain Creek Lake**—3,050-acre lake primarily for power generating plant use; also popular for fishing and boating. Not shown on most maps; in southwest Dallas near Dallas Naval Air Station and Grand Prairie. Accessible off U.S. 80.

**Murvaul Lake**—3,820 acres furnishes recreational facilities for residents and visitors. Excellent fishing, water skiing, boating and swimming, plus campsites at lakeside. Waterfowl hunting during winter season. Twelve miles southwest of Carthage via F.M. 10; also accessible from Henderson, Tenaha and Mount Enterprise.

## N

**Nacogdoches, Lake**—2,210-acre impoundment offers two city parks at lakeside with boat ramps, individual and group picnic shelters, swimming areas, floating dock. Boating, sailing, skiing and fishing. Marked nature trail identi-

fies large variety of pines and hardwood trees and other native flora. No overnight camping. Access 12 miles west of Nacogdoches on F.M. 225.

**Nasworthy, Lake**—1,596-acre municipal lake, a companion to larger Twin Buttes Reservoir. Two non-native species of game fish have been introduced. Camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming and other water sports available. About 6 miles southwest of San Angelo off U.S. 277.

**Navarro Mills Lake**—5,070-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on Richland Creek. Several public parks offer camping, trailer and picnic areas, boat rentals and launching ramps, rest rooms, drinking water and fishing supplies. Fishing very good. About 18 miles southwest of Corsicana, access off Texas 31; also accessible from Hillsboro and Hubbard.

**Nocona, Lake**—1,470-acre impoundment on Farmers Creek offers commercial marinas, campsites with RV hookups, picnicking, boat ramps, and swimming area. Lake visitors enjoy water skiing and fishing. Access 3 miles northeast of Nocona via F.M. 1956 east and F.M. 3301 north.

O

**Oak Creek Reservoir**—At 2,375 acres, visitors enjoy a wide range of water sports including fishing, swimming, boating and skiing. Services and accommodations at lakeside. About 30 miles southeast of Sweetwater via Texas 70.

**O.C. Fisher Lake**—(Also called North Concho Lake or Lake San Angelo.) Reservoir on North Concho River. 5,440 acres with ample room for camping, fishing, swimming and other water sports. Three miles northwest of San Angelo, accessible from F.M. 2288 that edges the lake's west shore.

**O.H. Ivie Reservoir**—Lake is about 25 miles southeast of Ballinger; 25 miles south of Coleman; 50 miles east of San Angelo; and 55 miles northwest of Brady. Three public recreation areas: Concho, on the south side; Padgitt, on the north side, and the Kennedy area near the north end of the dam. Rest rooms and picnic tables.

P

**Palestine, Lake**—25,560-acre impoundment popular for boating, water sports and fishing. Facilities include marina, bait and tackle shops, swimming beach, boat launching ramps and camping areas. Some 13 miles northwest of Jacksonville via U.S. 175 west; also accessible from Tyler via Texas 155 south, as well as from Athens, Palestine and Frankston.

**Palo Pinto, Lake**—On Palo Pinto Creek, 2,661 acres offering water sports and excellent fishing. About 25 miles south of Palo Pinto via F.M. 4 south. F.M. 3137 west; also accessible from Mineral Wells.

**Pat Cleburne, Lake**—1,550-acre municipal lake owned by city of Cleburne. Locally popular for water sports including fishing, swimming, skiing, power boating and sailing. Several lakeside service facilities for boatmen and anglers. About 5 miles west of Cleburne via U.S. 67; also accessible from Glen Rose.

**Pat Mayse Lake**—5,993-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on Sanders Creek, public parks offer boat ramps, picnic and camping areas. Boating and fishing very popular. Food, tackle and bait available nearby. For details on area facilities, contact project office at dam, F.M. 906. About 13 miles north of Paris off U.S. 271; also accessible from nearby towns of Arthur City and Chicota.

**Pauline, Lake**—Small lake of 612 acres on Wanderers Creek offers tent-camping sites with hookups, picnicking, swimming, boat ramp, bait and tackle. Fishing for crappie, largemouth and Florida bass. About 5 miles east of Quanah off U.S. 287; also accessible from Vernon.

**Pinkston, Lake**—Small (compared to its giant neighbor, Toledo Bend) 523-acre lake routinely provides trophy-size bass. Owned by the City of Center, lake is 12 miles southwest of Center off Texas 7.

**Possum Kingdom Lake**—Dotted with lakeside resorts and camps, the 14,440-acre reservoir is among Texas' most popular outdoor recreation destinations for swimmers, skin divers, boaters and fishermen. Scenic woodlands surround lake offering good hunting during season. Possum Kingdom State Park (see CADDO) is located on southwestern shoreline. About 30 miles northwest of Mineral Wells via Texas 337; also accessible from Breckenridge, Caddo, Graford and Graham.

**Proctor Lake**—U.S. Corps of Engineers conservation covering 4,610 acres. Several parks with boat ramps, lakeside camping and picnicking facilities. Most offer water and electricity, rest rooms, and showers. Boating and water sports, plus excellent fishing. Also excellent hunting area. For details on facilities, contact reservoir headquarters at dam; 8 miles northeast of Comanche

off U.S. 67/377; 8 miles south of De Leon off Texas 16; also accessible from Dublin.

Q

**Quitman, Lake**—Lakeside facilities include marinas, boat service and rentals, tent and RV campsites with hookups, swimming area. Popular for bass, crappie, catfish, and bluegills. Access 4 miles north of Quitman via F.M. 2966 (not shown on most maps).

R

**Ray Hubbard, Lake**—Large 22,745-acre reservoir on the East Fork of the Trinity River. Lakeside marinas, camps, leisure home areas; fishing and boating excellent. About 10 miles east of Dallas off I-30; also accessible from Mesquite, Garland, Rockwall, Rowlett, and Forney.

**Ray Roberts Lake**—One of Texas' newest lakes with a surface area of 29,350 acres. Dam is at river mile 60 on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Popular destination for swimming, boating, and fishing. Isle du Bois State Park encompasses more than 1,300 acres for recreational use, including a 12-mile multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use (your horse). Accessible from Gainesville, Sanger, Aubrey, Pilot Point, and Tioga, as well as the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex Cities.

**Red Bluff Reservoir**—Water conservation/irrigation project on Pecos River, provides a variety of water sports in this arid region, excellent fishing for native catfish, white bass, and hybrid striped bass. Five miles north of Orla off U.S. 285; 43 miles north of Pecos.

**Richland-Chambers Creek Lake**—A 44,752-acre reservoir built in the 1980s, lakeside facilities are still under development. Current visitors will find public boat ramps, a marina, and a lakeside campground. Excellent fishing for native largemouth and Florida-strain bass, sand bass, crappie, coppernose bluegill, and catfish. Details at lake headquarters, Tarrant County Water District Office, F.M. 416 east of I-45/Streetman. Also accessible from Athens, Corsicana, Eureka, Powell, Kerens, Cayuga, and Fairfield.

S

**Sabine Lake**—Common mouth of Sabine and Neches Rivers; main body of lake is some 19 miles long. Fishing from two mile-long levees for saltwater speckled trout, redbfish, flounder and numerous other species. Crabbing is popular and productive. Accessible from Port Arthur and Orange.

**Sam Rayburn Reservoir**—Giant lake in heart of Angelina National Forest, one of most popular recreation areas in East Texas offers parks, camps, marinas and recreational areas along its 560-mile shoreline. Open water for all types of boating activities, plus huge areas of flooded timber providing prime fish habitat. For details on facilities, contact project headquarters at west end of dam on F.M. 255, or chambers of commerce in nearby towns. Huge lake is about 20 miles north of Jasper via U.S. 96 and F.M. 1007 west; also accessible from Zavalla, Huntington, Lufkin, Etoile, San Augustine, Broaddus, Hemphill, Pineland and Brookeland.

