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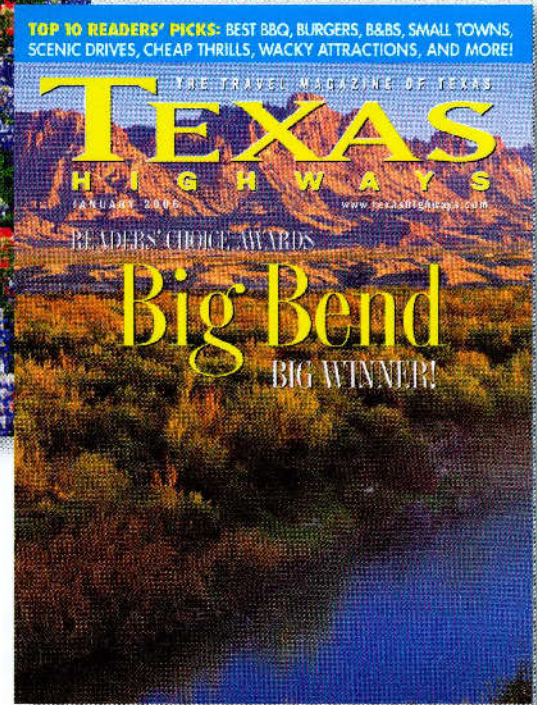
Texas State Travel Guide 2007



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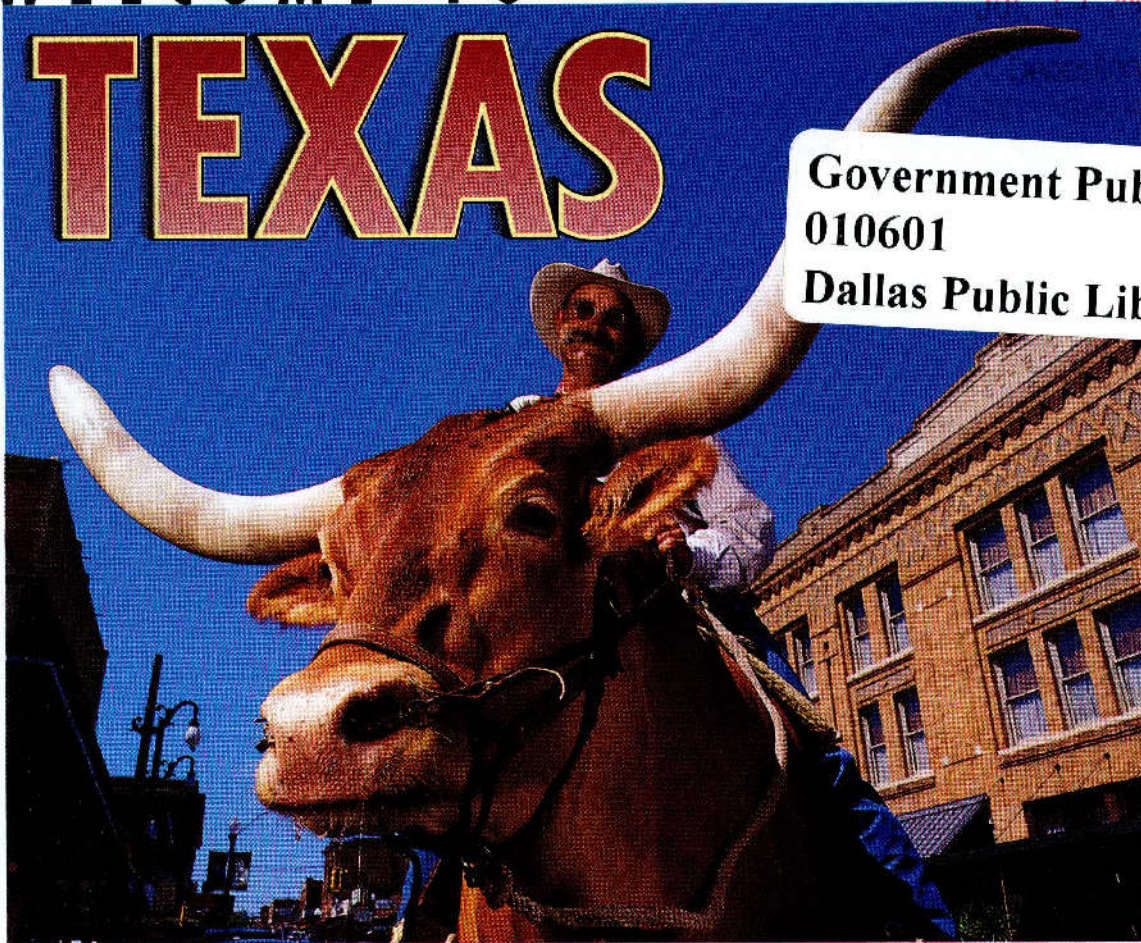
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J. GIBBS SMITH/ISTOCK

Howdy y'all! You'll hear that expression a lot no matter what part of the state you visit. That's because Texans are friendly; in fact, the word Texas comes from the Indian word Tejas, which means "friend."

But friendly folks aren't the only things you'll find during your visit. The Lone Star State is filled with so many wonderful things to see, do and experience that, no doubt, you'll be planning your next trip before your first visit is even finished. It's the reason we proudly say, "Texas. It's like a whole other country."

First, let's talk about the geographic diversity this state has to offer. Texas has gorgeous mountains and rugged desert in the west, water-carved canyons and hearty farmland to the north, swamps and forests in the east, rolling hills and breathtaking views in the central part of the state, and hundreds of miles of sandy beaches in the southeast. Who could ask for anything more?

Next, let's talk about food. You want good old-fashioned barbecue? Just follow your nose to the tantalizing aromas of hickory- and mesquite-wood smoke, and you'll find some of the best barbecue in the world. But Texas has more than just barbecue; you can sample some incredible Mexican, German, Asian, or Southwestern fare.

And you'll never be bored in Texas, because there's an adventure around every corner no matter what type of activities you prefer. For nature lovers, be sure to visit any of the remarkable state parks in Texas and enjoy all the available activities, like hiking, biking and walking trails, fishing, swimming, boating, and even nature watching. And if you love to waterski, scuba dive or just float down a lazy river, Texas is blessed with

beautiful lakes, rivers and water parks. Don't forget there's also surfing on the Gulf of Mexico along the Texas coast.

If you're into arts, music or history, there are thousands of marvelous historical and heritage museums, galleries filled with works of art, and beautiful historic homes and buildings. There are also attractions and live venues to experience a variety of musical genres to whet your listening appetite, from country to rock, from polka to zydeco, and from blues to Tejano.

Are you a sports fan? Well, Texas proudly boasts two pro football teams, three pro basketball teams, two pro baseball teams and a pro hockey team, as well as minor league teams of every sport found in cities all across the state. If you want to experience fun on a more local level, you can find festivals and fairs happening nearly year-round. And for thrill seekers, climb aboard one of the many heart-stopping roller coasters and other rides found at amusement parks located throughout Texas.

If you enjoy shopping, you'll find treasures of all shapes and sizes in small towns and large cities alike. Whether you prefer the slow pace of browsing through an antique store, or you'd rather stroll through the wide selections at a factory outlet mall, we're sure you'll find exactly what you're looking for, and more.

And no matter where you go, or what you do, you're sure to find friendly faces and hospitality like you've never experienced before. So, have a great time in the Lone Star State and...

Howdy, y'all!

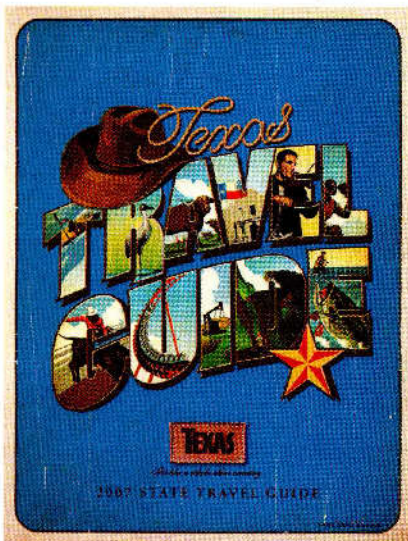


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Use this guide to help discover the wondrous treasures that Texas has to offer.

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.

Editor: Brent Dollar

Graphic Design: Kirsti Harms

Cover provided by the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

TEXAS IS A BIG PLACE—REALLY, 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. Each city's "Map" code shows grid coordinates corresponding to its location on the *Texas Official Travel Map*.

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 a listing of state and national forests included for your reference.

We've included listings for chambers of commerce and convention and visitor bureaus that contain addresses, phone numbers and Web sites for more information.

Highway designations in the book include I- for interstate highways, U.S. 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!

BE SURPRISED: EXPLORE TRAVELTEX.COM TODAY

Texas has mountains, canyons, cowboys. That much you know. But did you know Texas has a coast that stretches more than 600 miles? Or that Texas has world-class shopping, 900 golf courses and great live music? **TravelTex.com, the official Web site for Texas Tourism**, has these answers and more. You won't believe what you'll find. Everything from live Texas Web cams to interactive driving tours to genuine Texas moments. It's all at TravelTex.com. And it's all about helping you plan a fun, unexpected Texas vacation. Stop by and stay awhile.

WANT TO LEARN 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, 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 (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department)

www.the.state.tx.us (Texas Historical Commission)

www.artonart.com (Texas Commission on the Arts)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit these Web sites:

www.texashighways.com (Texas Highways online magazine)

www.txdps.state.tx.us (Texas Department of Public Safety)

www.txdot.gov (Texas Department of Transportation)

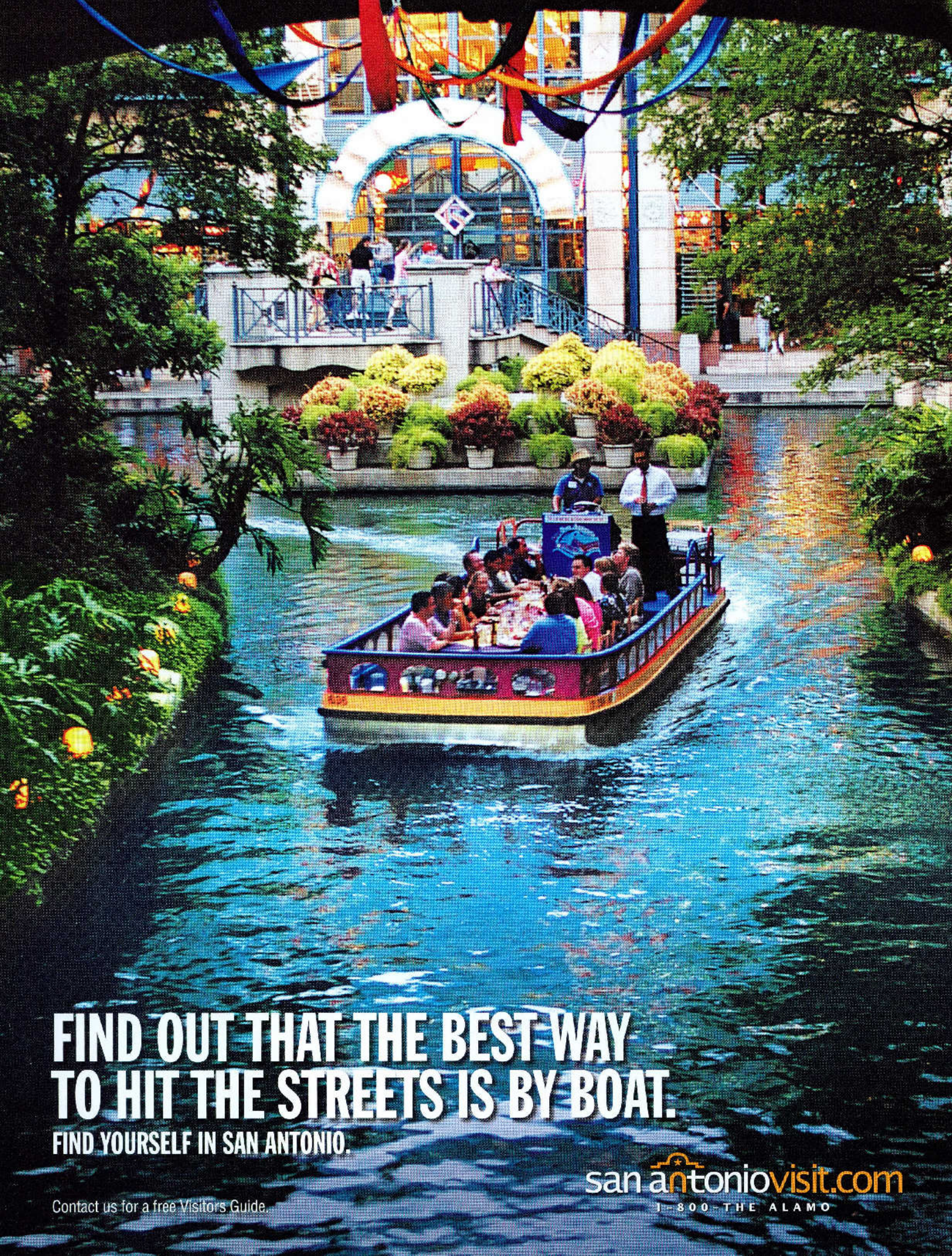
TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS GUIDE, call 800/452-9292 or write to: *Texas State Travel Guide*, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION:

AJR & Associates, 3229 D'Amico Street, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77019

713/942-7676, fax 713/942-0277

NOTE: We want you to experience the best that Texas has to offer. However, please understand that 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 will be great, please **call the local chamber of commerce, convention & visitors bureau and/or attraction, prior to your trip, to verify the attraction will be open during the time of your visit.** Welcome to Texas, y'all!



FIND OUT THAT THE BEST WAY TO HIT THE STREETS IS BY BOAT.

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for more than 24 hours or erecting any kind of structure is prohibited by law.

WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE (WI-FI) ACCESS

Wireless Internet service (Wi-Fi) is now available at all Texas Safety Rest Areas and Travel Information Centers. To obtain free travel information and access the internet, all you need is a wireless-enabled (Wi-Fi) computer within the Safety Rest Area or Travel Information Center designated 'hot spots.' Visit <http://tx.roadconnect.net> and get connected.

SPEED LIMITS

In Texas, the maximum speed limit for cars and light trucks (pickups, panels, vans, etc.) is 70 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. In certain counties with low population density, the maximum speed limit can be 80 mph, but only where 80 mph signs have been posted.

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Speeds, caution areas, stops and directions are marked along the more than 79,000 miles of Texas highways by more than 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 red reflectors showing 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, be buckled up while riding in cars and trucks. Further, the law requires children under age five 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 police officer.

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 *Texas 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 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The Capitol Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday year-round. All centers are closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve day, Christmas Day and Easter.

Travelers may receive road condition information by visiting our Web site at www.txdot.gov or by calling 800/452-9292 for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. Travelers may also call daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central time, to speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance. (TDD for the deaf 800/687-5288.)

Amarillo	I-40 (from Oklahoma & New Mexico)	806/335-1441
Anthony	I-10 (from New Mexico)	915/886-3468
Austin	Capitol Visitor Center	512/463-8586
Denison	U.S. 69/75 (from Oklahoma)	903/463-2860
Gainesville	I-35 (from Oklahoma)	940/665-2301
Langtry	U.S. 90, Loop 25	432/291-3340
Laredo	I-35 at U.S. 83	956/417-4728
Orange	I-10 (from Louisiana)	409/883-9416
Texarkana	I-30 (from Arkansas)	903/794-2114
Valley	U.S. 77 at U.S. 83 in Harlingen	956/428-4477
Waskom	I-20 (from Louisiana)	903/687-2547

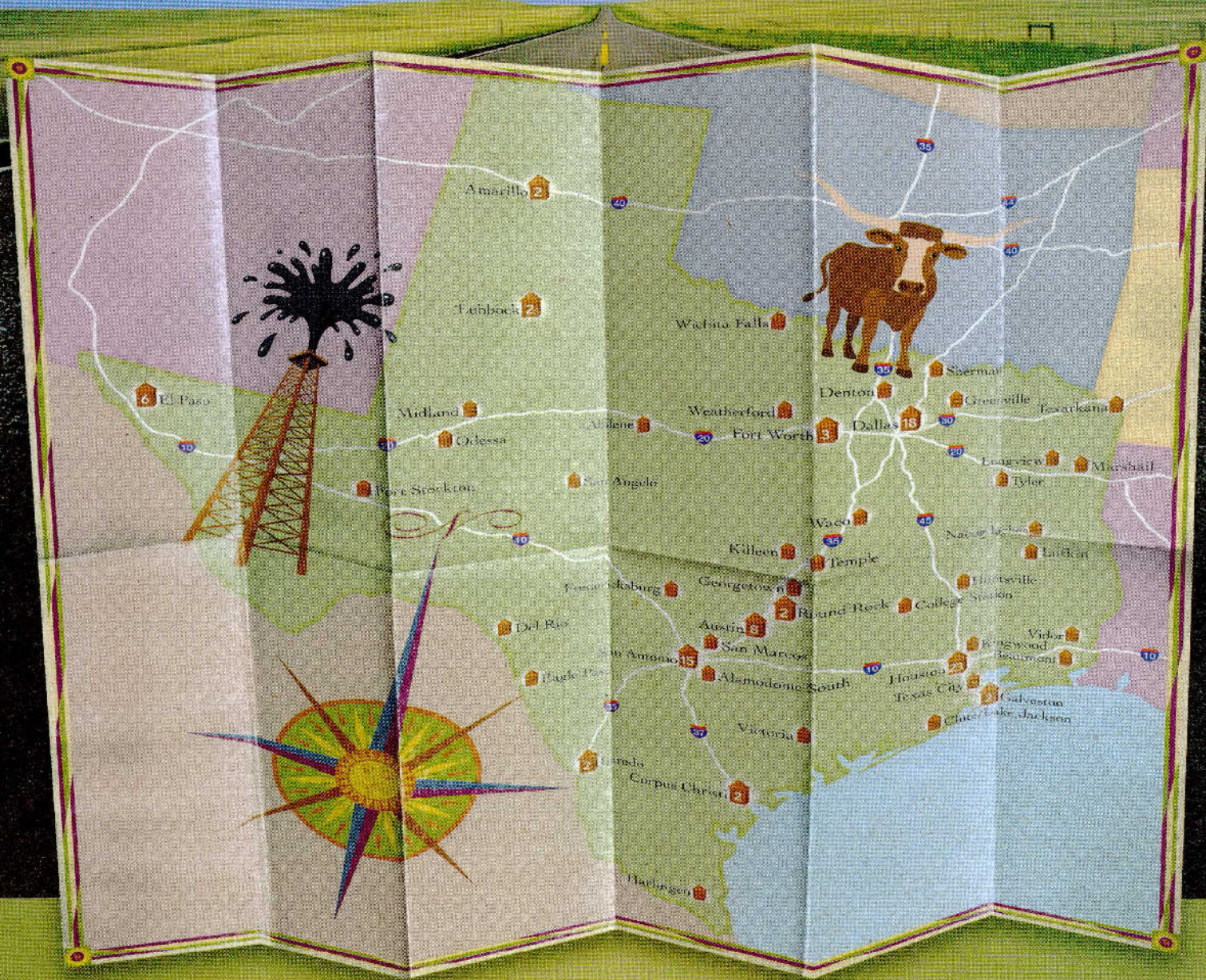
HIGHWAY REST AREAS

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 turn-outs 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



La Quinta. Spanish for "Save big in Texas, y'all."



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AIRPORT/AIRLINE INFORMATION

(Web sites in parentheses)

Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport

(www.visitamarillotx.com)

AIRLINES: American Eagle, Continental Express, Great Lakes Aviation, Southwest

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

(www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport)

AIRLINES: American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Funjet, JetBlue, Northwest, Southwest, United, US Airways/America West

Corpus Christi International Airport

(www.cctexas.com/airport)

AIRLINES: American Eagle, ExpressJet, ASA Delta Connection, Southwest

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (www.dfwairport.com)

AIRLINES: Air Canada, AirTran, Alaska, America West, American, American Eagle, ATA, British Airways, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Korean Air, Lufthansa, Mesa, Mexicana, Midwest, Northwest, Spirit, Sun Country, United, TACA, United, US Airways

Dallas Love Field (www.dallas-lovefield.com)

AIRLINES: American, American Eagle, Continental, Express Jet, Southwest

El Paso International Airport (www.elpasointernationalairport.com)

AIRLINES: Aerolitoral, America West, American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United

Harlingen-Rio Grande Valley International Airport

(www.flythevalley.com)

AIRLINES: Continental, Southwest, Sun Country

Houston-George Bush Intercontinental Airport

(www.fly2houston.com)

AIRLINES: AeroMexico, Air Canada, Air France, America West, American, American Connection, ASA, Aviacsa, British Airways, Cayman Airways, China Airlines, Comair, Continental, Continental Express, Delta, Frontier, KLM, Lufthansa, Northwest, Pakistan Air, TACA, United, US Airways

Houston-William P. Hobby Airport (www.fly2houston.com)

AIRLINES: AirTran, American, American Eagle, ASA, ATA, Delta, Southwest

Lubbock International Airport (www.flylia.com)

AIRLINES: American Eagle, Continental, Southwest

Midland International Airport (www.flymaf.com)

AIRLINES: American Eagle, Continental, Southwest

San Antonio International Airport (www.sanantonio.gov/airport)

AIRLINES: Aerolitoral, America West, ASA, Comair, Continental, Frontier, Northwest, Sky West, Southwest, United

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.TravelTex.com.

AMTRAK INFORMATION

Amtrak, the nation's passenger train service, offers three lines that run through Texas.

The **Sunset Limited** runs from Orlando to Los Angeles with stops at Houston, Alpine, San Antonio and Del Rio. The **Heartland Flyer** runs from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth with stops along the way. (Connections are available to Dallas and San Antonio via the Texas Eagle and to Los Angeles via the Sunset Limited.) The **Texas Eagle** is a Chicago to San Antonio train with service stops throughout Texas, including Dallas and throughout the Piney Woods. It also connects with the Sunset Limited in San Antonio.

For more information on additional stops, prices or reservations, call 800/USA-RAIL or visit www.amtrak.com.

BUS LINES

Arrow Trailways of Texas (www.arrowtrailways.com), Greyhound Bus Lines (www.greyhound.com), Kerrville Bus Co. (www.iridekbc.com) and Valley Transit Co. (www.valleytransitcompany.com) have scheduled service to and within the state.

TEXAS CLIMATE

Being such a big state, it's easy to see why climates can vary depending on what part of Texas you visit. However, the state is blessed with fairly mild weather year-round, and sunshine is prevalent no matter where you visit.

Also, Texas does get very hot in the summertime. Almost the entire state experiences daytime highs in excess of 90 degrees during July and August, and

many areas are quite used to triple-digit readings during these months. Fall is also quite marvelous in Texas, as the heat begins to dwindle in October. Daytime highs average in the upper 70s and lower 80s, and lows are in the 40s and 50s.

Winters are usually mild, but it can get cold and snowfall isn't uncommon in the northern parts of Texas. Springtime is fantastic. From March through June, daytime highs average from the 70s north to the upper 80s south.

Before departing on your trip, be sure you contact the convention & visitor bureaus or chambers of commerce in the cities you plan to visit to get relevant weather information.

MEXICO

General—The enchantment of Mexico is but a bridge away from much of Texas. Visitors find colorful and fascinating shops and marketplaces, and the people of Mexico are gracious and friendly.

Before you go, learn as much as you can about Mexico and use common sense during your trip. For more information, visit the U.S. State Department's Web site at travel.state.gov and click on the 'Tips for Traveling Abroad' link.

Entrance and Exit Regulations—U.S. and Canadian citizens traveling to Mexico do not need a visa, but do need to have a passport or an official photo identification, such as a driver's license, along with an original birth certificate, certified copy of Certificate of Naturalization, voter's registration card, or notarized Affidavit of Birth Facts. Upon returning to the United States, proof of citizenship and identity are required to re-enter. A valid driver's license or government identification card with photo prove identity. A passport (even expired), certified copy of birth certificate, Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, or Report of Birth Abroad to a U.S. Citizen can be used to prove citizenship. Expect to stop at U.S. Customs to state nationality and declare purchases. It is not necessary to convert money in border cities, because 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 visa or tourist card is only required for U.S. citizens traveling by air, longer than 72 hours or outside the border area. Tourist cards are available for a fee from Mexican consulates, Mexican border crossing points, Mexican tourism offices and airports within the border zone. A U.S. passport or a birth certificate and official photo I.D. is required to obtain a tourist card, which is issued for up to 90 days with a single entry or proof of sufficient funds, or for 180 days with multiple entries. Tourist cards must be returned before leaving Mexico.

Driving beyond the border zone requires a permit. To acquire a permit, drive to a Mexican customs office at the border and present the original, plus two copies of: valid proof of citizenship, a tourist card, valid original vehicle registration or title in the driver's name, valid driver's license in the driver's name, and a major U.S.- or Canadian-issued credit card (debit cards not accepted). The vehicle's owner must be inside the vehicle when it is driven. Drivers must return to any Mexican customs office before departing Mexico.

A stop at any Texas border city's chamber of commerce, convention and visitors bureau, or a Texas Travel Information Center can provide useful information to first-timers crossing into Mexico.

Use common sense behavior and security precautions when traveling outside of the United States.

For more information, call 800/44-MEXICO or visit www.visitmexico.com or www.travel.state.gov.

WARNING: Possession/importation of any type of fire-arm, weapon or ammunition is a felony in Mexico without advance written authorization from the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., or from a Mexican Consulate in the United States. It does not matter if you are licensed to carry the weapon in the United States, are a law enforcement or military official, or unintentionally transport it. Mexico has severe penalties for this offense, which is punishable by stiff fines, confiscation of the weapon, jail time, and more. Ignorance of the law cannot be used as a defense. Even a few shotgun shells in the trunk can cause a big problem. Some cities, such as Nuevo Laredo, also have ordinances prohibiting the possession of knives of any kind or anything that might be construed as a weapon.

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Bishop	McAllen
Bowie	New Braunfels
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Brownwood	Paris
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Decatur	San Benito
Dickinson	San Marcos
Dumas	Sherman
El Paso (2)	Stafford
Eules	Sulphur Springs
Fallurrias	Temple
Fort Stockton	Terrell
Fort Worth (4)	Tyler
Fredericksburg	Vernon
Gainesville	Waco
Galveston	Waxahachie
Garland	Webster
Georgetown	Wichita Falls
Harlingen	
Hillsboro	
Houston (3)	
Irving - DFW North	

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Houston International Festival

MAY

- ABILENE**
Western Heritage Classic
- ATHENS**
Texas Fiddlers' Contest/Reunion
- CRYSTAL BEACH**
Texas Crab Festival
- ENNIS**
National Polka Festival
- KERRVILLE**
Kerrville Folk Festival
- Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair
- SAN MARCOS**
Viva! Cinco de Mayo

JUNE

- ARLINGTON**
Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games
- BRYAN**
Texas Reds: Steak & Grape Festival
- JACKSONVILLE**
Tomato Festival
- LONGVIEW**
Alley Festival
- LULING**
Watermelon Thump
- NACOGDOCHES**
Texas Blueberry Festival
- SAN ANTONIO**
Texas Folklife Festival

- STEPHENVILLE**
DairyFest

JULY

- CLUTE**
Great Texas Mosquito Festival
- LAMPASAS**
Spring Ho Festival
- LONGVIEW**
Great Texas Balloon Race
- STAMFORD**
Texas Cowboy Reunion
- WEATHERFORD**
Parker County Peach Festival

THE LISTINGS on this page represent only a sampling of the events happening statewide. For a more detailed schedule of Texas events visit www.TravelTex.com, and www.texashighways.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
- LAREDO**
Washington's Birthday Celebration
- LOS FRESNOS**
Elvis Festival
- MISSION**
Texas Citrus Fiesta

FEBRUARY

- ALPINE**
Cowboy Poetry Gathering
- BROWNSVILLE**
Charro Days Fiesta
- EMORY**
Eagle Fest
- GALVESTON**
Mardi Gras
- KINGSVILLE**
South Texas Ranching Heritage Festival
- PORT ARTHUR**
Janis Joplin Birthday Bash
- SAN ANTONIO**
San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

FEBRUARY

- YOAKUM**
Land of Leather Days

MARCH

- DALLAS**
Dallas Blooms
- DUBLIN**
St. Patrick's Festival
- FULTON**
Oysterfest
- HOUSTON**
Houston Livestock Show
- River Oaks Azalea Trail
- PALESTINE**
Dogwood Trails
- TYLER**
Azalea & Spring Flower Trail
- WASHINGTON**
Texas Independence Day Celebration
- WESLACO**
Texas Rio Grande Valley Onion Festival
- WOODVILLE**
Tyler County Dogwood Festival

APRIL

- AUSTIN**
Old Settler's Music Festival
- BURNET**
Bluebonnet Festival
- CHAPPELL HILL**
Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas
- CORPUS CHRISTI**
Buccaneer Days
- HALLETTSVILLE**
Texas State Championship Fiddlers' Frolic
- HOUSTON**
Houston International Festival
- HUNTSVILLE**
General Sam Houston Folklife Festival
- PORTLAND**
Windfest
- POTEET**
Strawberry Festival
- SAN ANTONIO**
Fiesta San Antonio
- TURKEY**
Bob Wills Day
- WAXAHACHIE**
Scarborough Faire

AUGUST

DALHART

XIT Rodeo & Reunion

FREDERICKSBURG

Gillespie County Fair

WICHITA FALLS

Hotter 'N Hell Hundred

SEPTEMBER

AMARILLO

Tri-State Fair

BOYS RANCH

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo

BRADY

World Championship Goat Cook-off

BRENHAM

Washington County Fair

CALDWELL

Kolache Festival

CORPUS CHRISTI

Bayfest

SEPTEMBER

DALLAS

State Fair of Texas

GRAPEVINE

GrapeFest

LUBBOCK

Panhandle South Plains Fair

MARFA

Marfa Lights Festival

ODESSA

Permian Basin Fair & Expo

PLANO

Balloon Festival

WEST

Westfest

OCTOBER

CUERO

Turkeyfest

FLATONIA

Czhalispiel XXXV

FREDERICKSBURG

Oktoberfest

OCTOBER

GILMER

East Texas Yamboree

GONZALES

"Come & Take It" Days

PLANTERSVILLE

Texas Renaissance Festival

TYLER

Texas Rose Festival

WINNIE

Texas Rice Festival

WINNSBORO

Autumn Trails

NOVEMBER

AUSTIN

Texas Book Festival

HARLINGEN

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival

HENDERSON

Heritage Syrup Festival

NOVEMBER

MARSHALL

Wonderland of Lights

NEW BRAUNFELS

Wurstfest

PORT ISABEL

World's Championship Shrimp Cook-off

SAN ANTONIO

Holiday River Parade

DECEMBER

GALVESTON

Dickens on the Strand

JEFFERSON

Christmas Candlelight Tour

LUBBOCK

Candlelight Christmas at the Ranch

SAN ANGELO

Christmas at Old Fort Concho

SAN ANTONIO

Fiesta de las Luminarias

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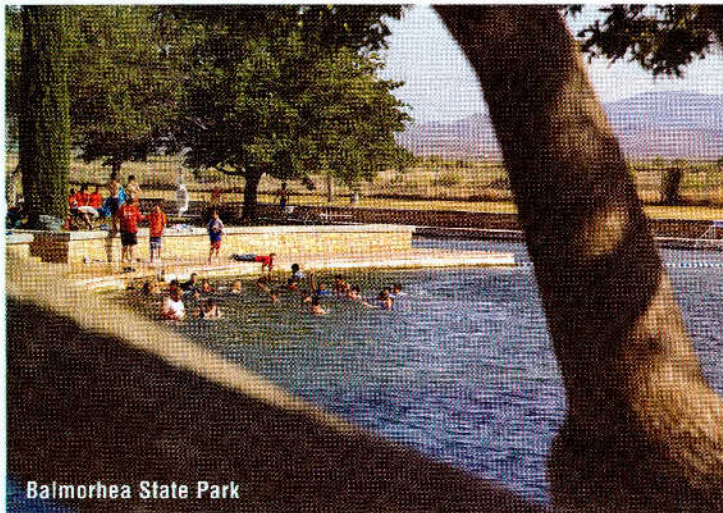
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Balmorhea State Park

J. BRIFIS SMITH/ICDOT

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, camping fees, and fees for group dining halls or other facilities.

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 nonresidents 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 they are not part of the National Parks System. For that reason, they do not accept passes or passports from the National Parks.

TEXAS STATE PARKS PASS users enjoy many special benefits, including unlimited visits to 120 state parks and historic sites for you and your entire carload of guests, as well as discounts and helpful trip planning e-mail bulletins customized to your own interests. Available at parks or through the reservation center.

TEXAS STATE PARKS – CONTACT INFORMATION:

Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Phone: 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



SO MUCH to see and do at Texas State Parks and State Historic Sites—more than 120 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 it 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, sheephead 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, 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 three 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 more than 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 800/792-1112 or 512/389-4505 for nonresidents.

TEXAS STATE FORESTS

Texas' five state forests are managed by the Texas Forest Service, a member of the Texas A&M Univ. System. They display modern forestry practices and techniques, as well as provide an outdoor educational arena for students and adults.

State forests are wildlife refuges; hunting is prohibited. Fishing is permitted in designated areas. No overnight camping permitted in any state forest.

The Forest Service operates Indian Mound Nursery on Texas 21, near Alto, which provides some 20 million pine and hardwood seedlings annually to private landowners for reforestation practices.

For information about state forests, urban and rural issues, environmental education, wildlife preparedness, emergency management and office locations, visit texasforestservice.tamu.edu.

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.

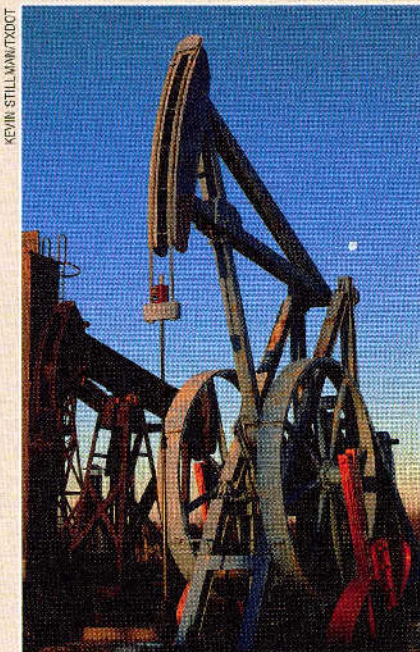
Masterson State Forest—519 acres, 3 miles southeast of Buna on F.M. 2938 (not shown on most highway maps). No public facilities.

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.

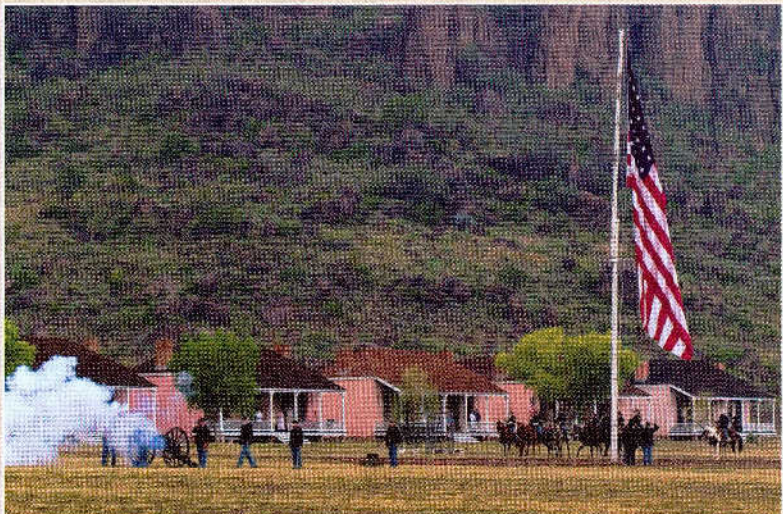
BIG BEND COUNTRY



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: Wilderness Park Museum in El Paso; Fort Davis National Historic Site; Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in Midland

W

HEN MOST FIRST-TIME VISITORS think of the Lone Star State, their heads are filled with visions straight out of old spaghetti-western movies, complete with rolling tumbleweeds, cacti, scrub brush and hot, sandy plains that stretch for miles. If that's the kind of Texas you're looking for, then the Big Bend Country region is the perfect place.

Most of this area's landscape is covered by the Chihuahuan Desert, filled with the aforementioned landscape. But, this remarkable area can also blossom with startling beauty after just a little rain. The desert is populated with mountains, valleys and plains, so it has a variety of terrain and climates, and its rugged beauty must be seen to be truly admired.

The region is bordered by Mexico to the south, and New Mexico to the west, and stretches as far as Midland-Odessa to the northeast and Del Rio to the southeast. And just like its rich scenery, the Big Bend region is filled with history, culture and, perhaps, even a bit of infamy. It's been home to two presidents, at least one famous musician, one of the world's largest telescopes, a comic character, Texas' highest peak, Texas' oldest mission, the world's largest jackrabbit statue and so much more.

This is the place to get away from it all. Embrace the great outdoors and get lost in the wide open spaces and mountains. With almost 1,170,000 acres of wilderness terrain, Big Bend Country beckons nature lovers who are looking for an epic experience. Opportunities abound to hike, bike, ride, bird, swim, raft, camp, photograph, paint and just relax in the desert wilderness.

Plan to spend time exploring Guadalupe Mountains National Park, home of the state's highest point and one of the state's most beautiful spots – McKittrick Canyon. Expect to make an extended visit or several trips to Texas' first national park — Big Bend National Park — because it is about the size of Rhode Island and there is too much to see in a single day or on a short trip. See rolling sand dunes and one of the nation's largest oak forests, which is not readily apparent because the mature trees seldom show more than three feet above ground, at Monahans Sandhills State Park. Visit Balmorhea State Park to take a dip in one of the largest man-made pools in the United States.

Big Bend Country is also a place to learn more about how life was lived on the open frontier and in the Old West. More than 100 years ago pioneers, cowboys and gold seekers traversed this area. The sometimes hostile conditions led to the need for such sites as Fort Bliss, Fort Davis and Fort Stockton to protect pioneers and travelers. Visit the forts and seek out other monuments to the past that helped shape the frontier. Numerous museums throughout the region are dedicated to preserving the heritage and history of life on the frontier.

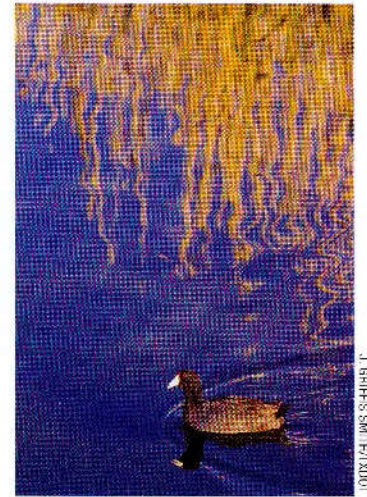
This region hosted its share of gunfights, bank robberies, saloons and boom towns. It became the final resting place for

many a gunfighter. Langtry is home to the rustic saloon, courtroom, billiard hall and opera house of Judge Roy Bean, the "Law West of the Pecos." However, if you want to see Bean's final resting place, you have to travel to the grounds of the Whitehead Memorial Museum in Del Rio.

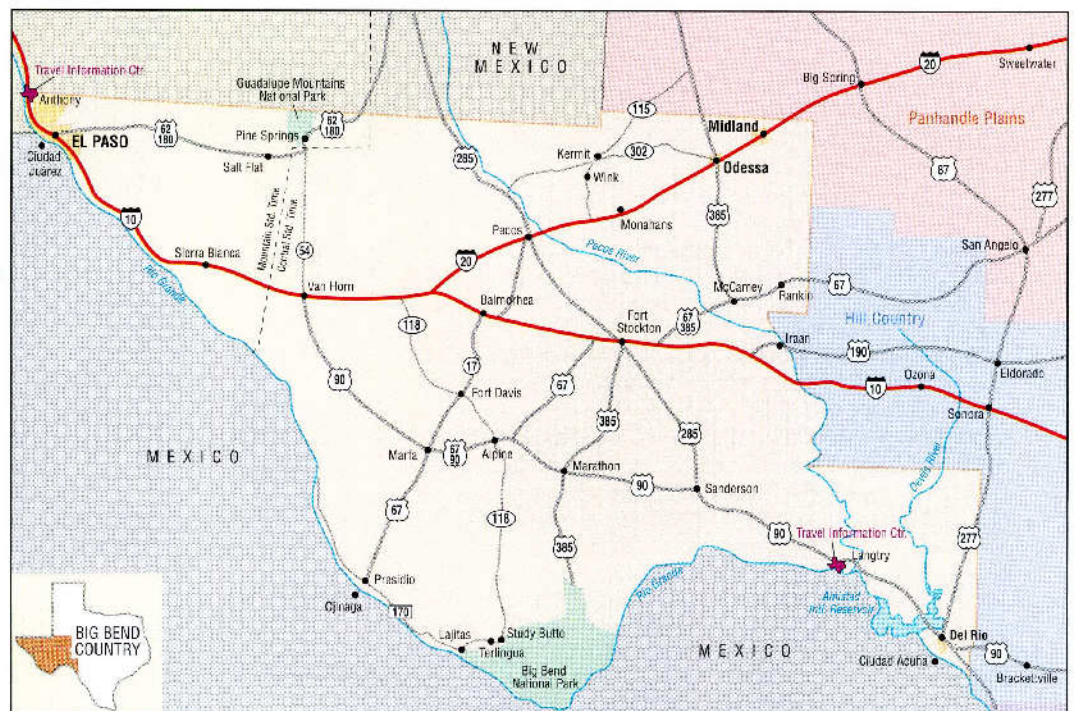
El Paso, the largest United States city on the Mexican border, combines the past with the future and some of the best of both sides of the border. Tour historic sites, visit the Tigua Indian Reservation at Ysleta, hear a concert or watch a performance at the Chamizal National Memorial, take a trip across the border to Ciudad Juarez, or enjoy any of the multitude of activities available here.

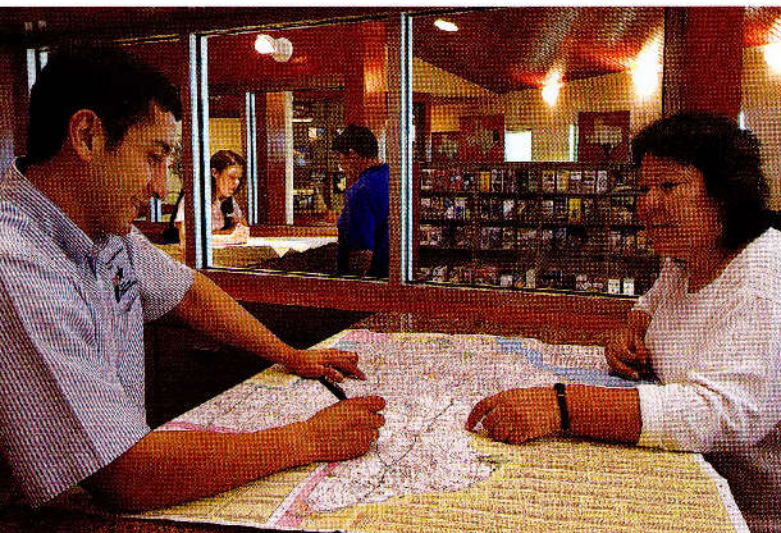
This region is also home to unique experiences like seeing the unexplained Marfa Lights, enjoying the Terlingua chili cook-offs, seeing Shakespeare productions at the Globe of the Great Southwest theater in Odessa, eating a Pecos cantaloupe, hunting precious minerals at Woodward Agate Ranch in Alpine, and celebrating the music of Roy Orbison in his hometown of Wink.

One thing to remember before heading into this region: People can drive for miles with only the desert landscape for company. To help plan your adventure, use the information on the following pages about the cities/towns, and their respective attractions. And, once you choose your destination and schedule your trip, you're sure to be awed and inspired with the overwhelming appeal of the Big Bend Country!



Wildlife at Balmorhea State Park





J. GEHRIG/SMS PHOTO

Texas Travel Information Center in Anthony

ALPINE

Pop. 5,786 Alt. 4,485 Map P-6

GENERAL—Established in 1882, is seat of Brewster County. Centrally located between the Davis and Glass mountains and near Big Bend National Park, Alpine is a designated Texas Main Street city, and it is a retail center and shipping point for huge ranching area, headquarters for mining companies, and home of Sul Ross State Univ. There's also a historic downtown shopping district with several antique stores and art galleries to be found. 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. Special events throughout the year include Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering in February, Big Bend Balloon Bash (during Labor Day weekend), local and collegiate rodeo events, and much more. Bed and breakfast accommodations are offered in historic buildings.

For more information, visit Alpine at www.alpinetexas.com or call the Alpine Chamber of Commerce at 800/561-3735.

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 a 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. 432/837-5506.

FINE ARTS—Several theater groups offer seasonal productions, including the Theatre of the Big Bend, which offers musicals and dramas under the stars during the summer; 432/837-8220. Big Bend Players presents between four and six shows each year; call 432/837-2921 for more information. The theater department at Sul Ross State University highlights student talent from September through May. For details visit www.sulross.edu.

LAST FRONTIER MUSEUM—Small museum features rocks, gems, and minerals of the region. Located in the lobby of the Antelope Lodge at 2310 W. U.S. 90. Open seven days a week, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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 more than 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. 432/837-8143 or visit www.sulross.edu/~museum.

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 more than 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. 432/364-2271.

ANTHONY

Pop. 3,850 Alt. 3,800 Map L-1/OO-19

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 a 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—In West Texas at the Texas-New Mexico state line on I-10, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 8799 South Desert Blvd. 915/886-3468. www.txdot.gov.

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 fee.

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



J. GEHRIG/SMS PHOTO

Sul Ross State University Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine



LOOKING UP STEPHEN T.

Springs at Balmorhea State Park

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 fee. 432/375-2370. 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 flood plain 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. The desert areas are very challenging in the summer. The Chisos Basin is at an elevation of 5,400 feet and trails go higher from there, thus temperatures are relatively moderate even in summer with low humidity. The basin and higher Chisos offer backpacking, day hiking on numerous trails, wildlife watching, camping, hotels, restaurants, and ranger programs throughout the summer.

May and June average high temperatures in the Chisos Mountains are in the 80s but can reach 95 degrees. With a diversity of Mexican and American plants,

more than 1,200 plant types are 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 exploration, not a park that can be seen in just a few hours. More than 201 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, back country and graded roads before attempting travel.

A permit is required for all back country 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 roadsides. 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. 432/477-2291.

For more information, write Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834, or call 432/477-2251.

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 and Persimmon Gap open year-round 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and at Rio Grande Village open seasonally 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Castolon Visitors Center is located in the Castolon Historic Compound next to La Harmonia Store along the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive. Open daily Nov. - Apr. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 432/477-2666.



RAFTING IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/LOCKSTOCK

Vistas at Big Bend National Park

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 fee.

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, mountain bike, horseback, or van into the back roads of the area. For information, call 432/371-2356.

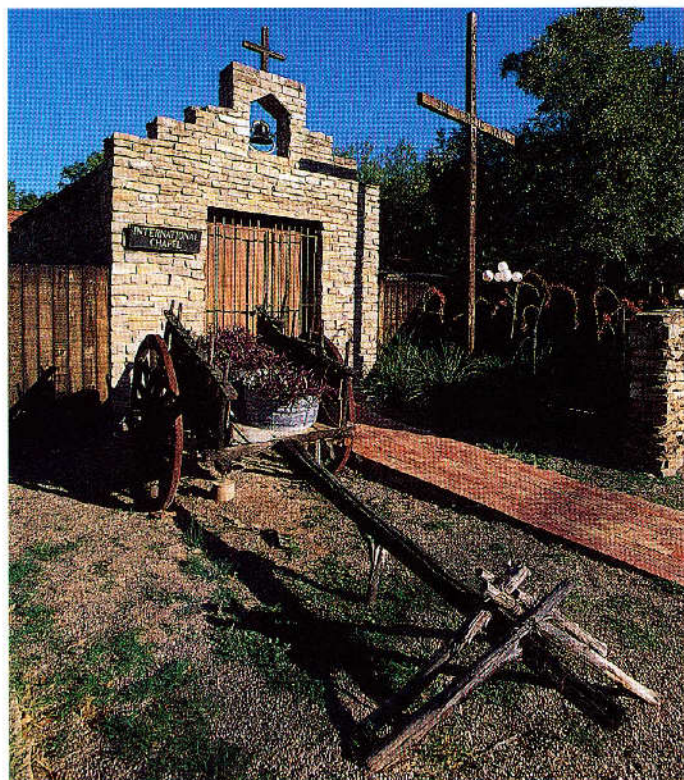
HALLIE'S HALL OF FAME MUSEUM—Houses mementos and relics found on the late Hallie Stillwell's ranch. Mrs. Stillwell's book, "I'll Gather My Geese," recalls her life as a teacher and rancher in and around the rugged national parklands. Nearby is Stillwell RV Park and Store. Just north of Big Bend to F.M. 2627, then east to the facilities. 432/376-2244.

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 432/424-3219 or 800/545-4240; Far Flung Adventures, at 432/371-2489 or 800/359-4138 (visit www.farflung.com); Rio Grande Adventures at 432/371-2567 or 800/343-1640; Texas River Expeditions, 432/371-2633 or 800/839-7238 (visit www.texasriver.com); and Scott Shuttle Service Canoe & Float Rental at 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 south-east 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 percent), sharp curves, occasional loose livestock, and low-water crossings; special alert for large RVs or vehicles pulling large trailers.



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/LOCKSTOCK

Whitehead Memorial Museum, Del Rio

DEL RIO

Pop. 34,000

Alt. 948

Map R-11/TT-20

GENERAL—Del Rio bills itself as "The Best of the Border." It is the 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 or visit www.drchamber.com, 800/889-8149.

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. Headquarters, open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except major holidays. 830/775-7491. www.nps.gov/amis.

CIUDAD ACUÑA, MEXICO—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.

DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA—

A remote and picturesque 20,000-acre preserve at the ecological junction of the Chihuahuan Desert, the Hill Country and the Tamaulipan Brushlands of northern Mexico. The terrain is dry and treeless, but the nearby Devils River springs provide sufficient moisture for groves of pecans, sycamores and live oaks. Open by reservation only. Bring all necessary food, water, gas and other supplies. Admission fee. 830/395-2133.

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. 10 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 available 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 fee.

EL PASO

Pop. 637,859

Alt. 3,762

Map L-1/QQ-20

GENERAL—Grew from earlier settlements dating back to the Juan de Oñate expedition in 1598 and a settlement by Juan Maria Ponce de León in 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. Also, a bright new symbol shines nightly on the west horizon, a 459-foot star that contains 459 lights and can be seen from 100 miles in the air and 30 miles on the ground. Visible daily from 6 p.m. to midnight on the south side of the Franklin Mountains.

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 details and literature on city attractions, visit the El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1 Civic Center Plaza, or call 800/351-6024 or visit www.visitelpaso.com.

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 For Tourist Information:
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
 1-800-889-8149
www.drchamber.com

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. In addition, Sun Bowl Stadium is home to the annual Sun Bowl Football Classic, one of college football's best-known and the second-oldest bowl game (behind the Rose Bowl).

A 90-minute, self-guided walking tour is available, which begins in San Jacinto Plaza (original site of Ponce de Leon's ranch), winds through downtown El Paso, then ends on Mills St. A scenic drive is also available, which includes a breathtaking view at its highest point that encompasses two cities, three states and two countries.

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

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. Park grounds open daily 5 a.m. - 10 p.m., visitor center open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Paisano and San Marcial sts. 915/532-7273. www.nps.gov/cham

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 COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Dedicated to researching, preserving and publishing area history. Includes extensive collection of photos, archival collections and postcards. No admission fee. Open Tues. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Thurs. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 603 West Yandell Dr. 915/533-3603. www.elpasohistory.com.

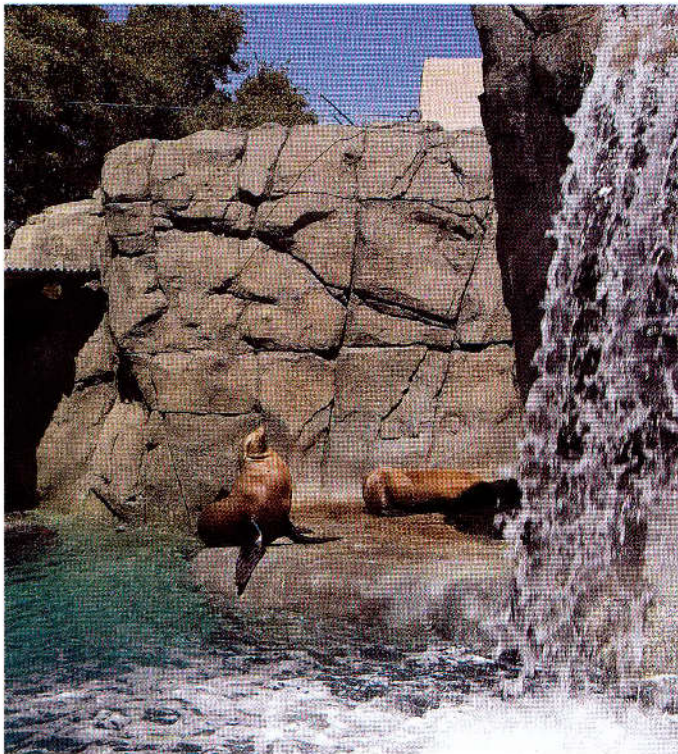
EL PASO FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM—Visitors will find various types of firefighting equipment, including a 1930 American La France Fire Engine and a rare 1898 American Fire Engine Company "Steamer," in its original condition and one of only two in the world. Open mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. No admission fee. At 8600 Montana Ave. 915/771-1000.

EL PASO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER—4,000-square foot facility depicts life in Europe during pre-Nazi era; the ascension of the Third Reich; the deportation of prisoners to ghettos and concentration camps; life in those camps; resistance efforts; and the liberation of Nazi prisoners by Allied forces. No admission fee. Open Tues. - Thurs. 1 - 4 p.m., and school or group tours by appointment. At 101 South Kansas Ave. (new facility set to open in 2007 at 715 North Oregon St.) 915/351-0048. www.elpasoholocaustmuseum.org.

EL PASO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY—Facility tells the story of the first inhabitants of the El Paso area, the greater Southwest, and northern Mexico. Dioramas and exhibits reveal American Indian lives from Paleoindian hunters of the Ice Age to their modern Indian descendants. The museum grounds include nature trails with native plant gardens and outdoor exhibits. No admission fee. At 4301 Transmountain Rd. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 915/755-4332 or visit www.elpasotexas.gov/arch_museum.



Amistad International Reservoir near Del Rio



J. BRITTS SMITH/FOXDOT

El Paso Zoo

EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART—Houses a permanent collection of more than 6,000 works of art, including the Samuel H. Kress Collection of European Art from the 13th-18th centuries, American art from the 19th-20th centuries, and Mexican colonial art and retablos from the Southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 12 - 5 p.m. At One Festival Arts Plaza. No admission fee. 915/532-1707. www.elpasoartmuseum.org.

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 pickup 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 in the U.S., the handsome renovated building now serves Amtrak and is 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 more than 240 species of animals. 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.

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 915/521-1850. www.elpasozoo.org. Admission fee.

FORT BLISS—U.S. Army post established in 1848 as defense against hostile Native American tribes and to assert U.S. authority over lands acquired after the Mexican War. Headquarters for Confederate forces in Southwest during Civil War, later refitted 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. For more information, call 915/568-3390.

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 at the Robert E. Lee gate to the Fort.

Fort Bliss Museum and Study Center—Exhibits and artifacts portray the history of America's air and missile defense as well as modern-day technology breakthroughs. Open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Gift shop on premises. Building 1735 - Marshall Road.

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.

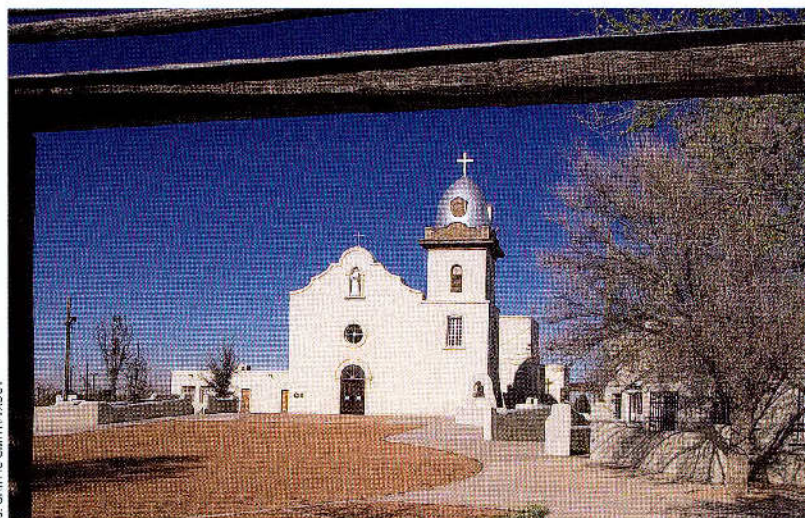
HUECO TANKS STATE HISTORIC SITE—Precious water from infrequent rains "stored" in natural rock basins; for centuries a strategic travel stop in this arid region. Ancient Indian pictographs, plus names of '49ers on way to California. Picnicking, hiking, climbing, and camping. Off U.S. 62/180 26 miles east of El Paso; admission fee. 915/857-1135.