**Somerville Lake**—85-mile shoreline around 11,460 acres of water. Corps of Engineers lake has numerous camping and park areas, commercial marinas and public areas. Obtain details at headquarters, north end of dam off Texas 36. Also, Lake Somerville State Park (see SOMERVILLE) on north and south shores has facilities for camping and water sports. East of Somerville via Texas 36 north to Lyons, F.M. 60 west; also accessible from Brenham and Caldwell.

**Squaw Creek Lake**—3,228-acre lake is unusually deep and clear, with a rocky shoreline. Excellent fishing for stocked population of spotted, small-mouth and hybrid striped bass and walleye, and native game fish. Fee access; about 4 miles north of Glen Rose off Texas 144.

**Stamford, Lake**—4,690-acre impoundment popular for fishing, boating and water skiing; campsites and vacation cabins at lakeside. Stamford municipal park includes concessions, lodges, cabins and docks. About 15 miles northeast of Stamford via U.S. 277 and F.M. 618 east. About 14 miles southeast of Haskell.

**Stillhouse Hollow Lake**—6,430-acre impoundment of the Lampasas River features broad areas of open water between rocky, steep shorelines. Five public parks offer marina service, camping, fishing, picnicking, and boat-launching ramps. Details at Corps of Engineers headquarters area at the dam, F.M. 1670. Eight miles southwest of Belton, access via F.M. 1670 off U.S. 190 west, or via F.M. 2766 and F.M. 1670 west of I-35 from Salado. Also accessible from Killeen and Temple.

**Striker, Lake**—(Formerly Striker Creek Reservoir) 2,400 acres used for recreation, and a great bass lake with marina services and boat launching facilities, plus picnicking and camping areas. Eighteen miles southwest of Henderson off U.S. 79; also accessible from Jacksonville, New Salem and New Summerfield.

**Sulphur Springs, Lake**—City park on 1,340-acre impoundment offers picnicking, boat ramps, water skiing, fishing, campsites for self-contained units. Access 2 miles north of Sulphur Springs via Texas 19 and Airport Road west to the lake.

**Sweetwater, Lake**—Spacious municipal park surrounds meandering 630-acre impoundment. Fishing, water sports, and golf course on lakeshore. About 8 miles southeast of Sweetwater via F.M. 1856 from Texas 70 or I-20 East.

## T

**Tawakoni, Lake**—36,700-acre reservoir is one of the larger lakes entirely within Texas. Hosts of marinas, camps and parks along wooded shores with boat ramps, weather reporting station and designated water ski areas. Some of the state's best fishing in countless coves and inlets. For information on facilities contact Sabine River Authority at north end of Iron Bridge Dam, off F.M. 47 south of Point. Lake is some 16 miles southeast of Greenville off U.S. 69; also accessible from Commerce and nearby towns of Wills Point, Quinlan, Edgewood, Emory, Point and Lone Oak.

**Texana, Lake**—11,000-acre reservoir extends 18 miles up the Navidad river. Ten boat ramps around lake provide launching spots and parking areas. Lavaca-Navidad River Authority park sites offer camping areas, marina, picnic sites and nature trails. Ideal for wildlife observation and photography. Headquarters at dam site 8 miles southeast of Edna via F.M. 1822. Lakes and campgrounds also accessible from Ganado.

**Texoma, Lake**—Huge reservoir spreads over 89,000 acres of Texas and Oklahoma. Modern facilities include 57 campgrounds, scores of trailer parks, 110 picnic areas, more than 100 shelter buildings, and over 80 boat ramps. Fishing is some of best in nation. Reservoir maps and information on facilities available at project headquarters, south end of the dam on U.S. 75A. A few miles north of Denison via U.S. 75A; also accessible from Sherman and Whitesboro.

**Toledo Bend Reservoir**—Gigantic impoundment on Sabine River between Texas and Louisiana. Vast open water areas provide room for sailing and boating of all kinds; equally large regions of submerged timber are prime fish habitat. Maps and information about lakeside facilities available at nearby towns and at seven offices of Texas Sabine River Authority: at dam north of Burkeville, F.M. 692 and F.M. 3125 (not shown on most maps); off Texas 87 south of Hemphill; off Texas 21 as it crosses lake east of Milam; southeast of Patroon on local roads; east of Shelbyville on F.M. 2694 (not shown on most maps); northeast of Shelbyville via F.M. 417, F.M. 139 north; and southeast of Joaquin off F.M. 139. Lake is accessible from Center, San Augustine, Hemphill and other nearby towns.

**Town Lake**—Stabilized course of Colorado River through Austin. The Lone Star paddle wheeler sightseeing boat offers cruises Memorial Day to Labor Day. (See AUSTIN.) Fishing available at lakeside. Sailing and canoeing; no swimming or power boats permitted. (Not shown on most maps.)

**Trammell, Lake**—(Not shown on many maps.) Smallest of Sweetwater's lake system, a quiet fisherman's lake. No swimming, skiing or boating; bait and permit service at the lake shore. About 10 miles south of Sweetwater via F.M. 1809 from Texas 70.

**Travis, Lake**—18,930-acre reservoir of Lower Colorado River Authority, one of famous Highland Lakes. 270 miles of shoreline largely devoted to camps, marinas, resorts and leisure home developments. Immensely popular for boating, skiing, sailing and fishing; interesting mineral outcroppings and fossils. Several resort airstrips near lake. For maps and information on facilities contact LCRA headquarters, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. in Austin, or Box 220, Austin 78767.

**Twin Buttes Reservoir**—Impoundment on Middle and South Concho Rivers has one of longest earthfill dams ever built by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; offers boating, swimming, fishing and other water sports, lakeside camps and service facilities. Lake Nasworthy is an adjacent impoundment. About 8 miles southwest of San Angelo off U.S. 277.

**Tyler and Tyler East, Lakes**—Adjacent municipal lakes cover 4,880 acres. Lakeside facilities offer a marina, boat ramps, camping and RV sites with hookups. Fishing for black bass, crappie, catfish, and a variety of scrappy

panfish. About 12 miles southeast of Tyler via Texas 110 south and F.M. 346 east; also accessible from Arp, Troup and Whitehouse.

## W

**Waco Lake**—7,270-acre impoundment of Bosque River; 60 miles of shoreline, much within the city limits of Waco. Boating, long sand beaches, swimming, year-round fishing, lakeside camps, marinas and parks. Northwest edge of Waco.

**Walter E. Long, Lake**—1,269-acre city of Austin impoundment, primarily a fishing lake; boat ramp. Some surprised anglers hook saltwater flounder and redfish that have been stocked in the lake along with native freshwater species. Accessible just east of Austin via F.M. 969 east, F.M. 973 north.

**Waxahachie, Lake**—Has surface area of 645 acres, with capacity of 13,500-acre-feet of water. Built in the Trinity River Basin in Ellis County four miles southeast of Waxahachie. Recreational activities include swimming, water skiing, fishing, and picnicking. Off Howard Ln. (F.M. 877).

**Weatherford Lake**—1,210-acre municipal lake owned by city of Weatherford on Clear Fork of Trinity River. Several public fishing areas are designated, and commercial facilities are easily accessible. About 7 miles east of Weatherford via U.S. 80/180 and F.M. 730.

**Welsh Reservoir**—1,365-acre impoundment is locally popular for fishing—largemouth bass, crappie, bream, and catfish. Lakeside camping areas, cabins, boat ramps, bait and tackle. Access about 11 miles southeast of Mount Pleasant via Texas 49 east and F.M. 1735 south. Also accessible from Pittsburg.

**White River Lake**—1,808 acres, supplies water for Crosbyton, Post, Spur and Ralls; features camping areas, lakeside cabins, boat launch and rental, picnic areas and fishing supplies. On tributary of Salt Fork of the Brazos about 16 miles southeast of Crosbyton via F.M. 651 south, F.M. 2794 east. Accessible from Post, Dickens and Spur.

**White Rock Lake**—Scenic 1,119-acre lake in White Rock Lake Park, northeast Dallas; city's most popular lake. Fishing, boating, lakeside picnic and park facilities. No skiing. Lake shown only on city maps. Access off Texas 78 and Loop 12.

**Whitney Lake**—23,560-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on the Brazos River, one of most popular water recreation areas in nation. Scores of campsites, marinas, parks, recreation areas, and leisure home developments along the shore. Fishing excellent in innumerable sheltered coves and inlets, and scuba divers explore depths that range to nearly 100 feet. Lake Whitney State Park is on the eastern shore (see WHITNEY). A few miles west of Whitney via F.M. 1244 or F.M. 1713; also accessible from Clifton, Meridian and Hillsboro.

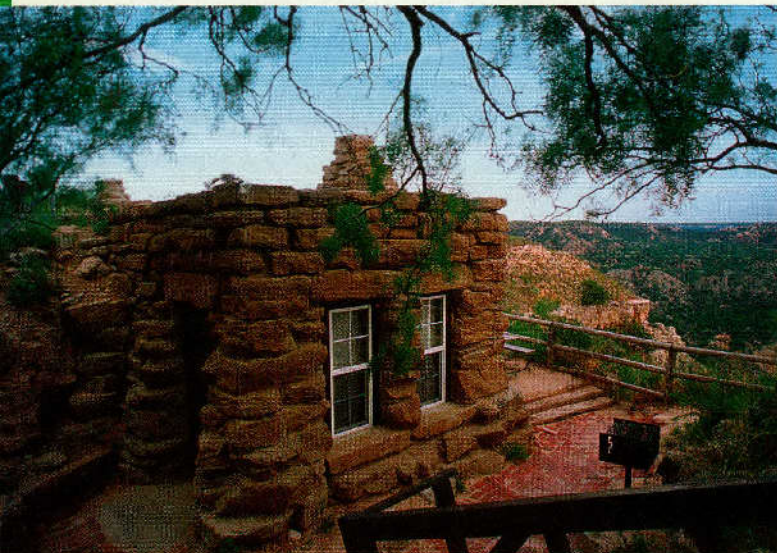
**Wichita, Lake**—Small 2,200-acre lake at south limits of Wichita Falls, popular for swimming, picnicking, weekend outings; on Holliday Creek. Fishing is excellent and lake record includes largemouth bass at 10.25 lb.

**Winnsboro, Lake**—An 806-acre recreational impoundment with lakeside campsites, RV hookups, picnicking, swimming, marina, boat rentals, bait and tackle. Site of annual bass tournaments. Six miles southwest of Winnsboro via Texas 37; also accessible from Quitman.

**Wood, Lake**—488-acre Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority hydro electric reservoir on the Guadalupe River west of Gonzales. Public recreation area offers picnicking, camping, RV hookups and rest rooms. Boat ramps offer access to lake and river docks. Fishing for largemouth bass, catfish, and crappie. Located five miles west of Gonzales on U.S. 90-A, then south on F.M. 2091.

**Worth, Lake**—3,560 acres in northwest Fort Worth, noted for scenic vistas along Meandering Drive, which wanders nearly all around it. Locally popular for boating, skiing and sailing. City parks and picnic areas edge the shoreline. Location of Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge (see FORT WORTH). Accessible via local streets and roads from Texas 199.

**Wright Patman Lake**—20,300-acre Corps of Engineers lake on Sulphur River, an immensely popular recreation area of northeast Texas. Many public parks and commercial facilities are along shoreline. Water sports, camping, picnicking, and hiking trails; fishing consistently good. Atlanta State Park is on south shore (see ATLANTA). About 12 miles southwest of Texarkana off U.S. 59; also accessible from Atlanta, Douglassville, Linden, Maud and Queen City.



Earl Nottingham/TPWD

**So much to see and do at Texas State Parks and State Historic Sites—more than 100 parks for you to explore.**

**Texas!** The very name calls forth heroic images of wide open plains, bison roaming freely, western forts, Longhorn cattle and deep forests. Camp by a lake, hike in the mountains, go fishing and birdwatching. Stay in a cozy cabin, guest room, lodge or Bed and Breakfast. See deer, raccoons and sometimes an armadillo in Texas State Parks.

**Texas State Park campgrounds** offer a range of amenities, from full-hookups to wilderness camping. The improved camping areas have restrooms with flush toilets and hot showers. Some primitive camping areas do have self-composting toilets but no showers. Wilderness areas offer trails and maps but no utilities – those operate on the principle of “pack-it-in, pack-it-out.”

**Improved camp sites** have utilities, a tent pad or trailer parking pad, a picnic table and fire ring. Many also include a grill standing waist-high as well as a pole with a lantern hook.

**HUNTING AND FISHING IN TEXAS**

**Hunting and fishing in Texas rank with the best in the nation.**

**The variety of fish and game is great, and is often abundant.**

Anglers may try more than 5,175 square miles of inland freshwater creeks, rivers and lakes, plus scores of tidal bays and 624 miles of shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico.

Freshwater game fish include black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, Guadalupe, spotted bass), crappie, bluegill and other sunfish, white or sand bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and catfish including channel, blue and flathead (yellow).

Along the Gulf Coast some 250 different species await lure or bait. Among the most popular are redfish, speckled trout, king and Spanish mackerel, wahoo, bonito, tuna, sailfish, marlin, pompano, flounder, grouper, jewfish, red snapper, sheepshead and drum.

The feature Texas game animal is the white-tailed deer, found almost statewide, but most densely in the Hill Country of Central Texas. Mule deer and pronghorns are found in West Texas and the Panhandle. Other wild animals include javelinas, wild boars, feral hogs and squirrels.

Game birds include a great variety of migratory waterfowl that winter in Texas, plus wild turkey, bobwhite and blue quail, mourning, white-tipped, and white-winged doves, pheasants, prairie chickens, sandhill cranes and chachalacas.

Hunting in Texas can be very rewarding, though requiring some special arrangements for the nonresident. Texas has four large areas of public lands (national forests) in the eastern part of the state freely accessible for hunting. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers a variety of public hunting opportunities on over one million acres of land under its control in which people may participate either through purchase of an annual permit, daily permit, or selection in a drawing.

Public hunting information is available from the Parks & Wildlife Dept. by calling toll-free in Texas 1-800-792-1112 or 512/389-4505 for nonresidents.

**Read about each Texas State Park** in this book. They are listed under the name of the nearest town – see the charts on the following pages for that information. The chart also gives you phone numbers and details regarding the facilities.

**Texas State Parks charge** entry fees for each adult over 13, tour fees for historic sites, camping fees, and fees for group dining halls or other facilities.

**A NUMBER OF PASSES AND PASSPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO VISITORS.**

**The Texas Conservation Passport**, a \$50 annual membership, grants free entry, access to wildlife management areas and other benefits to private, non-commercial vehicles.

**Texas State Parklands Passport** offers free state park entrance to everyone who reached 65 before September 1, 1995, and to veterans with a 60 percent or greater disability. Texas residents who were 65 after September 1, 1995, pay discounted entry fees, while non-residents pay the regular prices if their 65th birthday occurred after September 1, 1995.

Texas State Parks often match National Parks for beauty and sheer outdoor adventure but we are not part of the National Parks System. For that reason, we do not accept passes or passports from the National Parks.



**Texas State Parks – Contact Information:**

**Web site:** www.tpwd.state.tx.us

**Phone:** 1-800-792-1112, extension for Texas State Parks

**Mail:** Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744

**Camping Reservations or Cancellations:**

**Phone:** (512) 389-8900

**Hours:** Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Voice Mail:** 24 hours a day

**Reservations at Indian Lodge** (915) 426-3254

**Reservations at the Texas State Railroad** (800) 442-8951

**TEXAS STATE FORESTS**

**Texas' five state forests**, managed by the Texas Forest Service that is part of the Texas A&M Univ. System, display results of modern forestry techniques.