INDIAN CLIFFS RANCH—20 miles east of El Paso, five miles north of Exit 49 (Fabens) on I-10. Ranch, private zoo, lake, movie sets, restaurant, Fort Apache. Open daily. No admission fee. 915/544-3200.

INSIGHTS EL PASO SCIENCE MUSEUM—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. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 12 - 5 p.m.; except major holidays. 505 N. Santa Fe St. 915/534-0000. www.insightseelpaso.org.

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—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 re-creation 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.



J. BRITTS SMITH/FOXDOT

Mission Ysleta in El Paso

MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC 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 fee. 915/533-5147.

MCKELLIGON CANYON & AMPHITHEATRE—This 90-acre park, located in the Franklin Mountains, is open to hikers and picnickers. Surrounded on three sides by dramatic canyon walls, the 1,500-seat amphitheatre, which is used for concerts and special events, is special feature of the park. At 1500 McKelligon Rd. For more information, call 915-534-0682 or visit www.visitelpaso.com.

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 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.

MISSION TRAIL—El Paso’s Lower Valley is site of several graceful old Spanish missions that are older than the better-known missions of California. For more information, call 915/534-0677. 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, more than 300 years. 100 block of Old Pueblo Rd. (Zaragoza 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.

NATIONAL BORDER PATROL MUSEUM & MEMORIAL LIBRARY—Presents the rich heritage of the U.S. Border Patrol. Equipment, documents, books, paintings, photos, vehicles, equipment, and memorabilia available to the casual visitor or the scholar. No admission fee. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 4315 Transmountain Rd. (Loop 375). 915/759-6060. www.borderpatrolmuseum.com.

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

PLAZA THEATRE—First opened in 1930, now one of the few remaining atmospheric theaters in the nation. It closed in 1973 and was saved from demolition in 1986. In 2002, the City of El Paso and El Paso Community Foundation formed a partnership that provided funding for the restoration project. That effort restored the theatre to its original splendor and it is now open for tours and performances. Located at 125 Pioneer St. For more information, contact the El Paso Convention & Performing Arts Center at 800/351-6024 or visit www.visitelpaso.com.

RAILROAD & TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM OF EL PASO—Exhibits cover many facets of transportation, from use of railroads in wartime, urban transit from 1880s mule car through electric streetcars of early 20th century, to the second transcontinental railroad built through El Paso. A restored 4-4-0 “Classic American” 1857 locomotive is on display along with exhibits on the history of the EP & SW No. 1. At 400 West San Antonio Ave. No admission fee. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 915/422-3420. www.elpasorails.org.

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.

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El Paso is “V” shaped, divided by imposing steep slopes 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 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. For information, call El Paso Association for the Performing Arts 800/915-VIVA, or visit www.viva-ep.org.

VISITOR CENTERS—El Paso has three visitor centers, operated by the El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Main Visitor Center located at One Civic Center Plaza and open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (915/534-0600); the Center in the Union Depot Transit Terminal-Visitor Center is located at 400 W. San Antonio St. and open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (915/838-6227); and the Center in



J. DODD/PHILIPS STEINBERG

Wyler Aerial Tramway State Park in El Paso

the El Paso International Airport is located at 6701 Convair Rd. and open daily 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (915/780-4775).

WET 'N WILD WATER WORLD—37 acres of good clean family fun, with 24 water attractions, including a six-story tall water slide and wave pool. Restaurants, locker rooms and reserved group areas. T-10 at Anthony Exit "O." Open every day through summer. Admission fee. 915/886-2222.

WILDERNESS PARK MUSEUM—Dioramas depict ancient Indian tribes of the Southwest, their survival in the desert, and life in 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 fee.

WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY STATE PARK—Get an eagle's-eye view of 7,000 miles of Southwestern natural beauty from atop Ranger Peak in El Paso's Franklin Mountains. Upon reaching the top at 5,632 feet, sky-travelers spot the Hueco Mountains, New Mexico's white sands and Mexico. Open Thursday through Monday. Extended hours on weekends. Admission fee. 915/566-6622.

FORT DAVIS

Pop. 1,050

Alt. 5,050

Map O-6

GENERAL—Fort Davis 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. Visitors will find specialty shops, restaurants and accommodations, including the oldest inn in the state. The Blue Mountain Winery is located on the "Scenic Loop" tour and open Mon. - Fri. noon - 4 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Prude Guest Ranch is popular for meetings and vacations. Horseback riding, hayrides, chuck-wagon cookouts, and more; for information/reservations call 800/458-6232.

Additional information on accommodations, events, and dining may be obtained from the chamber of commerce by calling 432/426-3015 or 800/524-3015. Also visit www.fortdavis.com.

CHIHUAHUA DESERT VISITOR CENTER—A natural area owned and operated by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, dedicated to promoting public awareness, appreciation, and concern for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert region through research and education. The Nature Center offers an intimate setting to experience the diversity of the desert region. Visitors will find canyon springs, stately madrones, Montezuma Quail, and many other hidden treasures. Also included are a cactus and succulent greenhouse, a 20-acre botanical garden, indoor and outdoor interpretive exhibits, easy to

moderately strenuous hiking trails, and a gift shop. A self-guided tour of the botanical gardens and Modesta Canyon interpretive trail guides are available; allow 30 min. to four hours. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; programs for tour or school groups by arrangement. Located on Texas 118, four miles south.

Admission fee. 432/364-2499. www.cdri.org.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 some fiercely hostile Native American tribes. 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 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 fee.

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 Sutler's Club. On the town square in Fort Davis. For information, call 432/426-3237 or 800/662-5517.

INDIAN LODGE STATE PARK—On the slopes of the Davis Mountains, this rustic inn was built in the 1930s and modeled after Southwestern Indian



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

McDonald Observatory at Mount Locke near Fort Davis

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 Native Americans 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 built on this stage route. Restored and maintained by local historical society. 14 rooms display area collections; 19th-century clothing, photography, Indian artifacts, cowboy regalia, kitchen utensils, geology, archeology and religion. Open daily Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; extended hours in summer. 301 S. Main St.; 432/336-2167. Admission fee.

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.

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 fee. 300 E. 3rd; 432/336-2400.

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 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.

JAMES ROONEY COUNTY PARK—Green and spacious park on southern edge of city at historic Comanche Springs. Swimming, picnicking and tennis courts.

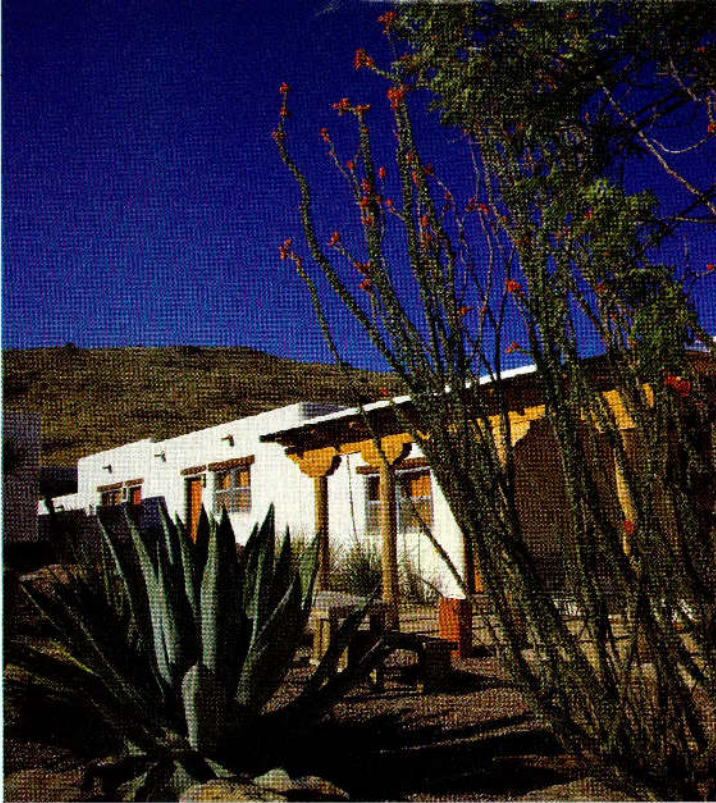
LAKE—Imperial Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

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.;



J. GRIFF S. SMITH/TXDOT

Indian Lodge State Park near Fort Davis

pueblos. This full-service hotel offers mountain views, Southwestern decor, air-conditioned rooms with color cable TV and telephones. Hike the Davis Mountains, visit the Fort Davis National Historic Site, relax by the swimming pool and have meals at the Black Bear Restaurant. Admission fee. 432/426-3254.

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 fee.

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. Free self-guided tour for the Abell Gallery. A more extensive guided tour of the HET is available with admission fee. For those driving recreation vehicles, limited-seating shuttle service is available from the Visitors Center for guided tours only.

The Visitors Center, at the foot of Mount Locke, is open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Solar viewings are presented daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. General admission fee required for the solar viewing and entrance to new Decoding Starlight exhibit at the Visitors Center. Guided tours (fee) of the large telescopes are at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily and also includes the solar viewing and exhibit admission. Each Tues., Fri. and Sat. evening, the center conducts "Star Parties" for the general public, with viewing of stars and planets through telescopes set up by the observatory. An alternate program will be conducted in the event of inclement weather. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The observatory is 16 miles northwest via Texas 118, Spur 78.

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. 432/426-3640 or visit <http://McDonaldObservatory.org>.



J. GRIFF S. SMITH/TXDOT

Paisano Pete statue in Fort Stockton



LODGE-HOUSE SHIRAZ

Medallion Home in Kermit

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 432/336-8052.

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 antiquities, and oil field relics. Open Apr. 1 - Sept. 1, Wed. - Sun. 2 - 6 p.m.

SCENIC DRIVE—U.S. 190 offers views of rugged terrain as you drive through scenic mesas.

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 432/586-2507.

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 brought in to 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 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. 200 (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, spa, fitness facility, shopping, stargazing facility and much more. Caters to visitors year-round; winter season most popular. For more information call 877/525-4827 or visit www.lajitas.com.

Barton 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 fee. 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."

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 432/292-4503.

JUDGE ROY BEAN VISITOR CENTER—In Southwest Texas on U.S. 90 West, 60 miles west of Del Rio, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation for the convenience of the traveling public. 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 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.

Uniformed, professional travel counselors welcome visitors and provide a wealth of free literature, information, and suggestions to make every Texas trip

J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT



Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry



J. GERRIS SMITH/STOCK

Marfa Mystery Lights Viewing Center

more pleasant. Working with the *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. U.S. 90 West/State Loop 25 at Torres Avenue. 432/291-3340. www.txdot.gov.

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 AND HISTORIC SITE—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 fee. 432/292-4464.

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. Once a cattle and mining shipment center in its heyday, 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. Visitors can catch glimpses of the town's colorful past at the Marathon Museum at N. Third St. and Ave. E, and the old Marathon Jail at S. Second St. and Ave. C. In Sept. the town hosts WestFest, complete with a cabrito cook-off, and the Fiesta de la Noche Buena takes place in early Dec. For more information about shopping, restaurants, lodging and more, call the Marathon Chamber of Commerce at 432/386-4516 or visit www.marathontx.net.

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 geologists and amateur rockhounds.

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.

THE POST—Located 5 miles south of town on the Post Road lies what remains of old Fort Pena Colorado, built in 1879 to protect area residents from Indian raids. Natural springs feed a large pond, a feature that has made it an oasis for centuries. Abandoned in 1893, some of the foundations of the original structures can still be found. Today the site is a public park and a popular site for picnics and birdwatchers.

MARFA

Pop. 2,424 Alt. 4,688 Map P-5

GENERAL—Marfa was established in 1881 as water stop of Texas and New Orleans Railroad. 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."

Marfa Municipal Golf Course is the highest golf course in Texas, at 4,882 feet above sea level with nine holes, 18 tee boxes and bent grass greens. Visitors and locals enjoy golfing in the clear, dry mountain air.

Strong thermal updrafts and legendary soaring conditions make this an outstanding location for glider rides. For more information, contact Marfa Gliders at 800/667-9464 or visit www.flygliders.com.

For more information on the Marfa area, contact the chamber of commerce at 432/729-4942 or visit www.marfacc.com.

CHINATI FOUNDATION/LA FUNDACION CHINATI—Contemporary art museum founded by the late artist Donald Judd, dedicated to the creation and preservation of permanent installations of large-scale works or large groups of work by a small number of artists, located on 340-acre site of the former Fort D.A. Russell. Guided tours available every Thursday through Sunday starting at 10 a.m. Tours also available on Tuesdays and Wednesday by appointment only, by calling the museum office at 432/729-4362 at least one week in advance. 1 Calvary Row just off Route 67 south of Marfa.

MARFA MYSTERY LIGHTS VIEWING CENTER—First reported by early settlers in 1883, the mysterious lights still defy explanation. The new viewing center, expanded to eight acres, features a viewing deck, rest room facilities, information about the Marfa Lights, local flora and fauna and more. Located about 8 miles east of Marfa on U.S. 67/90.

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 a 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. Geographically located on U.S. 67 and part of U.S. 385 La Entrada Al Pacifico Trade Corridor, McCamey is midway between I-10 and I-20. For more information, contact the McCamey Chamber of Commerce at 432/652-8202 or visit www.mccameychamber.com.

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. 432/652-3192.

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

Pop. 101,033 Alt. 2,891 Map L-9/KK-4

GENERAL—Midland was established in the late 1800s as water stop for the railroad and became hub for farming and ranching until oil was discovered in the 1920s. The area, known as the Permian Basin, contains tremendous quantities of natural gas and oil. Farming and ranching were the main sources of income until the discovery of oil in the 1920s when the area became headquarters for the vast



KENNETH STILLMAN/2000

Scharbauer Sports Complex in Midland

petroleum industry in the Permian Basin. Today, Midland remains active in the oil and gas business, but diversification efforts are going strong. Manufacturing, industrial services, educational and medical facilities are all important aspects of the local economy. George W. & Laura Bush claim Midland as home and continue to have close ties there today.

Geographically, Midland is located approximately midway between Ft. Worth and El Paso on I-20, a main east/west route. U.S. 385, is a main north/south route, while U.S. 349 provides easy north/south access to Midland. Rail service is supplied by the Union Pacific Railroad and offers reliable access to all major U.S. markets. Midland International Airport, located approximately halfway between Odessa and Midland, is the ninth largest airport in Texas, and provides service on American Eagle, Continental, and Southwest Airlines.

The spirit of Midland is evident in high-rise buildings, a strong educational system, economic diversification and dedication to the fine arts. Education is a priority with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and a community college, Midland College. From community theater to historic buildings and museums, to RockHounds AA Baseball, you'll find it all in Midland.

For additional information on events, accommodations, or dining facilities, contact the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/624-6435.

AMERICAN AIRPOWER HERITAGE MUSEUM AND COMMEMORATIVE 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 \$2,500 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, now housed in a new, 6,000-square foot gallery featuring 33 original nose art panels. Major flying demonstration is "Airsho," usually held the first full weekend in October.

Approximately 14-20 of the 142 aircraft in the CAF are on display at any one time, with aircraft changed 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. (closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day) at Midland International Airport, on I-20 Business Route. 432/563-1000, or visit www.airpowermuseum.org. Admission fee.

COLE THEATRE—Home of Midland Community Theatre. Performances include dramas, comedies, and musicals. For information, contact the MCT box office at 432/682-4111. 2000 W. Wadley.

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 are also on exhibit. Sponsored by Downtown Lions Club. Open daily, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 432/685-7332. 1500 W. Wall. No admission fee.

CITIBANK BALLPARK—Contains 5,000 fixed seats with an additional 3,000 on grass-berm seating, a wide food selection and a specially designated picnic area as well as play areas for the kids. 432/520-2255.

GRANDE COMMUNICATIONS STADIUM—Take a seat and enjoy a hot dog or pizza as you cheer on your favorite team. With seating for 15,000, there's room for everyone. 432/681-7686.

GEORGE W. BUSH CHILDHOOD HOME—Visit the place President George W. Bush refers to as his hometown and learn more about the man as you tour his fully-restored childhood home. Features furnishings authentic to 1952-56, when the Bush family lived in the home, photographic exhibits and special activities. 1402 W. Ohio. 432/685-1112. www.bushchildhoodhome.org.

HALEY LIBRARY & 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. at 1805 W. Indiana. 432/682-5785. Donations accepted.

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., 2 - 5 p.m. 301 W. Missouri. For information, call 432/688-8947. Visitors can also see the famous "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—More than 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 is nearby. Beal Complex is home to the William and Sam Memorial Skateboard Park. For more information, call the Midland Park and Recreation office at 432/685-7355.

MIDLAND ROCKHOUNDS—AA affiliate of the Oakland A's baseball club makes its home in Midland. Season runs April - Aug. with different promotions for each home game. Call 432/520-2255 for season schedule and ticket information.

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. Septemberfest 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. For information, call 432/683-2882. Donations accepted.

Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum—Exhibits provide children and families with an interactive environment for exploration and investigation. Explore Citiscape, 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. 432/683-2882. Admission fee.

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 fee. For information and show times, 432/683-2882.

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 high-lights 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. Experience transportation history as you view the Jim Hall Chaparral race cars displayed in the new transportation wing. Rarely seen by the public, these race cars were instrumental in the development of technology still used in racing today. 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. 432/683-4403. Admission fee.

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.

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. 432/560-2200.

PUTT PUTT FUN CENTER—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. 432/520-3993.

SCHARBAUER SPORTS COMPLEX—A sports lover's dream, this complex opened March 2002 with the Oakland A's against its Double A affiliate, the Midland RockHounds, in their new home, Citibank Ballpark. Games scheduled Apr. - Aug. Loop 250 & Texas 191. Call 432/520-2255 for schedules and ticket information.

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. For information, call 432/682-4111.

MONAHANS

Pop. 6,821

Alt. 2,613

Map M-8

GENERAL—Spanish explorers crossed area of present Ward County more than 400 years ago, but it remained undisturbed habitat of Native Americans 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



Come Smile With Us!

Visit Midland/Odessa where you'll experience WWII history at the CAF American Airpower Heritage Museum. Take a glimpse at the leaders of our nation at The Presidential Museum. Discover oil at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum. Learn about the

connections to President George W. Bush as you visit both cities.

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



Midland/Odessa

THE SUNNY SMILE OF TEXAS

MIDLAND 800-624-6435

ODESSA 800-780-4678

www.visitmidlandtx.com

www.odessacvb.com

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 across 40,000 acres of arid land. The "forest" is not apparent because mature trees (Havard oaks) are seldom more than 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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.

ODESSA

Pop. 140,000

Alt. 2,891

Map L-9/KK-4

GENERAL—Odessa is nestled in the heart of West Texas, midway between Dallas and El Paso. Here you'll enjoy breathtaking skies, wide-open spaces and real West Texas hospitality.

Odessa was established in the late 1800s as a water stop for the railroad. Farming and ranching were the main sources of income until the discovery of oil in the 1920s when Odessa became headquarters for the vast petroleum industry



Monahans Sandhills State Park

KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

in the Permian Basin. Today, Odessa remains active in the oil and gas business, but diversification efforts are going strong. Manufacturing, industrial services, educational and medical facilities are all important aspects of the local economy.

From community theater to historic buildings and museums, from Jackalopes Professional Hockey to Roughnecks Indoor Football Team and the World's Largest Jackrabbit, you'll find it all in Odessa.

For additional information on events, accommodations, or dining facilities, contact the Odessa Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/780-4678 or visit www.odessaovb.com.

BUSH HOME—Located on the grounds of the Presidential Museum is the former home of President George H.W. Bush, his wife, Barbara, and son, George W. Bush. The quaint two-bedroom, one bath home is where two presidents and a first lady spent their early days in West Texas. At 4919 E. University. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission fee. 432/363-7737.

ECTOR COUNTY COLISEUM—5,000 seat coliseum with 2,500 additional seats possible. The Coliseum Complex has six additional exhibit buildings and a covered arena. It is home to the Permian Basin Fair and Exposition, the Permian Basin International Oil Show, the Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo (one of the top 15 PRCA Rodeos in the nation), the Odessa Jackalopes Professional Hockey Team, part of the Central Hockey League, and the Odessa Roughnecks indoor football team. Andrews Highway and 42nd St. 432/366-3541.

ECTOR THEATER—Located in the heart of downtown, and completed in 1951. This unique Odessa Historic Landmark, restored in 2001, features classic and art films, live theater and concerts. The 700-seat auditorium features wheat stalks done in pale green and gold-leaf stretches almost from floor to ceiling, decorating the delicate pink walls. Long thin neon lights lie in hidden niches at intervals along the walls. In 1951 the theater had the second largest screen in the state. It is located on the corner of Texas and 5th Streets. Admission fee. For additional information, call 432/332-6160 Theater or 432/580-0898 office. www.ectortheatre.net.

ELLEN NOËL ART MUSEUM OF THE PERMIAN BASIN—Provides access to art of enduring quality through changing exhibitions and through the museum's permanent collection. Exhibitions are varied and include historically significant art, outstanding contemporary art and juried exhibitions of regional art. The Museum's Sculpture and Sensory Garden challenges the senses of both the sighted and non-sighted. Free admission to the Garden and the Art Museum. Donations accepted. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Located on the campus of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin at 4909 E. University. Reservations are recommended for guided tours and can be made by calling 432/550-9696.

GLOBE OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

On the grounds of Odessa College, the theater is modeled after the original Shakespearean Globe Theatre. Shakespearean productions are held throughout the year, along with national road shows and local productions that range from country and bluegrass concerts to Broadway musical comedies. The Shakespeare Festival is held each year on the last weekend of August through the first week of September. Also on the grounds is a replica of Anne Hathaway's cottage that contains antiques and Shakespearean library. Open Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 2308 Shakespeare Road. Admission fee. 432/332-1586.

MUSIC CITY MALL—Enjoy free, live musical performances while enjoying shopping and more. Don't miss the giant indoor carousel,

fashioned after an 18th-century original, and a public ice skating rink. At 4101 E. 42nd St. 432/550-2483.

ODESSA FAMILY AQUATIC CENTERS—Located at Woodson Park and Sherwood Parks, facilities are open during swim season. Amenities for all ages include leisure pool with lap lanes and beach entry, diving well, water and sand volleyball, current channel/lazy river, vortex, lily pad walk, raindrop, spiral and tot slides, water floor geysers, sand box playground, picnic pavilions, shade structures, concessions and bath house. Admission fee. For more information, call the Odessa Parks & Recreation Department at 432/368-3548.

ODESSA METEOR CRATER AND MUSEUM, THE—The Odessa Crater was formed in prehistoric times when a shower of nickel-iron meteorites collided with the earth. The crater, the second largest in the nation, is approximately 550 feet in diameter and was originally 100 feet deep. Over the centuries, desert winds silted the crater almost level with the surrounding plains. It now appears as a shallow, nearly circular depression surrounded by a low, rock-butressed rim. The site was not identified as a meteor crater until the 1920s. An



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Stonehenge on the campus of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa

adjacent museum and visitors center has exhibits on meteorites, tektites, meteorite impact products, as well as historical videos and related items of interest with an emphasis on material from outer space. The museum hours are Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Self-guided tours of the crater are available daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Just west of Odessa off I-20, exit 108, follow signs to crater site. Donations accepted. 432/381-0946.

ODESSA PARKS—Odessa's 11 community parks offer a wide variety of activities such as softball, tennis, swimming and playgrounds year-round. Notable parks include *McKinney Park* with huge lighted Christmas holiday displays; barrier-free *Progressive Park*, designed to meet the needs of disabled children; and *Noël Heritage Plaza*, which hosts numerous outdoor cultural events throughout the year and a beautiful display of Christmas lights during the holiday. *Memorial Gardens* is a tribute to the original pioneer families who settled this area. A bronze steer is depicted descending a two-tiered waterfall to drink from the playa lake. The branch of each ranch and brief history are permanently displayed. For more information, call the Odessa Parks & Recreation Department at 432/368-3548.

PARKER HOUSE RANCHING MUSEUM—This historic home, completed in 1935, was owned by Jim and Bessie Parker and was headquarters for their ranching operations. The house has been restored as a museum and primarily features ranching and local history. The gallery rooms upstairs feature changing historical exhibits. Open Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Donations accepted. At 1118 Maple St. 432/335-9918.

THE PERMIAN PLAYHOUSE—Theater has been enriching the lives of West Texas residents with music, dance, drama, suspense, tears and laughter for more than 50 years. 310 West 42nd St. Admission fee. For performance dates and times call 432/550-5456 or visit www.permianplayhouse.com.

PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM—The only museum in the U.S. dedicated solely to the office of the President. Permanent exhibits include campaign memorabilia, portraits, signatures, documents, and commemorative items that relate to past Presidents, Vice-Presidents, First Ladies, as well as the Presidents of the Republic of Texas and the Confederate States of Texas. It also includes a library and a gift shop. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on the University of Texas of the Permian Basin campus, 4919 E. University, Odessa. For information, call 432/363-7737. Admission fee.

STONEHENGE—This amazing replica of the original Stonehenge fascinates visitors from around the world. It is located on the campus of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. For more information, visit www.utpb.edu.

WHITE-POOL HOUSE—Oldest existing residential structure in Odessa. It is a two-story brick home constructed in 1887. It has period furnishings from original and last owners and reflects 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. - Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and by appointment. 112 E. Murphy St. Donations accepted. 432/333-4072.

WORLD'S LARGEST JACKRABBIT—"World's Largest Jackrabbit," Jack Ben Rabbit, is an Odessa landmark. He's a 8-ft. statue on a cement base situated in front of the ECISD administration building at 802 N. Sam Houston. The fiberglass statue was created by the Odessa Chamber of Commerce in 1962 and has become a popular photo spot for tourists.

PECOS

Pop. 9,501

Alt. 2,580

Map M-7

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 Rodco," 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 visit 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 CANTALOUPE—Grown in irrigated fields, luscious melon is the delight of gourmets throughout the United States. Quality derives from natural combination of alkaline soil, western sunlight and altitude. Pecos cantaloupes



J. GORFIS SMITH/XTXDOT

West-of-the-Pecos Museum in Pecos

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, call 432/445-2406.

WEST-OF-THE-PECOS MUSEUM AND PARK—Celebrating its 43rd anniversary in 2006, 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 showcase Pecos and West Texas history. Information on other Pecos attractions. Open Labor Day to Memorial Day, Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Memorial Day to Labor Day, Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. U.S. 285 and First St. For more information, call 432/445-5076. Admission fee.

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

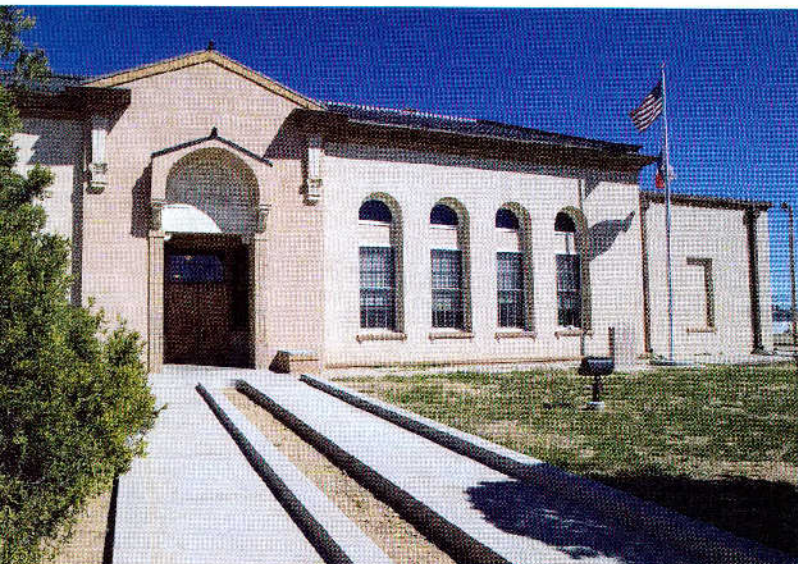
GENERAL—The tiny community on U.S. 62/180 just south of the New Mexico state line was the location of a station on famous stagecoach run, Butterfield Overland Mail Route. Station was established in 1858; tumbled stone ruins and a granite historical marker are all that remain today.

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 more than 8,000 feet tall, along with deep canyons and a rare mixture of plant and animal life. The barren, desert 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 cultural 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 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. 915/828-3251.



Adobe Courthouse in Sierra Blanca

PRESIDIO

Pop. 4,167 Alt. 2,594 Map R-5

GENERAL—Town grew from early Spanish settlement once protected by a *presidio* (fort). Texas' most mountainous country, averaging more than 5,000 feet above sea level, with some spots above 8,000 feet. Home to the only legal border crossing between El Paso and Del Rio. 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 Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center in Lajitas or Fort Leaton State Historic Site in Presidio. 800/792-1112.

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 Native American tribes, 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 grainery. Interpretive exhibits trace area history and culture; audio-visual program on desert ecology. Open daily 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closed Dec. 25; 3 miles east of Presidio on E.M. 170; admission fee. (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 L-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—Before relocating to Langtry, Judge Roy Bean disembarked at Sanderson's still-standing 1881 depot and attempted to start a saloon. Sensing competition, the established saloon owner poisoned Bean's whiskey barrels with kerosene, forever branding Sanderson as "the town too mean for Bean." Vestiges of its wild and wooly frontier beginnings abound, from the bank once robbed by the Wild Bunch to the old hotel and vaudeville theater that soon will re-open as the Big Bend Bucking Bullroom. Sanderson has the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in far West Texas. Designated the "Cactus Capital of Texas" by the Texas State Legislature, the town celebrates the Prickly Pear Pachanga each Columbus Day weekend with food booths, border music, and everything cactus. For more information, visit the Terrell County Visitor Center in downtown Sanderson, call 432/345-2324 or visit www.sandersontx.org.

TERRELL COUNTY MEMORIAL MUSEUM—Ranch, railroad, community memorabilia and photographs. Open weekdays 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. At 211 East Mansfield St.

VISITOR CENTER—Terrell County Visitor Center is located at U.S. 90 downtown. For more information call 432/345-2324 or visit www.sandersontx.org.

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.

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 Native Americans (1882-1895).

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, Native American artifacts, and history of county. Also houses offices of local historical society. Open Wed. 1 - 5 p.m.

SCENIC DRIVE—F.M. 1111 north 43 miles to intersection with primary cast-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 800/986-9940 or visit 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 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 tribes 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 Cook-offs. 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.

VAN HORN

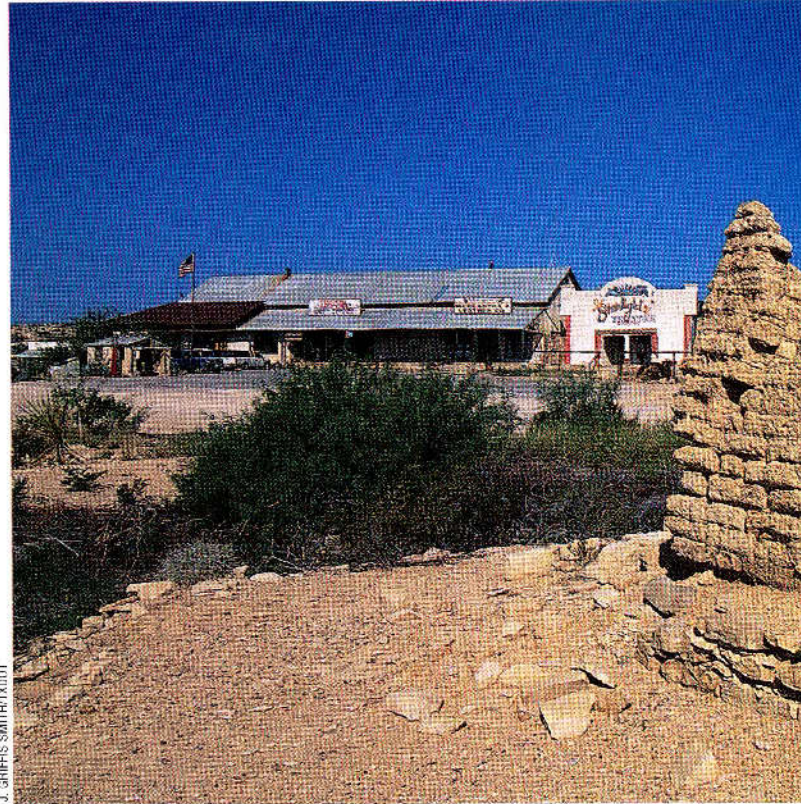
Pop. 2,435 Alt. 4,010 Map N-4

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 by calling the Van Horn Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at 866/4 AHOWDY or 432/283-2682 or visiting www.vanhorn-texas.org.

CLARK HOTEL MUSEUM—Displays of Native American artifacts from a prehistoric era combine with antique ranch, farm and home implements providing a vivid reminder of civilization, which came slowly to this remote region. A



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/IXI/DOI

Ruins and a country store in Terlingua

fantastic antique bar, complete with ornate hardwood, mirrors and a brass rail recalls lusty frontier times. Have your picture taken as you lean back against the bar, then head upstairs to relive the days of the Old West as they transitioned into the era of the automobile and neon signs. 110 W. Business Loop in Historic Downtown Van Horn. For more information, call the Van Horn Convention and Visitors Bureau.

CULBERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Features displays of Native American 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 432/283-2682.

RED ROCK RANCH TOURS—Guided driving and hiking tours provide visitors with magnificent views of wind-carved Precambrian rock formations, panoramic vistas, centuries old Indian campsites, petroglyphs and pictographs, and an old Western movie set. Native plants and wildlife combine with an original 1880 homestead and a working talc mine to make Red Rock Ranch a fantastic and fun experience for everyone including children, bird watchers, rock hounds and geologists, and anyone else interested in seeing West Texas at its best. 800/735-6911.

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, in honor of C.M. Winkler, a colonel in the Confederate Army, a member of the Texas legislature, and a justice of the Court of Civil Appeals, 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 his musical career. Record albums and singles are displayed in cases, along with the singer’s trademark sunglasses. For tours, call 432/527-3622. Located downtown on Texas 115.



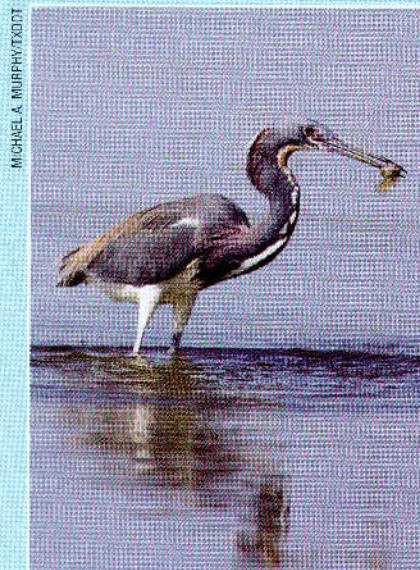
J. GRIFFIS SMITH/IXI/DOI

Clark Hotel Museum in Van Horn

GULF COAST



J. BRIAN SMITH/TXDOT



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT



J. BRIAN SMITH/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: the beach at Port Aransas; a view of the Houston skyline; a Tri-colored Heron in Baffin Bay

THE FIRST THING THAT COMES to mind about the Gulf Coast region is precisely that; the coast along the Gulf of Mexico. And no wonder, since there are more than 624 miles of coastline stretching southward from the Louisiana border to the Mexican border near Brownsville.

The warm water of the Gulf beckons visitors who want to swim, fish, sail, sunbathe, build sand castles, surf or just take a relaxing stroll on the beach.

Searching for some solitude? Look no further than the North Padre National Seashore – which has the longest undeveloped stretch of barrier-island beach in the world – or, if you prefer to be where the action is, join the crowds and party-like atmosphere up and down the coast during Spring Break, or in Galveston and Port Arthur during Mardi Gras.

Get up early in the morning to cast lines off a pier or head into the Gulf for some deep-sea fishing. Spend the afternoon lying on a beach enjoying the warmth of the sun and listening to the lulling sound of the waves breaking on the sand. Take a walk along the sand as the sun sets, enjoying the peace of day's end as sunbeams make their final plays across the water. In the evening, head out to a local waterside restaurant to enjoy fresh seafood and the dark ripple of the waves at night.

However, the Gulf Coast is not just about the sand and surf. From the sun-kissed valley near the Texas-Mexico border to the swamps in Orange, and everything in between, the region has something that appeals to every kind of traveler.

If you enjoy wildlife watching, you've definitely come to the right place. The Rio Grande Valley is the nation's number one bird-watching destination, and most of the Texas Coastal Birding Trail stops fall within this portion of the state. Some of the birding opportunities

include seeing tropical birds in Harlingen, stopping at the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center, Paradise Pond Birding Habitat or Los Ebanos Nature Preserve, catching glimpses of the endangered whooping crane that winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, and visiting Rockport-Fulton in September for the Hummer/Bird Celebration to see the migrating hummingbirds.

For history buffs, travel back to a different time in Texas with a visit to one of many sites of profound historical importance. Visit the San Jacinto

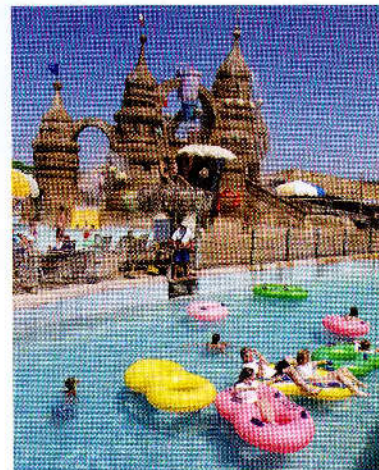
Battleground State Historic Site in Deer Park, where Texas avenged its Alamo defeat and won its independence from Mexico. See Spindletop in Beaumont, which set off the oil boom in Texas in 1901 and brought in the modern era of petroleum production.

For museum lovers, the region is rich with art museums, heritage museums, and historic homes and buildings that preserve history. Tour homes, mansions and plantations, and see examples of everyday life and culture in the 1800s and early 1900s. Houston's museum district is ranked among the five best in the nation, and its Museum of Fine Arts is the sixth largest in the country.

With Texas' largest city, Houston, and its surrounding metropolitan area, along with Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Harlingen, Port Arthur, Beaumont, the Brazosport Area and Bay Area Houston, there are plenty of opportunities for people who want for modern day activities like shopping, visiting art museums, attending theatrical performances, splashing around at water parks, and enjoying rides at amusement parks. For a truly out-of-this world experience, visit NASA/Space Center Houston and have some fun learning about our nation's space program.

With so much to see and do here, it might be hard to decide where to start, but you don't want to miss a thing. So, be sure to review the following pages to learn more about the cities and attractions found within the area, and use the information to plan your adventure.

Whether you are a beach or water fan, history buff or living for the present, urbanite or nature-lover, the Gulf Coast has something for you to enjoy!



Schlitterbahn® Beach Waterpark on South Padre Island



KEVIN STILL, MAINTROBOT



Nolan Ryan Center in Alvin

ALVIN

Pop. 21,413 Alt. 51 Map R-21/AA-14/VV-15

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 offer places for picnicking; for those looking for sandy beaches, Alvin is just minutes from the Gulf Coast.

During the spring, Shimek Gardens on C.R. 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 C.R. 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 281/331-8181.

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, and 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 fee. For additional information, call 281/388-1134.

TEXAS THUNDER SPEEDWAY—Stock cars, street stocks, hobby stocks, and go-cart races provide 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 as 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 of 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.

ANGLETON

Pop. 18,130 Alt. 21 Map S-21/BB-13

GENERAL—Seat of Brazoria County, Angleton was founded in 1890 primarily to provide for a connecting railroad track to southern locations in the county. Faustino Kiber and Lewis Bryan bought land in the area in an effort to extend a railroad track to the town of Velasco. The men laid out a townsite and named it Angleton after the family of George Angle. Today, Angleton is an award-winning Keep Texas Beautiful city with a plethora of antique shops and parkland.

Annual events include the Brazoria County Fair, considered the largest county fair in Texas every October, and the Christmas on the Square each December. For more information, contact the City of Angleton Economic Development Office at 979/849-4364, the Angleton Chamber of Commerce at 979/849-6443 or visit www.angletonchamber.org.

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 chronicle 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. For information, call 979/864-1208 or visit www.bchm.org.

BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—Refuge on more than 42,000 acres along 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; write PO Drawer 1088, Angleton, TX 77516. 979/849-6062.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATUE—This 60-foot replica stands on a 12-foot base in the 10-acre Henry William Munson Park located just south from the Stephen F. Austin Highway (Hwy. 35), and it promotes the observation, appreciation and recognition of the importance of Brazoria County's history to Texas and the shaping of the U.S. The Park also features a Texas-shaped one-acre lake that serves as the focal point for the 900-foot 'Walk of Honor', which pays tribute to county residents who have made a significant impact on the county since 1469. The Visitor Center, also located in the park, provides information, brochures and maps to help you plan your visit.

ARANSAS PASS

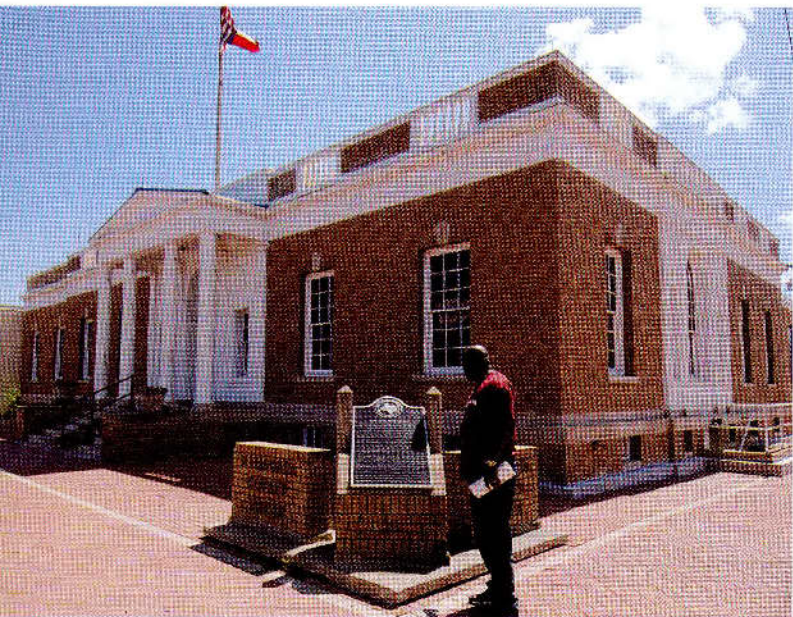
Pop. 8,138 Alt. 20 Map V-18/HH-21

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.

- Sunrise
- Parasail
- Swim
- Fish
- Snooze
- Surf
- Sandcastle Days
- Birdwatching
- Run
- Everything
- Shop
- Eat
- Turtles
- Nothing
- Sunset

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KEVIN STILLMAN/FOXOT

Matagorda County Museum in Bay City

Visit Conn Brown Harbor, south from Stapp Ave.; at harbor entrance, see Seamen's Memorial Tower, dedicated to fishermen lost at sea. The "Official Shrimporce of Texas" celebrating the area's long-standing ties to the shrimping industry is a three-day celebration held in June.

For more information, visit the Aransas Pass Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 130 W. Goodnight. Call 800/633-3028 or visit 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 Great 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 offshore 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 Texas 361 in Aransas Pass.

BAY AREA HOUSTON

Pop. (Comb.) 78,444 (est.) Alt. 15-32 Map R-22/TT-17

GENERAL—This charming waterfront region is ideally located midway between the big-city allure of Houston and the beaches of Galveston. Encompassing six distinctive cities, the region touches more than 35 miles of waterfront. It boasts succulent seafood, exceptional shipping, a booming boating community and awe-inspiring nature preserves.

Considered the "Boating Capital of Texas," the focal point of this region is Clear Lake, a 2,000-acre inlet of Galveston Bay and the third-largest pleasure boat basin in the nation. Comprised of La Porte, League City, Nassau Bay, Seabrook, Webster, and the southernmost portion of Houston, this region offers year-round opportunities for a relaxing weekend or a fun-filled family adventure.

Discover the beauty of Galveston Bay as you set sail into the sunset from a marina in Nassau Bay. Browse charming shops in the seaside village of Seabrook and historic League City, or shop 'til you drop in Webster's urban stores. And don't forget to visit Space Center Houston and see America's space program come to life with interactive exhibits, live shows, and behind-the-scenes NASA tram tours.

This area is a shopper's delight with antique and specialty shops, quaint tearooms and waterfront restaurants. Enjoy fresh seafood at one of the many restaurants in Seabrook's Waterfront District overlooking Galveston Bay.

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER—One of the largest urban wild-life and wilderness preserves in the country, located 7 miles east off I-45 South. The Bayou is home to bison, raptors, and reptiles. The center offers a boardwalk through a woodland-pond area, bird blind, walking trails, pontoon tour boats and

canoe trips. Three ecosystems with more than 2,500 acres of bayou, forest, and prairie are home to more than 360 animals and birds. Reservations required for boat and canoe trips. 281/474-2551.

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.

BIG LEAGUE DREAMS—Six baseball/softball fields built as scaled-down replicas of famous stadiums like Boston's Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Field. Features "Stadium Club" restaurant/sports bar, a 20,000-square foot covered pavilion, playground areas, batting cages, and more. Exit 22 Gulf Freeway South, take access road to Big League Dreams Pkwy. 281/316-3400. www.bigleaguedreams.com.

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.

GULF GREYHOUND PARK—Ten minutes south of Clear Lake, the world's largest greyhound racing park features a four-level complex with clubhouse seating for 1,900. Top-rated dogs in the U.S. Families welcome. Full-service dining available. Dog adoption service. Evening races Tues. - Sun.; Matinees Fri. - Sun. Open daily for simulcasting. Exit 14 at F.M. 2004 off I-45. 800/275-2946.

LAKES—Clear Lake. See LAKES listing.

NASA/SPACE CENTER HOUSTON—Visit headquarters of America's manned space program. Space Center Houston, the official visitor center for NASA/JSC offers live shows and presentations, interactive exhibits, IMAX® theater, behind-the-scenes tours of Johnson Space Center and much more. Open seven days a week (closed Christmas). Located 20 miles southeast of downtown Houston, 3 miles east of I-45 on NASA Rd. 1. 281/244-2100.

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. Admission fee. 281/333-3200.

SYLVAN BEACH PARK—32-acre county park at the site of famous resort-dance pavilion of the 1920s-30s on Galveston Bay. Modern air-conditioned pavilion, fishing pier extends 1/4-mile into bay, launch ramp, playground, picnic areas. 281/471-5020

SPACE CITY ICE STATION—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. On west side of I-45 South; exit Clear Lake City Blvd. Admission fee. 281/486-7979.

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. 201 Hobbs Rd., Suite A1 in League City. 281/338-7625. Admission fee.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—Maps, brochures, literature and schedule of events available at visitor center operated by the Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau. Discount tickets to Space Center Houston and Kemah Boardwalk rides available. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Thanks-



MICHELLE A. MURPHY/FOXOT

Matagorda County Birding Nature Center near Bay City

giving and Christmas. 20710 I-45, Suite 40, Webster TX. For more information call 281/338-0333 or 800/844-LAKE (5253). www.visitbayareahouston.com.

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 League City memorabilia. The Icehouse Barbershop features an authentic ice house and a one-chair barbershop. Life-like figures discuss League City’s history. 210 N. Kansas St. 281/554-2994. www.oneroomschoolhouse.org.

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 BIRDING NATURE CENTER—Spanning 34 acres on the Colorado River, bird- and butterfly-watchers will love this breathtaking spot. Facility includes an observation platform, nature trails, bridges, a wetlands area and pavilion. It also features six beautiful gardens. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission fee. Located 1.7 miles west of Bay City on Texas 35 next to LeTulle Park. For more information, call 979/245-3336 or visit www.mcbnc.org.

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 F.M. 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/RR-18

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 pre-

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 720 W. Bay Area Blvd. 281-338-7711 800-444-8888 extendedstayamerica.com	 506 W. Bay Area Blvd. 281-332-7952 800-HAMPTON hamptoninn.com	 480 W. Bay Area Blvd. 281-554-9552 800-553-9338 intownsuites.com	 520 W. Bay Area Blvd. 281-554-5290 800-531-5900 laquinta.com
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For vacation information, call 888-805-9000 or visit www.cityofwebster.com/visit

served 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.

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/MM-15

GENERAL—“The Museum Capital of Texas.” Settlement began when early French and Spanish trappers and explorers established trading post in early 1800s. Beaumont dates from 1824 when it was known as Tevis Bluff after Noah and Nancy Tevis—the first settlers. In 1835, Henry Millard and partners bought the Tevis’ property for a planned town, and Beaumont was the maiden name of Millard’s wife. The First Congress of the Republic of Texas granted a charter in

1838, and Beaumont was designated as the seat for Jefferson County. City came of age in 1901 with world's largest producing 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.

Today, Beaumont rocks...and zydecos, too! A unique combination of two colorful cultures, the town's Texas heritage and bayou roots, make for what cajuns call "lagniappe," which means a little something extra.

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.

Also in Oct., city celebrates Rockin' Beaumont Blues Festival. Visit www.beaumontblues.com for dates and more information.

Ford Park, located on the western edge of the city, is an entertainment complex that includes an arena, exhibit hall, fairground with covered barn, RV park, softball complex, and the largest amphitheater in Texas. 409/951-5400.

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 hours.

ADVENTURE 2000—See ORANGE.

ART MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS—Permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, mixed media. Traveling exhibits; folk art. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. No admission fee. 500 Main St.; 409/832-3432.

ART STUDIO, INC.—"Art Made Fresh Daily." Watch artists at work, view their collections, and with advanced notice, see demonstrations or attend educational programs. Changing exhibits each month. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. at 720 Franklin. For information, call 409/838-5393. Admission fee.


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 has 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. 409/833-4622 or 800/392-4401. 1750 I-10 & MLK Parkway, Exit 854.


BIG THICKEST 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., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2675 Gulf St. (on fairgrounds). Call 409/833-4179.

CROCKETT STREET ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT—A premiere downtown entertainment district offers an expansive array of food, live music and dancing in one centrally-located and highly-charged area. A wide variety of nightclubs and bars feature an assortment of musical genres, ranging from blues to traditional country music. For more information call 409/832-2944.

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TEXAS WITH A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA.

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 draw from talents of Lamar University student and faculty artists, as well as local and national artists. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located on the Lamar University Campus at U.S. 69 south at MLK Parkway. 409/880-8141.

EDISON MUSEUM—Explore the largest collection of Thomas Edison's inventions west of the Mississippi, including many original inventions, inside the historic Travis Street Station. Through interactive exhibits and more than 60 artifacts, the museum interprets the inventions and innovations of Edison. Major renovations to the museum's exhibits and interior were completed in 2002. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 350 Pine St. (Downtown). Call 409/981-3089 or visit www.edisonmuseum.org.

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; 409/880-3927.

GATOR COUNTRY—Theme park features "Big Al," the largest alligator in captivity in Texas, along with baby alligators that can be held, and two alligator snapping turtles that appear to be prehistoric. Watch a live show and get up close and personal with the gators. Cajun food and gift shop available. Hours vary with season. At I-10 and exit 838 (FM 365). Call 409/794-WILD or visit www.gatorcountrytx.com for more information. Admission fee.

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.

JEFFERSON THEATRE—One of the first cultural gems in downtown Beaumont, and named best restoration by the Texas Downtown Association. Built in 1927, this renovated vaudeville house hosts a variety of shows throughout the year. Featured on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a Texas Historical Landmark. Located at 345 Fannin (George Jones Place, Downtown). 409/835-LIVE.

JOHN J. 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, corner crib, and smokehouse. Operated by Beaumont Heritage Society. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2985 French Rd.; 409/898-3267. Admission fee. www.jjfrench.com.



Edison Museum in Beaumont

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

JULIE ROGERS THEATRE—This magnificent facility is home to the Symphony of Southeast Texas as well as presentations by the Beaumont Civic Opera, the Beaumont Civic Ballet, and the Beaumont Ballet Theatre. World-famous artists have performed here in the mediums of dance and music. Located at 765 Pearl St. For more information call 409/838-3435 or 800/782-3081.

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. Guided tours of the house begin every half-hour. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 - 11:30 a.m., 1 - 3 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 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 fee.

PARKS—*Tyrrell Park* is 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. 409/842-3135.

The 10-acre *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. 409/842-3135.

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 overnight camping is not allowed. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Open daily, no admission fee. Located at Tyrrell Park Rd. off Fannett (Texas 124). 409/866-3135.

Colliers Ferry Park includes four boat ramps, docking areas, pier, nature trail and playground. Located at 5390 Pine St. along the Neches. 409/838-3613.

Riverfront Park offers a picnic area, playground, and pavilion for afternoon picnics, catered barbecues or dancing under the moonlight on the banks of the Neches River. Located at 800 main St. behind City hall. For more information, call 409/838-3435 or 800/782-3081.

To reach the gardens and the Conservatory, call 409/842-3135. Open daily, no admission fee. On Tyrrell Park Rd. off Fannett (Texas 124).

SPINDLETOP/GLADYS CITY BOOMTOWN—This museum represents Gladys City Boomtown 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. *Currently recovering from damage caused by Hurricane Rita, so please call before visiting.* University Dr. at U.S. 69 S; 409/835-0823. Admission fee.

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 fee.

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. *Damaged by Hurricane Rita, but scheduled to re-open in early 2007.* Open Tues. 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Wed.-Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Located at 695 Pearl (Downtown). 409/833-2759.

VISITOR CENTER—For information on attractions, events and to receive a free Beaumont gift, stop by the center located inside City Hall at 801 Main St. 800/392-4401. www.beaumontcvb.org.

BISHOP

Pop. 3,305 Alt. 59 Map V-17

GENERAL—Established in 1910 as the fulfillment of a young insurance agent's dream. F.Z. Bishop envisioned a model town, surrounded by farm tracts, and he made a deal for 2,300 acres, bisected by the rails of the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railroad. By the end of 1912, the town had grown to 1,200 residents and Bishop had sold more than 40,000 acres. Today, agriculture remains a mainstay of the local economy. For more information, contact the Bishop Chamber of Commerce by calling 361/584-2214.

GUESS NATURE TRAIL—Included in the state's Central Coast section of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, this 1/2-mile trail lies in the two greatest fly-ways of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere. Two bird-watching plat-



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Fire Museum of Texas in Beaumont

forms are available. White-tailed hawk, Wrens, Long-billed Thrasher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Green Jay, and Lesser Goldfinch are just some of the species seen here. A handicapped-accessible nature trail winds along nearby Carreta Creek. On Birch Ave. Open during daylight hours. No admission fee. For more information, contact the Bishop Chamber of Commerce at 361/584-2214.

PARKS—City Park includes picnic tables, playground, fitness trail around Lake LaCour, ball fields, and covered pavilion. At the corner of Business 77 and Joyce St. Three other smaller parks located around the city.

VISITOR CENTER—Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to noon, operated by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. At 213 E. Main. 361/584-2214.

BRAZORIA

Pop. 2,787 Alt. 20 Map S-21/CC-12

GENERAL—Nestled on the banks of the Brazos River, city was founded in 1828 by Stephen F. Austin as one of his original settlements in Texas. Brazoria derives its name from the Spanish word *Abrazar*, meaning embrace, which was the Brazos River's original name. Today, visitors can find restaurants, bed & breakfasts, and easy access to nearby beautiful Gulf Coast beaches. The Masonic Oak Park is the location where the first Masonic Charter in Texas was signed, and the original oak tree still stands in a grove of beautiful trees within the park. For more information, contact the Brazoria Chamber of Commerce at 979/798-6100 or visit www.brazoriachamber.net. E-mail: brazoriachamber@sat.net.

BRAZORIA MUSEUM—Visitors can find a treasure trove of interesting artifacts documenting the role the area played in the time of Texas' birth. Items on display include exhibits on Dr. Sophie Hertzog, the first female railroad doctor in Texas, photos and documents detailing early city history, copies of Mexican land treaties, the area's early plantation life, Civil War and Texas Ranger memorabilia, artifacts and more. Open Sat. noon - 4 p.m., but private tours available other days by appointment. At 620 S. Brooks. 979/798-2372. No admission fee.

BRAZOSPORT AREA

Pop. (Comb.) 47,000 (est.) Alt. 15-32 Map S-21

GENERAL—A community of nine cities situated at the mouth of the Brazos River, each separate, but joined in similar outlook and destiny. Brazosport communities are Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Quintana Beach, Richwood, and Surfside Beach. 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 breakfast 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. Two 18-hole public golf courses are 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 888/477-2505.