State forests are wildlife refuges; hunting is prohibited. Fishing is permitted in designated areas. No overnight camping permitted in any state forest.

Information about forestry is available from district foresters and Forest Service headquarters at A&M Univ. at College Station.

Forest Service operates Indian Mound Tree Nursery on Texas 21, near Alto, which provides some 25 million seedlings annually to private landowners for reforestation of their land.

**Fairchild State Forest**—2,740 acres in five tracts—largest tract is 13 miles west of Rusk along U.S. 84. Small day-use area with fishing, hiking, picnicking in main tract one-quarter mile south of U.S. 84.

**Jones State Forest**—1,725-acre area, 5 miles south of Conroe. Nesting site of rare red-cockaded woodpecker. Self-guided nature trail of interpretive forestry in northwest corner of forest, and small pond near district headquarters offers picnic grills and rest rooms.

**Kirby State Forest**—600-acre area, 14 miles south of Woodville off U.S. 287; picnicking.

**Masterson State Forest**—519 acres, 3 miles southeast of Buna on F.M. 2938 (not shown on most highway maps). No public facilities.

**Sieck State Forest**—1,722-acres—main tract 5 miles southeast of Kirbyville via U.S. 96 and F.M. 82; 100-acre adjunct a mile west. Fishing permitted in small pond near entrance to district headquarters and in Trout Creek; swimming, picnic shelters and fireplaces along creek open year-round.







NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AREAS	FEES	VISITOR CENTER	PROGRAMS/TOURS	SELF GUIDING TOUR/TRAILS	PICNICKING	CAMPGROUND	HIKING	BOATING	FISHING	HUNTING	LODGING	RESTAURANT/SNACKS
Alibates Flint Quarries NM												
Amistad NRA				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Big Bend NP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Big Thicket N PRES		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Chamizal N MEM		•		•	•							•
Fort Davis NHS	•	•		•	•		•					
Guadalupe Mountains NP		•	•	•	•	•	•					
Lake Meredith NRA					•	•	•	•	•	•		
Lyndon B. Johnson NHP		•	•	•								
Padre Island NS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS												
Rio Grande WSR								•	•			
San Antonio Missions NHP		•	•				•					

NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION AREAS	DESIGNATED FEE AREA	PICNICKING	CAMPING	SWIMMING	BOATING	SKIING	SHELTER	CONCESSIONAIRES	SANITARY FACILITIES	HIKING TRAILS	DRINKING WATER	INTERPRETIVE TRAILS
<b>ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST</b> (Ranger office in Lufkin)												
Bouton Lake		•	•	☆				•	•	•		
Boykin Springs		•	•	•	☆		•	•	•	•		
Caney Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Harvey Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Sandy Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Townsend		•	•	•	•			•	•	•		
<b>DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST</b> (Ranger offices in Crockett)												
Big Slough Canoe Trail					•							
4-C's Hiking Trail										•		
Kickapoo		•							•	•	•	
Neches Bluff		•								•		
Ratcliff Lake		•	•	•	☆		•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>SABINE NATIONAL FOREST</b> (Ranger offices in Hemphill)												
Indian Mounds		•	•	•	•				•	•		
Lakeview		•	•							•	•	
Ragtown		•	•	•					•	•		
Red Hills Lake		•	•	•	☆		•		•	•	•	
Willow Oak		•	•	•	•				•	•		
<b>SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST</b> (Rangers offices in New Waverly)												
Double Lake		•	•	•	•	☆	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kelley Pond			•						•			
Lone Star Hiking Trail										•		
Stubblefield Lake		•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•

\*Electricity, water and sewer hookups on some sites at Double Lake.  
 \*Electrical hookups on selected sites at Ratcliff and Red Hill Lake. ☆ No Motors Allowed

Referred to collectively as the National Forests in Texas, the Angelina, Sabine, Davy Crockett, and Sam Houston National Forests are in the heavily forested "Piney Woods" of East Texas. They are comprised of 634,912 acres of federally owned land scattered throughout 12 counties. The National Forests are administered by the U.S. Forest Service under the multiple use principle with each natural resource—timber, water, forage, wildlife and recreation—managed under a coordinated, balanced plan. Primitive camping is allowed in all areas except where posted. Some areas have loops with electricity; however there are no water or sewer hookups provided at any camping area. Hunting and fishing in National Forests is regulated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Developed recreation areas have varying facilities as shown in the chart. Fee areas require self-deposit of fees for overnight camping or day use of areas. Some areas have been set aside as "wilderness areas" for those desiring a totally primitive camping experience. No wheeled vehicles of any kind are permitted in the wilderness areas.

**Angelina National Forest**—Smallest with 153,176 acres in Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties, with eight recreational areas.

**Davy Crockett National Forest**—160,567 acres in Houston and Trinity Counties, containing five recreational areas.

**Sabine National Forest**—Includes 160,656 acres in Jasper, Sabine, San Augustine, Newton and Shelby Counties with seven recreational areas.

**Sam Houston National Forest**—162,909 acres in Montgomery, San Jacinto and Walker Counties with seven recreational areas.

**For information on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas:**  
 Forest Supervisor Phone: 936/639-8501  
 USDA Forest Service  
 Homer Garrison Federal Bldg  
 701 N First St  
 Lufkin TX 75901

**Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument**—Quarries where pre-Columbian Indians dug agatized dolomite to make projectile points, knives, scrapers, and other tools.

**Amistad National Recreation Area**—Boating and water sports at Amistad Reservoir on the Rio Grande.

**Big Bend National Park**—Mountain and desert landscape within the great bend of the Rio Grande which has cut deep canyon walls for over 100 miles.

**Big Thicket National Preserve**—A biological crossroads in North America where diverse plant and animal species coexist.

**Chamizal National Memorial**—Site commemorating the Chamizal Treaty of 1963 which resulted in a peaceful settlement of a 99-year boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico.

**Fort Davis National Historic Site**—The best preserved military fort in the Southwest, Fort Davis operated from 1854 to 1891, assisting the opening of the area to settlement.

**Guadalupe Mountains National Park**—This mountain mass contains portions of the world's most extensive Permian limestone fossil reef exposed by a massive earth fault.

**Lake Meredith National Recreation Area**—A popular water-sport area on man-made Lake Meredith on the Canadian River.

**Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park**—The birthplace, boyhood home, and ranch of the 36th President of the United States.

**Padre Island National Seashore**—Wide sandy beaches, excellent fishing, and abundant bird and marine life on this barrier island that stretches along the Gulf Coast for over 80 miles.

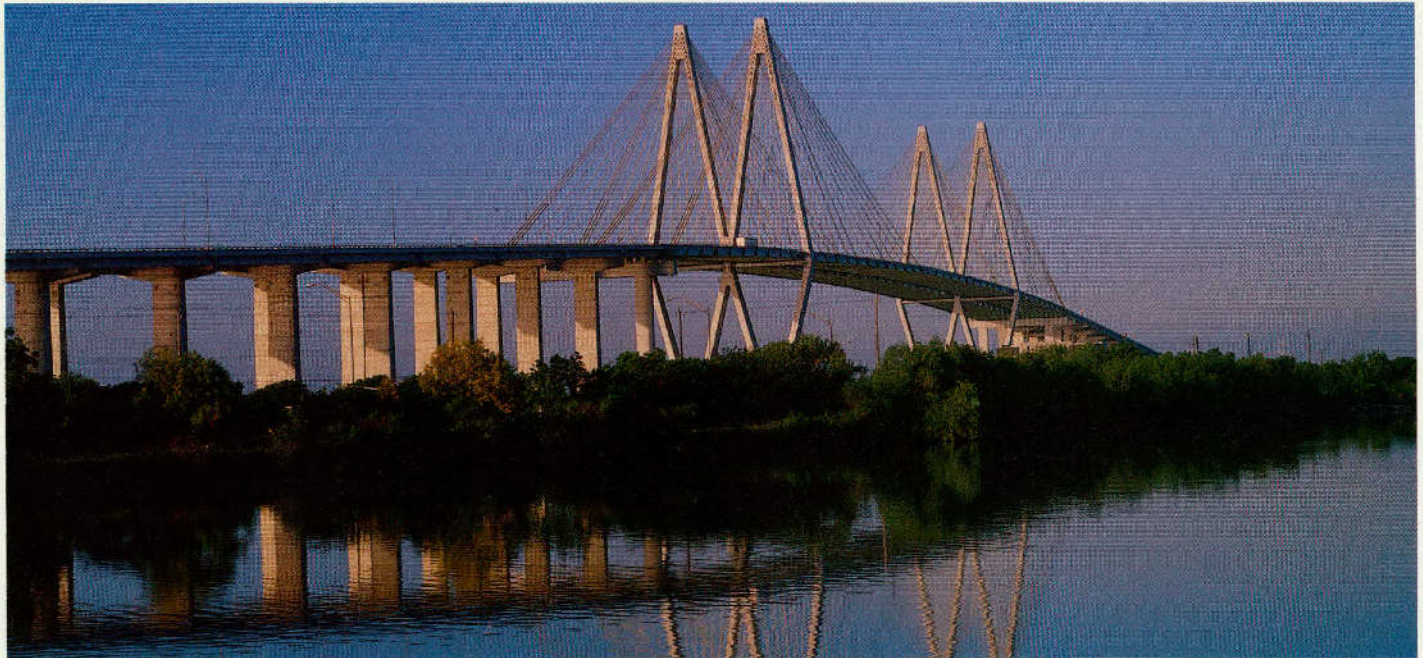
**Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site**—Site where General Zachary Taylor led American forces in the first major battle of the Mexican War, May 8, 1846.

**Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River**—191 mile strip of the American shore of the Rio Grande in the Chihuahuan Desert.

**San Antonio Missions National Historic Park**—Spanish frontier missions that were part of the colonization system in the Spanish Southwest during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

**For additional information on these or other areas of the National Park System contact:**

National Park Service Phone: 202/208-4747  
 Office of Information Web site: www.nps.gov  
 P.O. Box 37127  
 Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



For a detailed listing of hundreds of Texas happenings, write for the quarterly *TEXAS EVENTS CALENDAR* at PO Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249. Also check the Web site [www.traveltex.com](http://www.traveltex.com), or contact any of the following travel authorities for up-to-the-minute information on events, accommodations, and dining opportunities:

**REGIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS**

**Bed & Breakfast Texas Style**

701 Honeysuckle Lane  
College Station, TX 77845  
979/696-9222  
[www.bnbtxasstyle.com](http://www.bnbtxasstyle.com)

**Big Bend Area Travel Association**

PO Box 401  
Alpine, TX 79831

**Dallas/Fort Worth Area Tourism Council**

701 S. Main Street  
Grapevine, TX 76051  
817/329-2438

**East Texas Tourism Association**

PO Box 1592  
Longview, TX 75606  
903/757-4444  
[www.easttexasguide.com](http://www.easttexasguide.com)

**LBJ Heartland Network**

HC 13, Box 4  
Fredericksburg 78624  
830/997-6417

**Northeast Texas Tourism Council**

PO Box 949  
Pittsburg, TX 75686  
903/856-6862

**Red River Valley Tourism Association**

3201 Texoma Parkway  
Sherman, TX 75090

**Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce**

U. S. 83 at F.M. 1015  
PO Box 1499  
Weslaco, TX 78599  
956/968-3141

**Texas Department of Economic and Development Tourism Division**

PO Box 12728  
Austin, TX 78711  
512/462-9191  
[www.traveltex.com](http://www.traveltex.com)

**Texas Hill Country River Region**

PO Box 288  
Concan, TX 78838  
1-800-210-0380  
[www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com)

**Texas Historic Hotel Association**

501 West Main  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830/997-3980

**Texas Hotel & Motel Association**

900 Congress Avenue, Suite 210  
Austin, TX 78701  
512/474-2996  
[www.texaslodging.com](http://www.texaslodging.com)

**Texas Travel Industry Association**

812 San Antonio Street, Suite 401  
Austin, TX 78701  
512/476-4472  
<http://tourtexas.com>

**Tri-County Tourism Association**

PO Box 606  
Camp Wood, TX 78833

**FOR ADDITIONAL CAMPING INFORMATION**

**Texas Association of Campground Owners**

6425 So. I-35, Suite 105-110  
Austin, TX 78744  
1-800-657-6555  
[www.gocampingamerica.com/texas](http://www.gocampingamerica.com/texas)

**Texas KOA Campgrounds Owners Association**

602 Gembler Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78219  
210/547-5201

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.**

4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744  
512/389-4800 1-800-792-1112  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS**

**Abilene Convention & Visitors Council**

1101 North First St.  
PO Box 2281, 79604-2281  
915/676-2556 1-800-727-7704  
[www.abilene.com/visitors](http://www.abilene.com/visitors)

**Addison Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 9010, 75001  
972/450-6219  
[www.ci.addison.tx.us](http://www.ci.addison.tx.us)

**Alvin Tourist & Visitor Information Center**

105 W. Willis, PO Box 2028, 77512  
281/585-3359 1-800-331-4063  
[www.alvintexas.org](http://www.alvintexas.org)

**Amarillo Convention & Visitors Council**

1000 S. Polk St.  
PO Drawer 9480, 79105  
806/374-1497 1-800-692-1338  
[www.amarillo-cvb.org](http://www.amarillo-cvb.org)

**Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce**

130 W. Goodnight, 78336  
361/758-2750

**Arlington Convention & Visitor Bureau**

1905 E. Randol Mill Rd. 76011  
817/461-3888 1-800-342-4305  
[www.acvb.org/welcome/](http://www.acvb.org/welcome/)

**Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 2600, 75751  
903/677-0775  
[www.athenstx.org](http://www.athenstx.org)

**Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau**

201 E. 2nd St., 78701  
512/478-0098 1-800-926-2282  
[www.austintexas.org](http://www.austintexas.org)

**Bandera Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 171, 78003-0171  
830/796-3045 1-800-364-3833  
[www.tourtexas.com/bandera](http://www.tourtexas.com/bandera)

**Bay City Convention & Visitors Bureau**

201 7th St., 77414  
979/245-8333 1-800-806-8333  
[www.baycity.org](http://www.baycity.org)

**Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 3827, 77704  
409/880-3749 1-800-392-4401  
[www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com)

**Belton Area Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 659, 76513  
254/939-3551  
[www.beltontxchamber.com](http://www.beltontxchamber.com)

**Big Spring Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**

215 West Third St.  
PO Box 1391, 79721  
915/263-7641  
[www.bigspringtx.com](http://www.bigspringtx.com)

**Boerne Tourism & Economic Development Department**

PO Box 1677, 78006  
1-888-842-8080  
[www.boernetx.com](http://www.boernetx.com)

**Brady Convention & Visitors Bureau**

101 E. First St., 76825  
915/597-3491

**Brazosport Convention**

**& Visitors Council**  
420 Hwy. 332 W, Clute 77531  
979/265-2505

**Brenham (Washington County) Convention and Visitors Bureau**

314 S. Austin St., 77833  
979/836-3695 1-800-225-3695  
www.brenhamtexas.com

**Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 4697, 78523  
956/546-3721 1-800-626-2639  
www.brownsville.org

**Brownwood Chamber of Commerce**

600 E. Depot St., 76801  
PO Box 880, 76804  
915/646-9535

**Bryan-College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau**

715 University Drive East  
College Station, TX 77840  
979/260-9898 1-800-777-8292  
www.bryan-collegestation.org

**Canton Chamber of Commerce**

315 First Monday Lane, 75103  
903/567-2991  
www.cantontx.com

**Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1435, 78130-1435  
830/964-2223  
1-800-528-2104  
www.canyonlakechamber.com