BRYAN BEACH—On Gulf of Mexico, Intracoastal Waterway and Brazos River. Activities include fishing, beach-type recreation, primitive camping. From Freeport, southwest 2 mi. on F.M. 1495, then 3 mi. south on Gulf beach. 979/233-3526.

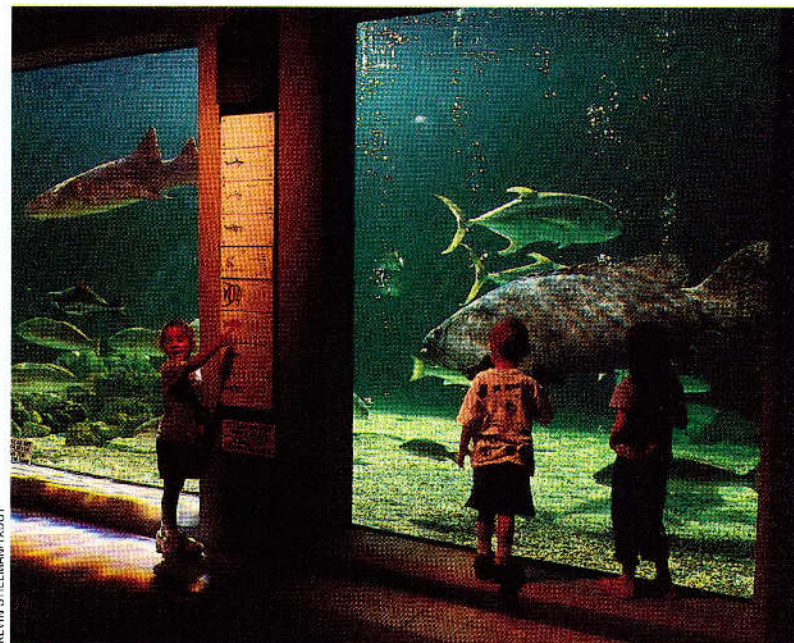
FISHING—Extensive facilities for fishing, both inshore and deep-sea. Local jetties, piers and surf are popular spots for catches of speckled trout, drum, redfish, sheepshead, flounder and gafftop; tackle and bait available nearby. For deep-sea fishing there are party and charter fishing vessels for hire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

GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY, THE—Located on 33 acres of Columbia Bottomland forest. Features self-guided nature trails, and free maps are available at the office. Birds include native woodland birds as well as migrants in spring, fall and especially winter. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Sat. during spring and fall. 103 W. Hwy. 332. Free admission. 979/480-0999. www.gcbo.org.

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. - sundown. 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 and the founding and growth of modern Lake Jackson. 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 www.lakejacksonmuseum.org.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson

LAKE THEATER, THE—Housed in 1940s movie house, one of the oldest structures in Lake Jackson. Today, hosts weekly musical shows in "Grand Ole Opry" fashion and includes gospel, country, rock-a-billy, hit parade musical styles, as well a magic show. Show times every Fri. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m., and new shows featured every week. 3 Circle Way. Admission fee. 979/480-0300. www.laketheater.com.

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: Coveney House features period museum and natural history display, and Seaburn 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 bathroom with rest rooms, showers, and laundry facilities. Reservations accepted for camping. From Texas 288 in Freeport, take F.M. 1495 south 1.7 miles; C.R. 723 east three miles to park entrance. 979/849-5711, ext. 1541, or 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 refuge contains nearly 250 species. For information about access, hunting, and fishing, contact headquarters at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Free admission. 979/849-6062.

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 visitors 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



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Surfside Beach in Brazosport Area

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.

TRAIN MUSEUM, THE—Features scale model layout of Brazoria County from 1955, the last year of steam locomotives. Displayed at child's eye level so kids can peer through window to see trains move. At 418 Plantation Drive. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission. 979/388-9848.

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.

BRIDGE CITY

Pop. 8,651 Alt. 32 Map P-24/MM-17

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.

For more information, visit www.cityofbridgecity.org.

BRIDGE CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM...FORMER PRAIRIE VIEW TEACHERAGE—The building was a house built in 1930 as a residence for former Prairie View school district teachers and principal's family. The school district was later renamed named Bridge City. Former teachers and students have donated items. 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 Intra-coastal 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 impresario 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 information, call 281/375-6669. Admission fee.

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.

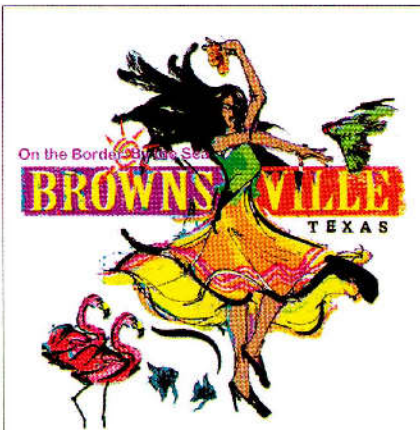
BROWNSVILLE

Pop. 175,000 Alt. 23 Map Z-17/CC-20

GENERAL—Brownsville's roots are as deep as Texas is big. The southernmost city in the state, Brownsville offers the history, culture, traditions, language and people of two great countries all in one border destination. Brownsville, named by the Texas Historical Society as "the second most important city, historically, in Texas," was founded in 1846 after Gen. Zachary Taylor established Fort Brown to claim the Rio Grande as the official U.S./Mexico border. It was this border dispute that touched off the Mexican-American War, 1846 - 48. Fort Brown remained an important part of Brownsville's development until it was closed in the 1940s. Today, several existing buildings of Fort Brown are now part of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Brownsville's stately palm trees, purple bougainvilleas, warm Gulf breezes and charming resacas create an inviting atmosphere for visitors to enjoy activities that include tennis, fishing, nature viewing, wildlife viewing, swimming and going to the beach. Boca Chica Beach offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty of pristine, undeveloped 7.5-mile stretch of beach, where the Rio Grande flows into the Gulf of Mexico and visitors can see the natural boundary between the U.S. and Mexico.

This "On the Border, By the Sea" city is also a bird watcher's paradise with more than 500 counted bird species sharing the refuges and wild places in and around the area. The convergence of two major flyways afford the birder an



- World Class Gladys Porter Zoo
- Seven Golf Courses
- Pristine Boca Chica Beach
- Historic Downtown
- Shopping and Dining in Mexico
- Affordable Hotels

25 miles from South Padre Island!

Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
(800) 626-2639
www.brownsville.org

abundance of Northern species migrating for the winter.

Charro Days, a major annual event held the last week of February, is a spectacular fiesta that features three parades, costumes, music, dancing, contests and foods of this colorful two-nation destination. Other popular festivals include the Brownsville International Birding Festival in February, Commemorative Air Fiesta in March, and the Latin Jazz Festival in Oct.

The Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc., provides detailed information about accommodations, attractions and activities. Birding guides and logoed souvenirs are sold here. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed holidays. Call 956/546-3721 or 800/626-2639 or visit www.brownsville.org.

BIRD & BUTTERFLY FARM—Tour aviaries with many species of butterflies and birds. Video presentation on butterfly life cycle. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 34193 California Road off U.S. Hwy. 100 and F.M. 803 between Brownsville and Los Fresnos. Admission fee. For more information, call 956/233-4714.

BROWNSVILLE HERITAGE COMPLEX—HOME OF THE STILLMAN HOUSE MUSEUM—Residence was built in 1850 for Charles Stillman, founder of Brownsville. The Brownsville Heritage Museum has a collection of pictures of the beginnings of Brownsville from the Spanish arrival to modern times. Also, research can be done at the Heritage Resource Center for persons interested in the local history of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1305 E. Washington. Admission fee. For information, call 956/541-5560.

BROWNSVILLE HERITAGE TRAIL—A Brownsville Heritage Trail map, available at the Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, will guide visitors to a collection of turn-of-the-century homes and businesses located in the historic downtown area. The original 3,000-acre townsite, now downtown Brownsville, boasts historical structures and the Immaculate Conception Cathedral dating



back to 1849. Buildings are marked with Heritage Trail Markers.

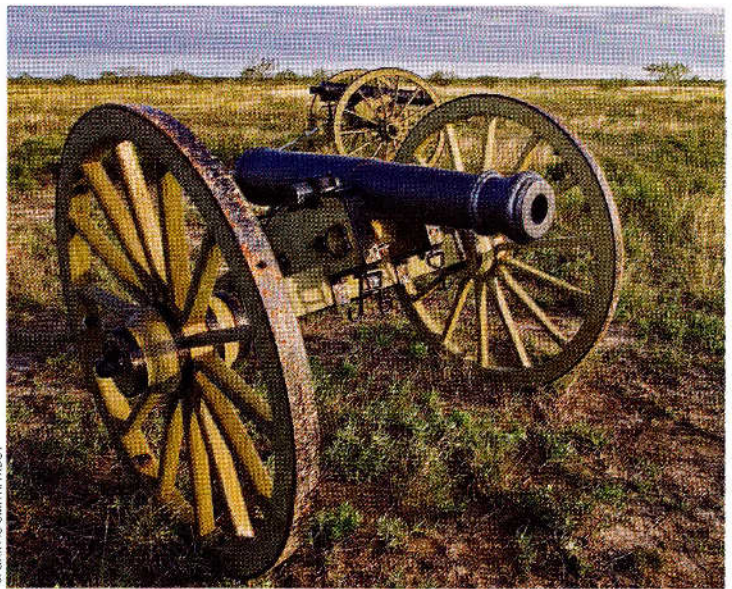
BROWNSVILLE MUSEUM OF FINE ART/BROWNSVILLE ART LEAGUE—Museum features a permanent collection including works by N.C. Wyeth, Marc Chagall, James Whistler and is housed across the street from the Gladys Porter Zoo. The Museum is the owner/caretaker of the historic Neale House built in 1834, said to be the oldest frame house in the city, and the original Fort Brown bandstand. The 17,000-square foot facility is dedicated to art awareness and educational opportunities for all. The more than 70-year-old organization has several annual special exhibitions including the International Art Show and the Student International Art Show. Open Tues. - Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Neale House is open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 660 Ringgold St. For information, call 956/542-0941. www.brownsvillemfa.org.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF BROWNSVILLE, THE—Offers interactive stations where children can learn how to practice good hygiene, navigate a shrimp boat and build projects. Other hands-on exhibits include learning about shopping, weather, and farm life. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 5 Dean Porter Park. Admission Fee. 956/548-9300. www.thechildrensmuseumofbrownsville.com.

COMMEMORATIVE 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 CAF Air Fiesta held in March. Open Apr. - Sept., Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; and Oct. - Mar., Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport. 956/541-8585. Admission fee. www.rgvwingcaf.com.

COSTUMES OF THE AMERICAS—Museum features rotating displays of native costumes of the Americas, educational information on historical and cultural points of interest in the Western Hemisphere, research center for costumes, visiting exhibits from other museums, and displays of museum quality costumes more than 100 years old. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. 5 Dean Porter Park. Admission Fee. 956/547-6890 or visit www.costumesoftheamericasmuseum.com.

FORT BROWN/UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE/TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE—Established in 1846, Fort Brown 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.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/IXDOT

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site near Brownsville

Other remaining buildings include cavalry barracks, medical lab, guardhouse, and morgue. International Blvd. and May St. near Gateway International Bridge. www.utb.edu.

GLADYS PORTER ZOO—Unique zoological park with virtually all animals living in open exhibits surrounded by natural flowing waterways. It contains more than 1,391 specimens representing some 360 species, 43 of which are listed as endangered. Vegetation throughout the zoo is comprised of more than 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, macaws, 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 tigers, gaurs, Przewalski's horse, pileated gibbons, Indian blue peafowl, and Bactrian camels.

Africa, which contains the more popular zoo animals including reticulated giraffes, African elephants, Grant's zebras, African lions, western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, 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 crocodilians, along with both fresh and saltwater fish from around the world, with emphasis on the Texas Gulf Coast area.

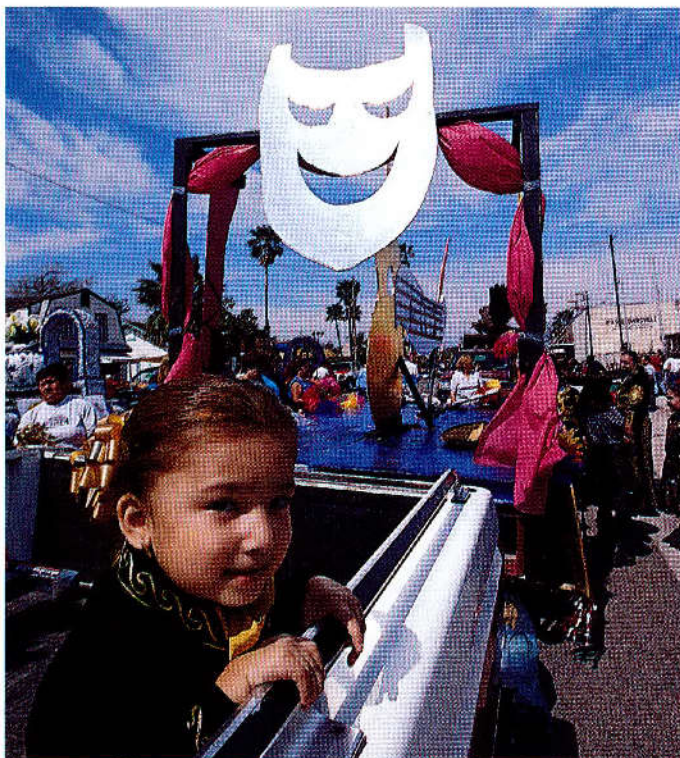
Other exhibits include a Free-Flight Aviary, bear grottos, and a California sea lion exhibit.

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, or find souvenirs. All facilities accessible by wheelchair. At Ringgold and Sixth sts. For information, call 956/546-2177 or 956/546-7187. Admission fee. www.gpz.org.

HISTORIC BROWNSVILLE MUSEUM—Housed in restored 1928 Southern Pacific depot, building's architecture is well-known for its Spanish Colonial Revivalist style. Exhibits include local military history, arrival of French-teaching nuns, and displays of agricultural and ranching tools. Also, exhibit features artifacts and photographs from battles fought during Mexican-American War. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 641 E. Madison. Admission fee. For information, call 956/548-1313.

LOS EBANOS NATURE PRESERVE—View birds and butterflies along trails throughout the Russell Plantation, including gardens and a lake in an 82-acre preserve. Located at junction of Texas 100 and U.S. 77/83 between Brownsville and San Benito. Open from Sept. to June. Admission fee. 800/418-3543. www.losebanospreserve.com.

MATAMOROS, MEXICO—Just across Rio Grande from Brownsville is a beautiful glimpse into Mexico. This border city provides visitors with a rich Mexican history featuring museums, festivals, gift shops, shopping markets and restaurants. Historic downtown has heritage sites such as the Cathedral, built in 1700s, and Plaza Hidalgo, built in 1826 and named for Miguel Hidalgo, who initi-



LOREN STILLMAN/IXDOT

Charro Days in Brownsville

ated Mexico's independence from Spain. Casa Mata Museum was completed in the 1830 and used during Mexican revolt in 1915. Bargains in pottery, leather goods, silver jewelry, woven rugs, hand-blown glass, and many other handcrafted items in Juarez market area. Access via Gateway Bridge (toll) at terminus of E. 14th St., the B&M Railroad Bridge (toll), or the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates (toll) at the beginning of U.S. 77/83. Metered parking is available throughout downtown Brownsville for pedestrians who wish to walk to Matamoros. www.matamoros.com.

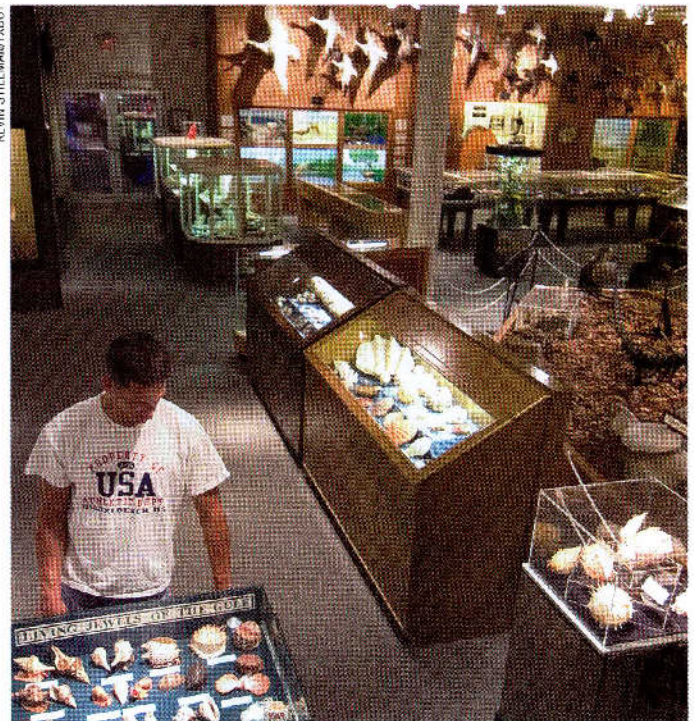
PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD—On May 12, 1865, Union and Confederate troops clashed on the northern banks of the Rio Grande River, east of Brownsville, in the last land battle of the Civil War. Troops had not heard of Lee's surrender at Appomattox a month earlier, and Confederate troops were victorious after a two-day battle. A historical marker is 12 miles east on Texas 4.

PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE—On May 8, 1846, the thunder of cannon fire rumbled across the prairie of Palo Alto, signaling the start of a two-year war between the United States and Mexico. Today, only six miles from the official U.S./Mexico border, which resulted from this war. The battlefield site preserves this scene of conflict and presents the history of the war through videos, displays, tours and a bookstore. This is the only unit of the National Park Service dedicated to telling the story of the U.S.-Mexican War. Exhibits cover war from both countries' perspectives. Located at 7200 Paredes Line Rd., near intersection of F.M. 1847/F.M. 511. Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call 956/541-2785 or visit www.nps.gov/paal.

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, employing more than 4,000 people, with interests ranging from shrimping and cargo handling to stevedoring. Due to security concerns, the Port is closed to visitors. www.portofbrownsville.com.

SABAL PALM AUDUBON SANCTUARY—Harbors one of the most beautiful and critical natural occurring ecosystems in South Texas. Self-guided nature trails invite visitors to explore mature Sabal Palm and Texas Ebony jungle as well as wetlands on this 557-acre sanctuary. Home to then endangered ocelot, migrating birds, butterflies, Green Jays, Long-billed Thrashers, Buff-bellied Hummingbirds and other wildlife. Open daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Visitors Center hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sanctuary 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. From International Blvd. 5.7 miles southeast on F.M. 1419 (Southmost Rd.); follow sign. Admission fee. 956/541-8034. www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/sabal.

KEVIN STILLMAN/TDOTT



Center for Arts & Sciences in Clute

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—Some 22 miles northeast of Brownsville, access to island is from Port Isabel by the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway across Laguna Madre. See SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.

WORLD BIRDING CENTER-RESACA DE LA PALMA STATE PARK—Boasts the largest tract of native habitat in the World Birding Center network. Etched by ancient curves of the Rio Grande, its 1,700 semi-tropical acres provide a quiet birding retreat. Colorful neo-tropical and nearctic migrants—like the summer tanager, American redstart, and yellow-breasted chat—have been noted here more often and in higher numbers. When resaca levels are controlled for the benefit of wildlife, species like the least grebe, black-bellied whistling duck, purple gallinule and various herons, as well as migrating waterfowl in their seasons, should also congregate here. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1000 New Carmen Road (four miles west of Brownsville on Hwy. 281). Admission fee. For more information, call 956/565-3919 or visit www.worldbirdingcenter.org/sites/brownsville/index.phtml.

CLUTE

Pop. 10,424

Alt. 24

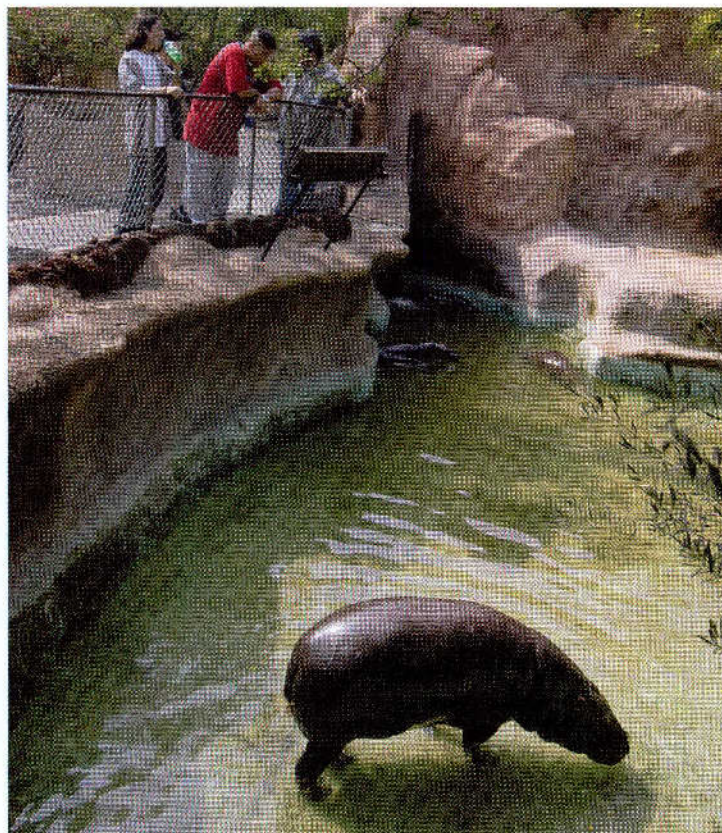
Map S-21/CC-13

GENERAL—City's history traced to the 1800s when land holdings were parceled out of the "Old 300," the first settlers in Anglo Texas. In 1877, Solomon J. Clute acquired a great deal of property, and by 1886 it was known as "Clute's Place." In the 1890s, the area was renamed simply Clute.

Clute is located in Brazoria County, just 50 miles south of Houston in an area called 'Brazosport.' Nearby beaches include Bryan beach, Quintana Beach and Surfside Beach and offer 21 miles of clean beach area—all located within five miles of the city. Shelling is prolific, deep-sea vessels offer offshore fishing, and bay and shore fishing and crabbing can be very lucrative. More than 100 miles offshore deep sea diving in the Flower Gardens is a must for diving enthusiasts.

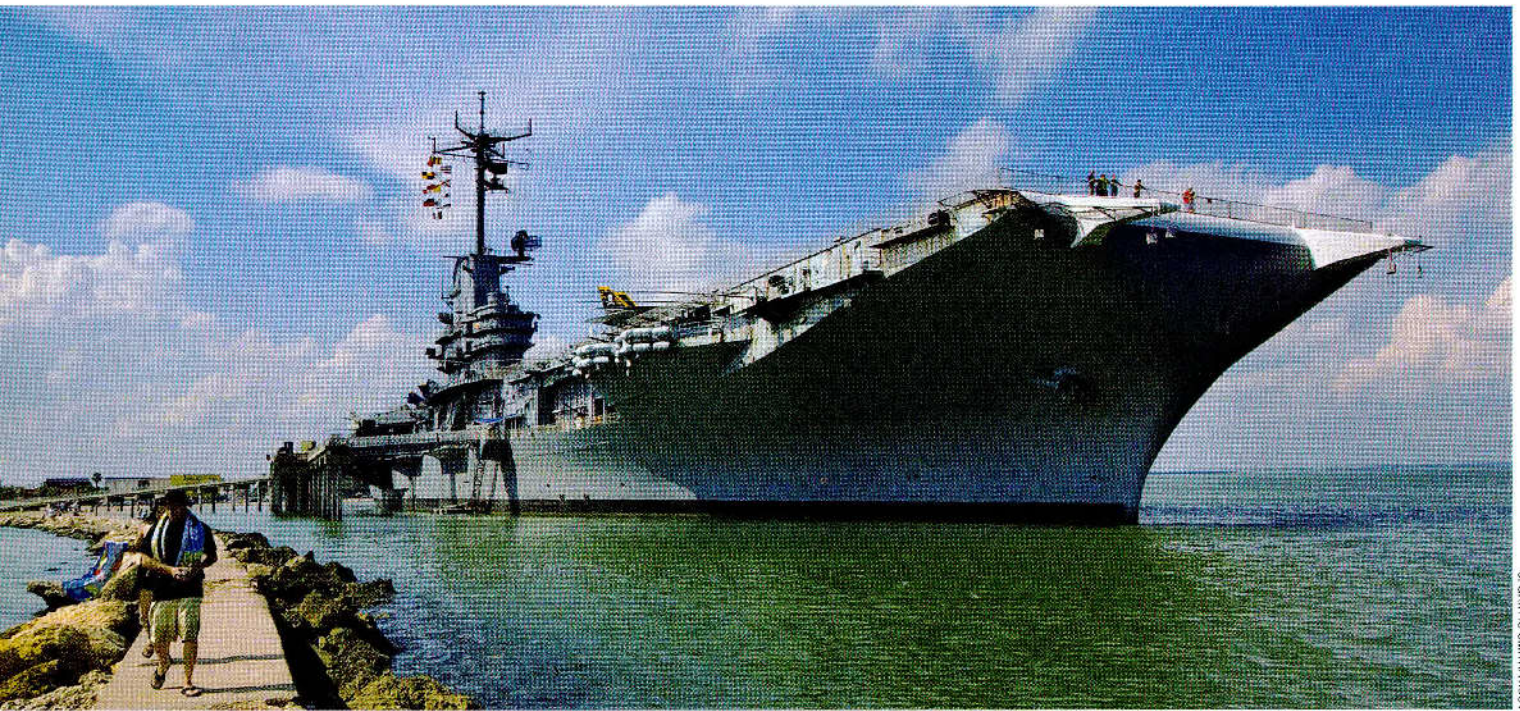
Visitors can enjoy more than 60 acres of wooded parks, including an Olympic-size swimming pool, walking/jogging trails, covered pavilions, horseshoe pits, barbecue pits, basketball courts, a nine-hole disc golf course, and playgrounds. Swimming, sailing, surf fishing, camping and shell collecting are within 10 minutes along Surfside, Bryan and Quintana beaches. Offshore fishing party boat operations are within a few minutes' drive from the seven major hotels/motels along Texas 332/288.

Birding opportunities abound, and southern part of county is known to have the largest bird count in the state of Texas. The Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, and Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge offer more than 80,000 acres of wildlife area. The refuges are open daily from daylight until dark.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TDOTT

Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/CKX

USS Lexington Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi

Clute is also home to the Great Texas Mosquito Festival, and its official mascot, Willie Manchew, the world's largest mosquito. The Festival is a three-day fun-filled family-oriented event held the last weekend in July. For more information, visit call 800/371-2971 visit www.mosquitofestival.com.

CENTER FOR ARTS & SCIENCES—A rare jewel among communities of any size, home to Center Stages Theater, Brazosport Art League, the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science and Brazosport Planetarium.

The Art Gallery features changing mixed-media exhibits every six weeks, and the Art Studio provides classes and workshops by local, regional and nationally recognized artists. The Theater produces yearlong season of plays and musicals and sponsors the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra.

Wildlife, fossils, rocks and minerals, and aquarium are features of the Museum of Natural Science museum, as well as one of the largest shell collections on display in South, and the home of the Lightening Whelk—the state shell of Texas. The Planetarium produces shows for the general public and even provides training for NASA astronauts from the nearby Johnson Space Center.

The Museum and Gallery are open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. No admission fee. 400 College Dr. For information, call 877/265-7661 or visit www.bcfas.org.

PARKS—Seven parks available for year-round family fun. Largest park, Clute Municipal Park, includes pavilions, rest rooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, sanctioned horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, basketball goals, a quarter-mile hike and bike trail with exercise equipment, and a 9-hole disc golf course. An olympic-size recreational swimming pool offers relief during the summer months.

VISITOR CENTER—Maps, brochures, literature and schedule of events are available at the Clute Visitors Bureau, 1014-B Lazy Lane. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call 888/GO-CLUTE or 979/265-2508, or visit www.goclute.com.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Pop. 380,783

Alt. 35

Map V-17/KK-19

GENERAL—City is major deep-water port and one of Texas' most popular seacoast playground cities. First European to have visited area is believed to have been Spanish explorer Alonso de Pineda in 1519. First settlement began as frontier trading post founded 1839 by impresario-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.

AMERICANBANK CENTER—Home to community concerts, road shows, musicals and major sporting events.

AQUARIUM, TEXAS STATE—Travel an aquatic journey from the shore to the depths of the Gulf of Mexico and have the opportunity to experience dive shows, animal feedings, training sessions, and "hands on" programs with sharks and stingrays. Thousands of animals representing over 250 species are displayed in entertaining and educational exhibits. Get up close and personal with Atlantic bottlenose dolphins from above and below the water in *Dolphin Bay*. Visit the *Islands of Steel* exhibit, modeled after an offshore oil platform. Sharks and sea turtles live among schools of snapper, tarpon, redfish, jacks and grouper. Encounter colorful exotic birds, poison-dart frogs, fresh-water stingrays and boa constrictors in *Amazon*, and don't forget the *Living Shores*, where you can really get your hands wet!

Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Memorial Day-Labor Day open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. Located at 2710 North Shoreline. Admission fee. Parking fee. For more info, call 361/881-1200 or 800/477-GULF or visit www.texasstateaquarium.org.

ART CENTER OF CORPUS CHRISTI—Built in 1942 for the USO Club, the Art Center showcases work of local amateur and professional artists. In addition to the main gallery, which changes exhibits monthly, the 14,400-square foot building houses four individual studios giving visitors a chance to view artists at work. Demonstrations and workshops are regularly scheduled. Open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. No admission fee. 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, lacquerware, 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 fee. 361/882-2641.

CAPT. CLARK'S FLAGSHIP—400 passenger paddle wheeler provides narrated cruises of Corpus Christi Bay and Port of Corpus Christi. Cruise along the downtown Bayfront, passing close to the *USS Lexington* and the Texas State Aquarium. Group rates and private charters available for tours and special func-

tions. Call for seasonal schedule. Departure from Peoples St. "T" Head. Fee. 361/884-1693 or 361/884-8306. www.captclarkflagship.com.

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 Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., when flag is flying. 411 N. Upper Broadway. Admission fee. 361/882-8691.

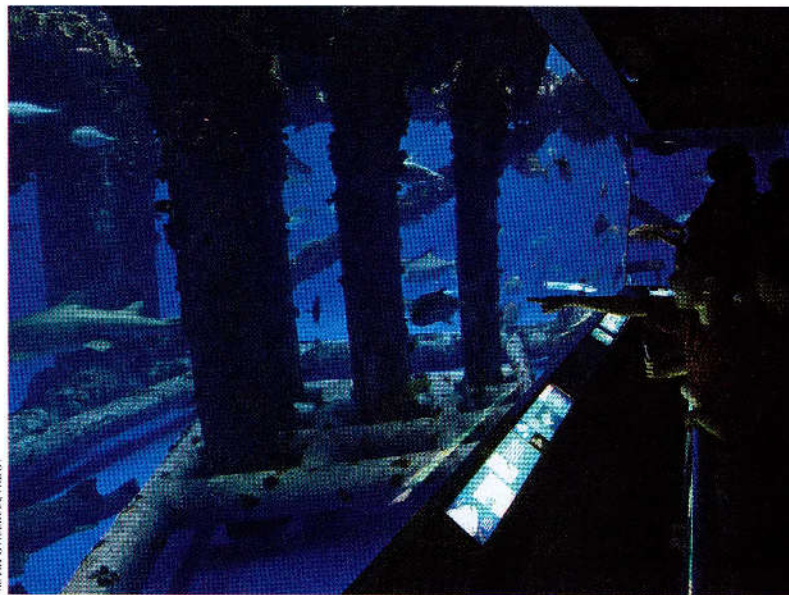
CORPUS CHRISTI MARINA – Called the "T" heads by the locals, this scenic Bayfront area is bustling with activity. Private yachts and sailboats, sight-seeing boats, water sport rentals, and water-side restaurants. Buy fresh shrimp right off the boat. Excellent view of the colorful sailboat regatta every Wed. evening.

CORPUS CHRISTI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY – View the treasures of the world famous 1554 Spanish shipwreck and the spectacular Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Seeds of Change." Discover the elegance of the "Gallery of Cultural Encounters," featuring an authentic 16th-century carved dome ceiling, originally from Castille, Spain, plus a temporary exhibit – "The Mystery of La Salle in the Gulf." You can also tour replicas of the Spanish ships "Santa Maria" and "Pinta" on the Ship's Plaza. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 1900 N. Chaparral. Admission fee. 361/826-4650. www.ci.corpuschristi.tx.us/services/museum.

CORPUS CHRISTI GREYHOUND RACE TRACK – This state-of-the-art, \$21 million facility boasts live pari-mutuel racing wagering and simulcasts from Galveston and Miami. Includes a luxurious clubhouse area with a full-service restaurant featuring an excellent view of the track, and televisions showing the racing action live at every table, as well as a grandstand area with a variety of tables, lounge and theater-style seating. Both areas fully air-conditioned. Evening races begin at 7:30 p.m. and matinee races at 1:30 p.m. (doors open at noon). Leopard St. 361/289-9333 or 361-580-RACE. www.corpuschristidogs.com.

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 abun-



KEVIN STILLBARGER/XXOT

Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi

dant. 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, in

Pump up the family fun with a tropical getaway. Surrounded by islands with miles of natural beaches, Corpus Christi is always an adventure. Build sand castles, visit nose-to-nose with dolphins, and frequent a flight deck. Fill-up on fresh seafood and unique shopping or just kick-back and savor the view. Come to Corpus Christi—casual, cool and so close by.

www.corpuschristicvb.com*
800.766.BEACH *for package information

fun filled





CLIFF ROSE/STREET

Whataburger Field in Corpus Christi

operation since 1952. The main theater seats 476 and a smaller studio seats about 200. Group rates are available. 1 Bayfront Park. 361/888-7469. www.harborplayhouse.com.

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 Littles-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. The newest addition is Institute of Cultures. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Guided tours are conducted Mon., Thurs. and Fri. at 10:30 a.m. 1600 block of N. Chaparral St. 361/883-0639. www.ci.corpuschristi.tx.us.

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 available at ranger station. Visitor center has 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. Open 24 hours a day year-round. Admission fee.

For information, call the visitor center at 391/949-8743. www.nps.gov/pais.

PARKS, CITY—Ten major city parks offer variety of outdoor attractions and facilities, including picnicking, playgrounds, birding, swimming, tennis, softball 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 on 43 acres. Outdoor concert series Thurs. and Sun. throughout 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 at 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. *Labonte Park*, I-37 at Nueces Bay, offers exceptional recreational facilities.

PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI & HARBOR BRIDGE—Port is fifth 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. New Solomon P. Ortiz International Center.

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 designed and wore to concerts and award shows. 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. Map of Selena-related sites available at Corpus Christi Visitors Center. For information, call 361/289-9013.

SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER—This dynamic 180-acre site along Oso Creek has become a showcase for colorful, exotic floral exhibits blended with vast areas of conserved native habitat and natural wetlands. Exhibits include the Orchid House, Exhibit House, Plumeria collection, Hibiscus Garden, Sensory Garden, Hummingbird Garden, Arid Garden, Rose Garden and Pavilion, the shaded Bird & Butterfly Trail, Birding Tower, Palapa Grande on Gator Lake, plus Wetlands Awareness Boardwalk. Open Tues. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed Mon.). At 8545 S. Staples. Admission fee. www.ccbotanicalgardens.org.

SOUTH TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS—Strikingly designed building, by renowned architect Philip Johnson, directly on bay houses an impressive permanent collection and changing exhibits of a wide variety such as photography, murals, handcrafted pieces, as well as historical paintings. The museum offers a continuous program of films, lectures and art classes. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd. Admission fee. 361/825-3500. www.stia.org.

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. 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.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

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, fo’c’sle, commanding officer/admiral quarters, sick 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 Huey 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. Visit the new Joe Jessel Mega Theater and take an amazing journey in sight and sound, the first IMAX® and other large-screened formatted films installed on a historic naval ship.

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 fee. For additional information, 361/888-4873 or 800/LADY-LEX. www.ussexington.com.

WHATABURGER FIELD—Home of the Corpus Christi Hooks, Double-A affiliate of the Houston Astros baseball club. This \$21.5 million facility opened in 2005 and is located less than one mile from downtown. Features more than 5,000 fixed seats, 19 luxury suites, swimming pool, hot tub, and a kids area featuring a rock climb, basketball court, little-league baseball field and interactive games. The Hooks play a 140-game schedule from Apr. to Sept. Call 361/561-HOOK or visit www.cchooks.com.

VISITOR CENTERS—For information on city attractions, accommodations, and events, visit the area Visitor Information Center, 1823 N. Chaparral St. during business hours; the Tourist Information Center in Labonte Park at 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. 800/766-2322. www.corpuschristicvb.com.

CRYSTAL BEACH

Pop. 787 (est.) Alt. 7 Map R-22/UU-21

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 spring 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.

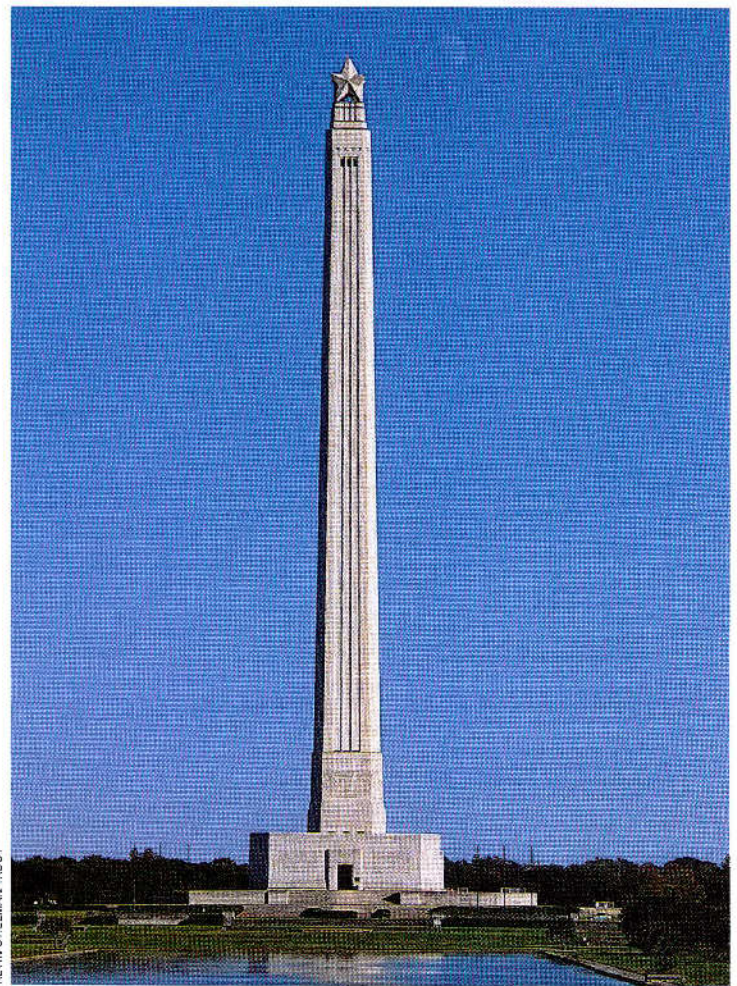
For information on accommodations, events, and dining opportunities, call the Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at 409/684-5940 or 800/FUN-SUN-3. www.bolivar.com.

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 gun 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.

DANEVANG

Pop. 300 Alt. 50 Map S-19

GENERAL—Established in 1894 in southern Wharton County, earliest settlers were Danish immigrants who relocated from the Midwest to Texas to extend and promote Danish culture in the U.S. Historical records, by word and photos, were kept by these early settlers and continued by following generations, and they are



KEVIN STILLMAN/TODOT

570-foot San Jacinto Monument, near Deer Park, marks site of final battle for Texas independence

now housed in the Danevang Museum. Danevang was declared “The Danish Capital of Texas” by the Texas Legislature in 1991. Danevang, translated from Danish, means “Danish Fields.”

COMMUNITY HALL—Oldest building in town, still used today for community functions. Texas Historical Marker signifies the building’s age of more than 100 years old.

DANEVANG CULTURAL CENTER—A three-acre museum complex includes the following exhibits:

Pioneer Home, built in 1896, was moved from its original farmsite to the Center and restored to its original floor plan. The furniture and appliances recall life in Danevang from the 1890s through World War I. Open Tues. - Thurs., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment for groups.

Hansen Shed is an ‘on the farm’ museum that houses the private collection of Harold and Ella Hansen. It was donated to the center and moved to the current site in 1993. Many artifacts also donated to the center are on display.

Danish Cultural Museum was dedicated in June 2001, and the museum depicts the local Danish community and its background, a history of the Viking era, cotton and grain farming history in the area, and the community’s school, family and social history. Visitors can also see Harold Hansen’s extensive barbed wire collection. Open Tues. - Thurs., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment for groups.

For more information, call 979/543-3332 or 979/543-2106. Texas 71 and C.R. 426 (one mile south of blinking light).

DANEVANG CEMETERY—Consecrated in 1895 when the first death occurred in the colony. Many headstones in the family plots bear names of up to the fourth generation of descendants of the original settlers. Guide maps are available at the Museum.

DANEVANG LUTHERAN CHURCH—When the town’s Pioneer Church Building was destroyed by a hurricane in 1945, the community purchased the chapel from Camp Hulén, a deactivated U.S. Army training base in



Texana Museum and Old Jail House in Edna

Palacios. The chapel was disassembled and moved to Danevang, where it was reassembled and is still in use today. Some of the furnishings from the original building were salvaged after the hurricane and are being used in the church.

DEER PARK

Pop. 28,520 Alt. 33 Map Q-21/SS-16

GENERAL—Founded in 1892 by Simon West, was named for privately owned area park for deer. 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 SITE—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 fee.

EDNA

Pop. 5,899 Alt. 72 Map S-18

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.

Edna lies along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, which extends from Brownsville to north of Beaumont. Birders can observe birds along the trail which intersects with 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.

BRACKENRIDGE PLANTATION PARK & CAMPGROUND—More than 400 acres on Lake Texana, offers a great place for water sports and water-related opportunities, including boating, water skiing, jet skiing, it is a great wind surfing location due to north/south position of the lake. Air-conditioned rest rooms available in campground, picnic areas, 9-hole miniature golf course, nature trails and more. Abundant wildlife viewing and photography, bird watching, and park is Site 21 on Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. No admission fee to trails; admission fee to campground site. Park office hours are Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - noon. RV and tent camping available. Cajun/seafood restaurant also available in park. Seven miles east of Edna on SH 111. For information, call 361/782-5456.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 schoolroom, 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 R-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, and manufacturing.

El Campo is well known for its great waterfowl hunting and excellent fishing. The city boasts a variety of restaurants and is famous for its barbecue.

History is a favorite of many with more than 20 historical murals painted on buildings throughout the town.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining, call the El Campo Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at 979/543-2713 or visit www.elcampochamber.com. E-mail: eccc@elcampochamber.com.

EL CAMPO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY—Features big-game trophies from five continents against murals and in natural settings. Children's area features hands-on activities. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Located in civic center at 2350 N. Mechanic (Texas 71 & F.M. 2765). 979/543-6885. www.elcampomuseum.com.

GALVESTON

Pop. 57,247 Alt. 20 Map R-22/WW-19

GENERAL—When first explored by Europeans, the island was an Akokisa Indian site. The Karankawa Indians used the island for hunting and fishing. Pirate Jean Laffite 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 establish 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, the entire island was inundated during a hurricane, which claimed more than 6,000 lives. A seawall was built two years later, presently 10 miles long, it has proved its staying power several times over.

Galveston Island offers 32 miles of beach and also is a treasure trove of things historically Texan. Details available at the Galveston Island Visitors 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 more than 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-creates 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 fee.

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

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 19th and Church 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 include stained glass, hand-carved reredos and altar. At 36th and Avenue L.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, founded 1884 was designed by Jesuit priest in

KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT



Beach in Galveston

1904 after original church was destroyed in 1900 storm. Opposite Bishop's Palace at 14th St and Broadway.

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 sight-

Pirates hid out here...so can you.



There are as many reasons people come here as there are grains of sand along our golden shores. Some come to get lost. Some come to get found. But no matter what, they know the sand, the sky, and the sea around us are filled with the voices, memories, and relics of Galveston Island's past. They come to experience this feeling, and they come because they know that this is in fact, the stuff legends are made of.



Galveston Island
THE LEGEND CONTINUES

GALVESTON ISLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU • 1-866-505-4456 • WWW.GALVESTON.COM



KENNETH LAMANT/DOOT

Lone Star Flight Museum and Texas Hall of Fame in Galveston

seeing 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. 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, war-saw, 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 at others.

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 theater-goers. Six miles south on F.M. 3005 at 13 Mile Rd. 409/737-3440. Admission fee.

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.

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, operated by the Galveston Historical Foundation. 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 that 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 fee.

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. Site of first Juneteenth where slaves learned they were free on June 19, 1865. 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 fee.

Bishop’s Palace. Galveston’s most celebrated landmark, is Texas’ only structure on the list of nation’s 100 outstanding buildings by American Institute of Architects. Built as a private home by Col. Walter Gresham in 1886, purchased in 1923 for the bishop of the Galveston-Houston Diocese. Showplace furnishings include a 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 fee.

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. Multi-million-dollar restoration returned the ornate structure to its original grandeur. Theater has showcased such theatrical icons as John Philip Sousa, Helen Hayes, and more. The 73rd Legislature named it the “Texas Official Opera House.” Stage productions frequently scheduled; open daily 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 American Empire antiques. Open weekends, but hours vary. Call ahead for information at 409/762-3933. At 1605 33rd St. Admission fee.

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 fee.

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.

LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM AND TEXAS HALL OF FAME—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 International Airport at Galveston). Admission fee.



Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum in Galveston

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 let visitors learn about marine creatures with whom we share our planet.

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 fee.

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 fee.

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-foot 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 fee.

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

PARKS—*Stewart Beach Park* on Seawall Blvd. at Broadway, offering pavilion, beach service, bath houses, rest rooms, showers, restaurants, concessions, and mini-golf.

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

R. A. Apffel Park, east of Stewart Beach at Boddecker Dr., is largest park and features 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.

A "pocket" park located along F.M. 3005 at 11 Mile Rd. offers beachfront picnic areas, rest rooms, and playgrounds.

PELICAN ISLAND—Just across channel from Port of Galveston, island is site of industrial and recreational development. Newport 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 lighted fishing pier.

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 oceangoing vessels entering and departing port and yacht basin. Excellent fishing from operated lighted pier. Main attraction is naval exhibit featuring tours of the WW II submarine *USS Cavalla* (recently restored) and destroyer escort *USS Stewart*. Open daily on Pelican Island. Admission fee.

SCHLITTERBAHN GALVESTON ISLAND WATERPARK—The newest park in Texas is the world's first convertible waterpark with an entire area that can be opened or closed for indoor/outdoor year-round fun. The park offers more than 25 attractions, including two uphill water coasters, and features the next generation of the award-winning Transportation river system that combines four unique rivers into one endless floating adventure. There's also a year-round, full-service restaurant plus a sports bar. Family amenities include free parking, free use of inner tubes, and guests are welcome to bring in their own picnic basket and cooler into the park - no alcohol or glass containers please. Season beginning April 22 for weekend operation; open daily May 13 - Sept. 10; summer season wraps up Sept. 16-24. Admission fee. 409/770-WAVE. www.schlitterbahn.com

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 25th & Broadway.

TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM—Home of the tall ship *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 fee.

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.

KEVIN STILL/MANTROO



LODOLUS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Iwo Jima Memorial and Museum in Harlingen

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 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.

Horse-drawn carriage rides are available throughout The Strand Historic District and the East End 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.

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 are provided at the Galveston Island Visitor’s Centers located at 25th & Seawall and 2215 Strand.

HARLINGEN

Pop. 57,564

Alt. 39

Map Y-17/BB-16

GENERAL—Harlingen is home to everything tropical, from the red-crowned parrots to the palm trees and bougainvilleas that dominate the landscape. Aloe vera farms and citrus groves surround the city. Mexico and the seashell-littered beaches of South Padre Island are only minutes away.

Harlingen developed at the crossroads of major national rail lines, and has long been an important trade and transportation center. Incorporated in 1910, its namesake was a canal-encircled town in the Netherlands, the ancestral home of railroad president Col. Uriah Lott.

Cotton, sugar cane, and vegetables became early reasons for the city’s prosperity. Harlingen has survived freezes, floods, and a hurricane in 1933. The city changed forever with start of World War II and the creation of an aerial gunnery school at Harlingen Army Air Field, which later became Harlingen Air Force Base. The Port of Harlingen opened in 1952 and began barging Valley sugar and grain north.

Today, the city continues to be a magnet for thousands of retirees from the Midwest and Canada. Some have become full-time residents, while others known as “Winter Texans” live in Harlingen during the winter months. In addition, numerous visitors from Mexico regularly shop and dine in Harlingen. Amateur sports tournaments and annual events such as RioFest, the Jackson Street Jubilee, and the Jalapeño 100 Bicycle Ride attract visitors from throughout the region and the state. Harlingen’s Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival attracts birders from around the world. Harlingen also is home to Texas State Technical College and the Marine Military Academy.

For information on events, attractions, lodging, dining, and more, call or visit the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, 311 E. Tyler. Open Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 956/423-5440; 800/531-7346 or visit www.harlingen.com/visitors.

BIRDING—Harlingen is known worldwide as a tropical birder’s paradise because of its location on the convergence of two major flyways. Pick up a free birding guide and checklist at the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce and see how many species you can identify. The city 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, including the Ramsey Nature Park and Harlingen Thicket Bird Sanctuary, a 40-acre tract of native brush in the city center.

D’ARTE CENTER—Visit the city’s only co-operative gallery featuring original work by local artists. It’s a great source for affordable gifts and home décor. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. At 115 E. Jackson in downtown Harlingen. Call 956/425-4030 or visit www.hafgallery.homestead.com.

DOWNTOWN JACKSON STREET DISTRICT—Harlingen’s historic downtown has become known as The Antiques Capital of the Valley. Visitors shop for glassware, jewelry, vintage clothing, furniture, crafts and collectibles in dozens of unique shops and buildings restored to their 1930s and 1940s era splendor. Jackson Street is the site of many community festivals and events, Market Days on the first Saturday of each month and the annual Christmas Parade. Call Harlingen’s Downtown office at 956/216-4910 for more information or visit enterprise.ci.harlingen.tx.us/downtown.htm.

FOREVER ALOE PLANTATIONS—The Valley is the aloe vera capital of the nation. This magic healing plant is vital to the skincare industry and is being tested for treatment of arthritis and diabetes. Visitor center features a 15-minute video on how this unassuming plant is grown, harvested, and processed. A variety of aloe products are available in the gift shop. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on U.S. 83, Altas Palmas exit. For information, call 956/425-2585. Group tours available.

HARLINGEN ARTS & HERITAGE MUSEUM—South Texas history comes alive through tours of historic Harlingen buildings. Step inside the Paso Real Stagecoach Inn, built during the Civil War. Marvel at the vintage medical equipment on display in the city’s first hospital. Glimpse daily life inside the



KEVIN STILL/MARKETDOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Harlingen

home of city founder Lon C. Hill, which features many original family possessions. Enjoy photos from Harlingen's heyday as an air base, plus exhibits on railroads and ranching. Open Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. Located off Loop 499 at Boxwood and Raintree Sts. For information, call 956/216-4906. Group tours available.

HARLINGEN HERITAGE TRAIL—Take a walking or driving tour of Harlingen. Cross the tracks where the town got the nickname Six Shooter Junction. Treat the kids to ice cream at an old-fashioned soda fountain. Marvel at beautiful homes on Taylor Street, once known as Silk Stocking Row. Harlingen Heritage Trail brochures are available at the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce or at www.harlingen.com/visitors. The brochure features a map, photos, thumbnail sketches of 38 historic properties, and a timeline of key dates in Harlingen history. For a guided Trolley Tour of Historic Harlingen, contact Vamonos Travel, 956/428-1392, or visit VamonosTravel.com.

HARLINGEN PUBLIC LIBRARY—More than 40 original artworks by established and emerging artists on display, with an emphasis on landscapes of the Southwest and Mexico. The library also houses an extensive genealogical collection and Harlingen Historical Preservation Society archives on the second floor. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Fri. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 410 '76 Drive. Call 956/216-5800 for more info.

IWO JIMA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM—Harlingen's Marine Military Academy is home to the original working model of the famous bronze statue at Arlington National Cemetery. This stunning outdoor sculpture was donated to the school by sculptor Dr. Felix W. de Weldon. It depicts the raising of the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima during World War II. The museum features Marine Corps memorabilia, a 30-minute film, *The Battle of Iwo Jima*, and a veterans' Hall of Fame. Texas and military items available in gift shop. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Next to Valley International Airport at 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. For information, call 956/421-9234 or visit www.mma-tx.org/museum. Group tours available.

KNAPP CHEVROLET ANTIQUE AUTO MUSEUM—Marvel at a showroom full of antique and classic autos, including a 1929 Chevrolet, 1957 Belair convertible, and several collectible Corvettes. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. On U.S. 83, Stuart Place Road exit. For information, call 956/423-1370 or visit www.knapp-chevrolet.com.

LAGUNA ATASCOSA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—See RIO HONDO.

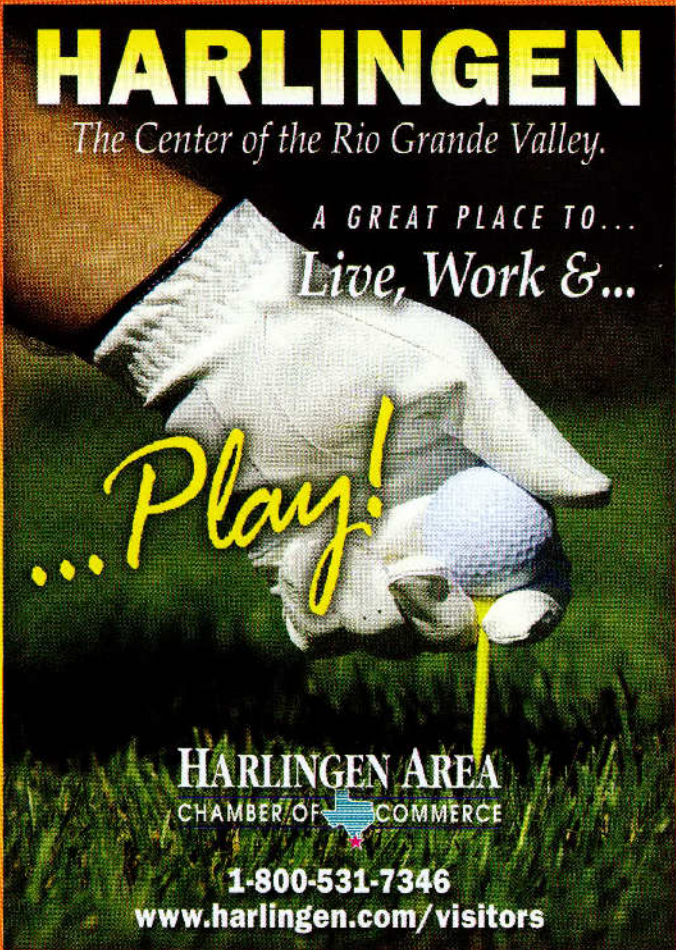
LOS EBANOS NATURE PRESERVE—Visit an 82-acre, private nature preserve full of birds, butterflies, gardens, and nature trails. Stroll through native habitat and take photos from a blind at the end of the lake. Bird species seen here include buff-bellied hummingbird, great kiskadee, green jay, and plain chachalaca. Butterflies include giant swallowtail, blue metalmark, and Mexican bluewing. Open Fri.-Mon., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed major holidays. Hours may vary in summer; calling ahead is recommended. On Texas 100 between Harlingen and Brownsville. For more information, call 956/399-9097. Visit www.losebanospreserve.com. Admission fee.

MEXICO—Make it a two-nation vacation with a visit across the Rio Grande to Mexico. The small community of Nuevo Progreso is a popular border town southwest of Harlingen. Walk across for lunch and an afternoon of shopping for pottery, clothing, souvenirs, and more. Or, sign up with local tour operators for affordable weekend or week-long trips to Monterrey, the Copper Canyon, and other exciting destinations. The Free Trade Bridge, 10 miles from Harlingen, is the quickest and most convenient way to drive across the border and connects to a four-lane divided highway in northern Mexico.

MURALS—Harlingen, the mural capital of South Texas, has more than 30 interesting and colorful artworks on display at locations throughout the city. Pick up the Harlingen Mural Guide at the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce for a list of mural locations and background information on these fascinating works of art, or visit www.harlingen.com/visitors.

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 paved Hike and Bike Trail that connects several 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 golfer's delight. For more information, call the Parks Department, 956/427-8870 or visit enterprise.ci.harlingen.tx.us/parks.htm.

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND—Harlingen is just minutes from South Padre Island, the premiere beach resort on the Texas coast. The Island boasts a wide range of fun: fishing, boating, horseback riding, restaurants, shops, and more. See SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.



HARLINGEN
The Center of the Rio Grande Valley.

A GREAT PLACE TO...
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HARLINGEN AREA
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TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER—In the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas near the Texas-Mexico border at the intersection of U.S. Highways 77 and 83, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 2021 West Harrison. 956/428-4477. www.txdot.gov.

VALLEY RACE PARK—Live greyhound racing Nov. - Apr. and simulcast racing from the nation's top greyhound and horse tracks 364 days a year. Food, beverages, 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 www.valleyracepark.com. Admission fee.

HEMPSTEAD

Pop. 4,691

Alt. 251

Map P-19

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



T. SHERRILL/ARTCAR MUSEUM

ArtCar Museum in Houston

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, 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 fee. Not wheelchair accessible. Also, downtown is the plantation’s tearoom. For information, call 800/826-4371.

HOUSTON

Pop. 2,009,834 Alt. 55 Map Q-21/RR-14

GENERAL—Named after Sam Houston, general of Texas army that won independence from Mexico and president of the 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, SpaceCity USA is an industrial and financial hub for much of the state. 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 Freedom Over Texas in July; and the

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Mar., the largest livestock exposition in the world. The Houston International Festival each April celebrates Houston’s multiculturalism with a 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; Houston Texans, football; Houston Dynamo, soccer; and the Houston Aeros, hockey.

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. You can also call 800/4-HOUSTON or visit www.visithoustontexas.com.

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. 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.

ARTCAR MUSEUM—Custom decorated cars feature whimsical motifs—Honda motorcycle in “The Red Stiletto,” a woman’s red high-heel shoe, or 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. www.artcarmuseum.com.

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. Gardens are open Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., other times by appt. Admission fee. 1 Westcott St. For more information, call 713/520-2600. www.mfah.org.

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 Gilding 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. www.houstontheaterdistrict.com.

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 “Jekyll and Hyde” and the “Civil War.” For information, call 713/228-8421. www.alleytheater.org.

Bayou Place—A downtown Houston entertainment option, Bayou Place sits in the heart of the Theater District, making it a natural stop for visitors. Bayou Place features Verizon Wireless Theater for live music, the Angelika Film Center and its eight theaters, several popular restaurants offering everything from barbecue to sushi, Slick Willies for billiards and dancing at Have a Nice Day Café and BAR Houston. At Texas Ave. and Smith sts.

Downtown Aquarium—An underwater dining and entertainment adventure in downtown theater district. Features 500,000 gallons of marine life, including a train ride through a shark tank, Dive Lounge, Aquarium Restaurant, Ferris wheel, boardwalk games, dancing fountains, gift shop and more. Restaurant open daily. Exhibits, games and rides open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. 410 Bagby St. For information, call 866/418-3474 or 713/223-FISH, or visit www.downtownaquarium.com.

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 www.heritagesociety.org.

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.

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 tea room 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, bounded by Smith, Rusk, Bagby and Walker 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 and is 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.

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.

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER—Located in the heart of downtown, the facility features 853,500 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. www.houstonconventionctr.com.

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. 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 fee.

GULF GREYHOUND PARK—See TEXAS CITY-LA MARQUE.

HOUSTON ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER—155-acre nature sanctuary with more than 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 firefighting, from "bucket brigade" to modern firefighting 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 fee.

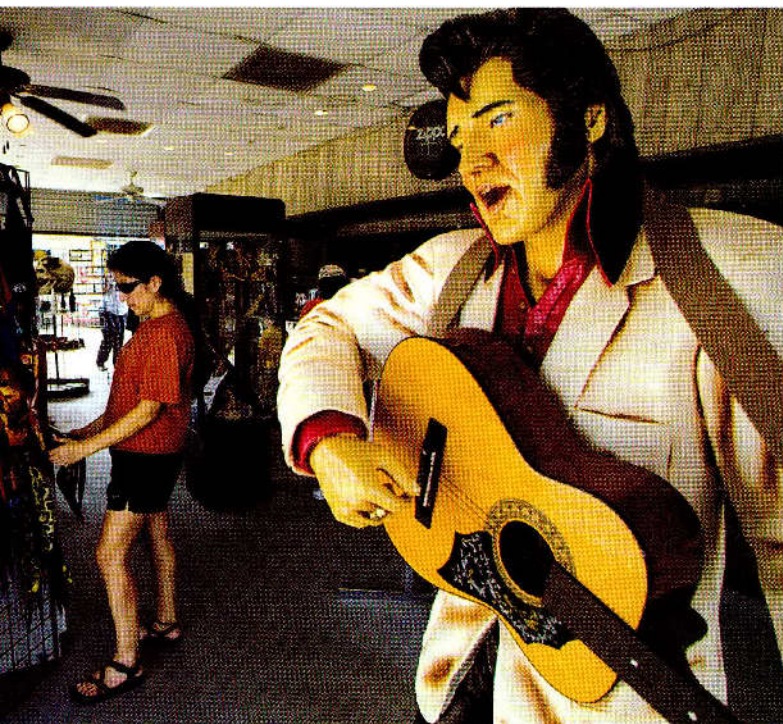
HOUSTON TUNNEL SYSTEM—The world's largest indoor air-conditioned pedestrian tunnel system, the 7-mile system of underground tunnels and skywalks includes a variety of shops and more than 100 restaurants. Connects 65 buildings with three hotels in the downtown area. The underground area is

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Houston has it all! With over 5,000 restaurants, teams in every major professional sport, golf 365 days a year, world-class shopping, nationally renowned museum and theater districts, cruising and the beach just a short drive, there's something fun for everyone!

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L. GRIFES SMITH/STOCK

Traders Village in Houston

usually open Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is wheelchair accessible. Tours available. Maps available at Visitor Information Center, open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 901 Bagby. For more information, call 800/4-HOUSTON.

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.

LAKE HOUSTON STATE PARK—The 4,919.5 acre-park is situated at the confluence of Caney Creek and the East Fork of the San Jacinto River. The park includes lodges, campsites, and an equestrian area, as well as camping, swimming, and trails for nature study, bird watching, hiking, biking, and horseback riding (The park does not furnish horses). Admission fee. 281/354-6881.

MITCHELL PAVILION, THE CYNTHIA WOODS—See THE WOODLANDS.

MINUTE MAID PARK—Home for the National League Houston Astros baseball club. 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. 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 fee for tours.

MUSEUM DISTRICT—In one of Houston's most scenic areas, the Museum District is home to 15 institutions, restaurants and beautiful green spaces such as Hermann Park. The Meccom 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. 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. www.menil.org.

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 fee. www.cmhouston.org.

Contemporary Arts Museum—A non-collecting museum dedicated to bringing the cutting edge of contemporary art to the city through its yearly exhibitions. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 5216 Montrose Blvd. 713/284-8250. www.camh.org.

Czech Cultural Center Houston—Museum and gallery housing valuable paintings, artifacts, photography and sculpture, porcelain and crystal, music and samples of folk arts in permanent and changing exhibitions. At 4920 San Jacinto. Admission fee. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 713/528-2060. www.czechcenter.org

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 Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At 5401 Caroline St. www.hmh.org.

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft—Dedicated exclusively to contemporary craft, visitors experience excitement of handmade crafts through museum-quality exhibitions, educational programs, community-based outreach initiatives, and the Asher Gallery. Located at 4848 Main St. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. 713/529-4848. www.crafthouston.org

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 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 fee. www.hmsns.org. Of special interest are:

Burke Baker Planetarium—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, call 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.

Houston Zoo—Founded in 1922, the Houston Zoo in Hermann Park is home to more than 3,500 animals, from Asian elephants and California sea lions to okapis and Komodo dragons. Exhibits include collections of reptiles and birds and the Wortham World of Primates, a 2.2-acre naturalistic habitat for the Zoo's orangutans and other primates. At the McGovern Children's Zoo's "contact area," visitors can experience the petting zoo. Wildlife Carousel, opened in 2004, features 64 hand-carved and hand-painted animals representing some of the world's most endangered species. Admission fee is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 3-12 and free for children 2 and under. Open daily Mar. - Sept. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Oct. - Feb. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call 713/533-6500 or visit www.houstonzoo.org.

John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science—Museum features hands-on experience for all ages. With its walk-through design of the human body, 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 fee.

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 fee.

Menil Museum—Collection of John and Dominique de Menil includes contemporary, surrealistic 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. www.menil.org.

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. www.milleroutdoortheatre.org.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston—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. 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. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sun. 12:15 - 7 p.m. 1001 Bissonnet. Fee. www.mfah.org.

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 canvases 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. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1324 W. Clay St. 713/522-4652. Admission fee.

NASA/SPACE CENTER HOUSTON—Put on your space helmet and blast off to the most exciting, fun adventure on Earth. 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.

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. Admission fee.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY—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. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. - 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 fee.

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.

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 fee. 713/926-6368.

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 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 NFL's Houston Texans. The Texans play their home games Aug. - Dec. in this 69,500-seat stadium that features a retractable roof and natural grass field. It is also home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. For more information, call



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Downtown Aquarium in Houston

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 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*, offers 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 call 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, call 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 incorporates 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 SITE—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.

SHELDON LAKE STATE PARK AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER—One of the last freshwater wetlands in the Greater Houston Area, where natural conservation, recreation and education flourish. The 2,800-acre park, including the 1,200-acre Sheldon Reservoir, is a haven for birders and anglers alike. Trails meander around 28 different ponds, offering children fishing opportunities and picnicking. Admission fee. 281/456-9350.

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.

SIX FLAGS SPLASHTOWN—See SPRING.

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. 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



Statue of Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle in Indianola

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 fee.

TOYOTA CENTER—Downtown state-of-the-art facility is home to the NBA's Houston Rockets, WNBA's Houston Comets and the Houston Aeros of the AHL. Also serves as a premier entertainment venue. For more information, visit www.nba.com/rockets.

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 powwow, chili and barbecue cook-offs, 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. No admission fee; nominal parking fee. Market open every Sat. & Sun.; RV park open daily, 7979 N. Eldridge. For information, 281/890-5500.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—A first stop for any trip to Space City USA. Interactive displays, unique Houston souvenirs, helpful staff and maps, brochures and schedules of Houston events are available at visitor center operated by the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau in City Hall. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 901 Bagby St. For information, call 713/227-3100 or 800/4-HOUSTON or visit www.visithoustontexas.com.

HUMBLE

Pop. 14,579 Alt. 96 Map Q-21/PP-15

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—Nationally recognized 250-acre facility along Cypress Creek that features Gulf Coast's largest display of native and cultivated plants. Includes more than 20 different gardens, five miles of nature trails, picnic area and new playground available. Summer hours: Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Winter hours: Open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day. 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281/443-8731. www.hcp4.net/mercer

INDIANOLA

Pop. 125 (est.) Alt. 6 Map T-19

GENERAL—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. In 1875, a hurricane wreaked havoc, killing 300 residents and destroying three-fourths of the city.

Residents rebuilt community, but 11 years later another storm completely destroyed the city. The county seat, in name, was moved to Port Lavaca.

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 a historical marker: a solitary rose granite statue of Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle. The French explorer was first to leave a boot print 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 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 Fri. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Group tours available other days by appointment only). At 23500 Franz Rd. Take the Grand Parkway exit off I-10, left on Franz Rd less than one mile to entrance. For information, call 281/347-8000 or visit www.forbidden-gardens.com. Admission fee.

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 fee.

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.



Forbidden Gardens in Katy

KEMAH

Pop. 2,330 Alt. 24 Map R-22/TT-17

GENERAL—Established in 1824 by Michael Gouldrich, one of Stephen F. Austin’s original 300 colonists, when he received a Mexican land grant. In 1898, the Texas & New Orleans Railroad extended track lines through the area, and the township of Evergreen was established. The village was destroyed by a hurricane in 1900, but rebuilt in 1901. The town was renamed Kemah (Indian for “facing the wind”) in 1907. Commercial fishing and tourism helped increase the town’s population in the early 20th century. Today, the city is a destination point that welcomes millions of visitors each year.

Annual events include the July 4th Parade and Fireworks, the Blessing of the Fleet in Aug., Steel Drum Festival in Oct., Christmas in Kemah and Tree Lighting Ceremony in Nov., and Christmas Boat Lane Parade in Dec.

For more information contact the Kemah Visitor Center, located at 603 Bradford, by calling 877/775-3624 or visit www.kemah.net.

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, interactive Sting Ray petting reef, and a specialty aquarium restaurant featuring a 50,000 gallon tank full 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. Live music available. Open daily; closed Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day. From I-45, take NASA Rd. 1 east to Texas 146; south on Texas 146. 281/535-8100. www.kemahboardwalk.com

KINGSVILLE

Pop. 25,575 Alt. 66 Map V-17

GENERAL—Located in the Wild Horse Desert, just west of the Gulf of Mexico, and the birthplace of the American ranching industry. Established on Fourth of July 1904 as the first St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railroad pulled through town. Land was donated by Mrs. Henrietta King of the famous King Ranch. Kingsville became Kleberg County seat in 1913.

Today the city is a birding and wildlife hotspot, with more than one million acres of habitat. Kingsville is home to the King Ranch, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas A&M-Kingsville, and the agricultural and ranching industries.

Visitors find an array of boutiques and antique shops nestled in downtown historic buildings featuring western wear, leather goods, crafts, jewelry, home-baked goods and gift shops. To receive a calendar of festivals and events, call 800/333-5032 or visit www.historic-kingsvilletx.com.

DEPOT TRAIN MUSEUM—Restored 1904 Depot Museum in downtown Kingsville displays artifacts and history highlighting the railroads’ impact on the city. A reproduction of the original 1904 bandstand sits next to the museum to offer a shady respite for visitors. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 104 E. Kleberg St. 351/592-8516. No admission fee.

JOHN E. CONNER MUSEUM—Hall of South Texas History has displays of Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and pioneer Texan cultures; ranching and agricultural 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.

KENEDY RANCH MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS—Beautifully restored building of the Kenedy Pasture Company, visitors learn about Mifflin Kenedy and his family, and how their lives were interwoven with the history of what was the untamed land known as the Wild Horse Desert. Hear the story of three generations of Kenedys that played such an important role in South Texas history and whose legacy of philanthropy continues to benefit Texans today. Located 20 miles south of Kingsville off U.S. 77 in Sarita, at 200 E. La Parra Ave. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Admission fee. 361/294-5751. www.kenedyranchmuseum.org

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. Now-famous Santa Gertrudis breed, first strain of beef cattle originating in Western Hemisphere, was developed here. Today, King Ranch sprawls across 825,000 acres of South Texas land, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. It remains a working ranch with 60,000 head of cattle and 300 quarter horses.

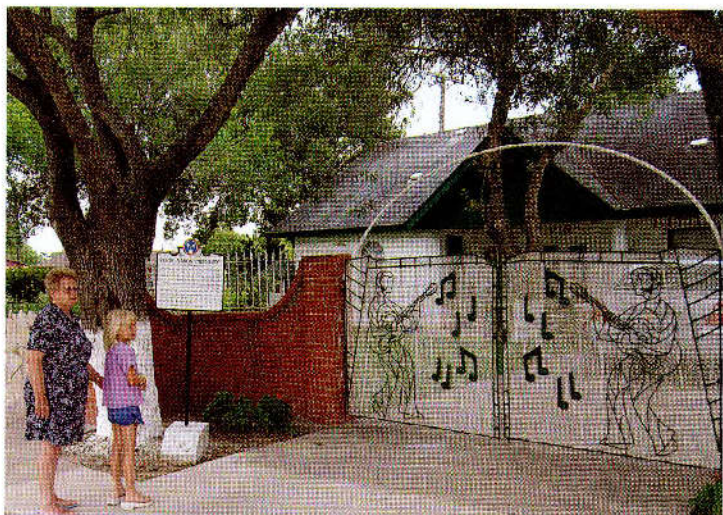
Historical and guided tours are offered daily. Nature tours showcase the ranch’s abundant wildlife and birds. Available by reservation. Special group tours are also available. King Ranch Visitor Center is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Entrance is immediately west of Kingsville off Texas 141. Please call 361/592-8055 for tour information and reservations. Admission fee.

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 fee. 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.



Kemah Boardwalk



KEVIN STILL/IMANTO.COM

Little Graceland in Los Fresnos

In historic Raglands Building, downtown, 201 E. Kleberg, 361/595-5761 or 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. 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 CENTER—For information on city attractions, accommodations, and events, visit the center. U.S. 77 at Corral St., Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 800/333-5032 or 361/592-8516. www.kingsvilletexas.com.

LA PORTE

Pop. 31,880 Alt. 28 Map Q-22/SS-17

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.

Home of Houston Yacht Club, second oldest yacht club in the U.S. Also home of the Sylvan Beach Festival, held on Galveston Bay, the last Saturday in April.

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. 281/471-1123. www.laportechamber.org.

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/AA-20

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 that

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 fee.

MATHIS

Pop. 5,034 Alt. 161 Map U-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 fee. 361/547-2635.

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 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-23/NN-16

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, call 409/722-0279 or visit 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 it 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 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/LL-18

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 saltwater fishing; hunting and bird-watching in vast coastal marshes.

Mileage marker 880 in Orange County, Texas, is the highest numbered in the nation.

A walking tour map of downtown, available from the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 803 Green Ave., highlights such sites as the central fire station where an antique fire engine and firefighting memorabilia are displayed, plus other historic or interesting structures.

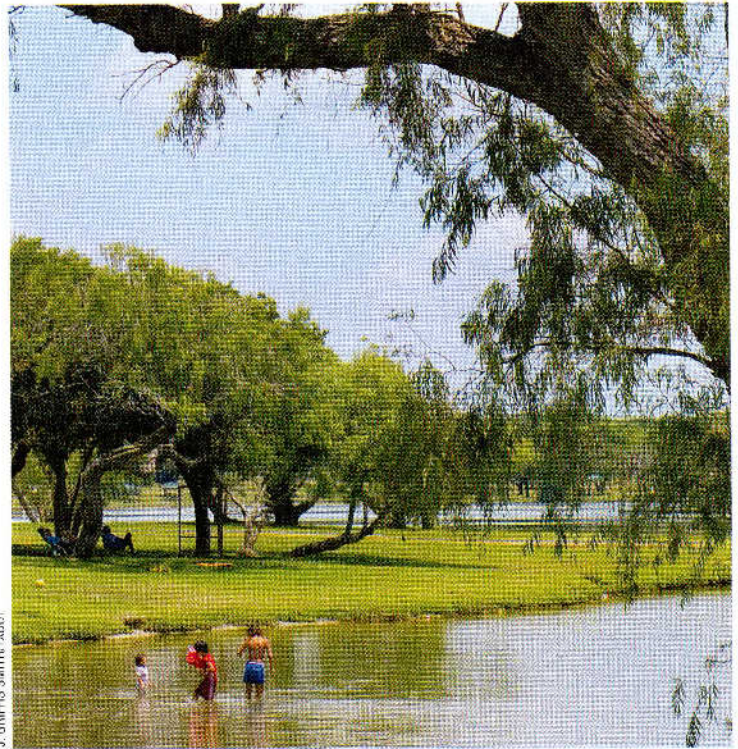
For additional information on the city's accommodations, dining facilities, and events, call 800/528-4906, or visit www.orangetexas.org.

ADVENTURES 2000—Boat tours of Blue Elbow Swamp in Orange, conducted by biologist Ellis Tatc. All trips begin in the moss-draped cypress swamps, and the Sabine wilderness areas and include incredible scenery and the swamp's natural habitants. Exit 878, I-10 South frontage road. 409/988-9342. Admission fee.

BROWN CENTER OF LAMAR STATE COLLEGE, 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 State College by the Brown family where it is used as a conference center today. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 4205 Park Ave. 409/883-2939. Admission fee.

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.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/2000

Lake Corpus Christi State Park near Mathis

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. 409/883-2097. <http://208.17.151.189/fpo/>.

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. 409/886-5385. www.heritagehouseoforange.org. Admission fee.

LAKE—Sabine. See LAKES listing.

LUTCHER THEATER 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 Main St. downtown. For information, call 409/886-5535. www.lutcher.org.

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.)

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. 409/883-6661. www.starkmuseum.org.

SUPER GATOR AIRBOAT TOUR—Travel through the beauty of the swamplands with giant cypress trees, Spanish moss, swamp flowers, and bird life. Tours available Apr. - Dec. 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Other months, weather permitting. 106 E. Lutcher. 800/241-6390. www.pnx.com/gator/. Admission fee.

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER—In Southeast Texas at the Texas-Louisiana state line on East I-10, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information



KEVIN STILMAN/2000

Texas Travel Information Center in Orange



REX USA/STILLMAN

Armand Bayou Nature Center in Pasadena

Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 1708 East I-10. 409/883-9416. www.txdot.gov.

USS ORLECK—The *USS Orleck* was built in Orange in 1945 by Consolidated Steel Corp. The 390-foot Gearing Class destroyer served in Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. She was transferred to the Turkish Navy in 1982 and renamed the TCG *Yucetepe* and remained in service until 1998. The following year the Turkish Navy donated the ship to the Southeast Texas War Memorial and Heritage Foundation for use as a museum, and she's now undergoing the restoration process. Currently visitors can tour the outside decks only. 400 block of Front Ave. 409/883-8868. www.ussorleck.org. Admission fee.

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 is 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. 409/883-0871. www.whstarkhouse.org. Admission fee.

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 includes three fishing piers—one with covered pavilion, fishing jetty, and boat ramps.

HISTORIC INN—*Luther Hotel*—Built in 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, 420 Main St., 361/972-2615. www.palacioschamber.com

PASADENA

Pop. 141,674 Alt. 35 Map Q-21/SS-16

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. More than 220 species of birds may be seen at the Nature Center and more than 350 species of wildlife. The preserve encompasses three major ecosystems: hardwood forest, tall grass prairie and the estuarine bayou. Visitors can enjoy a bird blind with interpretive material, more than 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.

HERITAGE PARK—A newly dedicated area featuring two homes in their original locations. Both the Pomeroy House, built in 1906, and Anna's House, built in 1928, are featured with the William Parks "Strawberry House," recently relocated to this park. A museum collection features local history from pioneer times to the present. Open Wed. - Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 1 - 5 p.m. Group tours are welcome. 204 Main at Eagle streets (one block south of Texas 225, use Shaver St. Exit). 713/477-7237.

PEARLAND

Pop. 37,640 Alt. 55 Map R-21/TT-15

GENERAL—First established as Mark Belt in 1893 in northern Brazoria County; name 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 www.meenakshi.org. At 17130 McLean Rd.

PORT ARANSAS

Pop. 3,370

Alt. 20

Map V-18/JJ-21

GENERAL—On Mustang Island, reached by causeway and 24-hour free ferry service; one of the most popular tourist destinations on Gulf Coast. English settler built ranch house on site in 1855; later developed as fishing village. Spring and summer visitors swell population by thousands. Condos, resorts, motels, cottages, beach houses, outstanding fresh seafood shops and restaurants, boutiques, fishing tackle and supplies, superb open beaches and U.S. Coast Guard Station.

Port Aransas and Mustang Island have numerous sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, which extends from Brownsville to Orange along the Texas coast. The trail is co-sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation.

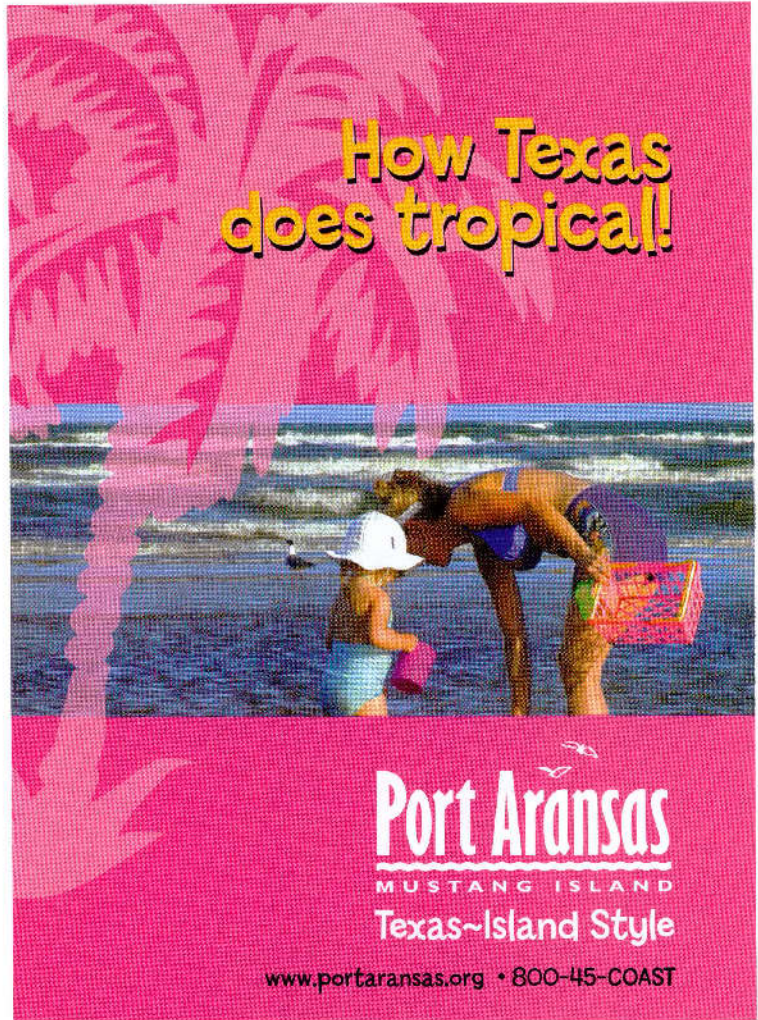
BIRDING—Texas has four of the country's top 12 bird watching sites, and Port Aransas ranks near the top of the list. Thousands of migratory and resident birds can be seen at area birding locations. Migratory species such as hummingbirds, warblers, flycatchers and orioles (to name a few) join resident herons, gulls, egrets, and roseate spoonbills on Mustang Island for a brief rest before taking flight for their spring and fall migration. In addition to bird and native South Texas plant life, the *Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center* is home to "Boots," a six-foot alligator, who is occasionally seen basking in the sun. The *Joan & Scott Holt Paradise Pond*, off Cut-Off Road, gives visitors the opportunity to relax, watch and listen to birds and ducks from scenic, shaded boardwalks. Visitors to the *Port Aransas Wetlands Habitat Park* can use the popular boardwalk and gazebo for a fantastic view of shorebirds like plovers and egrets. All centers are open daily. The Port Aransas Visitor Center has brochures listing species of birds likely to be viewed and additional information on birding in the area.

FISHING—Advertised as place "where they bite every day," each season offers variety of species to tempt anglers. Free fishing is available from the beaches and jetties, as well as three lighted piers which extend into the Corpus Christi Ship Channel: the Charlie's Harbor Pier, J.P. Luby Pier and Ansel Brundrett Pier. Anglers may use the Horace Caldwell Pier, which is lighted and stretches into the Gulf of Mexico, for \$1 per day. Catches may include redfish, red snapper, shark, speckled and sand trout, sheepshead, gafftop, croaker, skip-jack, and drum. Group boats provide bay and deep-sea fishing. Kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, tuna, warsaw, shark and mahi mahi often caught in offshore waters. For boat owners, docking facilities and several free launching ramps.

Fishing tournaments span the calendar Jun.-Sept., including tarpon, billfish, and surf fishing tourneys. The Deep Sea Roundup, held in July, is the oldest fishing tournament on the Gulf Coast.

HISTORIC INN—*Tarpon Inn*—Vintage wooden structure dates from 1886; still popular and completely restored. Tarpon scales decorate the lobby and feature signatures of famous guests, including Franklin D. Roosevelt and Duncan Hines, who spent his honeymoon here. 26 rooms with private 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



How Texas does tropical!

Port Aransas
MUSTANG ISLAND
Texas~Island Style

www.portaransas.org • 800-45-COAST



University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE—Research facility with visitor center 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, visit www.utmsi.utexas.edu. 361/749-6806.

VISITOR CENTER—For additional information about accommodations, dining, events, and area facilities, stop by the Port Aransas Convention & Visitors Bureau at 403 West Cotter, or call 800/452-6278, or visit www.portaransas.org.

PORT ARTHUR

Pop. 57,755

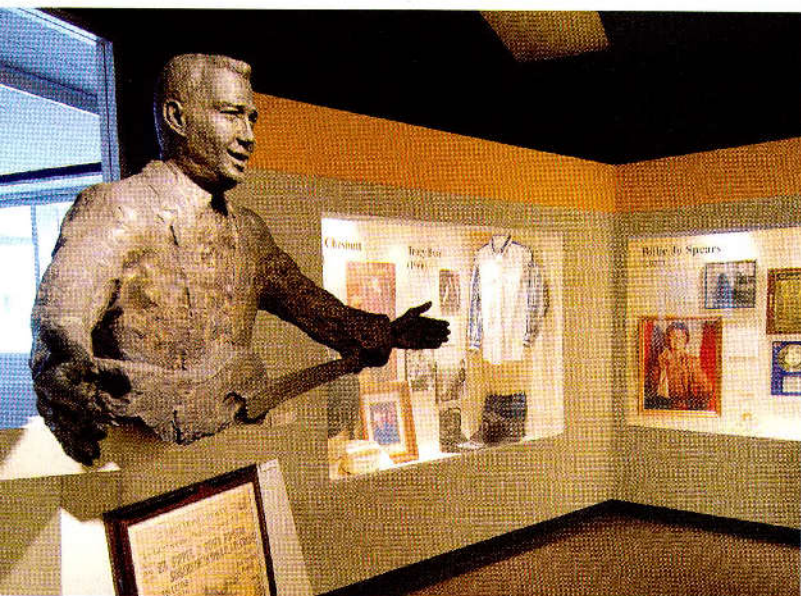
Alt. 18

Map Q-23/NN-16

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).

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 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. 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 Waterways Guide showing many excellent locations to catch



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur

more than 25 varieties of freshwater and saltwater fish, along with charts, marina, fuel and services information.

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. A replica of Joplin's painted psychedelic Porsche sits on top of a spinning gold record. Some two dozen other 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 Sabine Pass at 409/971-2909 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 that opens into Gulf of Mexico. Disc golf course, new championship golf course, marina, lakeside RV parks, boat ramps and miles of free roadside fishing levees from which anglers take redfish, 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.

POMPEIIAN 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. 10 a.m. - 2 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. 409/983-2029. At east end of Houston Ave. and Lakeshore Dr.

QUEEN OF PEACE SHRINE—Beautiful Oriental gardens and statue of the Virgin Mary, built in Hoa Binh Park by the parishioners of the Queen of

Vietnamese Martyr's Catholic Church in gratitude to the city that welcomed them upon their arrival from Asia. 801 9th Ave.

RAINBOW AND VETERANS' MEMORIAL 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. *Golden Triangle Veterans Memorial Park* at the south end honors area veterans and has static display representing all branches of service. It also offers a pavilion for picnics and great views of the bridges and passing ships.

ROSE HILL—Built in 1906 by Rome H. Woodworth, a 14-room Southern Greek Revival home with an upstairs balcony that wraps around the home that was designated a historical landmark in 1978. Tours offered daily. 100 Woodworth Blvd. 409/985-7292.

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 PARK AND HISTORIC SITE

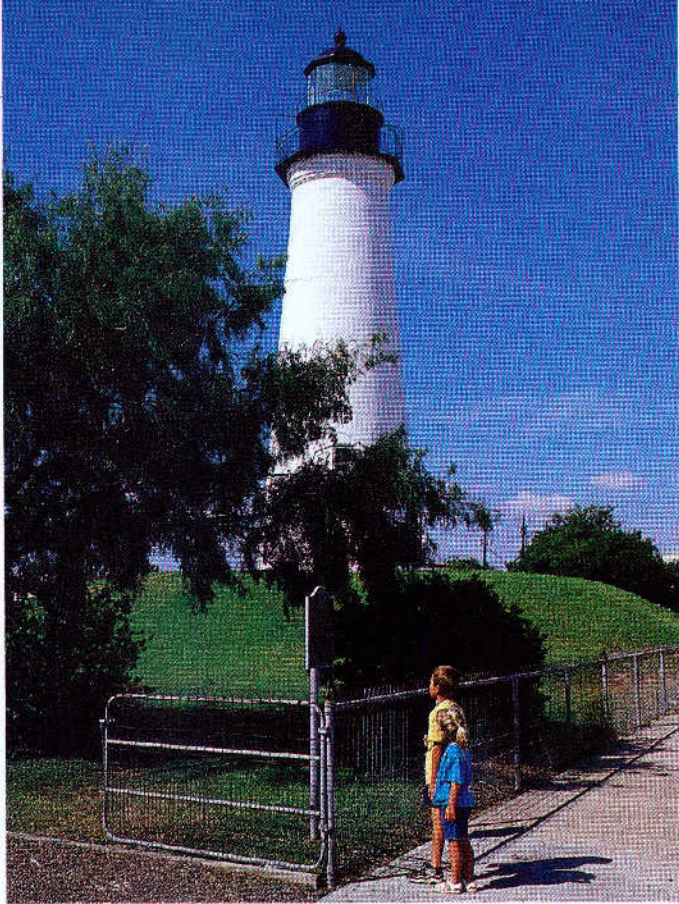
—Site of astonishing Civil War battle on Sept. 8, 1863, between a Union fleet attempting to invade Texas at Sabine Pass, against a force of 47 Confederate artillerymen. Union fleet numbered some 22 vessels and 5,000 men; Confederate defense was small earthen Fort Griffin with six cannon and 42 men under Lt. Richard W. Dowling. Accurate fire by Dowling's men crippled three Union gunboats in a battle lasting approx. 45 minutes. Federals lost 68 men killed or missing, with another 350 taken prisoner by the Confederates who suffered no casualties. Remaining Union force retired to New Orleans. Today, an interpretive pavilion illustrates the story of the 1863 battle. A sidewalk takes visitors past chronologically-arranged historical markers detailing additional facts about the battle and other highlights of local history. Overlooking the Sabine Ship Channel, the statue *Richard W. Dowling* stands near the original site of the fort. Park features 10 RV camping sites with water/AC hookups and dump site, ample spots for fishing, boat ramps (one is ADA accessible), rest rooms, picnic facilities with water and grills, and a new boardwalk along the water. Primitive camping is permitted in non-historical area of the park on a first-come, first-serve basis; no reservations accepted. Fine view of ships entering and leaving Gulf of Mexico. 12 miles south of Port Arthur on F.M. 3322 (Dick Dowling Road) off Texas 87. 409/971-2559.

SEA RIM STATE PARK—With a 5.2-mile coastline and more than 4,000 acres of marshland, the park offers a variety of recreational opportunities. The visitors center features a 300-gallon aquarium, two boardwalk nature trails, canoe rentals and paddle boat rentals at the Marshlands Unit, Marsh Airboat Tours (reservations required in spring and fall), beachcombing along the shore, surf fishing or fishing in the marsh lakes by boat, swimming in the gulf, 20 RV campsites and 10 tent pad sites. Call 512/389-8900 for campsite reservations. Rest rooms, hot showers, grills, fire rings, and primitive campsite on the beach also available. Abundant wildlife and located on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. 22 miles south of Port Arthur on Texas 87. 409/971-2559. Admission fee.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE—Dedicated in 2002 by the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, this outdoor shrine features the 17-foot bronze statue set upon rocks brought to the site from Mount Tepayac in Mexico City, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego. Surrounded by arched rock walls that showcase stained glass depicting various symbols relating to Our Lady of Guadalupe. 9th Avenue at Sgt. Lucian Adams Drive. No admission fee.

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 State College, Port Arthur at 409/984-6101. 2545 Lakeshore Dr. Donations.



Port Isabel Lighthouse

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 restaurants and shopping. 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 area, anglers can fish 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 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. 317 Railroad Ave. For information, 956/943-7602. Admission fee.

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 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 Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call 956/943-2262 or 800/527-6102.

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. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission fee.

TREASURES OF THE GULF MUSEUM—Exhibits focus on three Spanish shipwrecks, which occurred in 1554 just 30 miles north of the city. Murals, artifacts and hands-on activities are featured, along with a Children's Discovery Lab, Ship Theater & Nautical Gift Shop. Next to the Port Isabel Historical Museum and a short walk from the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (last ticket sold at 3:30 p.m.). 317 E. Railroad Ave. Admission fee. 956/943-7602.

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, numerous 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 Tue. - Wed. 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 301 S. Ann.

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—or 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 make 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 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 a 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.



KEVIN STULLMAN/PROPOST

Fishing pier in Port Lavaca

Contact the chamber of commerce office at 956/944-2354 for additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities.

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, sheepshead, flounder, croakers, skipjack, drum, tarpon, sailfish, marlin, kingfish, mackerel, ling, pompano, bonito, red snapper, warsaw, and others.

PORT O'CONNOR

Pop. 2,300 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. For more information, call the Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce at 361/983-2898 or visit www.portoconnor.com.

MATAGORDA ISLAND 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. 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. 800/792-1112

PORTLAND

Pop. 14,827 Alt. 40 Map V-17/HH-19

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.

FRED JONES NATURE SANCTUARY—Beautiful site owned by Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi, open daily from sunrise to sunset is area hot-spot for birders looking for warblers, vireos, orioles, and other songbirds

during migration. Buff-bellied hummingbird is a resident, and many other species inhabit the native brush and trees along the creek year-round. No vehicles allowed in park, as walking path is only access. From Portland, travel five miles west on F.M. 893, then south on C.R. 69E approximately one mile and look for wooded area and sanctuary sign on left. For more information, call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 361/643-2475.

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. Admission fee to pier; no fee for use of park. Open 24 hours. On U.S. 181, northbound side. 361/643-5483.

PARKS—More than 188 acres of city parkland with playing fields for soccer, baseball, and softball, and tennis and volleyball courts.

Sunset Lake Park is a 333-acre protected park operated by City of Portland. An ecologically rich wetland and saltwater lake, also lined by a two-mile hike and bike trail. The lake and its marshlands act as a nesting ground for several migratory birds. Visitors can enjoy birding, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming and sailing in Sunset Lake. To access park, from Portland take Moore Ave. exit and go south toward bay, then take right on Sunset Drive. Open daily dawn to dusk. For more information, call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 361/643-2475.

PRAIRIE VIEW

Pop. 4,410 Alt. 250 Map P-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 visit www.raymondvillechamber.com.

Inquire locally about a boot-making family that 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 are 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. New exhibit features an extensive ball gown collection. Farm & Ranch Museum has cypress fence and gate through which stagecoaches passed in 1866 from Corpus Christi to Brownsville. Open Wed. & Sat. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. 427 S. 7th St.

REFUGIO

Pop. 2,941 Alt. 43 Map U-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.

FORT BEND MUSEUM—Cited as one of state's best small museums. Walk-through galleries represent 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.

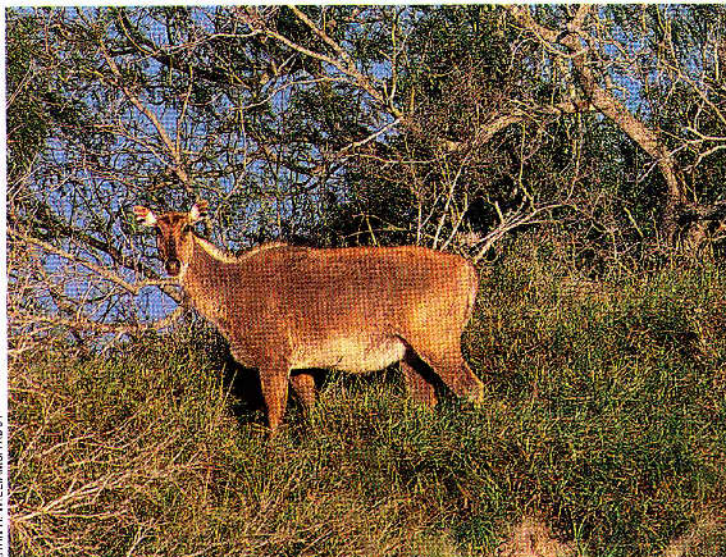
GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK—484-acre living history site where visitors step back in time and experience Texas history. Guests visit the 1820s Jones farmstead, tour 1890s Victorian mansion, and see cowboys working cattle in 1930s working ranch area. Open year-round 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for children, and free for kids four years old and younger. On F.M. 762, approx. 9 miles south of Richmond. Call 281/343-0218 for group tours, special events or more information. www.georgeranch.org.

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.

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.

STAR A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT



Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge near Rio Hondo

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 saltwater 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 fee.

TEXAS AIR MUSEUM—See HARLINGEN.

ROCKPORT-FULTON

Pop. (Comb.) 8,938

Alt. 20

Map U-18/GG-21

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 about 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 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 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 400 species of birds—Canada geese, pintail ducks, American wigeons, sandhill cranes, and more—have been recorded. Other inhabitants include alligators, white-tailed deer, javelina, 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

RIO HONDO

Pop. 1,942

Alt. 35

Map Y-17/AA-17

GENERAL—Situated on eastern bank of Arroyo Colorado; land promoters divided lots for town in 1910 and sponsored contest to name townsite. Selected was Rio Hondo, 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,



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 northeast 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 STATE FISHING PIER—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 HISTORIC SITE—Originally named "Oakhurst" by George Ware and Harriet Smith Fulton, the mansion exemplifies classic French Second Empire architectural styling. Completed in 1877, the ornate four-story house was the first in South Texas to feature systems such as indoor plumbing, gas lighting, and centralized heating. Purchased by Texas Parks & Wildlife in 1976, the house was restored to its original splendor and opened to the public in 1983. 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 available for weddings, portraits, and reunions. Located at corner of Fulton Beach Rd. and Henderson St. Admission fee.

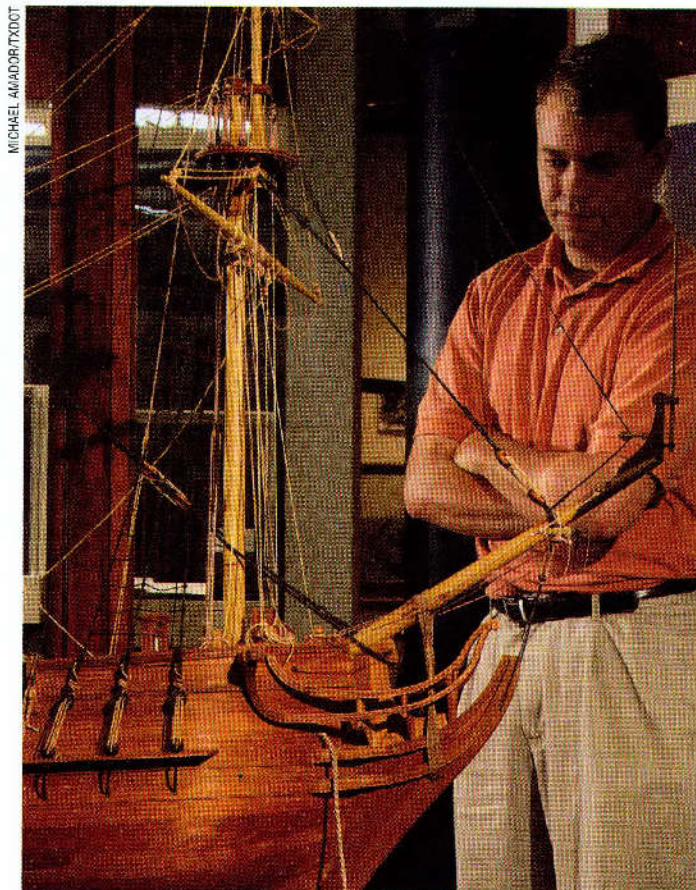
GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK—307 acres on peninsula between Copano and St. Charles bays. Rest rooms, showers, picnic sites, open shelters, children's play area, fishing pier, fish cleaning table, boat ramp. Tent and trailer camping permitted. Site of "Big Tree," an immense live oak, estimated 1,000 years old. About 12 miles north of Rockport; Texas 35, Park Road 13. Admission fee. 361/729-2858.

MEMORIAL PARK—52 acres with tennis and basketball courts, playground, picnic sites and shelters, soccer and baseball fields, walking/jogging trail with exercise stations, rest rooms, open area. At Enterprise and F.M. 2165.

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 acc 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 rest room facilities. Fishing boats feature



Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport-Fulton

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 fee. 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—Located 35 miles southwest of Houston, Rosenberg was founded on a site in the original Mexican land grant of early settler Henry Scott, where a small, nameless shipping point existed on the Brazos River. The town developed after the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe (GC&SF) Railroad arrived in 1880 and built a station where it crossed the Buffalo, Brazos & Colorado Railroad. In 1881, Count Joseph Telfener, an Italian investor, set up offices in the fledgling community to build the New York, Texas & Mexican Railway, which extended to Victoria and was coined the "Macaroni Line" after the Italian immigrants who built the line. In 1883, the GC&SF Railroad bought and platted a 200-acre site and named the community after the railroad's president, Henry von Rosenberg of Galveston. R. T. Mulcahy, coined the "Father of Rosenberg," arrived in 1883, and for 40 years promoted schools, business, and government.

In 1912 city water and electric lights came to the city along with the charter-

ing of one of the first Boy Scout troops in Texas. By 1920, oil and sulphur discoveries along with highway development made Rosenberg a center of trade and steady growth, and in the 1940s Rosenberg was known as the "Hub of the Gulf Coast." Today, Rosenberg is experiencing unprecedented growth in commercial and residential development while holding tight to its roots and charm. Rosenberg is proud to be home to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds and the annual Fort Bend County Fair, one of the largest and most successful county fairs in the state, featuring more than 700 livestock exhibits and 4100 competitive exhibits to 200,000 visitors each year.

Popular annual events include the Rosenberg Railroad Festival in March, the Spring Fling Car Show in April, the City's Family 4th Independence Day Celebration at Seabourne Creek Park on July 4th, the HOT Summer Concerts held Friday's in July at Downtown Park in the Historic Downtown District, the ten-day Fort Bend County Fair starting the last weekend in September, the Ride to Rosenberg Car Show in October, and the City's Christmas in Rosenberg festival held the first Saturday in December.

For additional information on city and area attractions, shopping, restaurants, accommodations, and events, visit www.visitrosenberg.com or the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce at www.rosrichchamber.com.

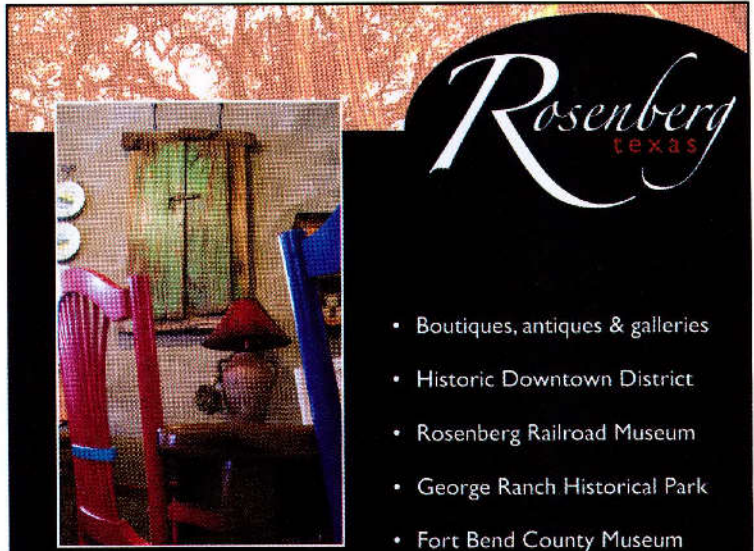
BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK—Located south of Rosenberg at 21901 FM-762, Brazos Bend State Park is considered the crown jewel of Texas State Parks. The park's 4,897 acres of Gulf Coastal Plain includes Brazos River bottomlands, live-oak woodlands, oxbow lakes and marsh. Abundant park wildlife includes white-tailed deer, coyotes, bob cat, gray fox, Russian boar, raccoons, migratory waterfowl, more than 277 species of resident and migratory birds including roseate spoonbill, wood stork, American bittern, great horned owl, yellow-crowned night heron, and on occasion, the bald eagle, as well as a large population of American alligators. Park amenities include a Nature Center, Environmental Education Center, amphitheater, 20 miles of hike and bike trails, Creekfield Lake Nature Trail featuring special signage for the visually impaired, wildlife observation platforms, tent and RV camping facilities, picnic sites throughout the park, fishing from lighted piers along Elm Lake, Hale Lake, and 40 Acre Lake, screened shelters, rest rooms, showers, and dump station. Special programming includes a Nature Center Orienteering Course, Thursday Night Hikes, Summer Live Musical Performances, Guided Bird Watching Hikes, Alligator Hatching Exhibit, Tarantula Molting Exhibit, Natural Perl Photo Walks, and Junior Angler Workshops. Leashed pets permitted. Admission fee. For information call 979/553-5101 or visit www.bhspvo.org.

GEORGE OBSERVATORY—Located within Brazos Bend State Park, the George Observatory was built as a joint project of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The George Foundation, and the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences. The Observatory, operated by volunteers from area astronomy clubs, consists of three domed telescopes and includes a 36-inch Gueymard Research Telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the nation open to the public on a regular basis. The Gueymard Telescope is open to the public on Saturday evenings and is available by reservation on Friday nights for groups of 30 or more. Gift shop and interpretive center. For information call 979/553-5101, 409/553-3400 or visit www.georgeobservatory.org.

The George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park houses the *Challenger Learning Center* for Space Science Education and takes participants on simulated space missions, complete with mission control, and spacecraft simulator. The Challenger Learning Center is a living memorial to the seven Challenger astronauts who lost their lives in 1986. For information call 713/639-4629 or visit www.hmns.org.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT—Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District offers an eclectic shopping experience in buildings restored to their original grandeur. Visitors browse a collection of gift boutiques, antique shops, art galleries, spa, restaurants, and other establishments offering everything from home accessories, collectibles, fine jewelry, clothing, rare books, fine hand made furniture, and great casual dining experiences. The district is home to the 1910 Vogelsang Building, a Texas Historic Landmark, at 1911 Avenue G, and to Another Time Soda Fountain, winner of a 2005 Texas Downtown Association Restoration Award. Rosenberg's post office, established in 1881, is located nearby at 2103 Avenue G. The Historic Downtown District is the site of the city's HOT Summer Concerts, the Christmas in Rosenberg festival, Rosenberg Railroad Festival, and Ride to Rosenberg Car Show. Visitors to the historic district can watch progress on the restoration of the Cole Liberty Theater, a 1919 vaudeville and movie house.

PARKS—Rosenberg's municipal parklands features a variety of recreational facilities and includes pavilions, picnicking, playgrounds, birding, swimming, ten-



- Boutiques, antiques & galleries
- Historic Downtown District
- Rosenberg Railroad Museum
- George Ranch Historical Park
- Fort Bend County Museum

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nis, softball, and other sports. The city's largest municipal park, Seabourne Creek Park, is a 164-acre ecologically rich passive park offering bird watching, 700-ft. boardwalk through the park's wetland, hiking and biking trail, 4-acre lake with fishing piers, the R. W. Lindsey Gazebo, parking, and rest rooms. Located at 3827 Texas 36 South, one-half mile off U.S. 59, the park is open daily dawn to dusk. Alcoholic beverages and pets are not permitted in the city's municipal parks. For more information visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

ROSENBERG RAILROAD MUSEUM—Since their grand opening in 2002, the Rosenberg Railroad Museum has amassed a collection of artifacts, maps, photographs, semaphores, wig-wag, and memorabilia detailing the history of the Great Rails in and around Rosenberg and Fort Bend County and their importance to the city's history. Special exhibits include a HO-gauge working model train, and an 1879 business railcar recalling the golden days of train travel. The museum's newest addition, Tower 17, was the last traditional manned railroad-interlocking tower in Texas. Tower 17 closed in February 2004 and was moved a half-mile to the museum grounds. The Museum hosts its annual Railroad Festival the first Saturday each March. A member of the Texas Rail Tourism Alliance, the museum is located at 1921 Avenue F, next to the busy BNSF and UP main lines and in the Historic Downtown District. Open Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Admission fee. For information call (281) 633-2846 or visit www.rosenbergrrmuseum.org.

SAN BENITO

Pop. 23,444

Alt. 31

Map Z-17/BB-16

GENERAL—City is know as the "Resaca City." A picturesque resaca, 400 feet wide, flows through the city, serving as 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



KEVIN STILLMAN/DOOT

Haak Vineyard and Winery in Santa Fe

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."

Hayrides offered year-round 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.

NARCISO 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 Narciso 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.

SANTA FE

Pop. 9,548

Alt. 30

Map R-21/VV-17

GENERAL—City was incorporated in 1978, merging the early towns of Alta Loma and Arcadia. Named for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad that passed through the area in 1877. Originally an agricultural area, strategic location near NASA, Galveston and Texas City refineries, has almost doubled population in last 10 years. Examples of early homes from the 1890s and a castle built in the 1930s can be seen here.

Annual events include Dinner in Jan.; Golf Tournament and Galveston County Fair and Rodeo in Apr.; Captain Cuisine-Epicurean Evening in Oct.; Fall Fun Cruise in Nov.; and Winter Wonderland Christmas Festival in Dec.

Contact the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce at 12406 Texas 6, or call 409/925-8558.

HAAK VINEYARD AND WINERY—The only winery in Galveston County, offering premium wines. Free tours and tastings available daily. Open winter hours (Nov. - Apr.) Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun.

Noon - 5 p.m.; Summer hours (May - Oct.) Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m. 6310 Ave. T. For more information call 409/925-1401 or 409/925-0976. www.haakwine.com.

SANTA FE MUSEUM—One of the few remaining original wooden railroad stations in the county. Exhibits include original railroad artifacts from the towns along the Santa Fe Railroad, including Hitchcock, Alta Loma, Arcadia and Algoa. Open third Sun. of the month, 2 - 4 p.m. No admission fee.

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, which is still apparent. Small downtown park with picnic area. 300-acre Rob and Bessie Wedler 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 Wedler's will. Acreage and large administration-museum building occupy portion of Wedler 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/CC-21

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 cruising, 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. 956/761-6433, or 800/SOPADRE (767-2373) U.S. and Canada.

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.

HORSES ON THE BEACH—Scenic horseback rides along the beautiful Gulf of Mexico and the Laguna Madre on South Padre Island. Open year-round with horses suited for riders of all experience levels, ages 6 and up. Groups welcome. Call 956/761-HOSS (4677) for schedules and rates. www.horsesonthebeach.com.

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.

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 fee.

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 fee.

SCHLITTERBAHN BEACH WATERPARK—Texas' most innovative waterpark is nestled between the dunes and wetlands on South Padre Island. Splash into more than a dozen water attractions, including slides, tube chutes, uphill water coasters, the Sand Castle water fun house and the Boogie Bahn surfing ride. The award-winning Rio Aventura links the tube-chutes and water-coasters with the park's beaches, so guests float between rides on water. Kids can enjoy Sand Castle Cove, a five-story water fun house. There's also a year-round, full-service restaurant plus a sports bar. Family amenities include free parking, free use of inner tubes, and guests are welcome to bring in their own picnic basket and cooler into the park - no alcohol or glass containers please. Waterpark is open weekends beginning April 22; open daily May 19 - Aug. 20; open weekends Aug. 26 - Sept. 17. Call 956/772-SURF or visit www.schlitterbahn.com for full schedule. Admission fee.

SEA TURTLE, INC.—Living museum of the "Turtle Lady," Ila Loetscher. Sea Turtle, Inc offers educational tours Tues. and Sun. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Note: call before attending a show to confirm that they are open. 956/761-1720, or visit www.seaturtleinc.com. Admission fee.

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.

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 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—Charming shopping village located 20 miles north of Houston. Reminiscent of a small Texas Hill Country town, restored railroad village from the early 1900s has more than 150 unique shops, including two Texas wine tasting rooms, antique shops, museums, art galleries and restaurants. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Exit 70A off I-45, one mile east of Exit 1960 from Hardy Toll Road on frontage road north. For information, call 281/353-9310 or visit www.oldtownspringtx.com.

SIX FLAGS SPLASHTOWN—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 Kountry, 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. www.sixflags.com/splashtownhouston. Admission fee.

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. 1 - 4 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 mis-



KEVIN STILMAN/PHOTO

South Padre Island's beach is great for building sand castles

sion 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 No. A-5. Call 281/379-ACES (2237) or 800/544-ACES (2237).

SUGAR LAND

Pop. 63,328 Alt. 82 Map Q-20/TT-12

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 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 economic base. Growth parallels the huge growth of Houston and Harris County.

MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN HISTORY—Museum, housed in a replica of Thomas Jefferson's retreat house, 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 14080 Southwest Freeway. 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/VV-18

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 post 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 Lafitte's pirates. Tours 1st Sun. each month, 2 - 5 p.m. 109 Third Ave. N. Admission fee.

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 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. 409/938-0772.

TEXAS CITY MUSEUM—Museum focuses on the history of Texas City, the birth of the US Air Force, the 1947 Texas City explosion, and includes a replica of a 1913 Army camp. Visit the new Children's Discover Place for an interactive learning experience, complete with a dinosaur dig, Mexican mercado, zoetropes, and more. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 409 6th St. 409/643-5799. Admission fee (children under 6 free).