**Clear Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau**

1601 NASA Road One, 77058  
281/244-2144 1-800-844-5253

**Clifton Chamber of Commerce**

115 N. Avenue D, 76634  
254/675-3720 1-800-344-3720

**Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau**

425 Spring St., 78934  
979/732-8385  
www.columbus-texas.org

**Concan, Texas Hill Country River Region**

PO Box 288, 78838-0288  
1-800-210-0380  
www.thcrr.com

**Lake Conroe Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 2347, 77305  
936/756-6644 1-800-283-6645  
www.lakeconroecvb.org

**Corpus Christi Area Convention & Tourist Bureau**

1823 N. Chaparral  
PO Box 2664, 78403  
361/561-2000 1-800-678-6232  
www.corpuschristi-tx-cvb.org

**Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau**

100 S. Houston St.  
214/571-1301 1-800-232-5527  
www.dallascvb.com

**Decatur Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 474, 76234  
940/627-3107  
www.decaturtx.com

**Del Rio Chamber of Commerce**

1915 Avenue F, 78840  
830/775-3551  
www.drchamber.com

**Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Drawer P, 76202  
940/382-7895 1-888-381-1818  
www.discoverdenton.org/

**Duncanville Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 380280, 75138-0280  
972/780-5086

**Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1188, 78853-1188  
830/773-3224

**Edinburg Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 85, 78540-0085  
956/383-4974 1-800-800-7214

**El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau**

1 Civic Center Plaza, 79901  
915/534-0601 1-800-351-6024  
www.visitelpaso.com

**Ennis Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 1237, 75120  
972/878-4748 1-888-366-4748  
www.visitennis.org

**Farmers Branch Development/Tourism**

13000 William Dodson, 75234  
972/919-2510 1-800-272-6249  
www.ci.farmers-branch.tx.us

**Fort Bend Convention/Visitor Services**

445 Commerce Green Blvd.  
Sugar Land 77478  
281/491-0800  
www.visitfortbend.com

**Fort Stockton Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1000, 79735  
915/336-8525

**Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau**

415 Throckmorton, 76102  
817/336-8791 1-800-433-5747  
www.fortworth.com

**Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau**

106 N. Adams, 78624  
830/997-6523 1-888-997-3600  
www.fredericksburg-texas.com

**Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 518, 76241  
940/665-2831 1-888-585-4468  
www.gainesville.tx.us

**Galveston Convention & Visitors Bureau**

2428 Seawall Blvd., 77550  
409/763-4311 1-888-425-4753  
www.galvestoncvb.com

**Garland Convention & Visitors Council**

PO Box 469002, 75046  
972/205-2749  
www.ci.garland.tx.us

**Georgetown Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 409, 78627-0409  
512/930-3545 1-800-436-8696  
www.georgetown.org/tourism

**Glen Rose/Somervell County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 2037, 76043  
254/897-3081 1-888-346-6282

**Gonzales Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 134, 78629-0134  
830/672-6532 1-888-672-1095  
www.gonzalestx.com

**Graham Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 299, 76450-0299  
940-549-3355 1-800-256-4844  
www.visitgraham.com

**Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau**

100 N. Crockett, 76048  
817/573-5548 1-800-950-2212  
www.granburytx.com

**Grand Prairie Convention & Visitors Bureau**

2170 N. Beltline Rd., 75050  
972/263-9588 1-800-288-8386  
www.gptexas.com

**Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau**

One Liberty Park Plaza, 76051  
817/410-3185 1-800-457-6338  
www.grapevintexasusa.com

**Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 1055, 75403-1055  
903/455-1510  
www.greenville-chamber.org

**Harlingen Chamber of Commerce**

311 E. Tyler, 78550  
956/423-5440 1-800-531-7346  
www.harlingen.com/

**Henderson Tourist Development**

201 North Main, 75652  
903/657-5528  
www.hendersontx.com

**Hillsboro Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 358, 76645  
254/582-2481 1-800-445-5726  
www.hillsborochamber.org

**Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau**

901 Bagby St., Ste. 100, 77002  
713/437-5200 1-800-4HOUSTON  
www.houston-guide.com

**Huntsville Visitor/Convention Bureau**

PO Box 1230, 77342-1230  
936/295-8113 1-800-289-0389  
www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us

**Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau**

1231 Greenway Dr., Ste. 1060, 75038  
972/252-7476 1-800-247-8464  
www.irvingtexas.com

**Johnson City Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 485, 78636  
830/868-7684  
www.lbjcountry.com

**Kaufmann Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 146, 75142  
972/932-3118  
www.kaufmantx.com

**Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau**

2108 Sidney Baker, 78028  
830/792-3535 1-800-221-7958  
www.kerrvilletexas.com

**Killeen Visitors & Conventions Bureau**

PO Box 548, 76540  
254/526-9551 1-800-869-8265  
www.killeen-cvb.com/

**Kingsville Visitor Center**

1501 N. Hwy. 77, 78363  
361/592-8516 1-800-333-5032

**La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce**

171 S. Main St., 78945  
979/968-5756 1-800-LAGRANG  
www.lagrangetx.org

**Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau**

501 San Agustin, 78040  
956/795-2200 1-800-361-3360  
www.visitlaredo.com

**Lewisville Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 293805, 75029-3805  
972/436-9571  
www.lewisvillechamber.com

**Longview Convention & Visitors Bureau**

410 N. Center St., 75601  
903/753-3281  
www.longviewtx.com

**Lubbock Visitors & Conventions Bureau**

1301 Broadway #200, 79401  
806/763-4666 1-800-692-4035  
www.lubbocklegends.org

**Lufkin Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 1606, 75901  
936/634-6305  
www.lufkintexas.org

**McAllen Convention & Visitor Bureau**

PO Box 790, 78505  
956/682-2871 1-877-622-5536  
www.mcallenchamberusa.com

**McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 618, 75070  
214/544-1407 1-888-649-8499  
www.mckinneycvb.org

**Marshall Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 520, 75671  
903/935-7868  
www.marshall-chamber.com

**Mesquite Convention & Visitors Bureau**

617 N. Ebrite, 75149  
972/285-0211

**Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
109 N. Main  
PO Box 1890, 79702  
915/683-3381 1-800-624-6435  
www.visitmidlandtx.com

**Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1237, 75456-1237  
903/572-8567  
www.mtpleasant-tx.com

**Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
200 E. Main St., 759631  
936/564-7351 1-888-564-7351  
www.visitnacogdoches.org

**New Braunfels Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 311417, 78131  
830/625-2385 1-800-572-2626  
www.nbcham.org

**North Richland Hills, City of**  
7301 N.E. Loop 820, 76180  
817/427-6000  
www.ci.north-richland-hills.tx.us

**Odessa Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
700 N. Grant St., Suite 200, 79760  
915/333-7871 1-800-780-4678  
www.odessacvb.com

**Orange Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
1012 Green Ave., 77630  
409/883-3536 1-800-528-4906  
www.org-tx.com/chamber

**Palestine Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 2828, 75802  
903/723-3014  
www.visitpalestine.com

**Paris Visitors and Convention Committee**  
1651 Clarksville, 75460  
903/784-2501 1-800-727-4789  
www.paristexas.com

**Pecos Dept. of Tourism & General Development**  
PO Box 27, 79772  
915/445-2406  
www.pecostx.com

**Plainview Chamber of Commerce**  
710 W. 5th St., 79072  
806/296-7431 1-800-658-2685  
www.plainviewtx.com

**Plano Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 860358  
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., 75086-0358  
972/422-0296  
www.planocvb.com

**Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce**  
421 W. Cotter, 78373  
361/749-5919 1-800-452-6278  
www.portaransas.org

**Port Arthur Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
3401 Cultural Center Drive, 77642  
409/985-7822 1-800-235-7822  
www.portarthurtexas.com