TOMBALL

Pop. 10,000 Alt. 196 Map P-20

GENERAL—Growing city in northwest 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 Tomball Regional Hospital and the Texas Sports Medicine Clinic. 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.

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, a



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Old Town Spring

100-year-old two-story cotton gin, a one-room schoolhouse, corncrib, and an out-house. Open Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. 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 Tomball Memorial Playground, tennis courts, basketball, jogging/walking path, picnic areas, volleyball and soccer. Also, the *Attaway Nature Park* includes a four-acre nature preserve, pond, grassy amphitheater and a walking trail. Call City of Tomball for reservations or more information at 281/351-5484.

Harris County Parks include *Burroughs Park*, at 9738 Hufsmith, which features open-air pavilion; a boardwalk and observation deck overlooking spring-fed lake, playgrounds and ball fields, and picnicking facilities. *Samuel Mathews County Park*, at 1728 Hufsmith, 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. Call 281/353-4196 for more information.

VICTORIA

Pop. 63,361 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 HOUSE MUSEUM—Victorian home built in 1876 for William J. McNamara and his family. Collection offers visitors an extensive collection of artifact, drawings, photographs, textiles, costumes, and furniture—all representative of everyday life and culture of late 19th-century South Texas. Open Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 502 N. Liberty St. For information, call 361/575-8227.

MUSEUM OF THE COASTAL BEND—Located on Victoria College campus, museum showcases the rich multi-cultural heritage of the region. Exhibits include artifacts and information about Presidio La Bahia and Fort St. Louis, the first European settlement in Texas, as well as items recovered from *La Belle*, one of La Salle's ships, and the science and archeology involved in the recovery of these national treasures. At 2200 East Red River. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission fee. For more information, call 361/582-2511 or visit www.museumofthecoastalbend.org.

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 Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 306 W. Commercial St. For information, call 361/573-8227.

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 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 fee. For information, call 361/573-7681.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL SQUARE—Landmark is old gristmill; 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 Germany before 1860. E. Commercial and De Leon sts.

WEST COLUMBIA

Pop. 4,414

Alt. 32

Map S-20/BB-11

GENERAL—The Republic of Texas was born here on Oct. 3, 1836, with the inauguration of Sam Houston as the Republic's first President, Stephen F. Austin as Secretary of State, and the swearing in of the Republic's first congress. Today, the replica of the first Capitol building and other historic sites combine with antique and cottage shops, hotels and restaurants make this a popular tourist destination. Just 30 minutes from the Texas beach and only an hour from Houston's amenities. For more information, contact the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce at 979/345-3921 or visit www.westcolumbiachamber.org.

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM—During the 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 capital (reconstructed in 1977) is at 14th and Hamilton.

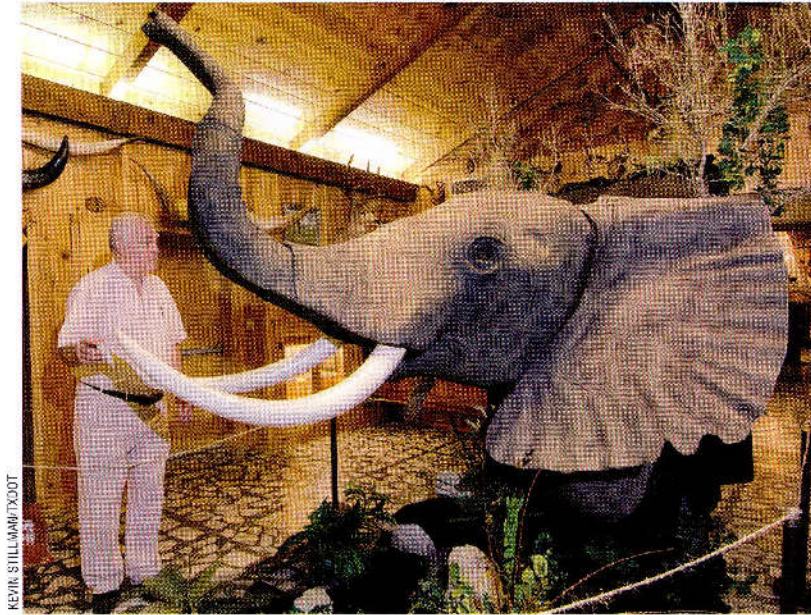
Reflecting the area's prominent role in Texas history, the museum traces the historical significance of the Victorian era with artifacts from the joys of childhood through the grief of death. Displays document the West Columbia Oilfield, largest producer of its time in the U.S., and the ranching industry 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, bells from the *Iliawatha* and the *Brazos Belle*, and grand steamboats that sailed the Brazos River, first for trade, and later, pleasure.

New additions to the museum include set of woodworking planes dating back to 1860 and two beautiful wedding gowns from the 1890s.

The museum is open Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For Sat. tours call 979/345-6125. Located at 247 E. Brazos (Texas 35) in West Columbia. www.westcolumbia.org.



Columbia Historical Museum in West Columbia



KEVIN STILLMARK/XTDOT

Wharton County Historical Museum

HISTORICAL DRIVING TOURS—Printed booklet for self-guided driving tour describes the historical sites in and around the first Capital of the Republic of Texas. Booklets are available at the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce, 103 S. 16th St. For information, call 979/345-3921.

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE—A mid-1830s Texas sugar plantation built on rich Brazos River lands by Columbus R. Patton and his enslaved peoples. Land originally obtained as part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony by Martin & Elizabeth Varner, pioneers who established first rum distillery in Texas. Last private owner was James Stephen Hogg, first native-born governor of Texas. House is filled with Miss Ima Hogg's decorative arts collection. Site is open daily; tours of Plantation House conducted Tues. - Sat. 9 - 4 p.m. Picnic sites on landscaped grounds. Admission fee. One mile north of West Columbia via C.R. 2582 off Texas 35. 979/345-4656.

WHARTON

Pop. 9,237

Alt. 111

Map R-19

GENERAL—On Colorado River, established as Wharton County seat when county was 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 and has benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment. Just 1 block west of courthouse.

The downtown area is known for its quaint antique and gift shops, as are the surrounding historical areas of Glen Flora and Egypt. Murals painted on downtown buildings depict county's diverse heritage, and the Wharton County Courthouse restoration will return the structure to its original 1888 appearance.

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 visit www.whartontexas.com.

DICKSON MONUMENT—Granite shaft honors Sheriff Hamilton B. Dickson, killed in 1894 during attempted capture of murder suspect. Lawman was so widely respected, that trains were chartered from distant points to accommodate huge attendance at funeral.

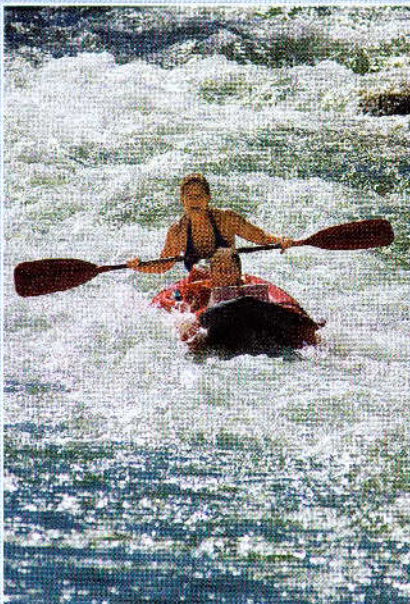
WHARTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Excellent area museum details heritage as well as economic background of county. Displays include wildlife trophies as well as county artifacts and photographs dealing with ranching, agriculture, archeology, medicine, and local sulfur mines. Also on the grounds is the 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. - Sun., 1 - 5 p.m. 3615 N. Richmond Rd. 979/532-2600. www.whartoncountymuseum.com.

KEVIN STILLMARK/XTDOT

HILL COUNTRY



J. GARRETS SMITH/TXDOT



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT



LOOKLEWIS SMITH/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: Garner State Park near Concan; the Texas State Capitol in Austin; rafting on the Guadalupe River

W

ELCOME TO THE HEART of the Lone Star State—the Hill Country region. Here, you're not only in the middle of Texas, but you're also at the center of everything Texas has to offer. You'll find beauty all around you. The Hill Country is home to rolling hills that dominate the region, a breathtaking display of wildflowers found along roadsides in springtime, year-round lush green landscapes and plenty of splendid lakes and rivers beckoning you to take a dip or cast your line.

This region begins in west Texas in Crockett County, and stretches east to Austin, the state's capital in Travis County. Mills County is the region's northern point, and Kinney, Medina and Uvalde counties make up the southern border.

Austin, the jewel of the region, is host to many outstanding attractions and points of interest. History buffs can sate their desire for knowledge at places like the granite dome of the State Capitol building, which is taller than our nation's capitol, the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum or the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. While you're here, don't miss the University of Texas at Austin campus (one of the largest in the country) and Zilker Park with its famous spring-fed Barton Springs pool. Do a little browsing at the eclectic shops found along South Congress Avenue.

There is, of course, no shortage of shopping opportunities everywhere you turn. Starting in San Marcos, you'll find Prime Outlets and Tanger Outlet Center, which is the largest factory outlet complex in the state. Just north of San Marcos in the town of Buda, you'll find Cabela's, the eye-popping outdoor recreation mega-store that's so large there's a two-story mountain and gigantic fresh-water aquarium inside its two-story layout. There are also great antique stores found in cities like Burnet, Wimberley, Dripping Springs and more.

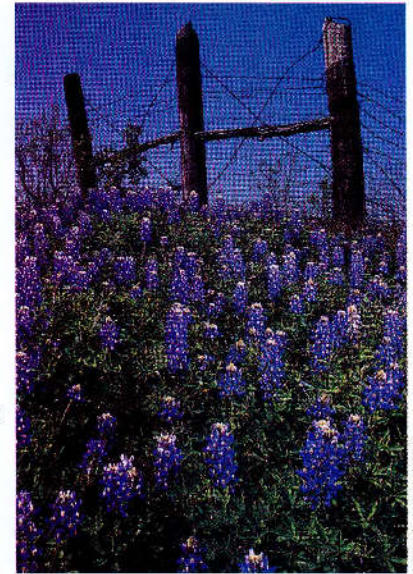
If water sports are more to your liking, you'll find plenty of opportunities here. There are almost two dozen magnificent state parks here, most of which are located along lakes or rivers. So, if you like to fish, swim, waterski, pitch a tent and camp near a lake or river bank, you're definitely in the right region.

But there's so much more, beginning with the exciting Schlitterbahn water park in New Braunfels. Located alongside the spring-fed Comal River, Schlitterbahn features all kinds of water rides and activities for the whole family. It has been recognized as the top water park in the country for seven consecutive years. There's also the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

in Stonewall, which features the reconstructed childhood home and final resting place of the President. Down the road in Fredericksburg, you'll find the National Museum of the Pacific War, which tells the story of Admiral Chester Nimitz and features displays and exhibits detailing the American and Japanese battles in the Pacific Ocean during World War II.

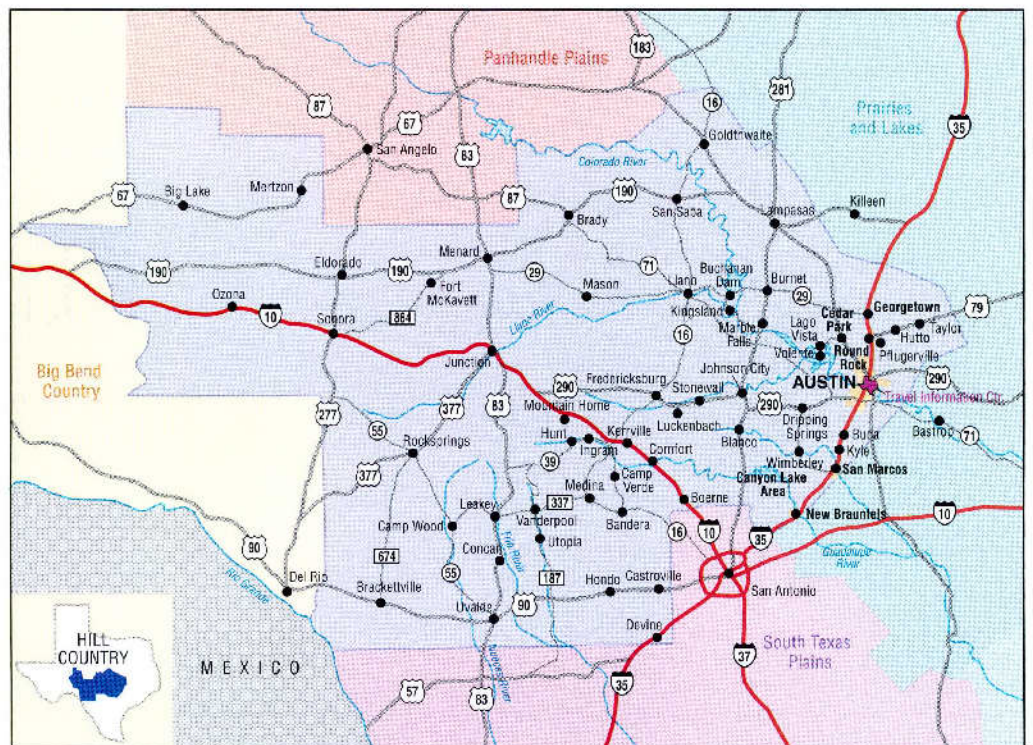
The region is also filled with heritage and historical museums, amazing underground caverns, historic structures providing a glimpse into the lives of early Texas settlers, wineries offering tours of their vineyards and wine-making facilities, wildflower and nature attractions, dude ranches that allow guests to relax or have a true cowboy experience, and plenty of venues to enjoy some quintessential Hill Country cuisine and music.

Be sure to read thoroughly through each city's listing within the Hill Country region to learn about the wide array of destinations that await you. Enjoy the heart of Texas and have a great time in the Hill Country!



LOCKHILL/SMS/STOCK

Bluebonnets in springtime



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TX02



The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum—The Story of Texas in Austin

AUSTIN

Pop. 656,562 Alt. 550 Map P-17/JJ-13

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.” In early 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, Film and Interactive conferences in March, and the *Austin City Limits* Music Festival in Sept.

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, reggae, jazz, conjunto, Tejano, swing and rock. Performed in various clubs around city and at nightspots along Sixth Street.

High tech and upbeat, that’s Silicon Hills. Austin is home to many computer chip makers and other computer industries. The city is home to the nation’s largest urban bat colony, found under the Congress Ave. bridge during the summer. A kiosk on the 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 25 bed and breakfasts and more than 140 hotel establishments. For information, contact the Austin Visitor Center at 866/GO-AUSTIN.

AUSTIN CHILDREN’S MUSEUM—Children of all ages can touch, play, and climb to their hearts’ content. Open Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. W. 2nd St. at Colorado St. For information, call 512/472-2499. Admission fee. www.austinkids.org.

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS TOUR—PBS’s longest running program, *Austin City Limits*, first broadcast from the KLRU studios on the University of Texas campus in 1976, continues to showcase great American musical talents. Free passes to the tapings are the hottest tickets in town (and the hardest to come by),

but there’s a free studio tour every Fri. at 10:30 a.m. In the Jesse H. Jones Communications Building B, at Guadalupe St. and Dean Keeton Blvd. For information, call 512/471-4811. pbs.org/klru/austin.

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. Tours depart from the Austin Visitor Center at 209 East Sixth St. Admission fee. For information and departure times, call 512/477-5274, or visit www.austinducks.com.

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART - DOWNTOWN—The AMOA presents an array of art experiences in the fun, informal and collaborative spirit of Austin. The gallery presents 20th-century and contemporary art, changing exhibitions, and educational programs. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Thurs. 8 p.m.); Sun. noon - 5 p.m. At 823 Congress Ave. For information, call 512/495-9224. Adult admission fee. amoa.org.

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART AT LAGUNA GLORIA—The museum’s exhibitions focus on art and nature. Outside visitors can stroll the 12-acre grounds overlooking Lake Austin and take in the scenic sculpture and historic gardens. Open (Driscoll Villa) Mon. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; (Grounds) Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; weekend tours 1 p.m.; closed holidays. 3809 W. 35th. Admission fee. 512/458-8191.

AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER—Exhibits of science, natural history, a Dino Pit, and botany. Wonderful hiking, nature trails in the heart of the city. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 301 Nature Center Dr. 512/327-8181. ci.austin.tx.us/ansc.

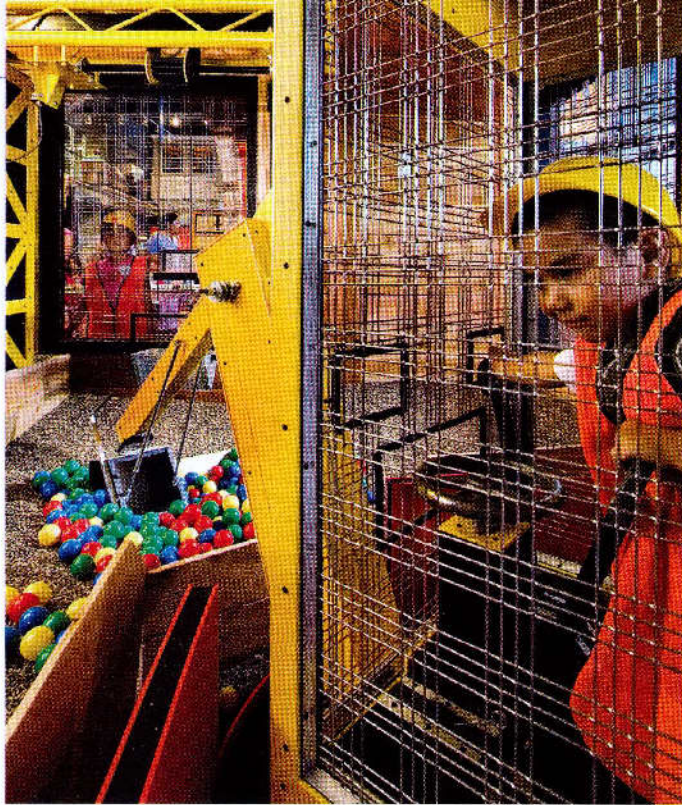
AUSTIN OVERTURES SIGHTSEEING—Take the fuchsia van for the “Austin in 90-minute” narrated tour of Austin, which includes more than 30 historical and cultural attractions on a 30-mile route. Tour historic Downtown, State Capitol, Governor’s Mansion, UT Campus, East Austin and a scenic drive to the edge of the Hill Country. Daily tours are ticketed and depart from the Austin Visitor Center at 209 E. Sixth St. For more information, call 512/659-9478 or visit www.austinovertures.com.

AUSTIN VISITOR CENTER—For details about events and city attractions stop by the visitor center operated by the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau at 209 E. 6th St. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call 866/GO-AUSTIN or 512/478-0098 for information, or visit www.austintexas.org.

AUSTIN ZOO—This delightful children’s zoo in southwest Travis County



Harry Ransom Center



J. PATRICK SMITH/STOCK

Austin Children's Museum

offers children hands-on encounters with a variety of animals and includes pony and train rides and a picnic area. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Call for extended summer hours. 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. Admission fee. www.austinzoo.org.

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 Refuge is open for daylight use only. 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, excluding the period from the end of March through mid-April to allow vireos to set up nesting territories. This deck and Doeskin Ranch are closed for four weekends from mid-Nov. through mid-Dec. during Big Game hunting season. The Refuge is a sponsor of the Texas Songbird Festival in April 2006 and National Wildlife Refuge Week during the first two weekends in October. From U.S. 183, take F.M. 1869 approximately 9 miles to the observation deck; Warbler Vista is west of Lago Vista on FM 1431. Please call 512/339-9432 prior to visiting for exact dates, or visit southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/balcones.

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. A 400-seat IMAX® Theatre features 2-D and 3-D 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. noon - 6 p.m. Visit Web site for IMAX Theatre show times. 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. Admission fee for museum, free for children under 5. A separate admission charge is required for both the IMAX and Texas Spirit Theaters. For information, call 512/936-8746, or visit www.thestoryoftexas.com.

CONGRESS AVENUE BRIDGE—Boasting one of the the largest urban colonies of Mexican free-tailed bats, bridge is home to bat population of 1.5 million from Apr. to Oct. that creates a spectacle at sunset with a mass exodus from underneath the bridge for nocturnal flight. Located at S. 1st St. and Congress Ave. For more information, contact Bat Conservation International at 512/327-9721 or visit www.batcon.org.

EAST SIXTH STREET (OLD PECAN STREET)—Restaurants, clubs, and shops occupy the Victorian and native-stone buildings in the famous entertainment district that draws large crowds for weekend nightlife. National

Register District. Seven markers within the 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 p.m. 304 E. 44th St. 512/458-2255. austinmuseums.org/elisbet.html.

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., last tour starts at 4:15 p.m. 802 San Marcos St. Admission fee. 512/472-8180. frenchlegationmuseum.org.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM—The newly renovated and expanded museum features four galleries, theater, dance studio, store and expanded library. Open Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 1165 E. Angelina St. by Carver Library. 512/974-GWCM. ci.Austin.tx.us/carver.

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. - Thurs., every 20 minutes, 10 a.m. to noon, with last tour leaving 11:40 a.m. Reservations required one day in advance. Groups and official functions control schedule. 1010 Colorado St. Tour information, 512/463-5516. governor.state.tx.us/mansion.

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. 45-ft. waterfall spills into a deep, jade-green pool. (Note: Water quality carefully monitored and swimming not allowed when bacteria count is 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 R.R. 620, then 1.5 miles to Hamilton Pool Road (F.M. 3238) south for 13 miles. For additional information, call 512/264-2740. Admission fee.

HILL COUNTRY FLYER—See CEDAR PARK.

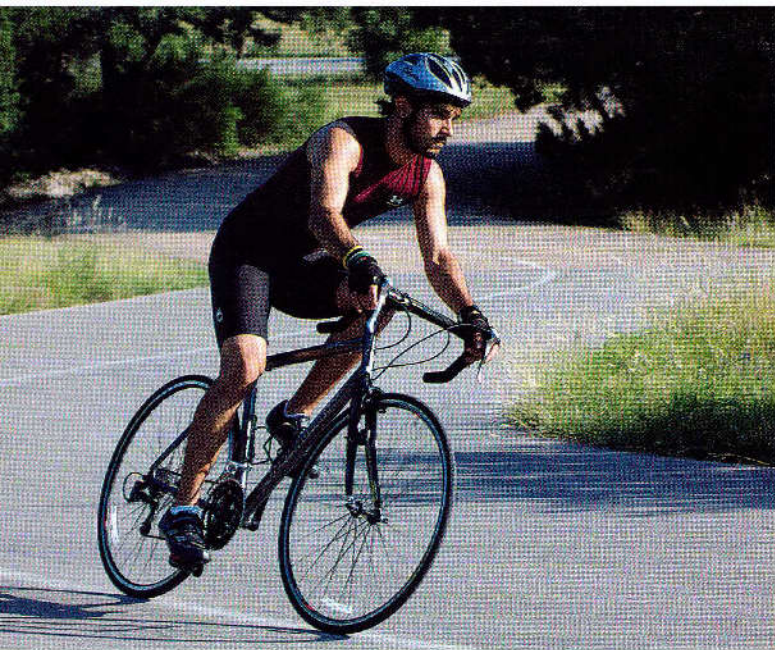
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER—Founded by Lady Bird Johnson in 1982, this 42-acre site includes numerous research display gardens, landscaped areas, and themed gardens. The Center is the only national nonprofit research and educational organization committed to the preservation and re-establishment of native plants in planned landscapes. Visitor center with museum-quality exhibits. Especially colorful during spring. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. In southwest Austin; from I-35, take Slaughter Ln. Exit 227 west to Loop 1; south .8 mi.; left to 4801 La Crosse Ave. 512/292-4100. Admission fee. wildflower.org.

LAKE CRUISES—**Capital Cruises**: Excursions on Town Lake and Lake Austin for sunset and bat-watching plus private getaways. Also, pontoon, paddle boat, canoe, and kayak rental. Reservations recommended. Departs from Hyatt Regency dock on Town Lake, 208 Barton Springs Rd. Cruise/rental fees. Call 512/480-9264 or visit capitalcruises.com for more information.



KEVIN STILLMANTYROT

Capitol Visitors Center in the General Land Office in Austin



GEORGE APPELO/DKXDOT

Veloway in Austin

Lone Star Riverboat: 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. lonestarriverboat.com.

LAKES—Austin, Town, Travis, Walter E. Long. See LAKES listing.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM—Archives/museum relating to LBJ and office of the presidency in general; colorful highlights of political campaigns. Exhibits include gifts from foreign heads of state, a moon rock, replica of Oval Office and changing exhibits. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 2313 Red River St. 512/721-0200. No admission fee. ljbllib.utexas.edu.

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 fee. 800/792-1112, 512/243-1643

MANOR DOWNS—Texas' oldest pari-mutuel horse race track. Spring features both Quarterhorses and Thoroughbred racing. Take U.S. 290 east to Manor and Manor Downs Rd. For information, 512/272-5581. www.manordowns.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM—Permanent exhibits include Mexican masks and photographs. Exhibitions feature works by Latin American artists throughout the year. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 419 Congress Ave. For information, call 512/480-9373. Admission fee. www.mexic-artemuseum.org

MOONLIGHT TOWERS—Austin's 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 at 866/GO-AUSTIN.

MOUNT BONNELL—Rising more than 700 feet above sea level, natural limestone formation found at western edge of city overlooking Lake Austin; breathtaking views views of city skyline. 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 Tues. - Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. 2310 San Gabriel St. Admission fee. 512/478-2335.

O. HENRY MUSEUM—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. 512/472-1903. Donations accepted.

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 northwest via R.M. 2222. Offers rugged mountain bike trails, swimming, fishing and camping. Admission fee.

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 fee.

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 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 year-round; 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 Tues. - 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 Zilker Botanical Garden. Free Hillside Theater presents shows under the stars, early June - Aug. Zilker Botanical Garden is a free, beautiful showcase of flowers, shrubs and trees; Japanese Garden and Rose Garden; and the new Hartman Prehistoric Garden. For information, call 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.

SOUTH CONGRESS—One of hippest Austin hangouts, also called SoCo, colorful stretch of Congress Ave. lined with quirky shops, trendy dining spots, unique accommodations, art galleries and music venues. Monthly celebration occurs during "First Thursdays," held the first Thurs. each month., when merchants remain open until 10 p.m. and host an array of events, activities and music. Located south of the Congress Avenue bridge. www.firstthursday.info.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL—Newly renovated and restored, St. Mary's Cathedral is an architectural landmark in the city. Cathedral was built just after the Civil War and features Gothic-style arched doorway and Rose Window. Located on 10th and Brazos sts.

STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX—The Capitol, a massive statehouse constructed of Texas pink granite, dominates the 46 acre, park-like area. Free guided tours offered Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 3:30 p.m. 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. 512/305-8400.

Located on the State Capitol grounds in the old General Land Office Building is one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. Noon - 5 p.m. 11th Street and Brazos Street. 512/463-8586. www.txdot.gov.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage.

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN MEMORIAL—Take a stroll on the Town Lake hike-and-bike trail and stop at Auditorium Shores to pay homage to the Austin music icon who died in a helicopter crash in 1990. Fans from all over the



SIM A WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

world visit the life-size statue of the blues guitar legend as it faces the setting sun.

TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM—Features extensive collection of artifacts that detail the history of the military in Texas, from the Alamo to current deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Don't miss the Armor Row and Artillery Park, home to more than 30 tanks and artillery pieces used by the military in wars from World War II to present. Also included in the display is a Soviet vehicle used by the Iraqi Army which was captured during Operation Desert Storm, and various Germany artillery pieces. Open Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visitors must enter through main security gates of Camp Mabry, at 3100 West 35th St.; be sure to have some form of photo ID available. Closed Thanksgiving Day and Dec. 24 - 26. For more information, call 512/782-5659.

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). Memorial also on grounds that honors Texas victims of the 9/11 tragedy and features two girder beams from the World Trade Center towers. E. 7th and Navasota sts. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., weekends grounds are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY—Documents and books dealing with all phases of Texas history. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except genealogical research, which is open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed holidays. Just east of State Capitol. tsl.state.tx.us.

THEATER—Austin has a variety of options for theatergoers. The restored Paramount Theatre on Congress Ave. features stage productions, musicals, and classic films throughout the year. Other prominent stages include Zachary Scott Theatre, One World Theatre, State Theater, Live Oak Theatre, St. Edward Univ.'s Mary Moody Northen 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 theaters, visit Austin Visitor Center or check with each theater. For information, call the Circle of Theaters 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). 512/445-5582 or visit www.umlaufsculpture.org. Admission fee.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS—Located just north of the State Capitol and downtown, university features 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 17,000 works that span the history of Western civilization—from ancient art to the most recent contemporary works. Known as one of the foremost university art museums' in the nation, is recognized for its Old Masters paintings, modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings. At 23rd and San Jacinto. Open Tues. - Wed., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; closed Mon. Located at 23rd and San Jacinto sts. Admission fee, but no admission fee on Thurs. 512/471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

Harry Ransom Center—One of the world's finest cultural archives, center houses a rare Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1455. Other exhibits include 30 million literary manuscripts, one million rare books, five million photographs, and more than 100,000 works of art. Recently renovated, the facility showcases changing exhibits from permanent holdings. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. On Univ. of Texas campus, 21st and Guadalupe. No admission fee. 512/471-8944.

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 and meteorites. 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. www.tmm.utexas.edu.

UT Tower—Enjoy the spectacular view from atop the University of Texas' most famous landmark. Tours are available through reservations, usually a week in advance. Univ. of Texas campus. Call or check on-line for schedule. 512/475-6633. www.utexas.edu/tower.

VELOWAY—A 3.1 mile stretch perfect for biking and in-line skating. Located next to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. 4009 La Crosse Dr. For information, call 512/974-6700.

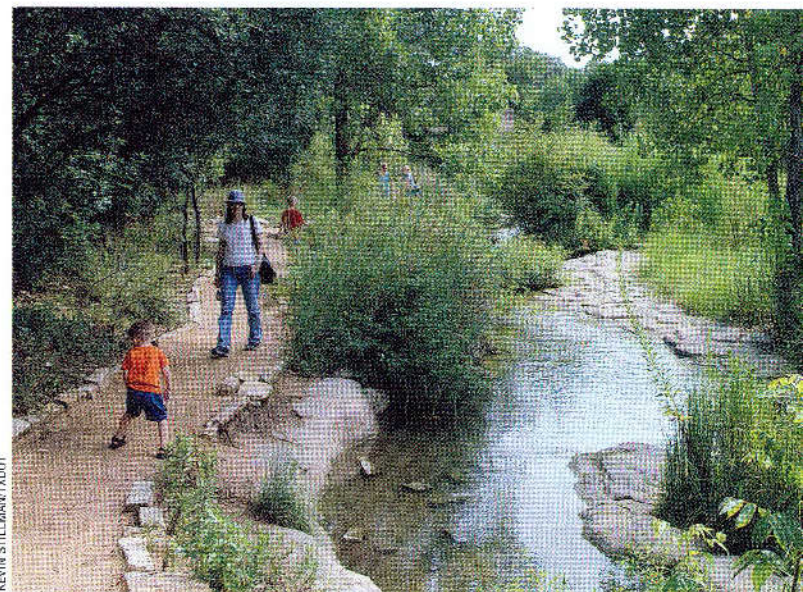
WALKING TOURS—Explore the city with three free, guided walking tours featuring experienced and knowledgeable guides. Schedule runs March - Nov. Call 866/GO-AUSTIN for more information.

Capitol Grounds: This tour reveals stories of past government elections and interesting facts about the legendary granite building. Actual dome stands 14 feet higher than nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. Tours run Sat. - Sun. at 9 a.m.

Congress Avenue & East Sixth Street Tour: This 10-block National Historic Registered District tour weaves through downtown revealing history of Congress Ave. Continues along nine-block Sixth Street district and highlights Victorian architecture dating back to mid-1800s. Tours run Thurs. - Sat. at 9 a.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m.

Bremond Block Tour: Walk through most distinguished block in downtown Austin. Once considered one the most refined and eminent neighborhoods owned by a single family. John Bremond Sr., family patriarch, successfully built this block with Victorian houses and lush landscapes. Tours depart Sat. & Sun. promptly at 11 a.m.

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.



KEVIN STILL/MARY/TXDOT

Austin Nature and Science Center



HILL COUNTRY

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 each of 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 wildflower 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. (weekdays by reservation only). Tours limited to first 30 visitors. 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. 830/825-3442.

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.

BANDERA

Pop. 957

Alt. 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 horse-back riding, guest ranches, and ranch tours, as well as historic sites, area attractions and special events at 1206 Hackberry, across from the Bandera County Courthouse. 830/796-3045 or 800/364-3833. www.banderaCowboyCapital.com.

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 fee.

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.

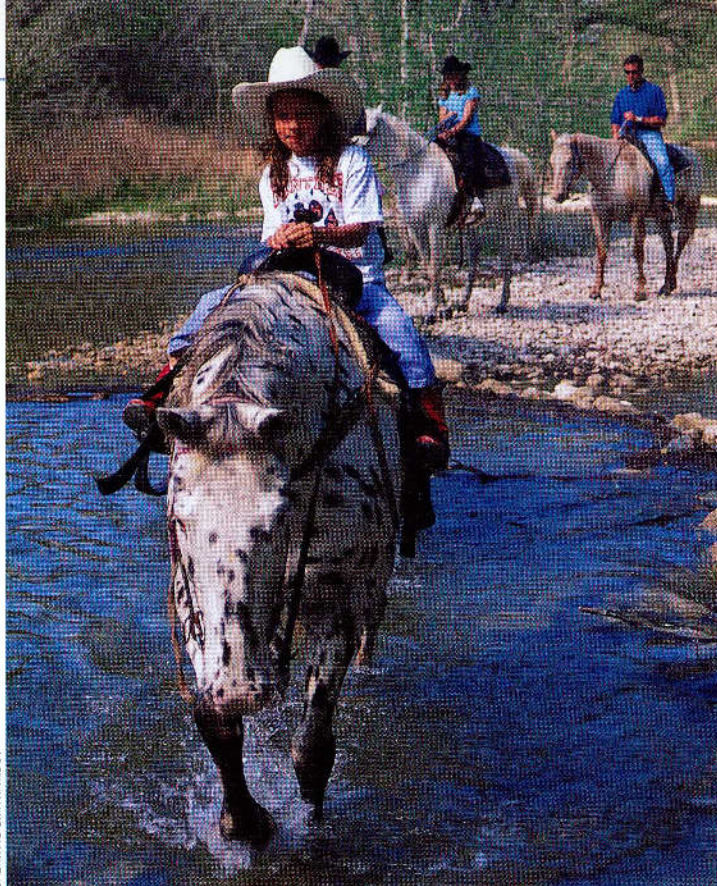
HISTORICAL TOURS—Walking or driving tours of Bandera County are available. See the original jail and county courthouse and some of the oldest buildings in the county along historic Eleventh St. Also, watch saddle makers and blacksmiths. You can also tour a working Longhorn ranch. Information on self-guided 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, 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.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Horseback riders cross Medina River near Bandera

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 F.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 325/884-2980.

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 Q-15

GENERAL—Settled 1853 by pioneer stockmen who had to fortify homes from attacks and raids. 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 the county seat moved to centrally located Johnson City. Now popular tourist and resort area of Hill Country surrounded by seven working lavender farms and offering bed & breakfasts and two locally owned motels. 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, Market Days, restaurants and artisans occupy historic buildings around old courthouse. The courthouse and 37 other buildings on or near the square are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, contact the Blanco Chamber of Commerce at 830/833-5101 or visit www.blancochamber.com.

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, tube rental, children's play area, rest rooms, showers. On U.S. 281. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

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 treat of Hill Country landscapes where white-tailed deer are often seen, especially early or late in the day.

BOERNE

Pop. 8,469

Alt. 1,405

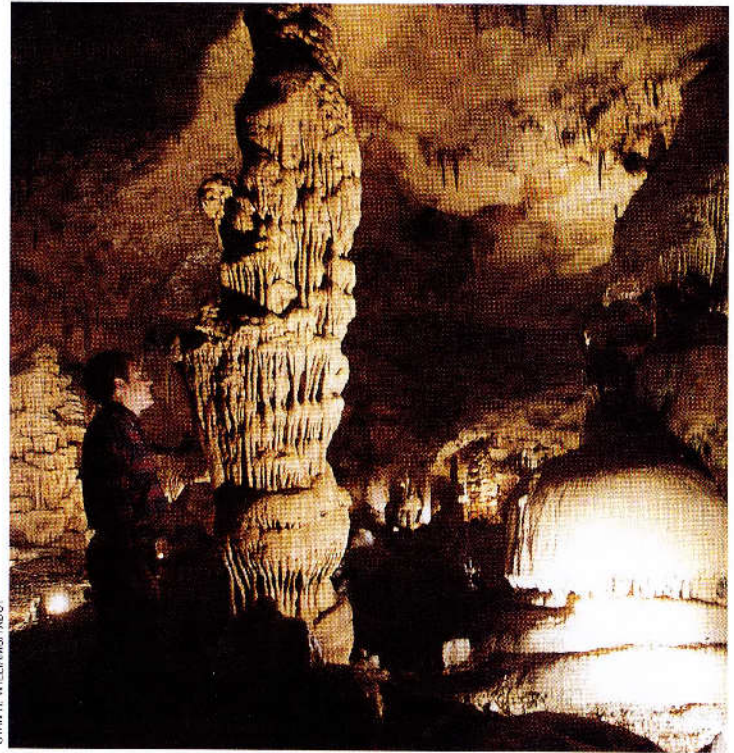
Map Q-15

GENERAL—Boerne, (pronounced BER-nee) was founded in 1849 by a group of German settlers who aspired to create their own version of Thomas Moore's Utopia.

Named after Ludwig Borne, the little town once known as Tusculum, was situated on the Cibolo Creek and quickly became a tourist destination because of its pure air and surpassing beauty. Boerne is the home to some of the oldest historical sites in the area, and it is rich with German heritage. The annual Berges Fest in June and The Boerne Village Band's summer Abendkonzerte series are proof. Stroll down Hauptstrasse (Main Street) and experience a feast of shops—antiques, gifts, home accessories, boutiques, jewelry, books and collectibles. Take a break at a cafe, coffee shop, bakery or wine bar, or try the local brewery. Boerne boasts a vibrant arts community with dozens of galleries, arts and music events, and a community theater.

Accommodations in the Boerne area are the Hill Country's finest. Destination resorts, conference centers, bed and breakfasts, inns and hotels are nestled in the rolling landscape. Visitors escape the hustle and bustle of the big cities as vacationers did here beginning a century ago.

Year-round festive cultural events fill the air with music and merriment. Berges Fest, the Kendall County Fair, Weihnachts Fest, Dickens on Main, Boerne Market Days, Key To the Hills Antique Show, Fourth of July Fireworks show, the



STANA WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Cave Without a Name in Boerne

Key to the Hills Rod Run, Boerne Triathlon, and three parades are but a few of the festivals and events that draw people from near and far.

For a unique and memorable Hill Country experience, plan a weekend get away, a wonderful day of shopping, or just come by and have lunch and relax in the warm and gracious hospitality of Boerne—a true Texas "Star." The perfect setting for relaxation of the body and restoration of the soul.

For more information, contact the Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau, 888/842-8080 or visit www.visitboerne.org.

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM—Founded in 1986, the Agricultural Heritage Center & Museum (Ag Museum) offers visitors a tour through history. The exhibits showcase a wide variety of antique farm machinery, horse-drawn implements, woodworking & metalworking tools, and turn-of-the-century household articles. Most items on display at the Ag Museum are donated by local families whose ancestors farmed, ranched, and worked the frontiers of Boerne, Kendall County, and the Texas Hill Country. Regular hours are Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. To schedule special groups or tours during the week, call 830/249-5588 or 830/336-3364 nights and weekends. www.AgMuseum.org

CAVE WITHOUT A NAME—Less than 12 miles from Boerne, in the heart of the scenic rolling hills of the Hill Country, Cave Without A Name is a natural living cavern, some say the most beautiful in Texas. The cave is filled with spectacular formations of stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, cave drapery, flowstones, rim stone dams and more. Open daily except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Year-round temperature of 66 degrees, so the Texas heat is no problem! For more information on times and admission call 830/537-4212, 888/TEX-CAVE or visit www.cavewithoutaname.com.

CIBOLO NATURE CENTER—100 acres of protected land in the Texas Hill Country. Experience four different ecosystems that include walking trails, streams, and quiet groves. Participate in one of the many educational workshops or come for the spring and summer concert series, "Cibolo Songs and Stories." Open daily. For more information, call 830/249-4616 or visit www.cibolo.org.

ENCHANTED SPRINGS RANCH—This 86-acre working ranch excites visitors from all over the world with its rugged, natural beauty, collection of exotic animals, and authentic time warp—a Western town right out of the 1800's. Originally designed for Western movies, the Old West town consists of over 30 buildings and has already been used in several TV films and commercials. This truly magical place is where all your dreams of the Old West come true. Open Tues. - Sun. For admission information call 830/249-8222, 800/640-5917 or visit www.enchantedspringsranch.com.

GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK—1,900 scenic acres surrounding the beautiful cypress-lined Guadalupe River. Tent and RV camping, rest rooms, show-



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT

Blanco State Park in Blanco



ers, picnic sites. Fishing, canoeing, swimming and hiking. Wildlife area. Texas 46 east, 13 miles from Boerne. Call 800/792-1112 for admission information.

SISTER CREEK VINEYARDS—Headquartered in a Historic cotton gin, visitors can see artifacts of the gin as well as the vineyard and wine making area. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon blend are all produced here. Tours and tastings daily. 830/324-6704 or www.sistercreekvineyards.com.

VISITOR CENTER—Located inside historic Kingsbury House, a turn-of-the-century limestone and stucco Hill Country ranch-style house featuring bright natural light, custom-made brochure kiosks, hardwood floors, original doors and windows, a large wrap-around porch, and several fireplaces. Also on the property is an original two-room rock house, one of the oldest in Boerne, and more. Stop by and pick up free brochures, maps, and lodging info. 888/842-8080. www.visitboerne.org.

YE KENDALL INN—Stagecoach Inn built in 1859, is a Texas historic landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Served as a gathering place for lawmen, army officers, cattle drivers and frontier celebrities. Today is a beautifully restored hotel and inn with a world class restaurant and meeting facilities. 800-364-2138 or www.yekendallinn.com.

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 fee. 830/563-2580.

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 830/563-2493 or 800/937-1590.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Buchanan Dam Visitor Center

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.

KICKAPOO CAVERN STATE PARK—For information, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

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 they maintain old cemetery on county road about 3 miles south. Graves include four Medal of Honor winners.

BRADY

Pop. 5,523

Alt. 1,670

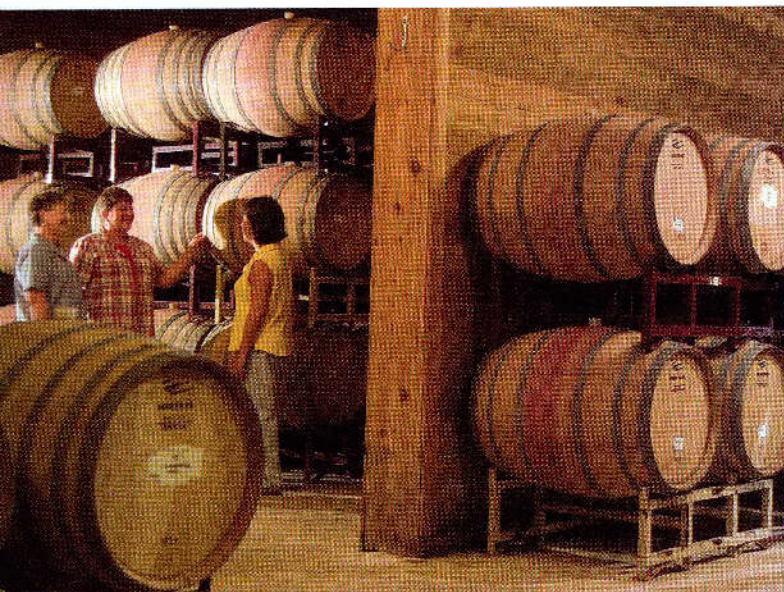
Map N-14

GENERAL—Settled mid-1800s, became seat of McCulloch County 1876. At edge of Hill Country on former Dodge Cattle Trail.

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. Also, historical marker seven miles east of city off Hwy. 190 commemorates Soldier's Watering Hole, which was spot in mid-1800s where group of 18 immigrants were killed by Native Americans.

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. Annual events include the World Championship Barbecue Goat Cook-Off during Labor Day weekend, and the



LOOZ/ILLUMS/SILLIERS/TXDOT

Sister Creek Vineyards near Boerne

Heart of Texas Thunder Drag Boat Races during the first weekend in June.

For information on events, accommodations, dining, or sports events, call the Brady/McCulloch County Chamber of Commerce at 888/577-5657 or 325/597-3491 or visit www.bradytx.com.

HEART OF TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC MUSEUM—Opened in 2000, more than 75 country music are honored here, and displays include stage costumes, musical instruments, personal effects, life-size wax figures and more. Open Fri. 2 - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. Noon - 5 p.m. For more information, e-mail tracy@hillbillyhits.com. www.hillbillyhits.com

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 Fri. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Corner of High and Main sts., one block west of town square. 325/597-0526

LAKE—Brady Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

PARKS—*Richards Park* is city-owned park that includes 45 RV hookups, showers and rest rooms and 150 primitive campsites, pavilion, baseball fields, soccer fields, and playground area. For reservations call 325/597-2152. *Brady Municipal Golf Course* is a beautiful 9-hole municipal course. Call 325/597-6010 for more information.

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. Features 25 tent sites, 15 RV sites, 12 heated and air-conditioned cabins, boat ramp, playground, rest rooms and showers, and swimming areas. Admission fees, additional fees for camping and minicabins. On Texas 261. Call 800/776-5272, ext. 3366, or visit www.lcra.org/parks.

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. 512/793-2803.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

LAKES—Buchanan, Inks. See LAKES listing.

LONGHORN CAVERN STATE PARK—About 12 miles southeast. See BURNET.

VANISHING TEXAS RIVER CRUISE—See BURNET.

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 Buda Area Chamber of Commerce at 512/295-9999.

CABELA'S—An 185,000-sq. ft. outdoors superstore that features museum-quality dioramas, a 40-foot conservation mountain, 12,000-sq. ft. trophy deer museum, 60,000-gallon aquarium, and hundreds of wild game trophies displayed in an exceptional showroom. Other features include a laser arcade, gift shop, restaurant, general store, fly fishing shop, furniture department, bargain cave, gun library and more. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. At interchange of I-35 and Loop 4.

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. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 11 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. 6,325 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 wildflowers each spring. Annual Bluebonnet Festival is held the second weekend in April. 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. Visit www.burnetchamber.org; e-mail address: info@burnetchamber.org.

BLACK ROCK PARK—About 18 miles west on Lake Buchanan. See BUCHANAN DAM.

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



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STXDOT

Fort Croghan Museum in Burnet



Vanishing Texas River Cruise near Burnet

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 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. www.fortcroghan.org.

HIGHLAND LAKES CAF AIR MUSEUM—Headquarters for Commemorative Air Force Highland Lakes 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 fee.

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.

LAKE BUCHANAN ADVENTURES—Experience the scenic beauty and history of the Texas Hill Country by taking a guided boat excursion on Lake Buchanan. Canoe trips, winery tours, island beach parties, sunset cruises, bird watching trips and more are available. Also special trips, catered lunches and dinners, and other options can be arranged. For more information, call 512/755-5448. www.lakebuchananadventures.com.

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 fee. For tour information, call 830/598-2283.

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.

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; 800/728-8735 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 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-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.

DEVIL'S SINKHOLE STATE NATURAL AREA—See ROCKSPRINGS listing.



Camp Verde

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—Known as “The Water Recreation Capital of Texas,” this popular recreational area has 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, shopping, water recreation activities and area events, contact the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce at 800/528-2104, or visit 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 where hundreds of dinosaur tracks were discovered in the early 1980s. Open Fri. - Mon. 1 - 5 p.m. beginning June 1 through Labor Day; Winter months, Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On 4831 F.M. 2673 between Sattler and Startzville. For information, call 830/899-4542. Admission fee. www.heritage-museum.info.

LAKE—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

CASTROVILLE

Pop. 2,664 Alt. 760 Map R-15

GENERAL—“The Little Alsace of Texas” rich in European appearance and traditions, founded in 1844 by Henri Castro, an impresario 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. More than 50 buildings and houses are registered as historic.

Castroville Regional Park on Medina River has picnicking, swimming pool, fishing, bird and butterfly watching, athletic courts, rest rooms and showers, and camping with hookups (fee). South off U.S. 90 at west edge of city. For more information call 830/931-0033 or e-mail castrovillepark@sbcglobal.net.

LAKE—Medina. See LAKES listing.

LANDMARK INN STATE HISTORIC SITE—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 10 rooms are air conditioned. Interpretive center, old water-powered grist mill and other structures. Room rates are \$60 - \$95 daily. Advance reservations advisable. Open daily from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Florence and Florella sts, just off U.S. 90. 830/931-2133.

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.

SHOOTING STAR MUSEUM—Dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation and exhibition of vintage aircrafts, historical aviation items, antique autos, and early 20th-century farming equipment and gasoline engines. Museum provides an educational opportunity for visitors with fully operational exhibits. Located 12 miles west of San Antonio in Castroville and open Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., other times by appointment. No admission fee but donations accepted. 830/931-3837.

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 Sunday closest to Aug. 25. Visitors welcomed. U.S. 90 and Angelo St.

STEINBACH HOUSE—Two-and-one-half-story timber and brick “fachwerk” built in early 1600s in Wahlbach, France, then disassembled and shipped to Castroville in 1998. House was reassembled in 1999, and complete restoration was finished in 2002. Authentic Alsatian furniture can be found throughout the house. Group tours available by appointment. For information, call the Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce at 830/538-3142.

CEDAR PARK

Pop. 42,618 Alt. 950 Map P-16/EE-12

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 gauge 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 Convention & Visitor Bureau via mail at 600 North Bell Blvd., 78613, or by phone at 512/401-5000, or visit www.cedarparktx.us.

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 fee.

LAKE—Travis. See LAKES listing.

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

CEDAR PARK

Just northwest of Austin, approaching Texas' glorious Hill Country, you'll find a spot where the quality of life is just a cut above. Cedar Park is perfectly situated between the world-class attractions of Austin and its historic surrounding cities, as well as the natural splendor of the hills, lakes and rivers of Central Texas. Take a ride on the Austin Steam Train, explore the trails surrounding the Texas Cave Conservancy or discover the surprisingly vast and eclectic shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities Cedar Park has to offer you and your family. If Central Texas is your vacation destination, come on over and let Cedar Park be your home away from home!

www.cedarparktx.us
tourism@ci.cedar-park.tx.us
 512.401.5000
 600 N. Bell Blvd.
 Cedar Park, TX
 78613




COMFORT

Pop. 2,358 Alt. 1,437 Map Q-14

GENERAL—Established by German settlers in 1854. Wearing 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 it's a popular tourist area with numerous camps along Guadalupe River operated by various civic organizations.



A historical marker recognizes the 1930 art deco former Comfort Theater, which now houses *The Comfort News* and an antiques store. Seven buildings that were constructed when town was settled remain, including original log cabins, "fachwerk" (German gingerbread) and native limestone historic buildings. A large part of city has been designated a National Historic District and listed in National Register of Historic Places.

Annual events include daylong Christmas in Comfort on Sat. after Thanksgiving, Independence Day celebration in July, a flea market every Sat. - Sun. year-round, and Comfort Village Antique Show & Sale in Oct.

Bed and breakfast and lodging accommodations offered in historic homes, inns, cabins on large ranches, etc. For more information on attractions, accommodations, dining, events and more, contact the Comfort Chamber of Commerce at 830/995-3131 or visit www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com.

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, 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. At 717 High St. For information, call 830/995-3030. www.bbhost.com/comfortcommon.

Meyer House on Cypress Creek—A 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 middle 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.

VISITOR CENTER—Free maps, brochures, and other information available at center, operated by Comfort Chamber of Commerce. Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 630 Hwy. 27. 830/995-3131. www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com.

CONCAN

Pop. 490 (est.)

Alt. 1,260

Map R-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 800/210-0380 or visit 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 fee.

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.

Rekindle Your Sense of Wonder Visit the Texas Hill Country River Region

Experience the rugged beauty of the Texas Hill Country River Region in every season. Enjoy swimming, tubing, kayaking & fishing on five rivers. Explore the scenic hills while driving, cycling, hiking & horseback riding. Consider sharing the holidays with your family in a pristine country setting. Discover the new 18-hole championship Concan golf course. Find out why we're one of the top birding destinations in Texas! Relax at a river cabin, rustic retreat, guest home, motel, or B&B.

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Enjoy nature trails, hiking, mountain biking, birding, a wildlife observation area, swimming, ranch tours, summer dining shows and more. Relax in private accommodations and camping available. For more information, call 888/853-2688. www.xbarranch.com.

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. 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 Monterey 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 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 daily, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Christmas Day.

FREDERICKSBURG

Pop. 10,087

Alt. 1,743

Map P-15

GENERAL—Settled by immigrant families from Germany in 1846, led by John O. Meusebach. Although settlement was on Comanche frontier, the 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: *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.

Fredericksburg is an outstanding spot for sportsmen to find opportunities to hunt native and exotic species of animals. Hunting leases are available on ranches throughout the area, and the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau offers a brochure on leases.

Fredericksburg Trade Days, held the third weekend every month, features more than 300 vendors offering antiques, collectibles, tools, crafts, clothing, jewelry, and entertainment. Food and drink available. Open Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. On U.S. Hwy. 290 East, across from Wildseed Farms. Parking fee, 830/990-4900



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X Bar Ranch near Eldorado

DEVINE

Pop. 4,140

Alt. 670

Map S-15

GENERAL—Created as station on International & Great Northern Railroad in 1881 although scattered settlement dates from 1840s; 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 battles with Indians. 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-12

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. For more information, call the Eldorado Chamber of Commerce at 325/853-3109.

SCHLEICHER COUNTY MUSEUM—The museum is housed in historic stone 1930 Hill Hardware building. It has a large 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 Wed. - Fri. 1 - 4 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 five generation family ranch. Experience the nature, culture and history of this storied land.



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Ruins of Fort McKavett



KEVIN STILLMAN/XPOT

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area near Fredericksburg

Approximately 40 percent of all Texas peaches are grown in Fredericksburg and surrounding Gillespie County, with more than 1,400 acres of commercial production located within the county. Peach season typically runs mid-late May - early Aug.

The city was also home to the first Volkssporting event ever held in the U.S. in 1976, and the city's Pilgrimage Routes consist of three different sanctioned walking routes that can be walked year-round.

For nearby points of interest, also see **KERRVILLE**, **LUCKENBACH**, **STONEWALL**, and **JOHNSON CITY**.

BED & BREAKFAST—More than 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 visit www.fredericksburg-texas.com. Many of these accommodations are booked through lodging services, which include Be My Guest Lodging Services at 830/997-7227 or 866/997-7227; First Class Bed & Breakfast Reservation Service at 830/997-0443 or 888/991-6749; Fredericksburg Traditionals at 800/494-HOST; Gasthaus Schmidt Reservation Service at 830/997-5612 or 866/427-8374; and Main Street Bed & Breakfast Reservation Service at 830/997-0153 or 888/559-8555.

DDD ADVENTURE GOLF—18-hole miniature golf course, complete with waterfall and challenging water features throughout the course. Handicapped accessible. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m., Sun. noon - 10 p.m. Admission Fee. At 714 S. Washington. 830/997-3533

ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA—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 is about 640 acres; 1,825 feet high. Open year-round. Hiking, rock climbing and rappelling, as well as picnicking in designated areas. Primitive backpack camping and walk-in tent camping only (reservations recommended). **NO RV, CAMPER OR TRAILER CAMPING.** *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 when parking is available.* For park information, call 325/247-3903. Eighteen miles north off R.R. 965. Admission fee.

FORT MARTIN SCOTT—Site of first federal fort established in Texas, 1848, (three years after Texas joined the U.S.), to guard the frontier. But German

settlers had already arrived and established a treaty of friendship with Comanches residing in the area. 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.

The 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. Managed by the Gillespie County Historical Society; two miles east on U.S. 290. Open Tue. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. No Admission fee.

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. - 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.; and Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more information, call 830/997-1646. For more info on bed & breakfasts, call the Hangar Hotel at 830/997-9990.