**Port Lavaca/Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce**  
2300 Hwy. 35, 77979  
361/552-2959  
www.calhountx.org

**Quitman (Wood County) Chamber of Commerce**  
101 Main St., 75783  
903/763-4411  
www.quitman.com

**Richardson Chamber of Commerce**  
411 Belle Grove Dr., 75080  
972/234-4141  
www.telecomcorridor.com

**Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce**  
2404 Broadway, 78382  
361/729-6445 1-800-826-6441  
www.rockport-fulton.org

**Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center**  
3825 Texas 36 South, 77471  
832/595-3520  
www.rosenbergtourism.com

**Round Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
212 East Main, 78664  
512/255-5805/1-800-747-3479  
www.roundrockchamber.org

**San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
500 Rio Concho Drive, 76903  
915/653-3162 1-800-375-1206  
www.sanangelo-tx.com

**San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
203 S. St. Mary's, 2nd floor  
PO Box 2277, 78298  
210/270-8700 1-800-447-3372  
www.sanantoniocvb.com

**San Marcos Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 2310, 78667-2310  
512/393-5900 1-888-200-5620  
www.sanmarcostexas.com/tourism

**Sealy Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 586, 77474  
979/885-3222  
www.sealy-tx.com

**Seguin Visitor & Convention Department**  
PO Box 710, 78155  
830/379-6382 1-800-580-7322  
www.chamber.seguinonline.com

**Shenandoah Convention & Visitor Bureau**  
29811 I-45 North, 77381  
281/292-5953 1-800-207-9463  
www.shenandoahcvcvb.com

**Sherman Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1029, 75091  
903/893-1184  
www.shermantexas.com

**Sonora Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1172, 76950  
915/387-2880  
www.sonoratax-chamber.com



**South Padre Island Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
600 Padre Blvd., 78597  
956/761-6433 1-800-767-2373  
www.sopadre.com

**Southern Brazoria County Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
1239 W. Texas 332, Clute 77531  
979/265-2508 1-800-WET-GULF  
www.tourist-info.org  
www.tourtexas.com/southernbrazoria

**Stephenville Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 306, 76401  
254/965-5313 1-800-658-6490  
www.stephenvilletexas.org

**Sulphur Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 347, 75483-0347  
903/885-6515 1-888-300-6623  
www.tourtexas.com/sulphursprings  
www.chamber@sulphursprings-tx.com

**Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1148, 79556  
915/235-5488 1-800-658-6757  
www.sweetwatertexas.org

**Temple Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
Mayborn Civic & Convention Center  
Municipal Building, 76501  
254/298-5720  
1-800-479-0338  
www.ci.temple.tx.us

**Terrell Chamber of Commerce**  
1314 W. Moore, 75160  
972/563-5703  
www.terrelltexas.com

**Terrell County Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 4890 Sanderson, TX 79848  
915/345-2324  
www.sandersontx.org

**Texarkana Chamber of Commerce**  
819 State Line Ave.  
PO Box 1468, 75501  
903/792-7191  
www.texarkana.org

**Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 390, 75710  
903/592-1661 1-800-235-5712  
www.tylertexas.com

**Uvalde Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
300 E. Main St., 78801  
830/278-4115  
www.uvaldecvb.org

**Van Horn Convention Center & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 488, 79855  
915/283-2682

**Vernon Chamber of Commerce**  
P.O. Box 1538, 76385  
940-552-2564 1-800-687-3137  
www.vermontx.com

**Victoria Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 2465, 77902  
361/582-4285 1-800-926-5774  
www.visitvictoria.org

**Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 2570, 76702-2570  
254/750-8696 1-800-922-6386  
www.wacocvb.com

**Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
102 YMCA Dr., 75165  
972/937-2390  
www.waxahachie.com

**Weatherford Chamber/Visitors Center**  
PO Box 310, 76086  
817/594-3801  
www.weatherford-chamber.com

**Wichita Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 630  
1000 5th St., 76301  
940/716-5500 1-800-799-6732  
www.wichitafalls.org

## TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS

The Texas Department of Transportation operates travel information centers for the convenience of the traveling public. Uniformed, professional travel counselors welcome visitors and provide a wealth of free literature, information, and suggestions to make every Texas trip more pleasant.

Working with the Official Travel Map, counselors expertly chart routes to any area of Texas. They point out the most convenient short-line directions, or leisurely scenic drives to your destination. They supply comprehensive statewide travel publications, plus detailed brochures about points of interest, attractions, and recreational areas along the way. All of those services are free. The centers are open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Easter Sunday.

In addition, travel counseling and emergency road condition information may be obtained by calling 1-800-452-9292.

Amarillo	I-40 (from Oklahoma & New Mexico)
Anthony	I-10 (from New Mexico)
Austin	Capitol Complex
Denison	U.S. 75/69 (from Oklahoma)
Gainesville	U.S. 77, I-35 (from Oklahoma)
Langtry	U.S. 90, Loop 25
Laredo	I-35 & U.S. 83
Orange	I-10 (from Louisiana)
Texarkana	I-30 (from Arkansas)
Valley	U.S. 77 & U.S. 83 in Harlingen
Waskom	I-20 (from Louisiana)
Wichita Falls	I-44, U.S. 277/281 (from Oklahoma)

## HIGHWAY REST AREAS

Throughout the superb system of Texas highways, motorists find bonuses of travel pleasure in highway rest areas. Texas pioneered the concept of miniature parks along travelways, an idea that has been adopted nationally.

Today more than a thousand Texas rest areas, picnic areas, and scenic turnouts invite motorists to pause and relax from the concentration of driving. Often the site has been selected for its impressive landscape views, and each of the small parks is landscaped to complement its individual surroundings. All are equipped with shaded arbors, tables, benches, and cooking grills. Remaining in a rest area for more than 24 hours or erecting any kind of structure is prohibited by law.

## SPEED LIMITS

In Texas, the maximum speed limit for cars and light trucks (pickups, panels, vans, etc.) is 70 miles per hour (mph) daytime, 65 mph nighttime on all numbered highways in rural areas. Lower speed limits are posted on many Texas Highways to account for their individual operating characteristics. Speed limits on urban freeways typically range from 55 mph to 70 mph.

## TRAFFIC SIGNS

Speeds, caution areas, stops and directions are marked along the more than 79,000 miles of Texas highways by over half a million signs. Passing is illegal when there is a continuous yellow stripe on the driver's side of the center line. Center lines are yellow dash stripes. White dash stripes separate dual lanes of traffic in the same direction. Painted or reflectorized pavement arrows often show approved directions or turns. Arrows pointing toward you or showing red reflectors indicate you are driving the wrong way on a freeway ramp or one-way street.

## AUTO SAFETY BELTS AND CHILD SEATS

Texas law requires front seat occupants, regardless of age, must be buckled up while riding in cars and trucks. Further, the law requires children under age four or who are less than 36 inches tall must be secured in a federally approved child safety seat. Children under 17 years of age must wear a safety belt no matter where they sit in the vehicle. Fines may be levied for failure to use safety belts and child safety seats as prescribed.

## AUTO INSURANCE

A motor vehicle may not be operated in Texas unless a policy of liability insurance is in effect. Evidence of insurance must be furnished when requested by a peace officer.

## AIRLINE INFORMATION

For more information on airlines or to make airline reservations, visit the Web site [Traveltex.com](http://Traveltex.com).

## AMTRAK INFORMATION

For information, call 1-800-USA-RAIL.

**Amtrak's Sunset Limited** from New Orleans to Los Angeles stops at Beaumont/Port Arthur, Houston, San Antonio, Del Rio, Sanderson, Alpine (close to Big Bend National Park) and El Paso.

**The Heartland Flyer** stops in Gainesville and Fort Worth from Oklahoma City and connects with the Texas Eagle in Fort Worth.