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, tearoom with herbal desserts, and bed and breakfast. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Tours and herbal luncheons welcome with advance notice. 405 Whitney St., six blocks south on Milam, off Main Street; 800/259-HERB (4372) or 830/997-8615. www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com

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—Horseback riding is available at **Double B Ranch and Resort**, call 830/990-9500.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON PARK—Excellent 330-acre municipal park features fully equipped RV sites (fees), 18-hole golf course, Live Oak Wilderness Trail, swimming, tennis, volleyball, badminton. Shaded picnic areas with grills, group pavilions. Small lake for row boating, canoes, and fishing. Texas 16, 3.5 miles south. For tee times, call 830/997-4010 or 800/950-8147. For park information or RV reservations, call 830/997-4202.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK—See **STONEWALL**.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE—See **STONEWALL**.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR—A property of the Texas Historical Commission and operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, spread over nearly nine acres, 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, and raised in the hotel; (2) the George Bush Gallery of the National Museum of the Pacific War, with life-size and lifelike exhibits from American and Japanese battles during the War in the Pacific; (3) Garden of Peace, gift from the people of Japan; (4) the Pacific Combat Zone, showcasing a collection of rare artifacts in realistic Pacific War settings; (5) the Memorial Wall and courtyard with brick pavers and plaques in honor and memory of ships, units, organizations and individuals who served in World War II; (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; and (7) museum bookstore and gift shop located at 328 E. Main.

At 340 E. Main St., interior exhibits open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., outside exhibits open 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.; except Christmas and Thanksgiving. For information about the museum and for special events held throughout the year, call 830/997-4379 or visit www.nimitz-museum.org. Admission fee.

OLD TUNNEL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA—The wildlife management area is open nightly from May - Oct. for a spectacular emergence of up to 3 million Mexican free-tailed bats from an abandoned tunnel of the old San Antonio, Fredericksburg and Northern Railway Co. that operated from 1913 to 1942. The upper viewing deck is free. Every Thurs. - Sun. guided tours are given to the lower observation deck with a fee. Reservations are not accepted. Group tours by reservation only Mon. - Wed. For information and reservations for the tour, call 866/978-BATS.

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. 830/997-6513.

PIONEER MUSEUM COMPLEX—Centers on an eight-room furnished pioneer home and store, built in 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 or 830/990-8441. 309 W. Main St. Admission fee.

RACE BARN—This simulcast facility carries horse and greyhound racing from some of the finest tracks in the country, including races from Belmont in New York, Churchill Downs in Kentucky, and Del Mar in California, on 34 television screens. Open for pari-mutuel betting and simulcast racing Thurs. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Restaurant open for lunch and dinner. For more information, call 830/997-4058.

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. One of the most well-known Sunday Houses is the Weber Sunday House, located on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum Complex. (Private residences, open only on occasional tours. Some now serve as bed & breakfasts.)

VEREINS 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 or 830/997-7832. Admission fee.

VISITOR INFORMATION—Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitor Bureau is at 302 E. Austin St. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Free information, maps, walking tour guide of historic district. 830/997-6523 or 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. "The Meadows," at the Wildseed Farm, features a 3,000 square-foot live 'Butterfly Haus,' more than 80 acres of flowers fields, gorgeous display gardens, colorful walking trail and trail photos featuring hundreds of plant and flower varieties. Daily admission fee. 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 1976 with vineyards planted in abandoned fields; old-world-type buildings house winery. Complimentary tour and tasting. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (for other days please call for an appointment). *Bell Mountain Wine Cellars* offers complimentary tasting, wine accessories and gourmet foods. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. Noon - 5 p.m. 830/997-9750. On Texas 16, 14 mi. north. 830/685-3297. www.bellmountainwine.com

Chisholm Trail Winery—Opened in 1999, winery located just outside Fredericksburg in beautiful Hill County. Adjacent to Spring Creek Vineyard. Tours and tasting room open Thurs. - Mon. noon - 6 p.m. (closed Tues. - Wed.) On Usener Road, off U.S. 290 nine miles west of Fredericksburg. 830/990-2675 or toll-free 877/990-2675.

Fredericksburg Winery—Operation began May 8, 1996, with a special rosé wine to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fredericksburg. The winery includes a tasting room and gift shop. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5:30 p.m. At 247 W. Main St., one block west of the courthouse. 830/990-8747.

Grape Creek Vineyard—See STONEWALL.

Oberhof Winery & Wine Cellars—Complimentary tastings of Bell Mountain varietal and vintage wines, Oberhof specialty wines. Extensive gourmet foods selection. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 1406 S. U.S. 87. 830/997-8969.

Torre Di Pietra Winery—Features winery tours and gift shop. Live music on selected dates. Open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. 10915 E. U.S. Hwy. 290. 830/990-9755.

GEORGETOWN

Pop. 28,339

Alt. 750

Map O-17

GENERAL—Established in 1848 as trade center for agricultural region. Seat of Williamson County at edge of black, fertile farmland and Hill Country ranchland. 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



National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg

J. OBERHOF SMITH/PHOTO



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 fee. www.innerspace.com.

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 and 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 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 800/436-8696 or visit www.visitgeorgetown.com.

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. 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-round.

For information for events, accommodations, or restaurants, call the Goldthwaite Chamber of Commerce at 325/648-3619 or visit www.goldthwaite.biz. E-mail: gcc@centex.net.

MILLS COUNTY MUSEUM—Features replicas of pioneer rooms, general exhibits, local history and photographs, also houses the Chamber of Commerce office. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m. 1119 Fisher St. 325/648-6212.

MILLS COUNTY OLD JAIL MUSEUM—Located in the Old Jail building on the courthouse square. Contact the Chamber office for more information.

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 FM. 574.

HONDO

Pop. 7,897

Alt. 927

Map R-14

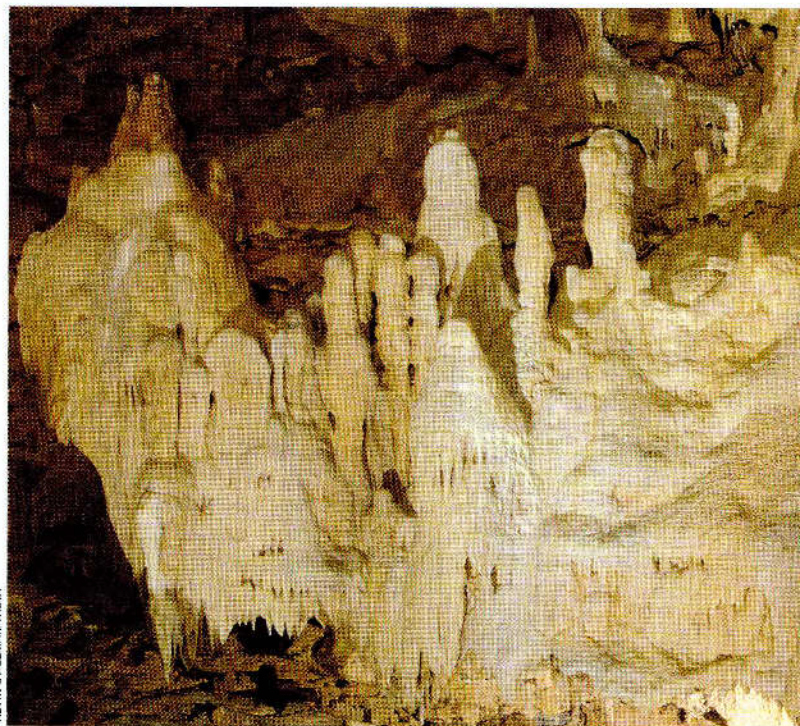
GENERAL—County seat of Medina County, established in 1880s on Southern Pacific Railroad. Takes name from Hondo (Spanish for "deep") Creek. Economy is based on agriculture, ranching, and light industry. City is trade center for western half of Medina County. Hunting for deer and upland game birds popular 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 Hondo Area Chamber of Commerce at 830/426-3037.

MEDINA COUNTY MUSEUM—Housed in restored 1883 Southern Pacific Railroad depot, features pioneer artifacts and exhibits of Medina County history. Several other old buildings from the area, including a barracks building from the Hondo Air Base built in 1942, form the complex covering one city block. Open Aug. - May, Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sun. noon - 4 p.m.; Summer hours (starting May 31) open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed Sun. 2202 18th St.

RAYE THEATER, THE—1940s movie theater, which was closed in 1980s, has been restored and features state-of-the-art high definition surround sound and shows first-run movies. Available for tours, special events and parties. For more information, call 830/426-5757.

SOUTH TEXAS MAIZE—Opened in 2001, attraction offers a labyrinth of twists, turns and dead-ends, all carved into stalks that tower overhead. A barrel train, children's play area, picnic areas and a concession stand also on-site. Also



KEVIN STILLMANTZ/DOIT

Inner Space Cavern lies beneath I-35 in Georgetown

offering vegetables in season and pick-your-own flowers. Located two miles east of Hondo on U.S. 90. Open Sept. 23 - Nov. 26; closed Thanksgiving Day. For more information, call 830/741-3968 or visit www.cornfieldmaze.com.

777 EXOTIC GAME RANCH—Historic, 15,000-acre 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 55 introduced exotic species, the ranch also has an abundance of native 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. The Ranch has also been the location for filming several Hollywood motion pictures.

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 largemouth bass. All fishing is done on a catch-and-release basis, ensuring future anglers bigger and better fish.

The Ranch has recently opened a 10,000 square-foot lodge and eight new bungalows to offer the finest in accommodations. 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.

HUTTO

Pop. 10,000

Alt. 665

Map O-17

GENERAL—Blackland prairie land was first settled in 1854 by a slave named Adam Orgain, then soon after a handful of families, including the Huttos, settled on the land. James Emory Hutto sold his portion of the land in 1876 to found the town and also donated land for the International Great Northern Railroad's right-of-way through the area. The town was named after Mr. Hutto, who was a successful cattleman and respected civic leader. The town was named "Official Hippo Capital of Texas" by the 2003 Texas Legislature, and in 2004 it became a Home Rule Charter City. Currently is one of the fastest growing cities in Texas.

Early 20th-century Texas architecture examples can be found in downtown Hutto, where several brick buildings more than 190 years old can be seen. The Hutto Olde Tyme Days Festival, held the third weekend in Oct., includes a children's carnival, tractor show, car show, silent auction, arts & crafts, parade, food & vendor booths and much more.

Be sure to visit "Henrietta the Hippo," a 14,000-pound painted concrete statue of a hippopotamus, located downtown on East St. There are also more than 150 smaller painted concrete hippo statues found all over the city (whose mascot

is, of course, the hippo). For more information, contact the Hutto Chamber of Commerce at 512/759-4400 or visit www.hutto.org.

HUTTO HERITAGE MUSEUM—Archives detailing Hutto's history are on display, along with photos, antiques, a horse-drawn carriage and period memorabilia. Operated by the Hutto Chamber of Commerce and located at 122 East St. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 512/759-4400. No admission fee.

INGRAM

Pop. 1,740 Alt. 1,600 Map Q-14

GENERAL—On north bank of Guadalupe River, city founded in 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 summer camps for both boys and girls, 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, a 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. 1,191 Alt. 1,197 Map P-15

GENERAL—Best-known as hometown of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Seat of Blanco County, named for pioneer Johnson family, ancestors of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Located at intersections of U.S. hwy. 281 and 290, less than an hour from Austin and San Antonio. Primarily a destination for Johnson's ranch lands, but also becoming known for world-class artists moving into the area. In fact, city is now home to three art galleries.

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 attack while a Texas Ranger. Located west of Johnson City on U.S. 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 open air trams for a guided tour and close encounter with animals from around

the world, such as the greater kudu, from Africa, whose horns can grow more than five-feet long. Other sightings might include the nilgai (blue bull) from India, the eland, scimitar (white oryx), or the North American bison. 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; Nov. 1 - 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. Main headquarters features visitor center, bookstore, exhibits, and auditorium that plays films on LBJ and Laybird Johnson, as well as ranger talks and monthly guest lectures. Down the street, with guided tours daily, is frame structure where a young Lyndon Johnson lived while attending public school. Home is nearly 100 years old, and 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 Johnson Settlement, which was 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. For information, write to PO Box 329, Johnson City, TX 78636, or call 830/868-7128, ext. 231 or 244.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE—See STONEWALL.

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. Located 8 miles east via F.M. 2766. Open daily 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Admission fee, and additional fees for camping. For more information, call 830/868-2304 or 800/792-1112.

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 R.R. 2766. For information, call 830/868-2321, or visit www.texashillsvineyard.com.

VISITOR INFORMATION—Johnson City Tourism Bureau is housed in the Texas Hill Country Visitor Center at 803 Hwy. 281 S. Visitor center and gift shop provide maps, directions and information about city and Hill Country. Open year-round, seven days a week. For more information, call 830/868-5700 or 830/868-7684, or visit 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 325/446-4219.

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, wildlife observation, and picnicking. Canoeing, tubing, and swimming in the

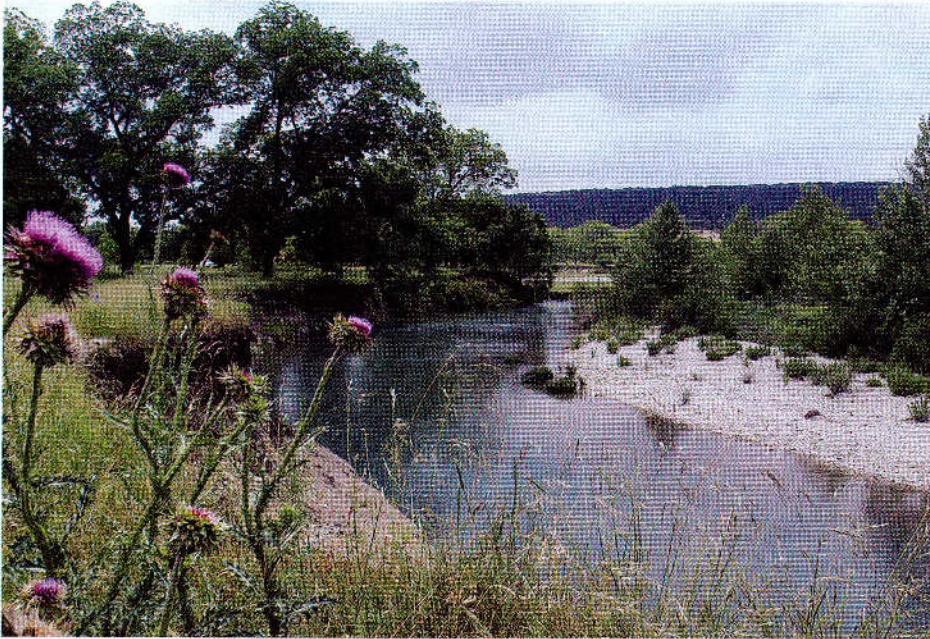


MICHAEL AMADOR/2007

Stonehenge in the Hills near Ingram



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT



South Llano River State Park near Junction

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, 325/446-3994.

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 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 are so numerous that motorists are cautioned to be on the alert for them, especially at night.

Capt. Charles A. Schreiner, born in Riquewih, France, was early, prominent Kerrville settler. He served with the Confederacy and as a Texas Ranger; established general merchandising business in Kerrville, in 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).

Outdoor activities include numerous city parks, municipal tennis center, public and private golf courses, horseback riding, camping, bicycling, shopping, and more. Many "Winter Texans" make Kerrville their home half of the year.

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 Wine & Music Festival on Labor Day weekend.

Major revitalization restored the downtown area to its original quaint charm. Visitors find antique shops, restaurants, as well as contemporary galleries, studios and boutiques. www.kerrvilletexascvb.com.

BIRDING—Many bird species have been sighted, including the rare Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo.

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 Tues. - Sat., Noon - 4 p.m.; call to confirm hours. 226 Earl Garrett St. Admission fee. 830/896-8633.

HUNTING—Year-round exotic game hunting as well as seasonal hunting of whitetail deer, turkey, quail and dove. For lease information call 830/792-3535.

KERR ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER—Founded in 1996 by nine artists, this organization plays host to the annual Texas Furniture Makers Show, the annual Gourd Show, art exhibits, and a gift shop that features the works of local artists. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Admission to the

galleries and gift shop is free. At 228 Earl Garrett St. www.kackerrville.com.

KERRVILLE-SCHREINER 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 fee. 830/257-5392.

MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART—The museum comprises the nation's most distinguished living artists who follow in the tradition of Remington and Russell in celebrating the memories of the Old West. Rotating collection is sure to delight and surprise. A major western art library is maintained, and teaching facilities attract top artists. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. 1550 Bandera Hwy. (Texas 173) south of town. Admission fee. For information, call 830/896-2553. www.museumofwesternart.org.

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER—Blending cultural history with the area's natural history, the center includes an arboretum of Texas trees, walking paths, wildflower meadow, butterfly gardens, special demonstrations and programs. Visitor center open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. 150 Francisco Lemos

Street. 830/257-4837. www.riversidenaturecenter.org.

STONEHENGE IN THE HILLS—See INGRAM.

KINGSLAND

Pop. 8,838 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. Visitors also enjoy activities such as golf, bird watching, antique shopping, art galleries, scenic drives and more. A popular area known as "The Slab," just upstream from city, is perfect for swimming and wading.

Annual Aqua Boom celebration, on July 4th, commemorates Independence Day with one of the largest fireworks displays in the Hill Country.

For more information, contact the Kingsland/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce at 325/388-6211 or visit www.kingslandchamber.org.

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



STAR A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville

exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (till noon on weekend). Take F.M. 2342 northeast 4.4 mi. to intersection with Park Road 4; Park Road 4 north approx. 1.5 miles; watch for signs. 830/793-2474.

INKS LAKE STATE PARK—See BUCHANAN DAM.

LAKES—Buchanan, Inks, and Lyndon B. Johnson. See LAKES listing.

NIGHTENGAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER—Located in a wooded 10-acre site on the banks of Lake LBJ, features exhibits that showcase artifacts, display of field excavations, and an interpretive trail that allows visitors to “walk through time.” Also features chipped stone tools and grinding stones used thousands of years ago found at the site. Open fourth Sat. every month from 2 - 5 p.m. For more information, call 830/598-5261 or 800/776-5272, ext. 6714.

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 Apaches on Aug. 5, 1873, last major Indian battle in the area. Located five miles southwest of Kingsland in eastern Llano County.

KYLE

Pop. 25,000

Alt. 714

Map Q-16

GENERAL—Kyle is eight miles north of San Marcos in Hays County, 20 miles south of Austin and 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-foot 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 512/268-9981.

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. www.english.txstate.edu/KAP.

LAGO VISTA

Pop. 5,360

Alt. 1,230

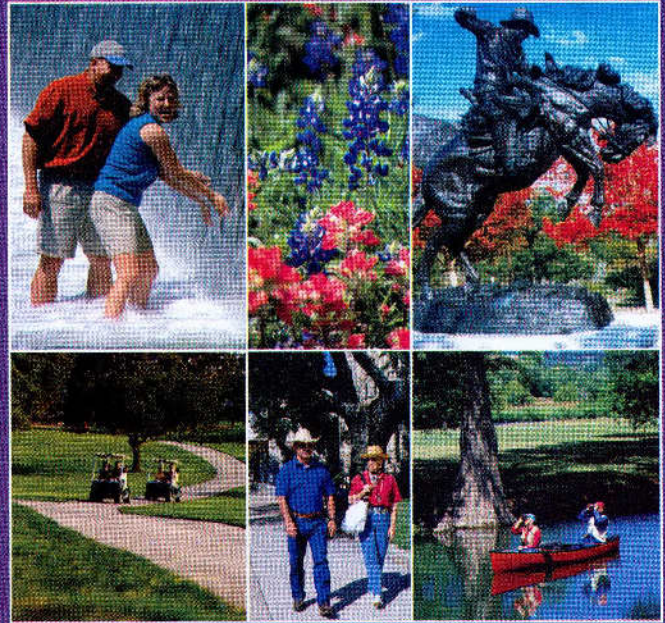
Map P-16

GENERAL—Carrying the Spanish name for “lake view” this city was originally a lakeside resort comprised of homes, condominiums and golf courses, incorporated in 1984. This community encompasses more than 15 miles of shoreline on Lake Travis. It is gateway to the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, home to endangered golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo.

Abundant white-tailed deer roam along the lakeshore and golf courses where there is year-round golfing, boating, fishing, hunting and tennis. Traveling west on F.M. 1431 to Lago Vista offers exceptional hill country scenery. Especially nice in spring when bluebonnets and wildflowers abound. The Wildlife Refuge hosts the Texas Songbird Festival between April - May, Refuge Week in October, and the Chamber of Commerce kicks off Hill Country Dayz Festival each fall between Sept. - Oct. For more information, visit www.hillcountrydayz.com, www.lagovista.org or call 512/267-7952.

FLAT CREEK ESTATE VINEYARD AND WINERY—Scenic location over 80 acres nestled in a setting reminiscent of the Tuscany region. Visitors tour vineyard estate, state-of-the-art winery, walking trails and Pecan Park picnic area. Open Tues. - Fri. Noon - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. Noon - 5 p.m.

Discover Why People Love Kerrville!



Kerrville, one hour west of San Antonio, is an ideal base from which to explore the treasures of Central Texas. Call 1-800-221-7958 or email kerrcvb@ktc.com for a visitors' guide and events calendar.

www.kerrvilletexascvb.com

Six miles west of Lago Vista on Singleton Bend Rd. off 1431. Visit www.flatcreekestate.com or call 512/267-6310.

LAGO VISTA AIRPOWER MUSEUM & LIBRARY—Dedicated to preservation of military aircraft and memorabilia. Collection includes more than 350 model aircraft of all nations from World War I & II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Aircraft include L4 Grasshopper, PT 13 Stearman, RF-4C Phantom Jet and F100 Super Sabre Jet. The library features more than 1,200 books on the military as well as displays of engines, guns, swords, diaries, WWII Jeep and hundreds of photographs. Open Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. and by appointment other days. Take FM 1431 to Lago Vista, right on Bar-K Ranch Rd. to airport on Flight Line Road. Museum is in hanger 9. Free admission, call 512/267-7403.

LAKES—Austin, Georgetown, and Travis. See LAKES listing.

LAMPASAS

Pop. 6,786

Alt. 1,025

Map N-16

GENERAL—Established as Bureson 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 about 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, and mourning dove, as well as 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,



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Flat Creek Estate Vineyard and Winery in Lago Vista

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 or visit www.friocanyonchamber.com.

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 fee.

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 abundance of 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, by calling 325/247-5354 or visiting www.llanochamber.org.

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. 325/247-5354.

ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA—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 is about 640 acres; 1,825 feet high. Open year-round. Hiking, rock climbing and rappelling, as well as picnicking in designated areas. Primitive backpack camping and walk-in tent camping only (reservations recommended). NO RV, CAMPER OR TRAILER CAMPING. *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 when parking is available.* For park information, call 325/247-3903. South 22 miles via Texas 16, R.R. 965. Admission fee.

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 fee. 325/247-2568.

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. 325/247-1207.

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 railroad 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. 325/247-7905.

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. 325/247-3026.

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). 325/247-4839.

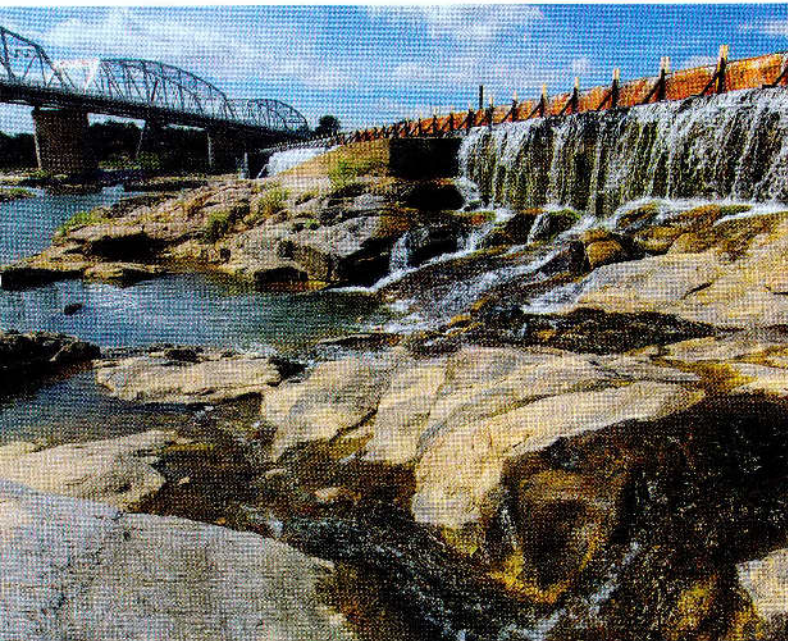
LUCKENBACH

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, Hill Country humorist, writer, and authentic Texas character. An enormously popular country/western song made the name known virtually worldwide.



STEVE A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Llano River

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.

Luckenbach’s bemusing ambience, 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. 6,480 Alt. 764 Map O-16

GENERAL—Founded in 1887 by General Adam R. Johnson, named for Colorado River waterfalls over marble outcroppings that were visible before dam was built to form Lake Marble Falls. City gained fame for providing ‘Texas Pink’ granite from nearby Granite Mountain used to construct Texas State Capitol in Austin. Stone was donated by citizens in exchange for a rail connection with Austin, so the Austin and Northwest Railroad built an extension from Marble Falls to Granite Mountain in 1889. The old depot is now the Visitor Bureau in center of town, and granite continues to be quarried and shipped all over the world.

Birding opportunities abound, from hummingbirds and warblers in spring and summer to American Bald Eagles in winter. Hunting, fishing and camping activities are also 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.

City also features golf, spas, art galleries, shopping and more. Horseback riding opportunities also available. Contact the Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce for more information by calling 800/759-8178 or visit www.marblefalls.org.

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 BEACH WATER PARK—Features a water park and includes jet ski rentals, boat rentals, boat ramp launch, beach, restaurant, and more. Located 5 miles west of city at 200 S. Wirtz Dam Rd. Call 830/693-9172 for seasonal hours, admission fees, and directions.

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. Retail outlet open to public. 830/598-6570.

INKS DAM NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY—See BUCHANAN DAM.
INKS LAKE STATE PARK—See BUCHANAN DAM.

KRAUSE SPRINGS—Spring-fed swimming pool, picnic area, scenic year-round gardens, hiking, RV and tent camping. On-site showers and rest rooms. Best known for mini-falls at natural cold spring pool. Southeast of Marble Falls on Hwy. 71 in Spicewood. 830/693-4181.

LAKES—Buchanan, Inks, Lyndon B. Johnson, Marble Falls, Travis. See LAKES listing.

LONGHORN CAVERN STATE PARK—See BURNET.

PARKS—Beautiful city parks include two boat launch ramps, tennis complex, city pool, playscapes, softball and soccer fields, and pavilion. For more information call 830/693-3615.

ROCKHOPPER’S FAMILY FUN CENTER—Mini-golf, mini-bowling, arcade and game center, snack bar. Call ahead for hours and directions. 830/693-4386

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.
SPICEWOOD VINEYARDS—A family owned and operated vineyard and winery, located in an ancient bed of the Colorado River. Located in Spicewood, just 15 miles southeast of Marble Falls. Tour the vineyard and winery, then stop by the tasting room. Take U.S. 281 South to Texas 71 East, then take C.R. 408 South. Open Wed. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sun. noon – 5 p.m.; closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. For more information, call 830/693-5328. www.spicewoodvineyards.com.

SWEET BERRY FARM—Pick your own strawberries and blackberries, also enjoy hayrides, petting zoo, hay mazes, fall pumpkin and gourd patch, picnic area and more. Call ahead for seasonal hours and directions. Take Hwy. 1431 west to F.M. 1980, then go north approx. two miles. 830/798-1462.

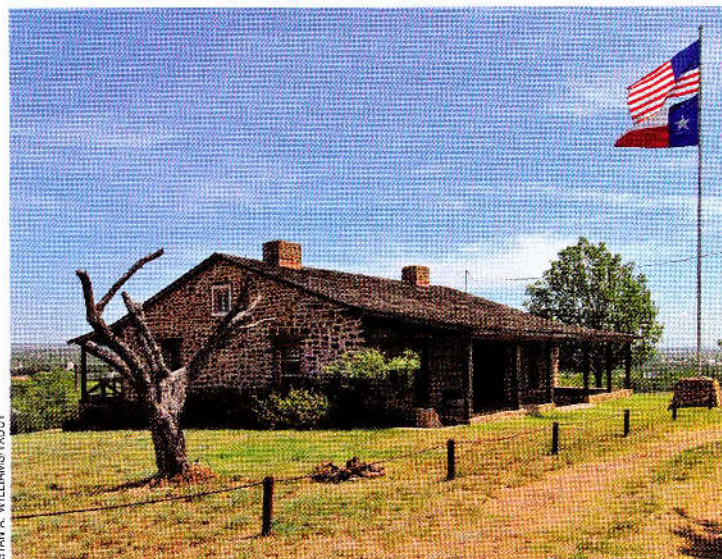
VANISHING TEXAS RIVER CRUISE—See BURNET.

VISITORS CENTER—Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center is housed in the Historical Railroad Depot, which is more than 100 years old. Open Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Additional information can be found outside after business hours. 800/759-8178. www.marblefalls.org.

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 val-



STEVE A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Fort Mason



leys 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.

Pick up "Walking Tour Brochure" at Chamber to explore historic town square. Quaint courthouse built in 1909 sits on lush green lawns amid soaring pecan trees and provides great photo opportunities. The Historic Oden Theater, located on the square, is the oldest continuously-operating movie theater in Texas, and first-run movies are shown Fri. - Mon.

Don't miss Roundup Rodeo Weekend held the second weekend in July.

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 325/347-5758. Visit www.masonxccc.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 325/347-5758.

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 325/347-6449.

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 outside the library to see the "Old Yeller" statue. Other exhibits include information on the Eckert James River Bat Cave and genealogical information about early Mason families. Open daily, except Sun., just south of the square. For information, call 325/347-5446.

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. At 300 Moody St. For hours, call Mason County Chamber of Commerce at 325/347-5758.

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.

MENARD

Pop. 1,653 Alt. 1,960 Map O-12

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 a lost silver mine still circulate in area. Annual Jim Bowie Day is in Sept. For more information, visit the Menard Chamber of Commerce at 100 San Saba St.

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 at 325/396-2365.

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.).

MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT



Historic Ditch Walk in Menard

For information, call the chamber of commerce at 325/396-2365.

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 in 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. 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. Check with the chamber of commerce for additional information at 325/396-2365.

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. - Fri. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Hours may vary; call 325/835-2704 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 Mertzon. 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-13

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 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 is 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.

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 Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 386 W. San Antonio. Admission fee. www.nbchildren.org.

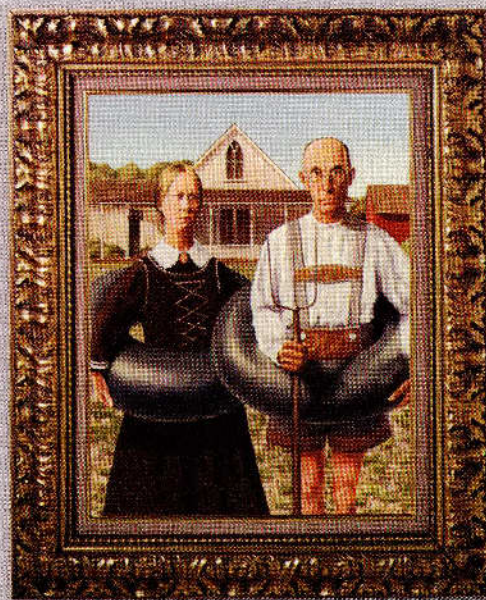
CLEAR SPRINGS AVIARIES AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS—Visitors have a chance to walk through seven acres of a 35-acre park that is home to more than 200 species of exotic birds and animals. There is a two-acre lake, a duck pond, and more than 2,000 species of exotic plants. Self-guided tour through landscaped 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 fee.

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 fee.

DRY COMAL CREEK VINEYARDS—Located just six miles west of New Braunfels, this Hill Country winery and vineyard offers visitors the chance to tour the facilities and sample vintages in the tasting room. Open daily noon - 5 p.m. At 1741 Herbelin Rd., just off Texas 46 West. 830/885-4121. www.drycomalcreek.com.

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



Art New Braunfels

From the oil paintings in our galleries to the water colors of the Guadalupe, you'll appreciate the stunning views in New Braunfels. No tube required. Call (800) 572-2626 or visit www.nbjumpin.com.

New Braunfels

T E X A S

Jump in

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. www.gruenehomesteadinn.com.

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. Giovanni's 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 situated among 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 fee.

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 fee.

www.nbheritagevillage.com.

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS—See SAN ANTONIO.

NATURAL BRIDGE WILDLIFE RANCH—See SAN ANTONIO.

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; Gruene River Co., 830/625-2800 (gruenervrco@gruene.net); Guadalupe River Station, 830/964-2850; Jerry's Rentals, 830/625-2036 (www.jerrysrentals.com); Maricopa River Rides, 830/964-2222 or 800/460-8891; Landa Falls, 830/627-1440; R-B's Tube Rental, 830/625-5889; Rio Raft Co., 830/964-3613 (rioraft@gvtc.com); Riverbank Outfitters, 830/625-3037 (riverbank@compuvision.net); and Rockin 'R' River Rides, 830/629-9999 or 800/553-5628 (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—65-acre Texas gem named America's No. 1 waterpark by the *Travel Channel*. Located along the banks of the Comal River, Schlitterbahn has something for kids of all ages, including tube chutes, water slides, uphill water coasters, pools, hot tubs, kid's water playgrounds, shady picnic grounds and year-round resort rooms. Amenities include free parking, free use of inner tubes, and guests are welcome to bring in their own picnic basket and cooler into the park; no alcohol or glass containers please. The entire park is open weekends beginning Apr. 29, daily May 20 - Aug. 20, weekends Aug. 26 - Sept. 17. For hours, rates, and room reservations, call 830/625-2351. 400 N. Liberty St. Admission fee. www.schlitterbahn.com.

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 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 fee. www.nbttx.com/sophienberg.

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, 800/572-2626. Visit www.nbcham.org.

WAGENFUEHR 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 barber-shop; museum features hand-carved miniature circus animals, pictures made from rocks, dolls from around the world, handmade 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 fee.

OZONA

Pop. 3,700

Alt. 2,348

Map O-11

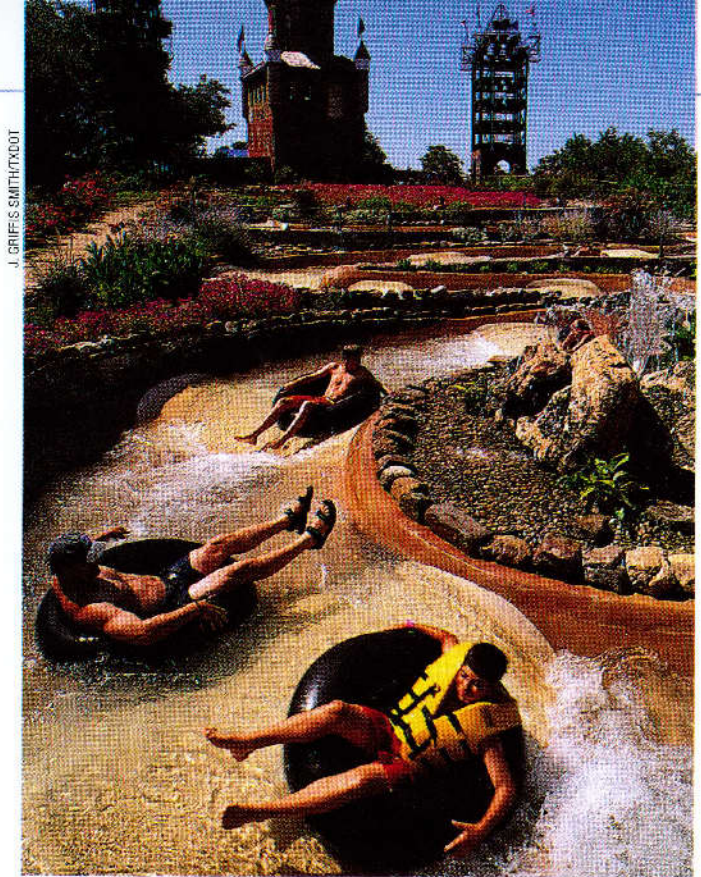
GENERAL—Known as "Biggest Little Town in the World," located 82 miles southwest of San Angelo on I-10. Seat of Crockett County, and the only town in the county's 3,215 square miles, west ranching and oil area. One of nation's top areas in wool and mohair production. In Edwards Plateau region, hunters find white-tailed deer, javelina and upland game birds. County, organized in 1891 under giant Oak tree, which stands today and shades historical marker describing the event, is named for Davy Crockett and is the eighth largest of all 254 counties in Texas. Other historical markers can be found throughout city.

CROCKETT COUNTY FAIR PARK & CONVENTION CENTER—Present location of Emerald House, oldest dwelling in county.

Moved from town of Emerald when Ozona became the county seat in 1891. Park offers playgrounds and picnic facilities. East edge of city.

CROCKETT COUNTY HERITAGE APPRECIATION MONUMENT—Memorial to the pioneer families that came to settle the land

and to those who followed. Located in the center of the town's square.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/DCOT

Schlitterbahn water park in New Braunfels

CROCKETT COUNTY MUSEUM—Three-story museum includes exhibits like a blacksmith shop, western heritage room, wool and mohair room, bank room and business room. Indian artifacts, early ranching articles and period collections. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 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 Cavalry 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.

OZONA VISITOR CENTER PARK—Brand new center, located at I-10 and 163, this 4,000-square foot facility includes 24-hour rest rooms, local lodging, dining and attraction information. Also includes brochures on communities and attractions within 300-mile radius. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. Noon - 4 p.m. Print our e-brochure by visiting www.ozona.com/crockettcounty. 332/392-3737

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.

PFLUGERVILLE

Pop. 16,335

Alt. 717

Map P-17/EE-15

GENERAL—Named for Henry Pfluger Sr., whose family emigrated from Germany and settled into area in 1849. Town site of Pflugerville was platted in 1904. Today, city located just north of Austin is one of the fastest-growing communities in Texas. Many historic homes and structures can be found throughout the city.

FALLEN WARRIOR MEMORIAL—Dedicated in 2005, three-soldier bronze statue designed by local artist, Mrs. Britta Herzog, honors local soldiers who have given their lives in combat. Located in a clearing between Pfluger and Gilleland parks. No admission fee.

HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM—Two-story Queen Anne home built in 1913, museum is supported by the Heritage House Partners and features many innovative features, such as a gazebo, a pole barn, an original metal pig pen from Sears, an antique hay bailer, the Red Green Barn and Metzger Water Park, and rain water harvest system. Artifacts from the original family and period pieces of



what local life was like in the last century. Also features a beautiful, ornate hand-carved wooden staircase. Located at 901 Old Hutto Rd. Open first Sun. of the month, 1 - 4 p.m. Donations accepted. For more information, call 512/251-4362.

PARKS—City features an award-winning hike and bike trail system through the city. *Pflugger Park*, located in the heart of downtown Pflugerville, features a hike and bike trail that loops around the park, and Gilleland Creek with picnic tables and barbecue grills. Also has rest rooms, basketball court, sand volleyball court, and playscape. *Gilleland Creek Park* features picnic tables, barbecue grills, electricity, small playscape, hike and bike trail, and junior Olympic-size swimming pool. *Scott P. Mentzer Pool at Heritage Park* is a community pool designed for kids, and other park features include walking trail, playscape, sand volleyball trail, and bocce court.

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.

DEVILS SINKHOLE STATE NATURAL AREA—The Sinkhole is a vertical cavern with an opening approximately 40 by 60 feet and a vertical drop to the main cavern of about 140 feet. The main cavern is circular and reaches a total depth of 350 - 400 feet. Freshwater lakes around its perimeter support an endemic amphipod, and a rare aquatic isopod. Both are crustaceans. There is a large seasonal population of Mexican freetail bats that put on an evening show when they leave the cave to forage. Tours to see the bats are available from mid-Apr. through mid-Oct, and guided tours to the cavern are available every evening. Open daily. For more information, contact the visitors center at Devils Sinkhole Society at 830/683-BATS (2287). www.devilssinkholetx.org.

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.

KEVIN STILLMAN/TRXCOT



Devils Sinkhole State Natural Area near Rocksprings

Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau at 512/218-7023 or visit www.SportsCapitalofTexas.com.

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.

PARKS—City features 34 developed parks encompassing more than 1,700 acres. *Old Settlers Park* is the jewel, featuring 2.5 miles of hiking trails, grills and picnic areas, two playgrounds, lake, and more than 480 acres of rolling hillsides for local events and festivals.

ROUND ROCK EXPRESS—The Express is the Triple-A affiliate of the Houston Astros and owned by the legendary Nolan Ryan, his son, Reid Ryan, and former Houston Astros' owner, Don Sanders. The team's stadium, Dell Diamond, is 3.5 miles east of I-35 on U.S. 79, adjacent to Old Settler's Park. This beautiful, multi-purpose facility is available for group meetings, concerts and other gatherings. For schedule and ticket information, call 512/255-BALL, or visit www.roundrockexpress.com.

ROUND ROCK

Pop. 85,000 Alt. 720 Map P-17/EE-14

GENERAL—Established 1854, named for large round rock in bed of Brushy Creek. Today, Round Rock is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. Features several historic buildings that are listed on the National Historic Register. Yearly festivals include Daffodil Days Festival and Three-Legged Willie 13K in Mar., Fiesta Amistad in May, Frontier Days in July, and Texas Outlaw 100 Cycling Tour in Oct.

Home to wide variety of boutiques and unique retail shopping opportunities, and many casual dining stops. For more information, contact the Round

SAN MARCOS

Pop. 41,602 Alt. 581 Map Q-16

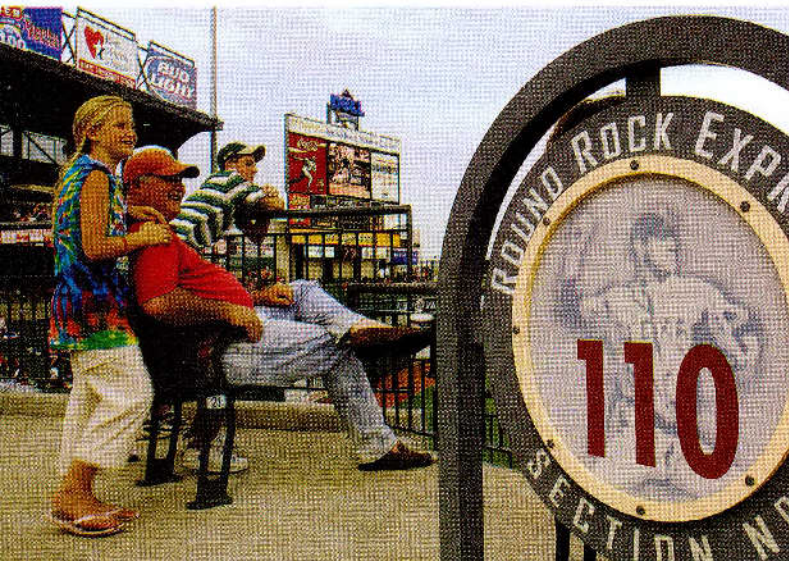
GENERAL—In 1851, William Lindsey, Gen. Edward Burleson and Eli T. Merriman bought the Juan Vermendi tract of land along the river and laid out the townsite. Legend says Franciscan monks paddling up the Guadalupe River discovered a clear river with large springs at its source and named the river San Marcos 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, Texas State Univ.-San Marcos, 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, and the Hays County Veterans Memorial is located on the corners of Hopkins St. and Riverside Dr.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic district. The 1867 Charles S. Cock House is featured annually in the Tour of Homes



MICHAEL AMALDI/TRXCOT

Round Rock Express



KEVIN STILLMAN/ISTOCK

Water Recreation in San Marcos

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.

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. The new "Wetlands Walkway" exhibit, located just outside the park along the banks of the San Marcos River offers a great place for bird watching. With the entertainment venue of the park focusing on nature, Aquarena is becoming a new highlight for nature tourism. Open year-round. No admission fee to the center, but there is a fee for the boat ride. 512/245-7570. www.aquarena.txstate.edu.

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 Tour of Homes, first weekend in May.

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE CENTRAL TEXAS WING—Located in the only remaining 1943 vintage wooden hangar at the San Marcos Municipal Airport. The Centex Wing houses 12 airworthy vintage military aircraft, including a rare P-39 Airacobra and a P-40 Warhawk. 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 museum with a display dedicated to the Doolittle Raiders, including a B-25 Mitchell bomber similar to the one flown on the Tokyo raid. At the airport, follow the Perimeter Road along the fence to the Centex hangar. Open Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission fee. 512/396-1943.

LAKE—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

PARKLANDS—31 city parks, of which 21 are developed, on 792 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 fee.

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. Also a great place for wildflower viewing in Mar. and Apr.

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 if traveling northbound or exit 204B if traveling southbound, or give them a call at 512/393-5930 or 888/200-5620. The center is open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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.

WITLIFF GALLERY OF SOUTHWESTERN & MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION

—On the campus of Texas State University-San Marcos, gallery is a creative center and archives devoted to the photographic cultures of Southwestern U.S. and Mexico; Collection features papers and artifacts of prominent writers, filmmakers, and musicians of the Southwest. Both feature continuous and traveling exhibits. Open daily. No admission fee. Albert B. Alkek Library, 7th floor. 512/245-2313. www.library.swt.edu/swww.

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 is visit to 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-round 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., but call ahead to ensure park hours haven't changed. 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.wonderworldpark.com. Admission fee.

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 anglers. 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 325/372-5141.

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 FM. 580 13 miles to Bend. Follow signs to park entrance. Call 512/389-8900 for camping reservations. For information, 325/628-3240.

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 are 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-12

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. Hunters take deer and turkey during season.

Located where I-10 and U.S. 277 intersect, city is easily accessible. Information on events, attractions, accommodations and eateries can be obtained by calling the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325/387-2880 or visit www.sonoratax-chamber.com.

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 fee. For more information, call 325/387-3105 or 325/387-6507.

www.cavernsofsonora.com.

EATON HILL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY—Nature park offering more than three miles of hiking trails and showcases diverse and abundant array of plant and wildlife reflected in the combined regions of the Texas Hill Country and the Chihuahuan Desert. Numerous points of interest include replicas of Native American culture, birding stations, interesting fossil formations, and a glimpse at Sonora’s wilder history along the Outlaw Trail. Great spot for a picnic, birding, geocaching, and to view Texas wildflowers and butterflies. For more information call 325/387-2615, or contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325/387-2880. No admission fee.

PARKS—*Sutton County Park & Arena Complex* includes the Sutton County Civic Center, playground, equestrian arena, softball and baseball fields, and it is the location for many annual city-sponsored events. *Allison Park* is located along the Llano River, and rustic camping is available.

VETERANS OF ALL WARS & RANCH WOMEN EXHIBIT—

Located in the Historic Old Mercantile Building, this veterans’ exhibit focuses on local military personnel past and present. Pictures, military equipment, letters, uniforms and more lets visitors experience patriotism first-hand. The Ranch Women Exhibit features photos, clothing and histories of the women living and working on ranches in Sutton and surrounding counties. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 232 NE Main St., across from the Sutton County Courthouse. No admission fee. 352/387-2248.

WALKING TOUR—The Sonora Walking Tour offers 18 points of interest, and begins in front of the recently renovated Sutton County Courthouse, which was awarded “Texas Best Restoration” by the Texas Downtown Association in 2002. The self-guided tour includes many historical sites, pioneer family markers, and more. To pick up a walking tour brochure or for information, call the Friends of Historic Sonora at 325/387-2248 or visit www.friendsofsonora.com, or call the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325/387-2880 or visit www.sonoratax-chamber.com.

STONEWALL

Pop. 469

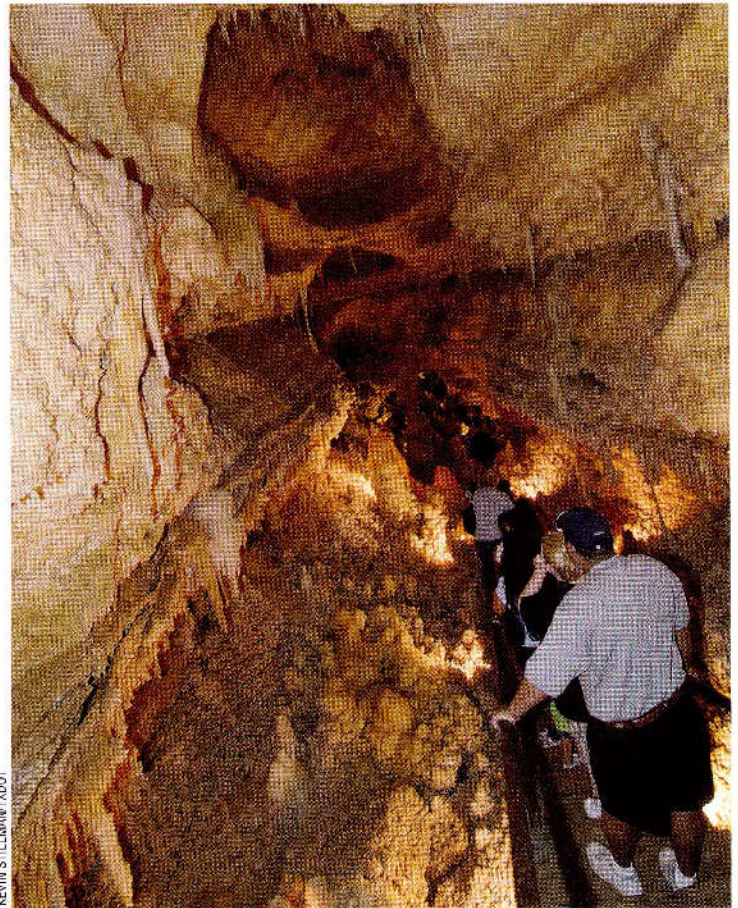
Alt. 1,512

Map P-15

GENERAL—The Central Texas village on U.S. 290 west of Austin was established 1870, and 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. There are 46 acres of grapevines in production, including French Bordeaux, Rhone and Burgundian varieties. Grapes are harvested in July. The tasting room and gift shop features an antique bar originally from the Green Tree Saloon in San Antonio. Three acres of lavender field blooms in May/June. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Group tours available by appointment. On Jenschke Lane, about a mile off U.S. 290 west of town. 830/644-2681. www.beckervineyards.com.

GRAPE CREEK VINEYARD—Features antique roses, gift shop, tasting room and only fully underground wine cellar in Texas. Tours and tasting Tues. -



KEVIN STILLMAN/XTD

Caverns of Sonora

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 B. 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 fee. 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.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE—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. 800/792-1112.

TAYLOR

Pop. 13,575

Alt. 583

Map O-17

GENERAL—Originally named Taylorsville in 1876 to honor Edward M. Taylor, an official of the Houston Belt & Terminal Railroad. Rich black soil made cattle and cotton king. A fire in 1879 burned the mostly frame structures in a flourishing downtown. Buildings were quickly rebuilt with brick and mortar, and they are still part of today’s architecturally significant downtown. Today,



L. BRHHS SMITH/ROOT

Sabinal Canyon Museum in Utopia

Taylor is a city with a thriving Temple College Nursing program and a community-owned hospital.

Annual festivals include Taylor International BBQ Cook-Off in Aug., Taylor Bloomin' Festival in Apr., Lights of the Blackland Tour in Dec., and Taylor Rodeo in July.

For additional information on accommodations, dining, and area events, give the Taylor Chamber of Commerce a call at 512/365-8485 or visit www.abouttaylortx.org.

LAKE—Granger. See LAKES listing.

PARKS—Murphy Park is one of the largest city-owned parks in Williamson County, features aquatic center, covered pavilion, and abundant pecan trees. Near 138-acre East Williamson County Park boasts 3,000-seat rodeo arena. A trail provides a link to visitors allowing access to parks.

MOODY MUSEUM—Housed in restored birthplace of Texas' youngest governor, Dan Moody. 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 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 offers a wide range of outdoor activities including swimming, tubing, horseback riding, hunting, hiking, cycling, and birding.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, call the Texas Hill Country River Region at 800/210-0380 or visit 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. 16,729 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 graves of Fisher and early settlers 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 modifica-

tions, 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.

For more information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining opportunities, stop by the Uvalde Convention & Visitors Bureau's Visitor Center on 300 E. Main, call 800/5-UVALDE or visit www.visituvalde.com.

AVIATION MUSEUM AT GARNER FIELD—Showcases a variety of aircraft including a Liaison-4, a Fairchild PT-19 WWII Trainer restoration project, a 1945 Piper L-4 Grasshopper, Douglas B-26 restoration project, and a Burt Rutan Vari-Viggen. Other exhibits include collection WWII memorabilia in display room and in hangar. Hangar was built in 1943 at Garner Field, a U.S. Army Primary Training Base from 1941-45. Usually open Wed. - Fri. At Hangar No. 1 at Garner Field Airport. Donations accepted.

BRISCOE ART & ANTIQUE COLLECTION—Extensive collection of art and antiques owned by former Governor Dolph Briscoe and displayed in the First State Bank. Highlighted masterpieces include original works by Rembrandt and Gainsborough, as well as American Western artists Remington and Warren, and western oils, bronzes, and beautiful landscapes by more contemporary artists. Tours available Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed most holidays. 200 East Nopal. St. For information, call 830/278-6231.

FORT INGE—Built as a U.S. Calvary post in 1849 and listed in the National Register of Historic Sites in Texas, this county park features hiking trails, camping and picnic tables. Located along scenic Leona River, at base of what once was an active volcano millions of years ago. 1.5 miles south of city on F.M. 140.

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. Free admission.

GARNER STATE PARK—North 31 miles via U.S. 83. See CONCAN.

JANEY SLAUGHTER BRISCOE OPERA HOUSE—Restored and refurbished, the Grand Opera House (circa 1891) was once center of cultural activity in southwest Texas. Today's performances given in original turn-of-the-century setting. Tours available during box office hours, open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. 104 West North. St. For information, call 830/278-4184. Admission fee.

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.

PARKS—*Jardin de los Heroes Park*, "Garden of the Heroes," honors Vietnam veterans and features playground equipment, walking trail, picnic facilities and covered pavilion. At 801 West Main St.

Uvalde Memorial Park & Recreational Complex is on the banks of the Leona River. Features include lighted basketball and volleyball 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.

LONE STAR MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM—Located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, and features collection of motorcycles dating from the 1910s to the 1980s. Located four miles north of Vanderpool on F.M. 187. Open Fri. 1 - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and weekdays by appointment. For more information, call 830/966-6103 or visit www.lonestarmotorcyclemuseum.com. Admission fee.

LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA—While they aren't really "lost," the bigtooth 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.

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 rainwater into the deep Edwards Aquifer, abundantly dot the Hill Country.

VOLENTE

Pop. 400 (est.) Alt. 1,231 Map FF-11

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 Lake Travis in the 1930s and residents had to relocate to higher ground. For additional information, visit 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 fee.

WIMBERLEY

Pop. 5,000 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.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Volente Beach Waterpark

Recreational communities, bed and breakfasts, vacation resorts and youth camps dot area. Climbing, hiking, swimming, golf, tennis, arts and crafts, and camping are popular activities. Many artists and authors make their homes here. Market Days, second largest in Texas, are held the first Saturday of the month April through December. Includes arts and crafts, and a flea market with more than 450 booths on display, sponsored by the Lions Club. At Lions Field on R.R. 2325.

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.

BELLA VISTA RANCH—Designed after typical Italian family farm, home to more than 800 olive trees and a commercial olive oil facility. Also offers "pick your own berries" in the spring, as well as seasonal produce, and tastings of Bella Vista Cellars wines, made from various fruits grown on ranch. Open Thurs. - Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 3101 Mount Sharp Rd. 512/847-6514. www.bvranch.com

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 C.R. 173 east one-half mile; take a left onto Blue Hole Road. Open weekends Apr. - Sept. Admission fee, \$5 parking fee. For information, call 512/847-9217.

CENTRAL TEXAS BONSAI EXHIBIT—More than 160 species of trees and more than 1,000 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. 512/847-2514, or visit 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.R. 12 just south of Wimberley, west some 24 miles to near Blanco.

LAKE—Canyon. See LAKES listing.

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 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 Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's Day, and Easter; tour buses welcomed by appointment. Seven miles south of Wimberley's Village Square at 6469 R.R. 12. For information, call 800/929-6686.



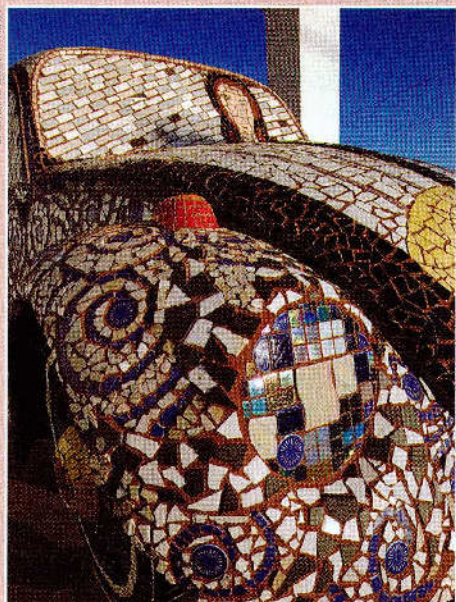
STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Devil's Backbone scenic drive near Wimberley

PANHANDLE PLAINS



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/TXDOT



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT



STEVE H. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: Scenic view outside Benjamin; rodeo in Dalhart; San Angelo Museum of Art

THE STARS AT NIGHT, are big and bright...That's the first line to a famous song about Texas, and it's especially true about the Panhandle Plains. With its wide-open spaces and rolling plains, this region boasts some of the clearest and brightest star-filled evening skies you'll find anywhere in the Lone Star State.

However, that's just the beginning of the many glorious wonders you'll find here. There is rugged beauty all around you, from the vast expanses of fertile farmland to the water-carved canyons. Scenic lakes are plentiful, too.

This region's northern edge begins at the Texas-Oklahoma border and stretches south to San Angelo. Travel west and you can step over into New Mexico, while Wichita Falls and Brownwood are anchor cities along the eastern rim.

The northern part of the region is dominated by Amarillo and its spectacular sights. Visitors hoping to find some nostalgia can find a piece of Americana along Route 66. Just to the south lies one of the state's most beautiful natural attractions, Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Canyon. One of the largest state parks in Texas, it features more than 18,000 acres of majestic scenery, including walls that plunge nearly 1,000 feet to the canyon floor.

Head further south and you'll find Lubbock, which boasts many attractions of its own.

Buddy Holly, native son and rock-and-roll pioneer, is honored with the Buddy Holly Center, while the city pays tribute to its settlers at the American Wind Power



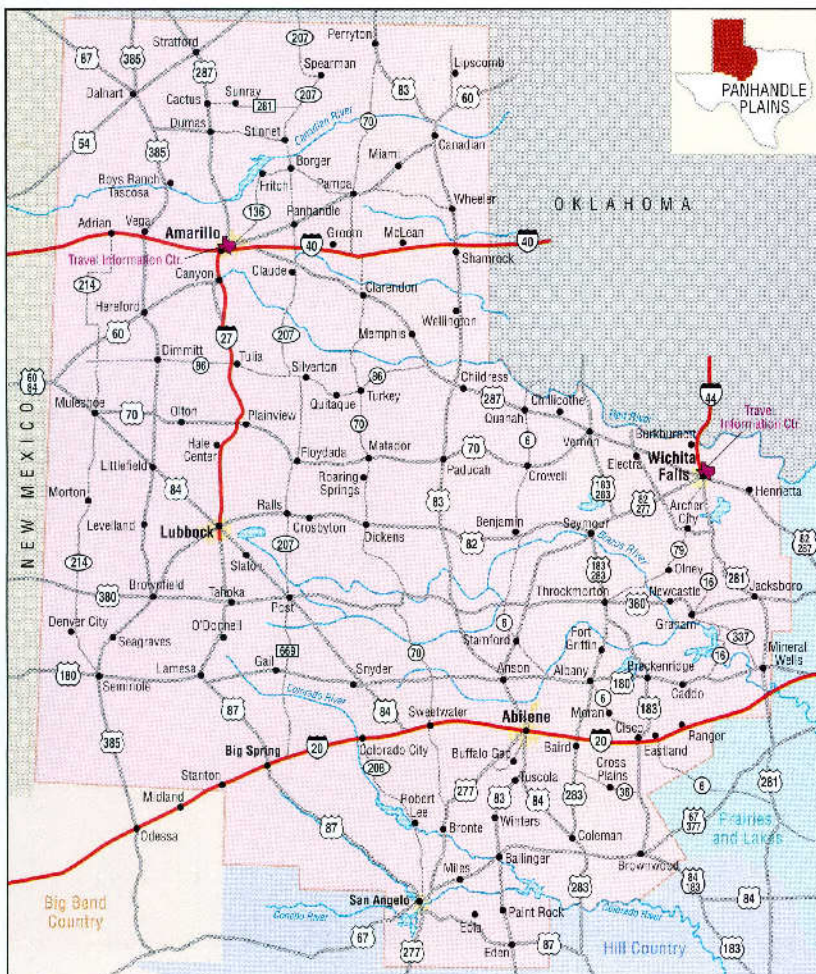
The American Wind Power Center in Lubbock

Museum. The Silent Wings Museum details the history of the World War II military glider program, and wine connoisseurs can visit the city's three wineries and sample some of the state's best vintage.

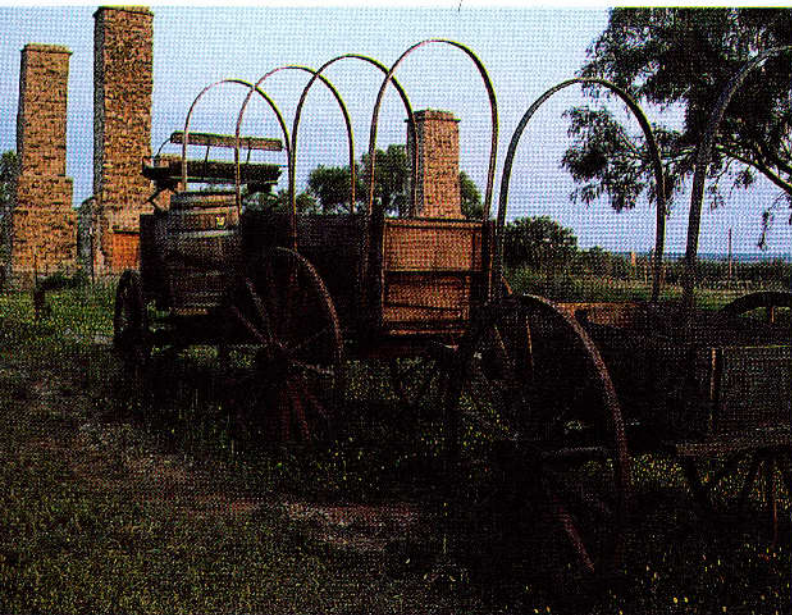
To the southeast lies Abilene, definitely a must-see city. The Abilene Zoo is one of the five largest zoos in Texas, and nearby Abilene State Park features 621 acres of pecan tree-shaded beauty that was once a popular campground for Comanche Indians. A piece of Texas history can be found at Fort Phantom Hill, and Frontier Texas! gives visitors an opportunity to experience life as an early settler on the Texas plains in this spectacular multi-million dollar interactive attraction. Buffalo Gap, just a few miles south of Abilene, consists of 15 structures that detail life on the Texas frontier from the late 1880s to the early 1920s.

You'll also find attractions in the dozens of smaller communities that dominate this region. Towns like Eden, Stamford, Tuscola, Albany, Cross Plains, Sweetwater, Post, Hale Center, Plainview, and many more offer adventures that capture the imagination, feed the soul and entertain young and old alike.

But, this information just scratches the surface of all of the opportunities for fun you'll find in this region. Please read through each city's listing in the following pages and learn about the journeys that await you. So saddle up, pardner, and ride into the wonder of the Panhandle Plains region!



J. BRIGGS SMITH/ISTOCK



LOU LUNN/THE WACON

Ruins of Fort Phantom Hill near Abilene

ABILENE

Pop. 115,930

Alt. 1,738

Map K-13/NN-7

GENERAL—Established by cattlemen as stock shipping point on Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1881, named for Abilene, Kansas. The city later became major cattle producing area with diversified farming. In recent years, oil has added great impetus to the 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 Forts Trail Regional Office at 1025 N 10th, 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 second 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 fee. www.abilenetx.com/zoo/index.htm.

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 artists 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. 325/696-2863. 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.

FRONTIER TEXAS!—Friendly travel counselors and travel information kiosks are ready to assist in your discovery of Abilene, the Texas Forts Trail, and the 63-county "Texas Frontier" region. In addition, see the big picture of the frontier of Texas between 1780 and 1880 as it comes to life, all found in this new facility in downtown Abilene. This multi-million dollar attraction includes:

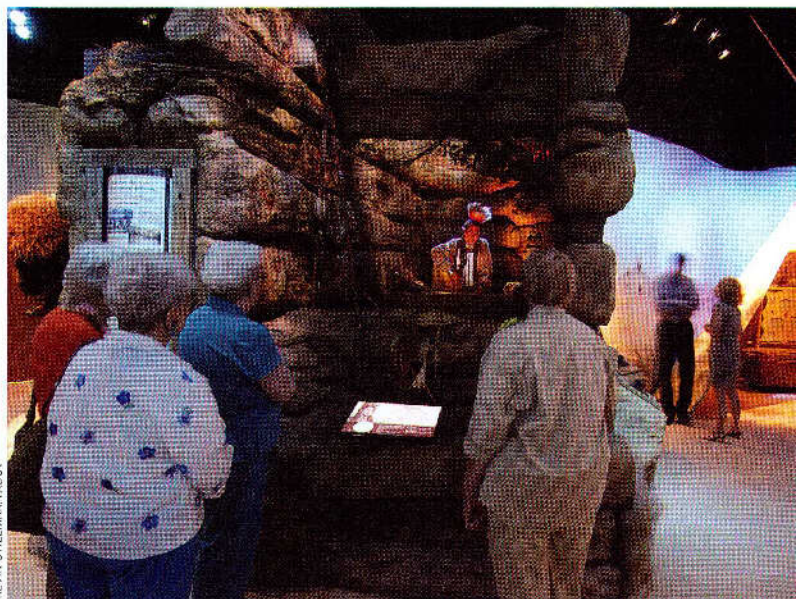
Welcome Theater—A holographic introduction to "Spirit Guide" historical figures—Indians, frontier women and children, buffalo hunters, soldiers and settlers—all icons for stories that follow.

Spirit Gallery—Dramatic media and dimensional exhibits let you experience many different lives as soldiers, cowboys, homemakers, buffalo hunters, lawmen, gamblers and outlaws all seek their destinies. Via the magic of technology, hear and see stories in "first-person" from Western legends like Doc Holliday, Cynthia Ann Parker, and George Reynolds, a man who lived for 15 years with an arrow in his stomach.

Frontier Experience Theater—A full-surround visual thrill ride through Texas frontier history. Feel the terror of a prairie wolf attack, the chaos of a buffalo stampede, the tension of a deadly shootout in the Beehive Saloon, and the magic of fireflies flitting around your head.

Admission to *Frontier TEXAS!* is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and military, \$5 for kids 12 and under. The facility features an open-air pavilion and forts-inspired parade grounds that can be rented for any size gathering. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Located at 625 N. First St. For more information, call Frontier TEXAS! at 325/437-2800 or the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/727-7704. www.abilene.com/visitors.

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



KEVIN STILLMANT/KOZT

Frontier TEXAS! in Abilene



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 fee.

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 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, 325/676-9620. 352 Cypress St.

PARKS—31 spacious, green parks featuring picnic facilities, playground equipment and swimming pools.

SHORE ART GALLERY—Traveling exhibits and works by 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.

12TH ARMORED DIVISION MEMORIAL MUSEUM—Museum dedicated to honoring the 12th Armored Division, which trained in Camp Berkeley, near Abilene, and served during World War II. The "Hellcats" fought in the European Theatre, Germany, France, and finally occupied Japan. When the war ended, the division was deactivated and many of the men settled in Abilene. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1289 N. 2nd St. 325/677-6515. Admission fee.

ADRIAN

Pop. 159 Alt. 3,265 Map C-8

GENERAL—Town began in 1900 when the Rock Island Railroad survey marked the site as a future station and shipping point. The railroad ran along the Ozark Trail, which later became Route 66, creating an economic boom for this tiny agricultural community for decades until I-40 bypassed the town.

Adrian is the geo-mathematical midpoint of Route 66, and the town's motto is: "When you're here, you're halfway there." Today, travelers visit from all over the country to take their photo in front of the sign that reads, "1,139 miles to Chicago - 1,139 miles to Los Angeles." For more information about restaurants, shopping and more, contact the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce at 806/267-2828 or visit www.oldhamcofc.org.

ADRIAN LIONS FARM & RANCH MUSEUM—Collection of antique farm equipment and machinery and is a tribute to the agricultural community. Exhibits include a Caterpillar combine used in the 1930s, horse-drawn equipment, early tractors and a vintage windmill. Open year-round during daylight hours, and descriptive signs allow visitors to take self-guided tour. On East Route 66 in Adrian. For more information, call the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce at 806/267-2828.

ALBANY

Pop. 1,921 Alt. 1,429 Map J-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; No. 2 S. Main St. "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. For additional information, call 325/762-2525, or visit www.albanytexas.com.

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.



KEVIN STELLMAN/XTOT

Adrian Lions Farm & Ranch Museum

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-10/FF-17

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, America's second 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.

Founded in 1887, the city charter was adopted in 1913. Amarillo is one of the first cities in the nation to use the City Commissioner-City Manager form of government.

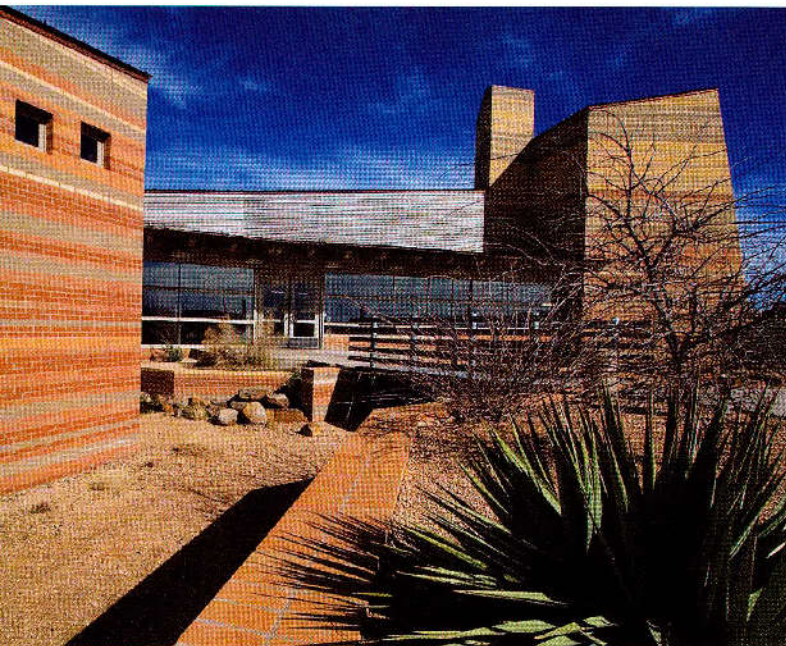
Today, the city features excellent accommodations, a spacious convention/civic center, symphony, ballet, little theater, opera, and is the home of Amarillo College.

Inquire locally about Big Texan Steak Ranch & Opry. Known nationwide for a 72-oz. steak dinner offered free to anyone who can eat the entire meal in one hour. More than 35,000 people have taken the challenge and 7,000 have succeeded. Outstanding country/western performances every Tues. 7:00-1:40 at Lakeside; open daily. 806/372-6000.

For additional information on area events, dining, and accommodations, call the Amarillo Convention and Visitor Council at 806/374-1497 or 800/692-1338. www.visitamarillotx.com.

ALIBATES NATIONAL MONUMENT—See FRITCH.

AMARILLO BOTANICAL GARDENS—Completely renovated in 2000, this museum has a living collection. Botanical Garden features outdoor and indoor educational exhibitions with plant displays, butterfly, touch and smell, and other demonstration gardens. Newest exhibit is the Mary Bivins Tropical Conservatory, a glass pyramid with more than 6,000 square feet of tropical flora and fauna. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Located at 1400 Streit Dr.



J. GENTIS SMITH/TXDOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Amarillo

For more information, call 806/352-6513 or visit www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org. Admission fee.

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—Renovated in 2004, 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. No admission fee.

AMARILLO ZOO—Zoo features a herd of bison grazing on a 20-acre range, plus other animals of the High Plains, and a special "Texotic" exhibit. It's fun for the entire family. Open year-round Tues. - Sun. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. NE 24th St. at U.S. 287. 806/381-7911. No admission fee.

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. www.bigtexan.com

CADILLAC RANCH—"Bumper crop" of 10 Cadillacs buried nose down in field at same angle as Cheops' pyramids. Represents Golden Age of Automobiles from 1949 through 1963. About 12 miles west of downtown between exits 60 & 62. Exit Arnot Rd. on south side of I-40.

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 planetary shows to learn about the stars, constellations, planets and the solar system. There's also a 3,000 gallon aquarium with saltwater and freshwater habitats for marine life, 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. Also includes new digital Space Theater.

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 www.dhdc.org.

ELKINS RANCH COWBOY MORNING—Chuck-wagon breakfasts and suppers with Western entertainment (offered Apr. - Sept.) and horseback riding await visitors at this ranch perched on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon. Check with the ranch about guided Jeep tours available year-round. For information and reservations, call 806/488-2100 or 800/658-2613. Just 25 miles south on Texas 217 at Palo Duro Canyon. www.theelkinsranch.com.

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.

LAKE—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK AND "TEXAS LEGACIES"—See CANYON.

PANHANDLE PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM—See CANYON.

RIVER BREAKS RANCH—Located just northwest of city, hosts authentic chuck-wagon meals daily. Visitors ride on covered wagons then watch working cowboys prepare authentic breakfasts or dinners. For more information, call 806/374-0357 or e-mail info@riverbreaks.com.

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.

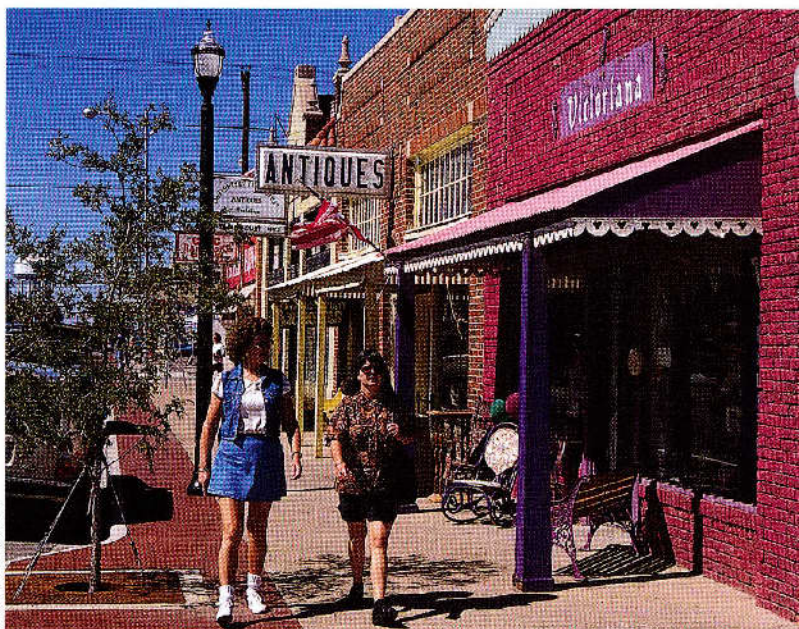
SPLASH AMARILLO—This 14-acre water park offers cooling rides for summer visitors including a wave pool, speed slide, flume slides, a lazy river, arcade, kiddie pool area, and concessions. There are sand and grass volleyball courts. At I-40 and Whitaker Rd. For information, call 806/376-4477 or visit www.splashamarillo.com.

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER—In the Heart of the Texas Panhandle on East I-40, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 9700 East I-40. 806/335-1441. www.txdot.gov

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—Open year-round in the Amarillo Civic Center in downtown Amarillo. Visitors can find information on events,



GEOFF APPOLO/TXDOT

Amarillo Route 66



attractions, accommodations, shopping, and more. Easy access from I-40 by taking the downtown exit, located at 401 S. Buchanan. 806/374-VISIT.

WILDCAT BLUFF NATURE CENTER—More than 600 acres of rolling grassland with nature trails, wildflowers, knee-high grasses and huge cottonwood trees. Outstanding place to see Texas Panhandle's ecosystem. Three miles north of I-40 on Loop 335, just west of Soney Rd. 806/352-6007. www.wildcatbluff.org.

WONDERLAND AMUSEMENT 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 fee. Call 806/383-4712 or 806/383-0832. www.wonderlandpark.com.

ANSON

Pop. 2,556 Alt. 1,750 Map J-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, restaurants or accommodations, visit the Anson Chamber of Commerce at 1132 West Court Plaza, or call 325/823-3259.

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. 325/823-3683.

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 Anson Chamber of Commerce at 325/823-3259 for more information.

ARCHER CITY

Pop. 1,848 Alt. 1,041 Map G-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.

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.

More than 80 area military personnel who perished during World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam are remembered on the "Wall of Honor" in the Callahan County Courthouse. During normal business hours, visitors can see photos and learn about each county resident who fought and died for their country.

Be sure to stop by Grumpe's candy factory, one of only four candy factories in the U.S. producing lollipops for business advertising, and one of only two that puts messages on both the stick and candy. 206 Market St.

The Railroad Heritage Museum contains railroad memorabilia, photographs, and books in historic 1911 depot. **Currently closed but is scheduled to re-open in late 2007.** Call the Baird Chamber of Commerce at 325/854-2003 for more information.

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, stop by the chamber of commerce, located at 328 Market St., or call 325/854-2003. www.bairdtx.com

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. 325/854-1718.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Vietnam Memorial in Big Spring

KNOX COUNTY MUSEUM—Barbed-wire collection and other relics from early settlers on view in county courthouse, which was built in 1936 to replace previous stone structure built in 1888. New museum home is currently being constructed on U.S. 82 where 1920s home of country music star Ernest Tubb once stood. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed holidays.

KNOX COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL—Located at corner of U.S. 82 and Texas 6, impressive monument dedicated in 2000 honors all Knox County veterans from the Spanish-American War through current conflicts. Center arch is flanked by 10 granite slabs listing all county veterans' names.

SCENIC DRIVE—Thirty-six mile loop northeast provides views of farm and ranch lands cut by South Wichita River breaks, where fantastic shapes in layers of multicolored soils can be seen. North on Texas 6 to F.M. 1756, east to F.M. 267, south to U.S. 82, then west back to Benjamin. A roadside park on U.S. 82 provides impressive views north toward South Wichita River and south toward the Brazos River. Well-maintained park is 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 provided water to 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 South-west Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

Heritage walking tour features 26 historic buildings with antique and gift shops, railroad and train display, and memorabilia, in downtown area.

For more information, contact the Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau at 432/263-8235 or 866/430-7100, or visit www.bigspring-cvb.com.

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 and reservations, call 432/263-4931. At south edge of city off F.M. 700. Admission fee.

COMANCHE TRAIL 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. The annual Christmas Festival of Lights boasts more than one million lights displayed in the park, and more than 10,000 people attend the annual Pops in the Park celebration on July 3. 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

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.

Don't miss the Texas State Festival of Ethnic Cultures and Arts & Crafts Show, held the last weekend in April.

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, call 325/365-2333 or visit 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 325/365-2333. On Texas 158.

BENJAMIN

Pop. 254 Alt. 1,456 Map G-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. City named after town founder H.G. Bedford's son, Benjamin, who was fatally struck by lightning as a child. 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. The area is also popular with hunters for its abundance of geese, duck, deer, dove, quail, turkey and wild hog. A jail built in 1887 still stands as a private home, and the safe of an old bank still stands next to the current sheriff's office.

Local lakes Benjamin, Davis, and Catherine offer abundant water activities.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Hutchinson County Historical Museum in Borger



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/DOX

Boys Ranch in Tascosa

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 432/264-1999 or visit www.hangar25airmuseum.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 fee.

LAKES—E.V. Spence, J.B. Thomas, Moss Creek. 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 fee.

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. Displays include a F-4E Phantom II, UH-1 Huey, a tank, and Gold Star Memorial Chapel. Accessible from F.M. 700. www.bigspringvietnammemorial.org.

BORGER

Pop. 14,302

Alt. 3,116

Map C-10

GENERAL—Established following discovery of rich Panhandle Oil Field in 1926. In months, a boomtown 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. Annual events include Adobe Walls Trek in June and Juried Quilt Show in July.

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 boomtown days. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; closed major holidays. 618 N. Main St.; 806/273-0130. www.hutchinsoncountymuseum.org

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 breaks; 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 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 Old Tascosa courthouse that is now the Julian Bivins Museum. Founded and expanded by private donations, the ranch today covers 11,000 acres. Facilities include a chapel, clinic, schools, auditorium, visitors center, and 27 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. Approximately 40 students graduate from the fully accredited Boys Ranch High School each year, entering the adult world as useful, self-reliant citizens. Visitors are welcome at the ranch; open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call 800/687-3722 or visit www.calfarleysboysranch.org.

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 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

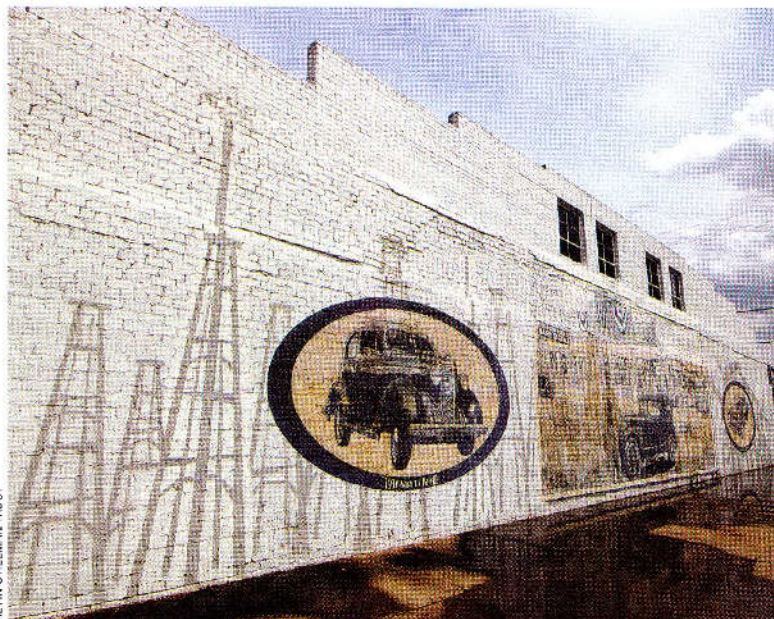
Pop. 5,868

Alt. 1,220

Map J-14

GENERAL—This "Mural Capital of Texas" is the county seat of Stephens County. Breckenridge was established in 1876, but the great 1920s oil boom changed Breckenridge from 1,500 to 30,000 in 12 months, with hundreds of oil derricks sprouting within the city limits making it rich with oil history.

Original brick streets still welcome visitors to the historic downtown area built in the 1920s. Remnant of this boom time, original red brick and native



KEVIN STILLMAN/DOX

Boomtown Breckenridge Murals



LODGE/STILL LIFE/2008

Fort Chadbourne near Bronte

sandstone buildings line Walker Street and play host to a variety of antique and eclectic gift shops. The Stephens County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is in the heart of downtown and is one of 28 historical markers in the county. A Texas Main Street City since 1997, Breckenridge has also qualified for National Main Street.

Presently, the economy is based on ranching, oil and gas, manufacturing, and industries. Home of Texas State Technical College, West Texas, Breckenridge Campus. They offer a variety of technical and education courses, including distance learning through Midwestern State University.

Sportsmen find the area prime for hunting white-tailed deer, feral hogs, wild turkey, quail, mourning dove, as well as excellent fishing in local lakes. Also for the outdoor enthusiast, other sports opportunities including water skiing, boating, jet skiing, sailing, camping, hiking, sailing, swimming and scuba diving. For the bird watcher, the area offers extensive selections of bird species.

BOOMTOWN BRECKENRIDGE MURALS—Winner of the TDA "Best Public Improvement Project" in 1999, this outstanding outdoor collection of mural art inspires the imagination to step back in time and experience boomtown first hand. Influenced by black and white photographs taken by Basil Clemmons, of Breckenridge in the 1920s, these enormous murals accurately depict the city's rich history. A walking tour brochure of the murals is available downtown at the Friends of Historic Breckenridge Rest Station at 100 N Breckenridge Ave. Exhibits of Basil Clemmons photos can be viewed at the Swenson Memorial Museum and the University of Texas at Arlington.

BRECKENRIDGE FINE ARTS CENTER—The center is committed to furthering the arts and artistic environment by establishing and maintaining the fine workshop facilities and providing high quality exhibits for the general public since 1985. Home of the Kathryn Leach Doll Collection showcasing 750 dolls from around the world; extensive collection of festival gowns of Texas exhibit; the 2,500 sq. ft. art gallery hosts changing exhibits all year long; an annual juried show, judged by nationally known artists; and permanent collection of paintings and sculptures, are available for viewing year-round. Open Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 207 N. Breckenridge Ave. 254/559-6602.

BRECKENRIDGE PARK—Beautiful tree-shaded grounds with Aquatic Center featuring a swimming pool and slide, covered pavilion, picnic areas, playground equipment, playing fields for baseball, football and soccer. Located off 180 East (601 E. Walker).

LAKES—Daniel, Hubbard Creek Lake, Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing, Possum Kingdom State Park-32 miles northeast on the popular reservoir. See CADDO.

SWENSON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND J.D. SANDEFER OIL ANNEX—Housed in the historic First National Bank building, the museum features pioneer artifacts and traveling exhibits. The oil history is also preserved in the J.D. Sandefer Oil Annex. Exhibits inside show the exciting story of the 1918-1920 oil boom era through photographs, tools, and an antique truck and model oil derrick. The museums have developed both permanent and temporary exhibit areas. The permanent galleries feature history from Stephens County.

The temporary exhibits give a more detailed survey of important sections of the area's history, which includes the Basil Clemmons Photography exhibit. The museums offer special tours to individuals and school groups. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 116 W. Walker.

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—Established in Oct. 1852 by elements of 8th Infantry, and named for 2nd Lt. Theodore Lincoln Chadbourne who was killed in the battle of Resaca de la Palma in the Mexican War. However, post experienced chronic water shortage and was abandoned in 1867, and troops were transferred to Fort Concho in San Angelo, but military continued to use the facility until 1873. Visitors can walk through the grounds and view the fort's ruins, however artifact collecting and use of metal detectors is prohibited. The site is open daily during daylight hours for touring. The visitor center/museum displays many artifacts from the site. Visitor center is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and weekends by appointment. At 615 Fort Chadbourne Rd., 12 miles north of Bronte on U.S. 277. For more information, call 325/743-2555 or visit www.fortchadbourne.org.

FORT CHADBOURNE CEMETERY—Located near the historic site of Fort Chadbourne, cemetery contains interesting, poignant old markers. Many pioneers and early settlers of the area are buried here, and the oldest headstone dates back to 1877.

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 and playground. 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.

BROWNWOOD

Pop. 20,407

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. Annual events include the Texas State Bluegrass Festival in June and the Brownwood Reunion Celebration in Sept.

City features only adjoining railroad depot and Harvey House in Texas. Depot was originally constructed in 1885 for Santa Fe Railroad line through city, while adjoining Harvey House was built in 1911. Today, restored depot is home to many civic and cultural activities, while restored Harvey House is home to the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce.

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, and 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 325/646-2502. 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 fee. Call 512/389-8900 for reservations.

BUFFALO GAP

Pop. 463 Alt. 1,926 Map K-13/OO-7

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 15 historic structures that tell the history of the last 50 years of the Texas frontier. Visitors tour three historic areas set in 1883, 1905 and 1925, all centered on the original 1879 Old Taylor County Courthouse and Jail. Buildings include pioneer log cabins, medical display, barbershop, railroad depot with working telegraph system, blacksmith shop, 1925 two-room schoolhouse, bank and gas station. Farm and domestic equipment, firearms, and Indian artifacts are on display in wagon barn and village museum. Buffalo Gap Mercantile has a wide assortment of Texas gifts and books. Short video on history of area in visitor’s center. Bathroom facilities, picnic and playground equipment also on site. Open daily: Apr. 1 - Sept. 20, Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m.; Oct. 1 - Mar. 31, closes at 5 p.m. Closed on inclement weather days. Admission fee. 325/572-3365. www.mcwhiney.org.

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 fee. For information, 940/569-3304.



Buffalo Gap Historic Village

CACTUS

Pop. 2,538 Alt. 3,600 Map B-9

GENERAL—Cactus, on U.S. 287 and 13 miles north of Dumas, began as a company town to produce ammunition for World War II. The Cactus Ordnance Works, one of the largest plants in the country, was established as a government project by the Chemical Construction Company in May 1942. After easing the need in the war, the Shell Union Oil and Gas Corporation assumed control of the plant in early 1944. It began manufacturing aviation gasoline. This arrangement lasted until August 1946, when the Emergency Export Corporation took over and reconverted the plant to the production of ammonia, continuing production until August 15, 1948, when Phillips Chemical, a division of Phillips Petroleum Company, assumed management.

Today, Swift and Company operates a modern processing beef facility in Cactus, employing over 2,300. The plant produces high quality grain-fed beef products for restaurants, retailers, institutions, and processors.

Each Sept. the city celebrates *Diez y Seis de Septiembre*, which draws thousands of visitors to Cactus.

CACTUS PLAYA LAKE—This land was deeded to Cactus by Phillips Petroleum Company in 1999 and is used as a bird refuge. The utility lake is a resort for over 80 common species of birds and numerous uncommon birds. At times you can see birds like the bald & golden eagle, falcon, cranes, cactus wren, and kittiwake. The lake is open year-round, and is located on FM 281, approximately two miles southeast of Cactus. No admission fee.

CADDO

Pop. 40 (est.) Alt. 1,250 Map J-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. Located 18 miles north of Caddo via Park Road 33. Admission fee. 940/549-1803.

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 Railroad in the northwestern part of the county. Early settlers held



PANHANDLE PLAINS

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/HH-17

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 A&M Univ.

BUFFALO LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—One of the major waterfowl refuges on the Central Flyway, the 7,677-acre haven is a winter home for a million ducks and 80,000 geese. Once known as Tierra Blanca Water Conservation 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 Umbarger on F.M. 168.

PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK—One of the largest state parks, 26,000 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 shop, interpretive center, and amphitheater where shows are staged during the summer season. Three newly restored cabins available for overnight rentals located on the canyon rim. For reservations call 512/389-8900. About 12 miles east via Texas 217 and Park Road 5. Admission fee.



"Texas" outdoor drama in Palo Duro Canyon near Canyon

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26,000 square miles in a day

on foot?

TEXAS' LARGEST HISTORY MUSEUM

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PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2503 Fourth Avenue • Canyon, Texas 79015

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www.panhandleplains.org

Art History Archeology Paleontology Petroleum Textiles Archives

show prehistoric Indian cultures, archaeology and Frank Reaugh Collection of Southwestern Art. The 'Cruzin' the Panhandle' exhibit features the museum's permanent collection of automobiles. It's really five museums in one with sections dedicated to petroleum, Western heritage, paleontology, 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 features geology, underground tool and oil field displays that give the viewer a 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.

2503 Fourth Ave. 806/651-2244. Admission fee.

TEXAS—Outdoor, musical theatre located in Palo Duro Canyon State Park; depicting the historical romance of the west and the settlement of Texas in the 1800's. With a 600 ft. cliff as the backdrop, live music, dance and state of the art light and sound effects, Pioneer Amphitheatre provides one of the most spectacular theatrical experiences in the nation. Season runs June - Aug., and shows are held Tues. - Sat. Barbeque dinner served before every performance from 6 - 8 p.m.

Also, playing this season is *Always...Patsy Cline*, the popular musical play about the legendary country singer and her most devoted fan. Season runs June - Aug., and shows are held Sun. - Mon. Barbeque dinner is served before every performance from 6 - 8 p.m. Senior Citizen and Group Discounts are available upon request. For more information, call 806/655-2181 or visit www.heritageent.com.

CHILDRESS

Pop. 6,881

Alt. 1,877

Map F-12

GENERAL—Located 110 miles northwest of Wichita Falls and 110 miles southeast of Amarillo, city has become known as a hunters' haven. Many hunters return each year to hunt deer, quail, dove, and wild hogs. Baylor Lake is located nine miles northwest of Childress and is a very popular bass fishing lake. The city also boasts a beautiful city park (Fairpark) with a lake, picnic area, playground, walking trails and the city pool. In the downtown area is Gazebo Park. This park is located on a one of many brick streets that still exist today.

J. GRIFHS SMITH/TOOT



Arise early and see beautiful sunrises by looking across the open horizon and look west in the evening for a spectacular sunset.

Find some nice stores to shop in or good restaurants as well as meet some very friendly people. Contact the Childress Chamber of Commerce by calling 940/937-2567 or email: chamber@childress-texas.net.

Childress is known as Gateway to the Panhandle (located in the southern edge of the Texas Panhandle) and Crossroads of Hospitality (crossroads of U.S. 287 and U.S. 83).

CHILDRESS CITY PARK—The City Park (Fair Park) has a beautiful lake, walking trail, and a playground. There is a 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, period rooms. In addition, the Museum has renovated a section of the Museum and set up displays depicting the Childress Army Airfield that was in the city from 1940-45. Open Mon. - Fri. Noon - 5 p.m., by appointment other times. Third and C sts. NW. For information, call 940/937-2261.

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 cultivated 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.

Big Country Dance Theater, sponsored by Cisco Junior College, presents theatre productions every weekend in July. Call 254/442-5000 after June 1 for ticket information.

Annual events include Folklife Festival in Apr. City also features brick-paved streets, antique shops, and more. There are also several sites around the city where excellent fossil hunting can be found.

For more information, contact the Cisco Chamber of Commerce, located at 309 Conrad Hilton Blvd., by calling 254/442-2537.

HILTON MUSEUM—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 a landmark community center, museum and city park. Also home to Cisco Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center. Open Mon. - Fri. . 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. 309 Conrad Hilton Ave. (Texas 6). 254/442-2537.

LAKE—Cisco. See LAKES listing.

LELA LATCH LLOYD MUSEUM—Located in vintage building that once housed City Hall and was constructed in 1915, now houses historic documents, photographs, and artifacts of centuries past. Open Fri. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Call the Cisco Chamber of Commerce at 254/442-2537 for more information.

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 boomtowns of that era. It earned the sobriquet "Saints Roost" by local cowboys. Seat of Donley County. Many museums have fossilized specimens from the Clarendonian Age found near here, 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, with birding and wildlife viewing, as well as hunting, now popular in area. Don't miss the Sandell Drive-In, an old fashioned drive-in movie theater that shows first-run movies year-round.

BAR H DUDE RANCH—From a hearty chuck-wagon breakfast to mesquite-grilled steaks at dinner, activities are tailored to suit your interests. Horseback riding, cattle drives, birding trails and viewing blinds, and bunkhouses and cabins for overnight stays available. Depending on season, guests can watch cowboys work cattle, mend fences, and perform other ranch chores. Ranch is also a game preserve licensed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and a site on the Panhandle Plains Wildlife Trail. Bar H Maze on the farm open Sept. - Nov. and features three miles of trail in 10-acre cane maze; maze is 'haunted' during Oct. For information/reservations, 806/874-2634 or 800/627-9871. U.S. 287 west 3 miles to F.M. 3257, north 2 miles to ranch. www.barhduderanch.com.

DONLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE—The oldest courthouse in the Panhandle, recently underwent a \$4.2 million restoration. Building is open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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, as well as renovated railroad depot and a Red River War collection. Open during summer weekdays 2 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On Texas 70 south.

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 County. 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



Train at Childress County Heritage Museum



J. GRIFFIN SHREVE/TXDOT

Tule Canyon south of Claude on Texas 207

toward Silverton. For miles agricultural riches spread from horizon to horizon; then the 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.

The Coleman PRCA Rodeo is held annually, and the Fiesta de la Paloma is the first weekend in Oct. Coleman also boasts abundant hunting of deer, quail, dove and turkey. Fishing, boating and water sports on three area lakes.

Visit the Brandin' Wall, located on the south wall of the Coleman County Chamber of Commerce building. For additional information, contact the Coleman County Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Tourist Bureau at 325/625-2163 or visit www.colemantexas.org.

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 May - Aug., Fri. - Mon. and holidays noon - 5 p.m.; Sept., Sat. - Sun. and holidays noon - 5 p.m. 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.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Railhead Trade Days on the third weekend of March, June, and November. The city also hosts its Mitchell County Old Timers Reunion, Old Timers Roping and Cowboy Breakfast the last weekend in Sept. Ranch Rodeos in Apr. and Oct.

For more information on dining, accommodations, and events, call the Colorado City Chamber of Commerce at 325/728-3403 or visit www.coloradocitychamberofcommerce.com.

BRANDING WALL—More than 230 cattle brands that are being used or have been used in Mitchell County on a 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 325/728-5331.

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, 325/728-5331.

GREENMAN NURSERY—Propagation and sale of rare and common native Texas and Southwest plants for water saving landscapes, antique roses, demonstration garden, and educational tours by appointment. Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 1220 I-20 (Exit 215). 325/436-9175.

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, and new exhibit on Chief Lone Wolf. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Locust and Third sts. For information, call 325/728-8285.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 sorghum, 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



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Heart of West Texas Museum in Colorado City



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, 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-round. 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, 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 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 for dove, quail, turkey, and white-tailed deer is excellent in the area.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, contact the Cross Plains Economic Development Corporation, Inc. at 254/725-6114.

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.

CROWELL

Pop. 1,141

Alt. 1,463

Map G-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 Native Americans. 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.)

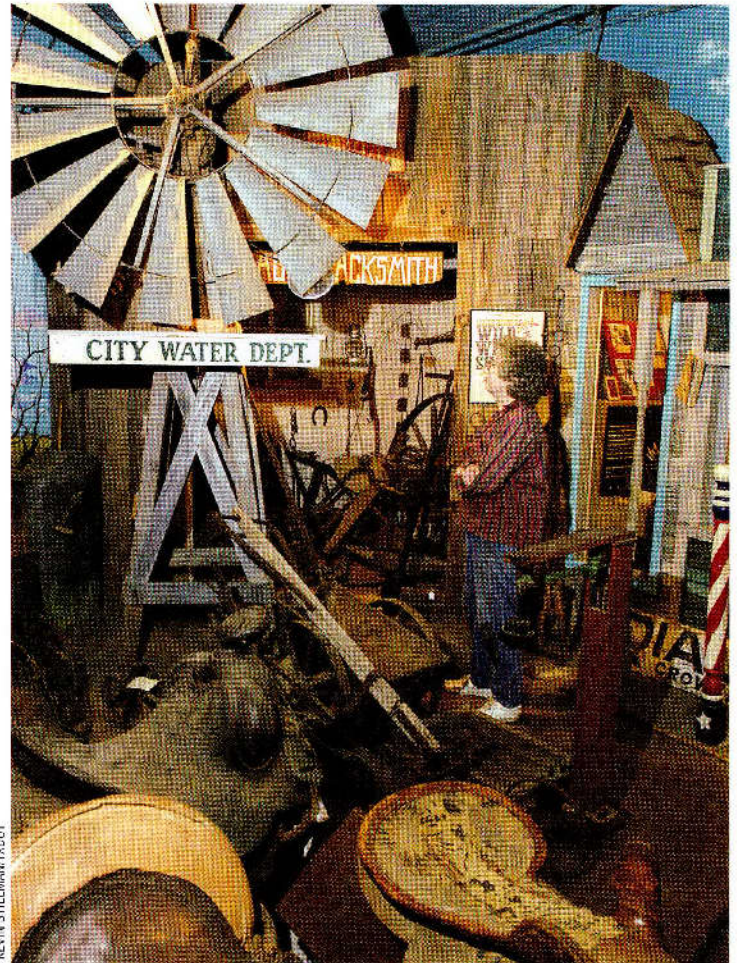
RV hookups available near downtown, also bed & breakfasts and hunter's facilities. Annual events include Cynthia Ann Parker Days in May, and Cowboy Christmas Ball in Dec.

For more information on events, hunting, accommodations, dining and more, contact the Crowell Chamber of Commerce at 940/684-1670 or visit www.crowelltx.com.

COPPER BREAKS STATE PARK—See QUANAH.

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).



KEVIN STILLMAN/GETTY

Firehall Museum in Crowell

DALHART

Pop. 7,237

Alt. 3,985

Map B-9

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 that were deeded by the state to the Capitol Syndicate of Chicago in exchange for building the Texas state capitol 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 theater with professional and amateur stage productions produced by Dalhart Community Theatre. www.larita.org.

LAKE—Rita Blanca. See LAKES listing.

LAKE RITA BLANCA—This city-owned park encompasses more than 2,000 acres and is publicly available for hiking, riding, fishing and birding. Home to millions of waterfowl and has established trails, picnic pavilions, playgrounds and agricultural barn facilities. On F.M. 281 south of the city. For more information, contact the City of Dalhart at 806/244-5511.

RITA BLANCA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS—Public land administered by the U.S. Forest Service is open for hunting, bird watching and hiking. Contact the USFS at 505/374-9652 for more details.

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. www.xitmuseum.com.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

XIT Rodeo and Reunion in Dalhart

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. Event features PRCA Rodeo, fiddlers contest, and the world's largest free barbecue the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August. For more information, call 806/244-5646 or visit www.dalhart.org.

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. 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, call the Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. Main St., at 806/592-5424 or visit www.denvercitytxcofc.org. E-mail: dcoc@hiplains.net.

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.

DICKENS

Pop. 332 Alt. 2,468 Map G-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 Fri. 1 - 4 p.m. Other hours by appointment. At 609 Montgomery St. 806/623-5566.

DICKENS COUNTY SPRINGS PARK—72-acre scenic parkland features walking trails along side springs. Picnic areas enclosed by a tepee and a branded chuck wagon. Open from sunrise to sunset.

LAKE—White River Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

DIMITT

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. A 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).

Dimmitt is also home to the Ogallala Quilt Festival, as quilters from all over the world and visitors gather here the first weekend in Apr. to enjoy food, fun, festivities and competition. For more information, call 806/647-0465 or visit www.ogallalaquilters.org.

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.

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. Recreation areas include eight city parks; scenic beauty in rugged canyons and hills of Canadian River breaks. Nearby Lake Meredith offers fishing, boating, swimming and water skiing.

Texoma (municipal) RV Park with 20 to 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. Events include annual Dogie Days in June and the World Championship Mud Volleyball Tournament in July.

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.

WINDOW ON THE PLAINS—Museum features local history exhibits, memorabilia donated by pioneer families, wildlife displays and Indian artifacts. Room settings include a pioneer town replica. The Agricultural and Industry Building displays combines, tractors, farm equipment and more related to the farming industry that has been vital to the region. Museum also houses the Art Center, which features works by local and regional artists. Open May - Aug. Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. At 1820 S. Dumas Ave. 806/935-3113.



Window on the Plains Museum in Dumas

EASTLAND

Pop. 3,769

Alt. 1,421

Map K-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. Fruit, pecans, vegetables, and feed crops are also important.

A Downtown Walking Tour features historical buildings, all within two city blocks, and highlights Eastland's history. Pick up a map for this self-guided tour at the Eastland Chamber of Commerce or call 254/629-2332. For golf enthusiasts, a nine-hole course and driving range, as well as restaurant, is available at the Lakeside Country Club located just north of city on E.M. 1301. For more information, call 254/629-2892.

Don't miss "Old Ripfest," held the third Sat. in Sept. This annual festival features a parade, food booths, arts and crafts, games, rides and live entertainment. 254/629-2332.

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 theater closed and reopened as the Majestic in 1947. Today, it is a first-run movie house Fri. - Mon. Tours and other programming can be arranged as scheduled. 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 of pneumonia, it was placed in a glass-front casket, on view in the present county courthouse.

PANHANDLE PLAINS



POST OFFICE MURAL—National and Post Office history depicted in 6-by-10-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. 254/629-2383.

EDEN

Pop. 2,561

Alt. 2,051

Map N-13

GENERAL—Established in 1882 and named for Frederick Ede, upon whose land town was platted, Eden is 19 miles east of the geodetic center of Texas. Markers in town honor local sons: General Ira C. Eaker, aviator in World War I, who pioneered in-flight refueling technology and commanded Eighth Army Air Force in World War II; and General Earl Rudder, leader of Army Rangers who scaled 100-foot cliffs and silenced German artillery during D-Day invasion during World War II. Today, Eden boasts a shady town square that features shops, antique malls, a museum and a modern library. Visitors can also find a municipal golf course, deer and turkey hunting, and nearby O.H. Ivie Reservoir for fishing and boating.

DON FREEMAN MEMORIAL MUSEUM—Located on the east side of the square, next to City Hall, museum provides timeline of Concho County's development from early Indian presence, through the influence of farming and ranching, and foundings of schools, churches, post offices and businesses. Changing exhibits spotlight pioneer families. Large area devoted to county's military veterans includes personal histories and memorabilia. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Group tours available. 325/869-5074.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—Information on events, accommodations, dining and more is available at Community Development Department and Convention & Visitors Bureau, located in Eden City Hall, at 120 Paint Rock St., next door to Don Freeman Memorial Museum. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 325/869-2211, 325/869-5074 or 877/869-2211.

ELECTRA

Pop. 3,161

Alt. 1,050

Map F-14

GENERAL—Named after cattle baron W.T. Waggoner's daughter, city is located in the western edge of Wichita County. The Waggoners were pioneers in the area when they established their cattle headquarters here in 1878. Confusion over the delivery of Waggoner mail and the name Beaver for nearby Beaver Creek led residents in 1902 to circulate a petition changing the name of the city to Electra in honor of Electra Waggoner. The townsite opened in October 1907. In 1911, an oil company leased a tract of land from W.T. and the famous North Texas Oil boom was begun as fortune seekers came to stake their claims. City will celebrate its centennial in 2007, including a weekend festival planned for Oct. 11-14.

Named the "Pump Jack Capital of Texas" by the Texas Legislature in 2001. The gusher of the Clayco No. 1 well, just north of town, in 1911 opened oil fields in the area, which today still support 5,000 pumping units within a 10-mile radius of town.

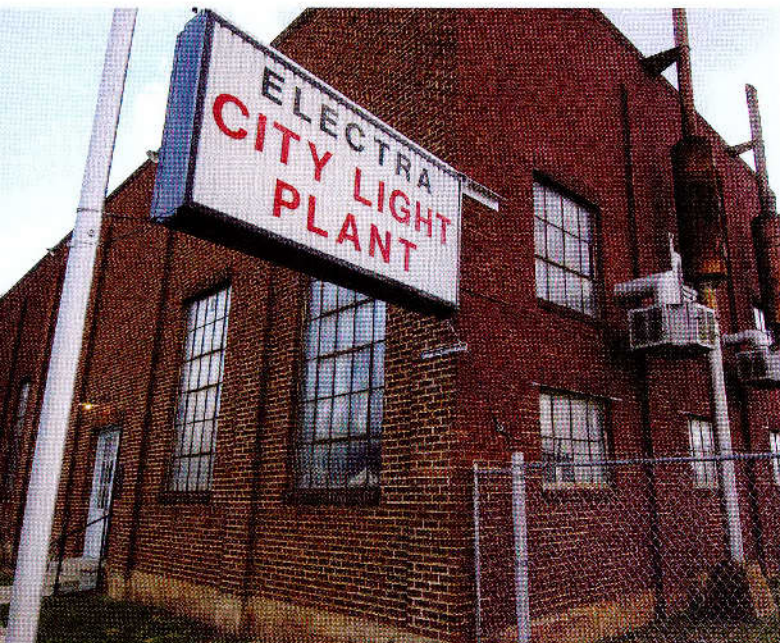
Annual festivals include the Pump Jack Festival (in April) celebrating Electra's oil heritage. Other community festivals include the Electra Goat Barbecue on Mother's Day weekend and the Holiday of Lights Christmas Parade the Saturday evening following Thanksgiving Day.

City of Electra maintains 8 RV hookups at Fairgrounds Park, which features 3 pavilions and a children's fishing pond; Crooked Creek Golf Course, north of city; public swimming pool at City Park. 940/495-2146. www.cityofelectra.com.

Electra was designated a Texas Main Street City in 1998 and has been named a National Main Street community annually since 2000. In 2004 it was named a 'Preserve America' community, a White House initiative to recognize efforts to preserve and share our cultural and natural heritage. The Chamber of Commerce office at 112 W. Cleveland, open until noon, serves as the community welcome center. For more information, call 940/495-3577, fax 940/495-3022, or visit www.electratexas.org.

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT—Visitors can stroll downtown brick streets, take a look at WPA-era art work in the local post office building, or view restoration progress on the Grand Theatre, a 1920 movie and vaudeville house. City Hall, the first brick building in Electra, boasts a historic marker, and a '50s-era oil derrick replica is lighted at holiday time. The Museum Walk takes visitors through downtown, and vignettes from city's past have been erected in empty storefronts, creates a walking tour of community's history.

DUNDEE STATE FISH HATCHERY—Located below the dam at Lake Diverson, hatchery is a research facility producing fish for public waters. Built in 1927 and operated by Texas Parks & Wildlife's Inland Fisheries. Located 22 miles



LOCATED BY STILLMARKING

Old City Light Plant in Electra

south of Electra. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Large group tours can be arranged by calling 940/586-1203.

ELECTRA PUBLIC LIBRARY—Children enjoy the Dink Robb Children's Library; the Texas Collection and extensive genealogical resources provide an excellent base for researching family history. Open Mon. noon - 8 p.m.; Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 940/495-2208. www.electrapubliclibrary.org.

LAKES—Diversion. See LAKES listing.

OLD CITY LIGHT PLANT—Tour the WPA-built brick structure, housing electric generating equipment, which once supplied power to the community's municipal power system. Open Fri. 10 a.m. - noon, except holidays. Corner of Railroad Ave. and Wilbarger St. For information, call the Main Street office at 940/495-3758.

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.

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. 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 AND HISTORIC SITE—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 325/762-3592.

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 FLINT QUARRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT—Just 30 miles north of Amarillo on Texas 136. For thousands of years, people came to the red bluffs above the Canadian River. They came for flint, vital to their existence. Prehistoric people needed good raw material for tools and weapons and Alibates Flint was some of the finest. Demand for the high quality, rainbow-hued flint is reflected in the distribution of Alibates Flint throughout the Great Plains and beyond. Today, this area is protected by the National Park Service and is the only National Monument in Texas. The monument can only be viewed by ranger-led guided tours. Tours are offered by reservation only. Please give park staff ample time to schedule a tour, a few days in advance is best. For information, contact park headquarters at 806/857-3151 or visit www.nps.gov/alfl.

LAKE—Meredith. See LAKES listing.

LAKE MEREDITH AQUATIC AND WILDLIFE MUSEUM—

Living specimens of some 16 species of fish found in Lake Meredith and the Canadian River 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 Mon. - Sat. noon - 5 p.m. 101 N. Roby (Texas 136). 806/857-2458.

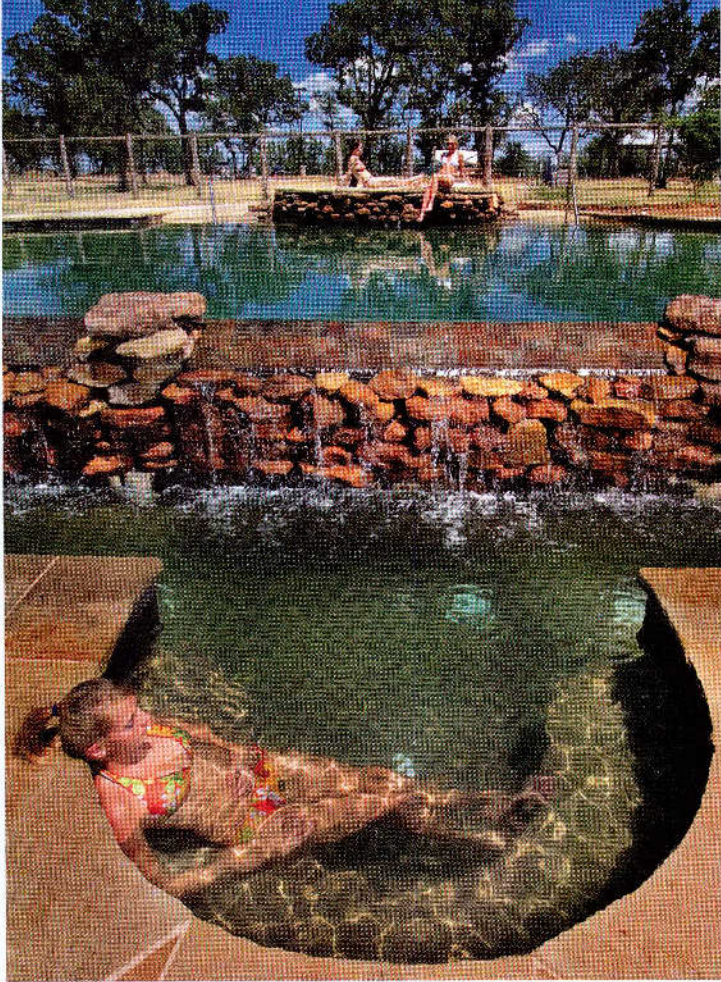
LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA—Located 30 miles north of Amarillo on Texas 136, contrasting spectacularly with its surroundings on the dry windswept Llano Estacado. The Canadian River has cut and re-cut 200-foot canyons called breaks. Sanford Dam created Lake Meredith on the Canadian River and now fills many of the breaks whose walls are crowned with white dolomite caprock, scenic buttes, pinnacles, and red-brown wind eroded coves. Today, visitors enjoy fishing, water skiing, camping, hiking, hunting, and scuba diving. For information, contact park headquarters at 806/857-3151 or visit www.nps.gov/lamr.