**The Texas Eagle** is a Chicago to Los Angeles train with service in Texas at Texarkana, Mineola, Marshall, Longview, Dallas, Fort Worth, Cleburne, McGregor, Taylor, Austin, San Marcos, San Antonio where it usually links up with the Sunset Limited.

## BUS LINES

Arrow Trailways of Texas, Greyhound Bus Lines, Kerrville Bus Co., and Valley Transit Co. have scheduled service to and within the state.

## MEXICO

### ENTRANCE AND EXIT REGULATIONS

The enchantment of Mexico is but a bridge away from much of Texas. Visitors find Mexican shops and markets colorful and fascinating, filled with a variety of gift, handicraft and art items at attractive prices. The people of Mexico are gracious and friendly.

### GENERAL

U.S. citizens must carry proof of citizenship when crossing into Mexico. Mexican immigration officials require a passport, birth certificate, voter registration card, or any other document that proves citizenship. On returning to Texas from Mexico, a stop at U. S. Customs is required, stating nationality and declaring Mexican purchases. Visitors to Mexican border cities seldom use Mexican currency. U.S. dollars are readily accepted at the current exchange rate. Mexican banks, large hotels and motels and tourist service facilities provide currency exchange if needed.

A Mexican tourist card is required for visiting Mexico beyond the border cities, or for stays longer than 72 hours. The free tourist cards are available from Mexican immigration authorities at the border, and also from Mexican consulates and Mexican government tourist offices in the U.S. A birth certificate or other proof of U.S. citizenship, such as voter registration, military I.D. showing place of birth, or passport, is required to obtain the tourist card.

Canadian citizens who visit Mexico from Texas should have a passport or birth certificate. Other foreign nationals should have a passport and appropriate visas both for entering Mexico and returning to the U.S.

### WARNING

*Unauthorized possession/importation of a firearm of any type is a felony in Mexico. At minimum, this could result in a stiff fine and seizure of the weapon. Possession of a "military caliber" weapon may result in jail time and confiscation of car. Entering the country with unauthorized weapons carries a penalty of two to eight years in jail. Pleading ignorance to the law cannot be used as a defense. Mexico's weapons ban includes all weapons and ammunition—rifles, pistols, shotguns, black powder handguns and long guns, reloading components, and any kind of ammunition. Even a few shotgun shells in the trunk can cause a big problem.*



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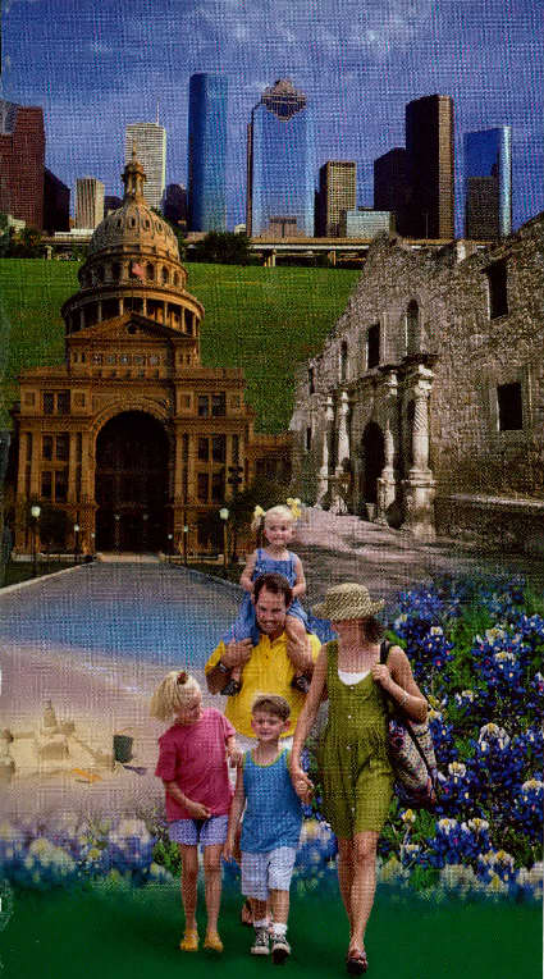
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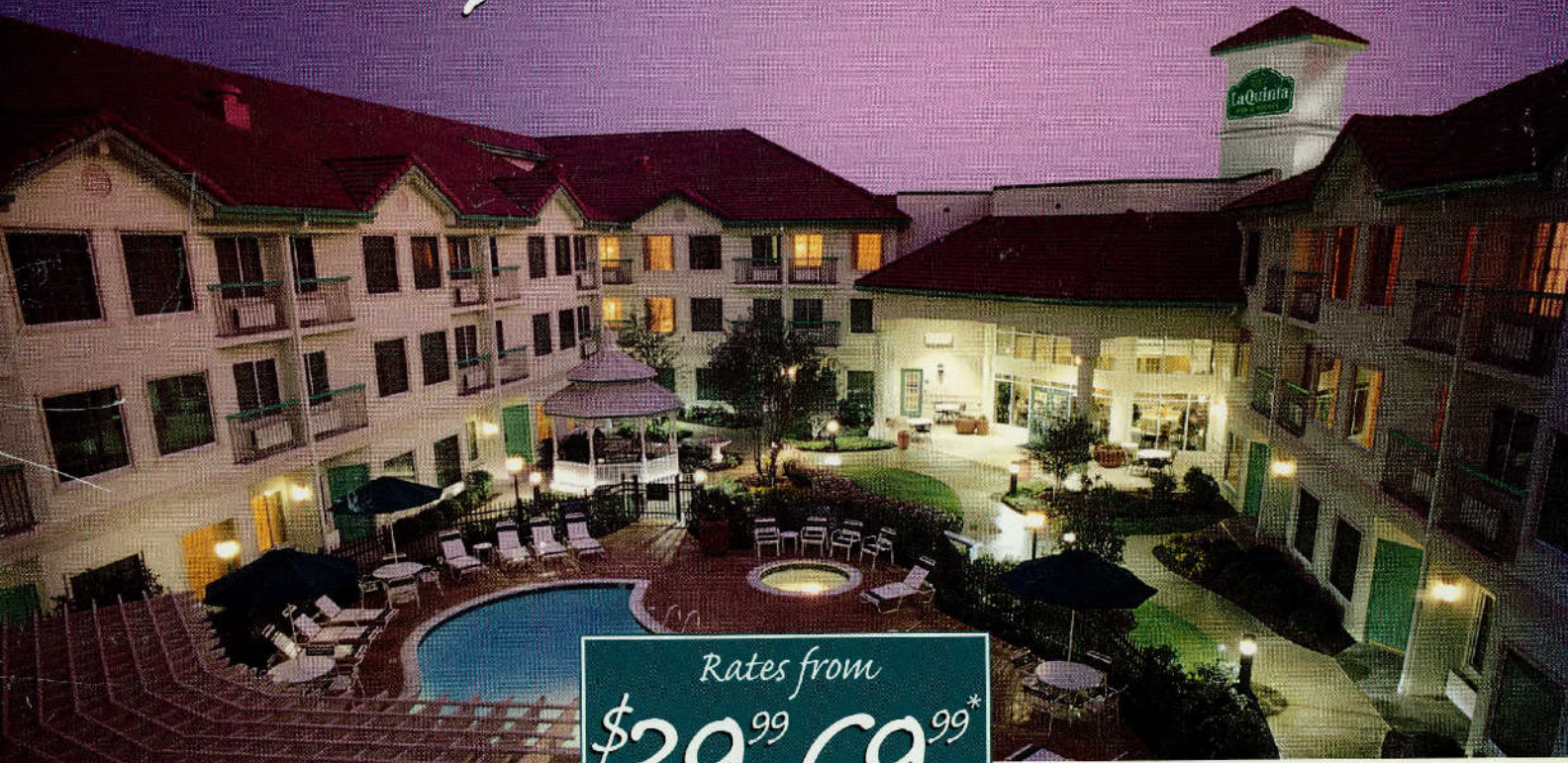
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