LONE STAR RISING—America's newest outdoor musical set in the beautiful Fritch Fortress Amphitheatre. Be transported back in time and join Ma and Pa Carson and other residents of Lone Star on their journey through life in early Texas days. Meet historical characters like Sam Houston, Cynthia Ann Parker and Francisco Coronado; experience a cowboy poetry contest and a Spanish fiesta. The coyote trickster spirit of ancient Indian tradition is also a unique presence in this two-hour western spectacular. The season runs nightly, mid-June through mid-Aug., with a Texas-style barbecue served at 6:30 p.m. prior to show beginning at 8:15 p.m. Individual and group tickets are available by calling 806/677-1706.

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.



J. SHAFER SMITH/STOCK

Wildcatter Ranch & Resort near Graham

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 on the historic downtown square and at a growing number of antique stores, and courthouse square is recognized as the largest downtown square in America. 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. Graham Country Club features a 9-hole golf course, ranked among the best 9-hole courses in the state according to *The Dallas Morning News*. Open to the public Tues. - Sat., and tee-time is not required. 940/549-7721.

Annual events include Art Splash on the Square in May, Red, White and You in July, Western Heritage Week in Oct. and Christmas Stroll & Lighted Parade in Dec.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact

the Graham Convention & Visitors Bureau at 940/549-0401 or 866/549-0401. Also visit www.grahamtexas.net/cvb. E-mail: cvb@grahamtexas.net.

GRAHAM DRIVE-IN—One of a handful of outdoor movie theaters still operating in Texas, features first-run and recent films Fri. - Sun. at dusk during summer months. On Old Jacksboro Hwy. For more information, call 940/549-8478.

LAKES—Fiddleman, Graham, Possum Kingdom. See LAKES listing.

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM AND ART CENTER—Opened in Fall 2002, museum in former post office features historic mural painted by Alexander Hogue, a permanent collection, special exhibits and gift shop. Open Wed. - Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. Corner of Third & Oak sts. 940/549-1470. Admission for special exhibits.

PARADISE ON THE BRAZOS—Enjoy rock climbing, mountain biking, and tent camping on this 1,000-acre ranch located on the Brazos River just south of town. Open daily. Located at 7600 Texas 16, six miles south of city. 940/549-9435. www.paradisoonthebrazos.com. Admission fee.

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. Located above CAF Cactus Squadron hangar at Graham Municipal Airport on U.S. 380 east of city. 866/549-0401.

WILDCATTER RANCH & RESORT—This 4,000-acre guest ranch offers visitors a chance to fish, hike, rock climb, practice archery, skeet shoot, and bird watch. Reservations required for horseback riding, canoeing, chuck wagon cook-outs, overnight stays and more. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Located at 6062 Texas 16, six miles south of Graham. For more information, call 940/549-3500 or visit www.wildcatterranch.com. Admission fees.

YOUNG COUNTY VETERANS' MEMORIAL—Features a red granite, seven-foot star inscribed with names of 157 Young County men and women who died serving their county since World War I. Completed in 2000. Located on east side of Young County Courthouse.

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 out 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 with only a jug for a cash register and where all proceeds are donated to charities. Located off I-40 on exit 112.

THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST—Standing tall above the flat prairie is a 190-foot tall cross that 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.

LAKE—Greenbelt. See LAKES listing.

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 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.



Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site near Jacksboro

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 at 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 fee.

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. 15,865 Alt. 3,785 Map E-9

GENERAL—Hereford, named for the Hereford cattle breed brought to this country in 1898, is the seat of Deaf Smith County. Deaf Smith County is named after Erastus “Deaf” Smith, a scout, spy, soldier and hero of the Texas Revolution, commanding Sam Houston’s scouts at the Battle of San Jacinto. Hereford is deeply rooted in cattle and agriculture. Fed by two underground aquifers, Hereford is abundant in crops like wheat, corn, milo, alfalfa and cotton.

Deaf Smith County is known as the “Beef Capital of the World” with more than 3 million head of cattle fed annually within a 50 mile radius of the city by its many feed yards, making it number one in the world for beef production. Hereford is also the designated site of two proposed ethanol production plants, and hosts a branch campus of Amarillo College.

Many historic structures can be found throughout city, including the Deaf Smith County Courthouse. Built in 1910, it is the only courthouse in Texas built entirely of white Georgia marble. At 235 E. 3rd St.

Enjoy year-round swimming at the Hereford Aquatic Center at 400 East 15th St. Annual events include the Pioneer Days Celebration held Memorial Holiday weekend; July Jubilee, a festival held during the last week of July in the city park, includes a parade, quilt show, arts and craft, music, games and food booths; Spicer Gripp Memorial Roping, held the first weekend of Aug.; and Beef Capital of the World “beef cook-off” Challenge held on the Sat. of the first weekend of Aug. at the VFW Memorial Park.

DEAF SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Housed in the first Catholic school building, which is listed as an Official Texas Historical Site. Exhibits include a country store, chapel, a schoolroom, unique hand-carved miniature three-ring circus, historic fashions, and Indian and western artifacts. The outside exhibits include a Santa Fe caboose, early day jail cell, a replica of the first half-dugout, a wagon barn, windmill and farm implements. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 400 Sampson St. No admission fee.

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 Los 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.

FORT RICHARDSON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE & 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 left standing was the 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 re-enactment held annually. Recreational facilities include campsites with electricity, picnic sites, rest rooms, showers, nature hiking trails, and fishing. Southwest edge of city. There’s a 10-mile hiking trail with facilities for biking and an equestrian trail. Interpretive Center



Wolf Creek Heritage Museum in Lipscomb



open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; other buildings vary. Admission fee. 940/567-3506.

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-year-old log cabin, furnished with period furniture. Open Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; other times by appt. At 241 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 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-9

GENERAL—Appropriately named for the surrounding terrain; surveyed and plotted by cereal king C.W. Post in 1912 on the Oxshcer 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 10 oil producing counties in the state, and it is one 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.

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.

LIPSCOMB

Pop. 44 Alt. 2,417 Map A-12

GENERAL—The seat of Lipscomb County, near the Texas-Oklahoma border, was founded in 1868 by J.W. Arthur in anticipation of the coming railroad. Today, functions as the county’s center for farming and ranching along with oil and gas explorations.

A favorite spot for birdwatchers and photographers, the city is surrounded by the Canadian Breaks Loop portion of the Panhandle Plains Wildlife Trail.

WOLF CREEK HERITAGE MUSEUM—Organized in 1982, the museum serves to preserve the history of the county and, as custodian of this history, it conducts educational activities as well. Open year-round, Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. For more information, call 806/852-2123. No admission fee.

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



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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. 206,481 Alt. 3,241 Map G-9/NN-5

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.

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 MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE—Displays include machinery and artifacts dating back to pioneering years of agriculture. Exhibits



LODYC/NW/STARS PHOTO

Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock

include 70-pedal tractors, and hundreds of restored tractors and horse-drawn equipment. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1501 Lakes Drive. 806/744-3786.

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 30 exhibits outside and 75 windmills inside, including one of the first all metal windmills and an early example from the 1800s. Between 19th and Broadway streets. Along Canyon Lake Drive. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed Sun. - Mon., except June - Aug., Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. For more information, call 806/747-8734. Suggested donation: \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

APPLE COUNTRY - HI PLAINS ORCHARD—Family owned pick-your-own apple orchard, open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., year-round. Features 6,000 apple trees with 29 varieties, a country café, bakery, gift shop and country store, cider mill, wedding gazebo, orchard tours, catering services and mail order shipping of jams, jellies, baked goodies and gifts. Apple Country also has its own award-winning Apple Country Apple Spice Wine. Located 10 miles east of city on U.S. 62/82. For more information, visit www.applecountryorchards.com. 806/892-2961. No admission fee.

BUDDY HOLLY CENTER—No visit to Lubbock is complete without a stop to view the most comprehensive permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and music of Buddy Holly, Lubbock's most celebrated native son. The center features the Buddy Holly Gallery, Texas Musicians Hall of Fame, Fine Arts Galleries and a museum shop. Group tours are available, and the center hosts a variety of educational and cultural events. Located at 1801 Avenue G in the Depot District. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call 806/767-2686 or visit www.buddyhollycenter.org for details. Admission fee.

BUDDY HOLLY STATUE AND WALK OF FAME—Honors Lubbock and West Texas natives who have made significant contributions in entertainment industry. Plaques for 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.

DEPOT ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT—A nightclub and restaurant area featuring a variety of foods. 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. Nightclubs feature live music venue, including country/western, popular alternative, and rhythm & blues. Also includes a microbrewery and coffee house. Downtown adjacent to I-27 at 19th St. & Avenue Q. For information, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

JOYLAND AMUSEMENT PARK—A West Texas fun-filled tradition in the heart of Lubbock's popular Mackenzie Park recreation area. Joyland has

great rides and attractions over 30 in all, ranging from a log ride, water and roller coasters to junior rides and family classics, like the colorful carousel, food favorites, and exciting fun games. Open weekends at 2 p.m., from mid-March to mid-Oct. and weekdays at 7 p.m. from late May to mid-Aug. For information, call 806/763-2719 or visit www.joylandpark.com.

LOUIS H. UNDERWOOD CENTER FOR THE ARTS—Home to many arts and cultural organizations in the South Plains Area. Campus includes multiple working art studios, visual art galleries, theater and rehearsal hall. Features "First Friday Art Trail," a monthly evening of arts and entertainment downtown. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 806/762-8606. www.theunderwoodcenter.org.

LUBBOCK AREA VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL—Brick and marble monument dedicated to veterans of Lubbock and South Plains area, created to honor sacrifices made by local veterans. Center portion of memorial commemorates area veterans who were killed in action. At 82nd & Nashville.

LUBBOCK ARTS ALLIANCE, THE—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 www.lubbockarts.org for more information.

LUBBOCK LAKE LANDMARK—Approximately 12,000 years of history is what makes Landmark an internationally recognized archaeological and natural history preserve. A unit of Texas Tech University, site documents a continuous human presence on Southern High Plains since the time of large, extinct mammals such as ancient bison, giant short-faced bear and Columbian mammoth.

The Robert A. Nash Interpretive Center houses a visitor center and museum exhibits, and four miles of outdoor trails offer unique urban greenspace. Features extended hours and on-site archeological work June - Aug.

Open Sept. - May, Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; June - Aug., Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. No admission fee. At 2401 Landmark Drive, northwest of Loop 289 and Clovis Hwy. 806/742-1116. www.museum.ttu.edu/lll.

MACKENZIE PARK/PRAIRIE DOG TOWN—248-acre day-use park operated by the city. Prairie Dog Town in park is one of few remaining colonies of its type in the 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 the 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 806/775-2687.

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 changing exhibition galleries. No admission fee. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/7XDOT

Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Devil's Rope & Route 66 Museum in McLean

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 & CELEBRATION—

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 the Thurs. - Sun. after Labor Day weekend. For times and a schedule, call 806/795-2455.

NATIONAL RANCHING HERITAGE CENTER—History of ranching told through 35 authentic structures moved to this 16-acre site: bunkhouse, barn, dugout, windmills, ranch homes, school, blacksmith shop, locomotive, stock cars, depot, Spanish compound and more from the 1700s through the early 1900s, all authentically restored and furnished. Docents in period attire host visitors Sun. afternoons May 5 through Oct. 27. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Located east of Indiana Avenue on 4th Street. 806/742-0498. www.ttu.edu/ranchingheritagecenter.

SCIENCE SPECTRUM—Experience the Science of Fun! More than 200 interactive exhibits, an OMNI Theatre, live animals, live demonstrations, a dedicated area for younger children, funshops, and traveling exhibits will put a smile on your brain. For hours, prices, and other information call 806/745-2525 or visit www.sciencespectrum.com.

OMNI—Feel like a part of the action. Featuring a panoramic image on a 58-foot dome screen, as well as a 12,500-watt sound system, this film experience can take you to the most amazing places on Earth (and beyond)—all without leaving your seat. For show times, prices, and other information call 806/745-MAXX or visit www.sciencespectrum.com.

SILENT WINGS MUSEUM—Dedicated to the history of the World War II military glider program. Exhibits feature training and combat experiences plus restored aircraft. Located on the west side of Lubbock International Airport, 5401 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, call 806/775-2047 or write: Silent Wings Museum, Rt. 3 Box 393 Lubbock, TX 79403-9710. www.silentwingsmuseum.com.

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 fee. On Brownfield Hwy. Admission fee. 806/796-0701.

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., and Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 806/742-3749.

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 800/692-4035. Visit visitlubbock.org for hotel and car rental coupons.

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.

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. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Tours available. Take U.S. 87 south to F.M. 1585, then 3.2 miles east. 806/745-2258. 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. Free tours and tastings: Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Other times by appointment. Take I-27 north to New Deal, F.M. 1729 east 2 miles, then one mile south to winery: 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.

ALAN REED-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 records of the World War II German prisoner of war camp. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 117 N. Main St. 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 F-11

GENERAL—Matador was designated county seat when Motley County was organized in 1891, and was named for Dr. J.W. Motley (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 sorghum.

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 Dune 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.



Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway

For additional information on accommodations and other attractions, contact the Memphis Chamber of Commerce at 806/259-3144 or visit www.webtex.com/memphis.

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 schoolroom 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 built in 1911, features a state historical marker. It was designed after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome; all windows are European stained glass. Its organ, a two-manual Kilgen, was originally water powered 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, tin-smith, cobbler and print shop displays, and portion of Meade collection of prehistoric 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 and 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. See Visitor Information.

VF Outlet Mall offers factory-direct stores. Open daily. 4500 U.S. 180 east.

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 about bats, as well as guided field tours. For information, call 940/325-3404.

CLARK GARDENS BOTANICAL PARK—Opened in 2000, these gardens are the result of Max and Billie Clark's vision to create a Texas version of an English garden. What began as an herb and vegetable garden in 1977 has grown to 35 acres with over 50 individual gardens. There are many discoveries that appeal to all ages, including an English Channel Garden, a historic tree trail, one of 21 All American Rose Trail Garden, and one of Texas' largest outdoor "G" scale model train exhibits. Open Mon. - Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wheelchair accessible and cart tours are available by appointment.

Located 3 miles east of Mineral Wells off Hwy. 180, 1 1/4 miles north to 567 Maddux Road. Call 940/682-4856 or visit www.clarkgardens.com. Admission fee.

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 1904 by Edward P. Dismuke, The Famous Mineral Water Pavilion and Gardens is the only company still bottling the historic healing waters that made Mineral Wells famous in the early 1900s.

The site includes a historical marker and serves water, ice cream and coffees from behind the original hand-carved wood and marble bar. Visitors are always welcome to sample, for free, the different kinds of waters, learn about the history of the area, and stroll through the Texas native gardens. Located at 209 N.W. 6th Street (off of U.S. 281). Open Tues. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For information or group tours, 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 fee.

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 800/252-MWTX or 940/325-2557; visit 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. 4,550 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, and 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, known as "Ole Pete" and unveiled on July 4, 1965, is located near the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce office.

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-10

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 classic TV western "Bonanza." 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 Blocker. 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 predominant 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 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.



PANHANDLE PLAINS

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 of Spanish explorers to settlement, ranching and farming. An outdoor exhibit features windmills, farm equipment and a half-dugout 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 years 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 E.M. 168 south of town.

PADUCAH

Pop. 1,498 Alt. 1,886 Map F-12

GENERAL—Established 1892 as county seat of newly created Cottle County; named for Paducah, KY, hometown 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 Railroad 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.

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-feet wide. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. On U.S. 83 near the courthouse. For information, call 325/732-4370 or 800/752-8004.

PAINT ROCK EXCURSIONS—Daily guided tours generally available to Indian Pictographs site where paintings date from prehistoric times to days of Comanche. In recent years Solar Markers have been discovered, thought to have been painted on certain rocks by Jumano Indians more than 500 years ago. Hundreds of paintings exist on about 1,000 feet of bluff which is approx. 4,000 feet long and lies about 300 feet north of Concho River. Please call ahead to be assured site is accessible. Approx. one mile north on U.S. 83. Call 325/732-4376 for more information.

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.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Museum of the Llano Estacado in Plainview

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. Hunting opportunities are abundant on neighboring farms. Annual events include old-fashioned July 4th celebration. Scenic tours include drives past working cotton, corn and wheat farms, wind turbine engines, and rolling grasslands. Restored Santa Fe depot serves as city hall. For more information, call the Panhandle Chamber of Commerce at 806/537-3746.

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 one-half mile south of F.M. 293, marks portion of trail that wound from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. 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. Multiple structures include the historic Square House, oldest building in the city; Conway community church; reconstructed pioneer dugout; windmill; Santa Fe caboose; art galleries; and farm, ranch, and wildlife dioramas. Self-guiding or tours by arrangement. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Pioneer Park on Texas 207. No admission fee. 806/537-3524. www.squarehousemuseum.org.

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 memorial to early pioneers. Site is marked by two state historical markers and by a 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.

Don’t miss “Cattle Drive,” the display of more than 45 fiberglass cows throughout the city. Colorfully decorated and displayed in city parks as well as in front of businesses, these cows can be viewed 24 hours a day (not all displays lighted for night viewing). Project was created to promote Cowboy Days, celebrated the second Sat. in Sept.

Annual events include the KKYN/Bar None Rodeo and Fiesta Campesina in July; Cinco De Mayo in May; and Diez Y Seis in Sept.

For additional information on dining opportunities, events, and accommodations, call the chamber of commerce at 806/296-7431 or 800/658-2685 or visit 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. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 2 - 5 p.m.; closed on days the Center is closed. For information, call 806/291-1000. No admission fee.

HISTORIC DISTRICT—Nationally recognized historic district features brick streets installed during World War I era, speciality shops, antique shops and restaurants. Designated a Texas and National Main Street City. For a free brochure, call Main Street office 806/296-1119 or visit www.ci.plainview.tx.us. E-mail: mtsakanikas@ci.plainview.tx.us.

MUSEUM OF THE LLANO ESTACADO—Bears the traditional Spanish name for the Texas High Plains. Regional museum emphasizes the development of the geographical area of the Llano Estacado. Maintains 80 exhibits chronologically describing the geological, prehistoric, cultural and economic development of the region. Housed in the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Regional Heritage Center, on 8th St. behind Wayland Baptist University’s campus. Open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; weekends Apr. - Nov. 1 - 5 p.m. 1900 W. 8th St. 806/291-3660.

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 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.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

The Caprock near Post

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. No admission fee.

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 chief of the Comanche Indians, son of a Comanche chief and captive white girl, Cynthia Ann Parker. (See Old Fort Parker in GROESBECK in ‘PRAIRIES & LAKES’ section.) 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—Hardeman County Courthouse, 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



KEVIN STILL/ALAMY/ISTOCK

Medicine Mounds near Quanah

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. E-mail: quanahcoc@dtmspeed.net.

COPPER BREAKS STATE PARK—1,933-acre park includes campsites with shade structures and utilities, picnicking, swimming, fishing, playgrounds, star-walk activities and hiking and equestrian 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 fee. 940/839-4331 or 800/792-1112.

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. Open weekends 2 - 4 p.m., weekdays by appointment. 101 Green St. Call 940/663-5515, 940/663-5932 or 940/663-2222.

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. Also, visit the Medicine Mound Museum, open Sat. 8 - 10 a.m. and weekends by appointment. Call 940/852-5288.

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. A "space room" furnished by NASA and the Smithsonian Institution is located here as well. Open weekends 2 - 4 p.m. and weekdays by appointment. Call 940/663-5515, 940/663-5932 or 940/663-2222.

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 Chuck-wagon 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 proper 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 fee.

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—A city surrounded by its history, Ranger began as a Texas Ranger Camp in the mid 1870s. Nestled in a green valley, the rural farming community exploded into activity in October 1917 when a gusher, the McClesky Number 1, blew oil so high in the air it could be seen for miles. It has been called one of the greatest booms in the history of the petroleum industry. The timely event happened just as the need for oil skyrocketed with the onset of World War I. The promise of instant riches brought in tens of thousands looking to make their fortune; and, in one year's time, Ranger's population grew from 1,000 to 30,000. Small farmers found themselves richer than they ever imagined, the major railroads of the time competed for the transportation of the city as the mighty McClesky continued to pump over 1,700 barrels of oil a day. The boom was short lived, but the memories of the early 1900s wild, rich, and colorful days live on in Ranger. Ranger is now a quiet, country community, home to Ranger College, the annual Roaring Ranger Rodeo, beginning its 60th decade...and has an RV park for visitors and travelers.

LAKE—Leon. See LAKES listing.

MCCLESKY NUMBER 1—Site of the "oil boom that won the war," marked by granite monument at T&P depot on the downtown square.

PARKS—Two city-maintained parks, with shaded picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming pool and lighted tennis court.

ROARING RANGER MUSEUM—Housed in the historic and beautifully maintained T&P depot, browse through photos and artifacts of the city's oil field boom days. Operated by the Ranger Chamber of Commerce office, a guide is on hand to inform and delight visitors. Open Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Main & Commerce sts. downtown.



KEVIN STILL/ALAMY/ISTOCK

Copper Breaks State Park near Quanah



ROARING SPRINGS

Pop. 265 Alt. 2,570 Map G-11

GENERAL—Roaring Springs, in Motley County, was named for nearby Indian campground on the Tongue River with natural, pure water springs and waterfall. A section of land purchased by the Quana, Acme and Pacific 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 sorghum.

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. 88,474 Alt. 1,847 Map M-12/VV-14

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.

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 that 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.

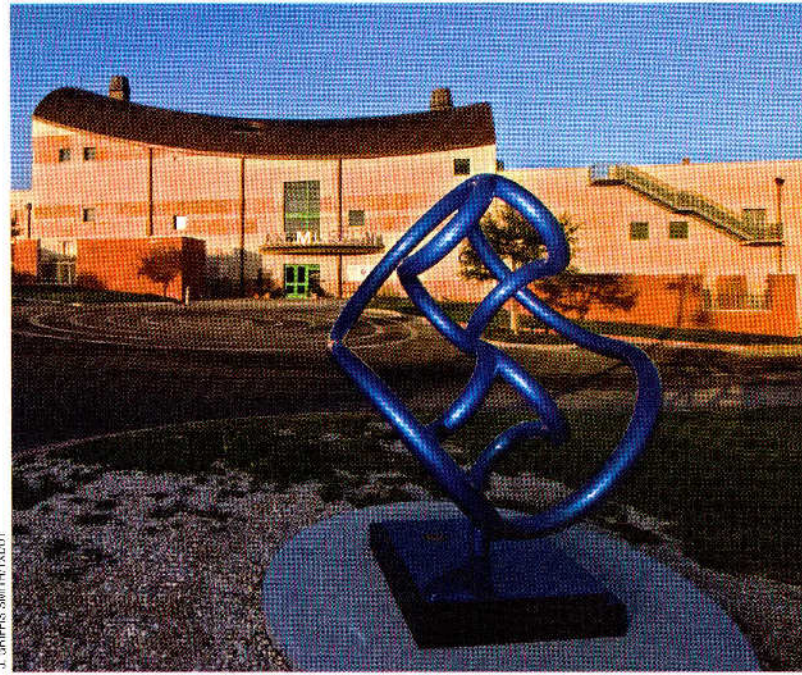
Other spots of interest include the International Water Lily Collection, located in Civic League Park, the Old Chicken Farm Art Center, and the River Walk features beautiful gardens, 14 water displays, playground, walking/jogging trail, and a nine-hole golf course—all in downtown San Angelo.

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 fee.

CONCHO AVENUE—Was the first street in downtown area in "Santa Angela," and street's colorful history is reflected in its stores and buildings. Also features Miss Hattie's, the "Best Little Bordello Museum in Texas."

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.

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



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/TACUD

San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and Education Center

statue, the river, Old Town—a collection of five frontier buildings that are beautifully restored, 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—One of the best preserved frontier military posts west of the Mississippi, 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 runs, explored and mapped new territory and occasionally clashed with area Comanche and Apache tribes. Many well-known infantry and cavalry officers commanded the fort, including Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, Col. William R. Shafter and Col. Benjamin H. Grierson. Both black and white troops took part in their campaigns, and the post was also the headquarters of the famed "Buffalo Soldiers," the black troops of the 10th Cavalry.

By the late 1800s, the railroad had arrived in West Texas and the military's protection was no longer necessary. And in a sentimental ceremony, on June 20, 1889, one small remaining company of the 19th Infantry took down the flag at evening retreat and left for San Antonio the very next day.

All buildings have been restored to their original appearance; up to 10 structures have either period interiors or displays to see. Regular and changing exhibits cover military history, the heritage of San Angelo and West Texas, and the daily life of a soldier and officer. 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 fee.

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 MURALS—Located across from the Santa Fe Depot, murals that depict early-day transportation, from the 1840s to 1940s, are 85 feet long and 14 feet high.

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 rail cars. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call ahead for special tours. 703 S. Chadbourne St. For information, call 325/944-1815.



PANHANDLE PLAINS

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 325/653-0112. Admission fee.

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 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 fee. For information, call 325/658-4084.

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. Audio-visual programs. Open Tues. - Sat. noon - 5 p.m. Trail is open from sunrise to sunset. In Mary Lee Park on Knickerbocker at Lake Nasworthy. For information or interpretive tours, call 325/942-0121. Admission fee.

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 325/949-4757; 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—Brand new facility located on the banks of the Concho River between U.S. 87 north and south. Close to the Historic District, Museum of Fine Arts, Paseo, Fort Concho, Water Lily Garden and other attractions. The 1,600 square-foot Visitors Center features a soaring roof and floor-to-ceiling windows for visitors to view the beauty of the Concho River. A bridge links the center to the new Kids Kingdom, a community-built children's playground across the river. 418 W. Ave. B. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. Noon - 4 p.m. Stop by, or call 325/655-4136 or 800/375-1206. www.sanangelo.org.

SEAGRAVES

Pop. 2,334 Alt. 3,353 Map J-8

GENERAL—Founded 1917 as terminus of Santa Fe Railroad spur from Lubbock; named for railroad executive. Soon became major cattle shipping point. Today is center for area ranches.

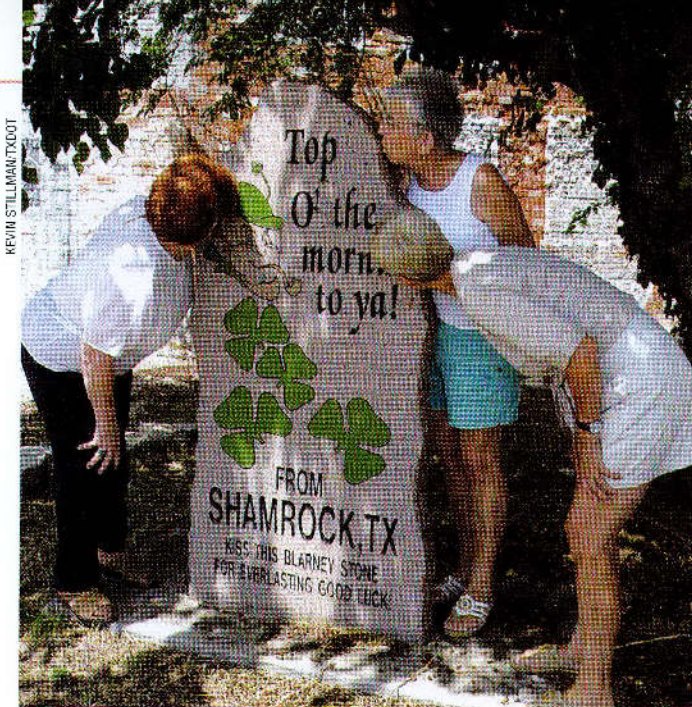
Attractive Gaines County Park with picnicking, playground, golf, is 7 mi. south on U.S. 62/385. Quanah Parker birthplace (See GROESBECK) 20 mi. east at Cedar Lake; marker at site.

SEAGRAVES-LOOP MUSEUM & ART CENTER—Housed in 1924 Armstrong Bldg. Collections of pioneer memorabilia, furnished rooms, and street scene. 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.



Kissin' the Blarney Stone in Shamrock

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).

SEYMOUR

Pop. 3,000 Alt. 1,250 Map G-14

GENERAL—Located on the Brazos River in Baylor County, city was established in 1879 by settlers from Oregon. Artist Tom Lea was contracted in April 1941 to paint a mural for the Seymour Post Office depicting early life in Seymour and Baylor county, when Comanche Indians were an integral part of life. The mural can be seen today in the post office building.

Available recreational activities include swimming, boating, tennis, and RV hookups. Salt Fork River Estates Golf Course is a new municipal facility offering a 9-hole golf course, swimming pool and fishing pond.

For more information, contact the Seymour Chamber of Commerce at 940/889-2921 or visit www.seymourtxchamber.org.

BAYLOR COUNTY FREE LIBRARY—Home to the *Seymouria baylorensis* dinosaur discovered five miles north of town by the Smithsonian Institution. Located within county courthouse building. Open Tues. - Fri. 1 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. - noon.

BAYLOR COUNTY MUSEUM—History of town and county is displayed through exhibits of historical photographs, clothing and furniture, memorabilia, veterans' memorial wall and more. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 116 N. Washington St. 940/888-2690.

SHAMROCK

Pop. 2,029 Alt. 2,310 Map D-12

GENERAL—Established as a post office in 1890 at dugout home of George Nichols, 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, 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 E-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 Caprock.

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 Caprock, 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 Caprock and through the town of Quitaque.

LAKE—Mackenzie. See LAKES listing.

SLATON

Pop. 6,109 Alt. 3,250 Map H-10

GENERAL—Established 1911 as division point to service trains for the Santa Fe Railroad; named for O.L. Slaton, a banker who was instrumental in completion of railroad project. City was designed in wagon-wheel fashion, similar to Washington D.C. Slaton lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports-to-Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

The Slaton Bakery, 109 S. 9th St., is famous for its homemade cookies, pies and more. Klemke's Sausage Haus is national award-winning meat packing plant with variety of jerky and sausage selections.

Visit Engine 1809, a steam-powered engine built in 1906 and known as the "Cotton Special," dedicated to city in 1955 and located on City Hall Square, at 8th and W. Lubbock sts. County Park features RV facilities, swimming, playground, picnic tables, clubhouse. Located in center of town at 15th and Garza sts. 806/828-5121.

For more information, call the Slaton Chamber of Commerce at 806/828-6238 or visit www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org. E-mail: slatoncoc@nts-online.net.

SLATON MUSEUM—Step into the city's past, and visit the old Post Office and a 1940s drug store's soda fountain. Unique photo exhibit features images as early as 1915, and see the Santa Fe Railroad and military exhibits as well. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located at 115 W. Lubbock St. For more information, call 806/828-6238. No admission fee.

TEXAS AIR MUSEUM, CAPROCK CHAPTER—The museum exists to preserve, restore, and present a balanced view of historic aircraft and artifacts that represent 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 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. Home of the South Plains Air Show. 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.

SNYDER

Pop. 10,783 Alt. 2,316 Map J-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 325/573-3558.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

White Buffalo Statue in Snyder

Snyder lies on U.S. 84, a segment of the Ports-to-Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

A"MAZE"ING FUN MAZES—This unique attraction allows visitors to navigate their way through a maze cut into a live corn field. Mini-mazes, wagon rides, hayrides, tented picnic areas, and an area full of arts & crafts, antiques and collectibles are also available. Open mid-Aug. to Nov., Fri. - Sun. 4 - 11 p.m. Located off of U.S. 84 at Gafford Family Farms. For group or ticket information, call 325/573-4136 or visit www.amazingfunmazes.com.

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 C.R. 2128; turn left, go one mile to ranch entrance on the right. For information/reservations, call 325/573-2123.

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-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



PANHANDLE PLAINS



Texas Cowboy Museum in Stamford

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 it 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-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.

STINETT

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, either named it for Stratford-on-Avon, or for Virginia plantation, birthplace of Robert E. Lee, whom he admired. Local economy based on wheat, corn, and feed grains which 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.

SUNRAY

Pop. 1,950 Alt. 3,507 Map B-9

GENERAL—Settled in 1930 by J.C. Collins along the county's first railroad. Sunray is named after the Sunray Oil Company refinery. Area economy consists of corn, wheat, cotton, soybean, milo, sunflower production, ranching, cattle feeding, and oil and gas production. Sunray is a popular area for pheasant hunting in Dec.

Sunray Co-Op is the world's longest country grain elevator, which is more than one-quarter mile long with a seven million bushel capacity. Annual events include Sunray Funday, an old-fashioned community barbecue with a parade, booths, games, school reunion and street dance, held in Aug. Call 806/948-4111 for more information.

TREASURE ISLAND WATER PARK—This municipal water park provides visitors refreshing recreation with two water slides, pirate ship, and soft play features for toddlers. Open during summer (May - Aug.) Noon - 5 p.m. Admission fee. Located at 700 E. 7th St. 806/948-5201.

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.

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 "Fifinella," the emblem adopted by the WASPs.

Sweetwater also hosts the annual "Texas Midwest Soap Box Derby." The winner goes to the finals in Akron, Ohio, in late summer.

The city also boasts two 18-hole golf courses.



For information on events, accommodations, and area attractions, stop by the chamber of commerce office at 810 E. Broadway, or call 325/235-5488, or 800/658-6757. www.sweetwatertexas.org. E-mail: chamber@sweetwatertexas.org.

Sweetwater lies on I-20 near the intersection of U.S. 84, a segment of the Port-to-Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to the coastal posts. Sweetwater is also part of the Texas Midwest Community Network and the northern gateway to the Texas Forts Trail.

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 325/235-8547.

TAHOKA

Pop. 2,910 Alt. 3,090 Map H-10

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.

THROCKMORTON

Pop. 905 Alt. 1,272 Map H-14

GENERAL—Seat of Throckmorton County, named "The Capital of the Cow Country" by the Texas Legislature. Farming, ranching and oil production are main industries. Hometown of Dallas Cowboys' legend Bob Lilly. For maps and information, visit the Cow Country Crossroad Visitor's Center, located at crossroads of Hwys. 183, 283 and 380. Popular destination for anglers and hunters, and hunting leases are available. RV park, with full hook-ups, located south of town. City park, swimming pool, and municipal 9-hole golf course available. Annual festivals include Wild Game Dinner in Jan., Ranch Rodeo & BBQ in May, and Cow Country Christmas in Dec. For more information, contact the Throckmorton Chamber of Commerce by writing PO Box 711, Throckmorton TX, 76483.

DEPOT PUBLIC LIBRARY—Housed in 1928 depot terminal of Cisco & Northeastern railroad, which began local service that same year. The 65-mile rail route was established primarily to haul cattle to markets in Fort Worth. Displays include collection of historic photographs from the railroad's first day of operation on May 4, 1928, as well as other artifacts and memorabilia related to railroad's operation. At 120 E. Chestnut St. Open Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 940/849-3076.

THROCKMORTON COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM—Historical documents, photographs, tools, clothing and other relics from days of early county settlers, and military artifacts from World War II, on display in historical structure that was county's jail from 1893 to 1960. Visitors can also see original cells, intact with prisoners' graffiti, from bygone days. At 107 S. Eagle St. Open Sat. - Sun. 2 - 4 p.m. No admission fee. 940/849-3170.

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 ARCHIVES & MUSEUM—Museum maintains collections of ranch and farm artifacts. A five-room house, rebuilt inside the main exhibit hall, is furnished with pieces from the early 1900s. A replica of the J.O. Bass Blacksmith Shop is also located in main exhibit hall and features Bass' tools and equipment. Other displays include military artifacts, needle art, Santa Fe Railroad and Native American artifacts, as well as exhibits featuring Quanah Parker and Col. Ranald MacKenzie. Written, oral and video histories of the county are maintained, as well as an outstanding photographic history of early life in the area. Outside exhibits include the 1917 Jowell House, (including its outhouse) furnished with 1930s artifacts. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., and weekends by appointment. 127 SW Second St. 806/995-2819.

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. - Fri. 9 - 11:30 a.m., 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 800/657-7110. At 3rd & Alexander sts.

TUSCOLA

Pop. 714 Alt. 1,930 Map L-13

GENERAL—Established in 1899, Taylor County town originated in Jim Ned Valley (named for famous Delaware Indian chief) and became a stop for the Abilene Southern and Santa Fe railroads. Many buildings from the early 1900s line the downtown area. Today, farming and agriculture are the community's main industries and railroad continues to run through town. Tuscola is a part of the Texas Forts Trail. Historical marker about Jim Ned can be found in town.

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 4 miles west on F.M. 613 to F.M. 89. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

GRAHAM STREET ANTIQUES—Learn about town and surrounding county's early history by visiting exhibit room, which includes photographs of early settlers and the development of the town at the turn of the century, historical documents, and more. Exhibit room is open Thurs. - Sat. noon - 6 p.m. 402 Graham St. (Main St.) 325/554-7488. No admission fee.

LAKES—Lakes Abilene, see LAKES listing.

HOMEPLACE, THE—Located on 160 acres, this unique facility on a working historical farm offers visitors a chance to take nature walks through the grounds and see birds, butterflies and native Texas wildflowers. Other sites include an herb garden, demonstration vegetable and organic gardening practices, antique farm equipment, and more. Also, gift shop and restaurant serving family-style meals in replica of original farmhouse built in 1914 is available. On U.S. 83. Open Thurs. - Sun. 5 - 9 p.m. 325/554-9118. No admission fee.



Magnolia Station in Vega



PANHANDLE PLAINS

VEGA

Pop. 936 Alt. 2,188 Map D-9

GENERAL—Named for the Spanish word meaning “grassy plain,” N.J. Whitfield purchased the land in 1899 for \$1 per acre, later selling portions of the land to establish the town site. In 1926, Vega became a stop along the famous Route 66. For more information, contact the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce at 806/267-2828 or visit www.oldhamcofc.org.

DOT'S MINI MUSEUM—On the old Ozark Trail and Route 66, Dot shares her amazing and eclectic collections gathered from a lifetime of working on the Mother Road. Western artifacts, memorabilia from the heyday of Route 66, dolls, antiques, and an endless array of ‘amazements’ attract visitors from all around the world. Open year-round during daylight hours. No admission fee.

MAGNOLIA STATION—Built in the early 1920s, this station was one of the first along Old Route 66. Recently restored through the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, the station offers a glimpse into the past and interpretive insight as to travel from the 1920s to the 1950s. Open year-round during daylight hours. No admission fee.

OLDHAM COUNTY HERITAGE FARM & RANCH MUSEUM—This outdoor display of antique farm and ranch equipment is testimony to the hard work of early Plains settlers. Exhibits include horse-drawn and early motorized equipment, restored tractors, a 1929 threshing machine, and cattle brands from early and modern-day ranchers. Open year-round during daylight hours. No admission fee.

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 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; 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 E-12

GENERAL—Seat of Collingsworth County, named for the Duke of Wellington, by one of the English owners of the Rocking Chair Ranch that was known by Texas cowboys as “Nobility Rancho” because of ownership by British noblemen, including the Baron of Tweedmouth (Sir Dudley Coutts Majoribanks) and the Earl of Aberdeen (John Campbell Hamilton Gordon). Today's economy based on cotton, peanuts, grain, cattle, small manufacturing and game hunting.

COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY MUSEUM AND ART CENTER—Exhibits trace history of area. Open Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. On the square at 824 East Ave. 806/447-5327. www.collingsworthcountymuseum.org

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. Indoor track, ball courts, weight room, bowling, and arcade at Wellington Activity Center, 505 Corsicana St., 806/447-0110. Indoor and outdoor arena, picnic area, and playground at Wellington Fairgrounds, First St. at U.S. 83. 806/447-2544. Overnight camping at Pioneer Park at U.S. 83 bridge, six miles north of Wellington.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities,



Lake Arrowhead State Park near Wichita Falls

contact the Collingsworth Chamber of Commerce at 806/447-5848 or visit www.wellingtontx.com.

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 none of the original buildings remain.

WICHITA FALLS

Pop. 104,191 Alt. 946 Map G-15/VV-12

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.

Be sure to check out the Littles Skyscraper, a 1919 building that was built, according to legend, as a result of a \$200,000 stock fraud perpetrated on unsuspecting investors. Legend has it that the architect presented the dimensions for the proposed skyscraper in feet, but instead built it in inches. When completed, the building measured 10 feet wide, 18 feet deep, and 30 feet tall, with access to all four floors by climbing a skinny ladder-like staircase. Located just off 7th and Ohio on LaSalle St.

There's a full calendar of events throughout the year including World of Wheels and Home & Garden Expo in Feb.; Faith City Kennel Club Dog Show in March; Red River Wine Festival in Apr.; Western Swing Music Festival, Red River Rodeo and Texas-Oklahoma Oil Bowl Game in June; Texas Ranch Round-Up and Festival, and Hotter 'N Hell Hundred Bike Race and Festival in Aug.; Texas-Oklahoma Fair and Fallfest in Sept.; Downtown City Lights Festival in Nov., and MSU-Burns Fantasy of Lights Display in Dec.

BACKDOOR THEATRE—A turn-of-the-century ice house transformed



into a charming community theatre. Performances Thurs. - Sat. 501 Indiana. 940/322-5000. www.backdoortheatre.org.

CASTAWAY COVE WATERPARK—Experience the wave of excitement at Wichita Falls' newest and only waterpark. A tropical-themed paradise for the whole family, features waterslides of 40- and 50-foot towers, interactive 'Kiddie Park,' Lazy River floating stream, Tidal Wave pool, and more. Open during summer months, but call ahead to confirm hours, prices, etc. Located on U.S. 287. Admission fee. Call 940/322-5500 or visit www.castawaycovewaterpark.com.

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. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Wed., Fri., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 3 p.m. 900 Bluff St. Admission fee. For information, call 940/723-2712.

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 fee. Call 940/528-2211 for information.

LAKES—Arrowhead, Diversion, Kemp, Kickapoo and Wichita. See LAKES listing.

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 OF NORTH TEXAS HISTORY—Includes the Military History Collection, a permanent exhibit in the museum displayed in six rooms. Also includes changing exhibits in the Ralph O. Harvey J. Exhibit Hall. Open Tues. - Thurs. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m., other times by appointment. At 720 Indiana. No admission fee. 940/322-7628

PARKS—38 parks offer outdoor recreation, including swimming pools, jogging trails, golf, tennis, picnicking and children's fishing pond. Lucy Park is a 170-acre park with log cabin, pool, Lucy Land Playground, duck pond, paved trail, pavilions, picnicking areas and rest rooms. River walk trail along Wichita River connects Lucy Park to the Wichita Falls. Take Business U.S. 277 West, turn north on Sunset Dr. Open 6 a.m. - midnight. For information, call 940/761-7490.

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.

RAILROAD MUSEUM—Vintage rail cars 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 Tues. - Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At 500 9th St. 940/723-2661. No admission fee.

RIVERBEND NATURE CENTER—Nestled amid 15 acres in the city, River Bend Nature Works is an environmental education center. Visitors enjoy the wetland pond, 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—In North Texas near the Texas-Oklahoma state line on I-44 (Central Freeway), one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 900 Central Freeway. 940/723-7931. www.txdot.gov.

VISITOR CENTER—For additional information on events, accommodations,



Texas Travel Information Center in Wichita Falls

or dining facilities, stop by the Wichita Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau at the Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC) at 1000 Fifth St. The center is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 940/716-5500 or 800/799-MPEC. www.wichitafalls.org.

WEE-CHI-TAH SCULPTURE—Multi-part statue stands on the banks of the "waist deep" Wichita River. Located near the Front Street Bridge in the 500 block of Wichita St., sculptor Jack Stevens' creation is a life-sized replica of a Comanche woman and her companions as she tested the river's depth, and gave a river and city its name.

WICHITA FALLS MUSEUM OF ART OF MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY—Exciting art, science and history exhibitions at the museum change frequently. Laser and Planetarium shows. Open Tues. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. No. 2 Eureka Circle. Admission fee. 940/692-0923.

WICHITA FALLS VINEYARDS & WINERY—Nestled between Wichita River and Buffalo Creek, includes tasting room and gift shop. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 2 - 7 p.m. At 3399 Peterson Road South. 940/855-2093.

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—Built in 1908, this State Historical Landmark is home to an endless variety of quality family entertainment, including live concerts, touring shows, musical dramas, performing arts and film events. For information, call 940/723-9037 or visit www.wichitatheatre.org.

WINTERS

Pop. 2,880

Alt. 1,860

Map L-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 C.R. 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.

PINEY WOODS



STEPH A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT



STEPH A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT



STEPH A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in Nacogdoches; Dewberry Plantation in Tyler; Alabama-Coushatta Reservation near Livingston

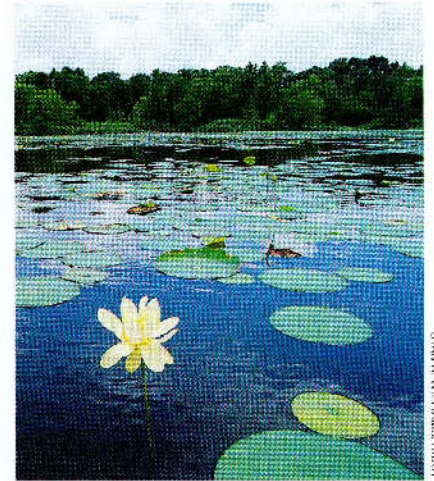
W

HEN PEOPLE THINK OF TEXAS, they often visualize wide-open spaces and cactus as far as the eye can see. But when we say Texas is like a whole other country, we're talking about places just like the Piney Woods region. If you're searching for scrub brush and tumbleweeds, you'll be disappointed. However, prepare to be dazzled at the beauty and majesty that awaits you here.

Specifically, the Piney Woods region contains thousands of acres of pine and pine-hardwood forests. Visitors will find a variety of loblolly, shortleaf and some pockets of longleaf pine, as well as magnolia, elm, oak, ash, cypress and other trees. Located primarily in East Texas, this area boasts the state's four national forests and five state forests, nestled among the wooded acres here. For outdoor enthusiasts, this region is also home to many state parks and bodies of water that offer fun and enjoyment.

The grandeur of majestic, towering trees and eye-popping landscapes can be seen year-round, but this area is dominated by breathtaking colors during the fall when the sassafras, persimmon, maples, sweetgums, dogwoods, elms, and oaks can generally be counted on to offer up hues of golden brown, yellow, orange, red and even reddish purple.

Then, during the Christmas season, this part of Texas becomes truly magical. Town squares are transformed into holiday wonderlands with thousands of lights.



B.A. Steinhagen Lake near Jasper and Woodville

Re-experience the childhood delight of old-fashioned and lighted holiday parades. Tour historic homes specially decorated for the holidays. See unique sights like the star-topped oil derricks in the World's Richest Acre in Kilgore.

It is also quite beautiful in the spring, too. Blooming azaleas and dogwoods are occasions to celebrate. These spring specimens can be seen on trails in cities like Palestine, Woodville and Quitman.

Tyler seems to be an especially prolific site for flora. Apart from colorful spring flowers, this city is known around the world for its roses, and it's also home to Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, the nation's largest municipal rose garden.

In the southern portion of the region, the towering pine trees give way to mammoth bald cypress trees and lush swampland, found in Big Thicket National Preserve and accessible via neighboring cities Jasper, Kirbyville, Kountze, Silsbee and Saratoga. The awe-inspiring ecosystem is also home to amazing diversity, because here you can also find cactus, ferns and orchids, as well as pine and oak trees.

But beautiful landscapes are not the only things to see here, as this region is rich in Texas heritage and history as well. Discover how the Early Caddo tribe lived at the site of an ancient Indian settlement at the Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site in Alto. There, you can wander through reconstructed Caddo dwellings and ceremonial areas of this archaeological gem.

For a taste of Texas history during the time of its struggle for independence, look no further than Nacogdoches. One of Texas' oldest communities, it was originally established as a Spanish fort in the mid 1700s and later the site of three short-lived republics. In 1832, what were considered the opening shots of the Texas Revolution were fired here, as citizens fought a Mexican garrison in the center of town and were successful in forcing the Mexican troops out of East Texas.

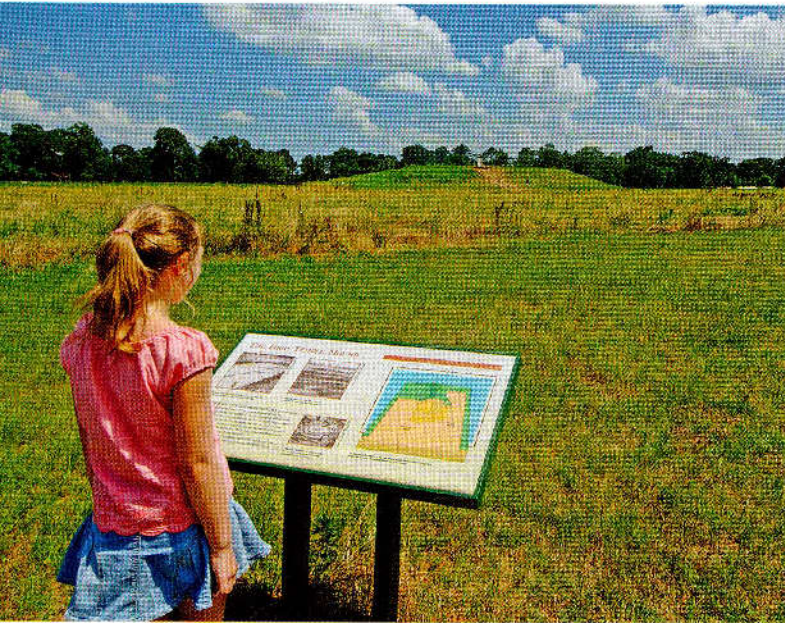
Signs of East Texas' oil history can be seen throughout the region. Several historic towns such as Kilgore, Marshall, Joinerville and Longview celebrate their ties to Texas' oil boom days with museums, attractions and other historical markers that mark the Lone Star State's impact on the oil industry at the turn of the 20th century.

With the dogwoods, cypress, magnolias and other foliage, parts of East Texas exude a feeling of being in the Old South. Venerable plantation homes and graceful mansions further this impression. Take a horse-drawn carriage ride in Jefferson, or enjoy a relaxing and romantic trip on a paddle wheel-style riverboat in Uncertain, and soak in the Southern hospitality and charm of the region.

Because there's much more to see and do, please wander through the following pages and learn more about the cities and attractions found within the area, and use the information to prepare for a memorable get-away.

Enjoy the wonder and glory that awaits you in the Piney Woods!

STAFF A. MICHAELSON
LOOKS/STAFF



STAN A. WILLIAMS/ISTOCK

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 Angelina 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 or Park Superintendent of Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site for information about other sites of interest in this historically rich area.

CADDOAN MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE—A chief archaeological site in Texas. Park includes two ceremonial and one burial mound, visitor center with exhibits, and 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 fee.

DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST—Nearest entrance southwest 6 miles on Texas 21. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

MISSION TEJAS STATE 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-23

GENERAL—Established 1872 with building of Texas and Pacific Railroad. Capt. P.R. Scott donated 100 acres to the railroad for the location of the new Atlanta, named for Georgia home of many early settlers. Sites of prehistoric Caddo Indian Villages have been noted in the region. The area served as a gateway for early settlers of Texas, as pioneers from Missouri and Arkansas crossed the Red and Sulphur rivers on ferries.

Visitors can tour the historic downtown plaza, the Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot and Museum, Veterans Memorial Plaza, or the Atlanta library’s genealogical section, which is rich in information. Three city parks open daily for picnics and recreation and include baseball/softball fields, hiking paths, and more.

Fishing, hunting and birdwatching opportunities abound in the areas on and around nearby Lake Wright Patman, Caddo Lake, and Lake O’ The Pines.

Area annual events include the Wildflower Trails in Apr., Bluegrass Festivals in June and Oct., and the Cullen Baker Fair on the first Sat. in Nov.

Community information can be obtained at the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, located in the Depot at 101 N. East St. or by calling 903/796-3296. www.atlantatexas.org.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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.

LAKES—Gilmer, Hawkins and Gladewater. See LAKES listing.

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-22

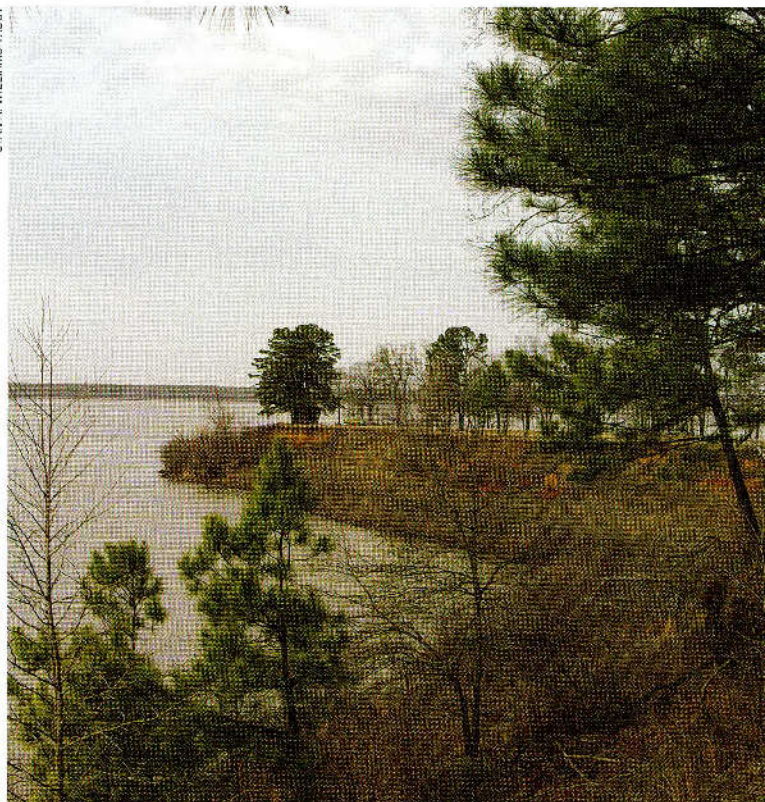
GENERAL—Became seat of Panola (Indian word for cotton) County in 1848 when 100 acres were donated for townsite. Today a center for gas and oil processing, petrochemicals, lumber mills, chicken processing, and small industries. Birthplace of Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves.

LAKES—Martin and Murvaul. See LAKES listing.

PANOLA COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM—Historical exhibits, including antique dolls and old buggy, are in restored historic bank building on square. Texas Tearoom 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

STAN A. WILLIAMS/ISTOCK



Atlanta State Park



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; his songs sold millions of records. Memorial is three miles east of downtown on U.S. 79.

TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND TEX RITTER MUSEUM—New \$2.2 million, 13,000-square foot facility that pays tribute to Texans who have made an indelible mark on the country music industry. Inductees include Waylon Jennings, Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell, Kris Kristofferson, Gene Autry, Willie Nelson, Dale Evans, Jim Reeves, Tanya Tucker, and more. Tex Ritter Museum contains memorabilia of the legendary country/Western entertainer who was an early member of the Grand Old Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame, and beautiful bronze statue in front of the facility features Ritter seated next to his horse, White Flash. Gift shop also available. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bus tours welcomed. 300 W. Panola. For additional information, call 903/693-6634. Admission fee. www.carthagetexas.com.

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.

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.

CHEESEMAKERS, INC.—See authentic Texas cheese made by hand. Tour the cheese plant to see artisans create Texas goat cheese and authentic Mexican cheeses. Fresh mozzarella is made on-site, by hand, and Mexican-style string cheese is braided and fashioned into balls. Viewing window allows visitors to see fresh curds hand-ladled into forms. Gift shop also available. Tours available Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 2266 S. Walker Rd. For more information, call 866/593-1319 or visit www.cheesemakers.com.

DOUBLE LAKE RECREATION AREA—See COLDSRING.

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. 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.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum in Carthage

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. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

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 exist. 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 fee. On F.M. 224 north of city on Lake Livingston.

CONROE

Pop. 36,811 Alt. 213 Map P-20

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



Shelby County Courthouse in Center

LOCKHART/STILLMARKET

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, campgrounds and marinas dot the tree-lined shore of Lake Conroe. Lake Conroe is home to eight public golf courses with more than 153 challenging holes.

Storied community of Cut and Shoot—where flea markets flourish on the weekend—is 5 miles east of Conroe.

Just down Texas 105 is the town of Montgomery where you can take a self-guided tour of historic homes, buildings, and antique shops. Shoppers find bargains at Conroe Outlet Center at I-45 and League Line Rd. and at quaint antique malls throughout the city.

Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival attracts thousands to the downtown square on the second weekend in Oct. Activities include a parade, live entertainment on three stages, fun and games for the kids, arts & crafts and plenty of spicy food.

The Lake Conroe Convention and Visitors Bureau can provide additional information for events, lodging, and dining facilities. The Visitor Center is located in the Chamber's offices at 505 West Davis St., or call 877/4-CONROE, or visit www.lakeconroetx.org.

CRIGHTON THEATRE—Restored vaudeville theater, built in 1934, is home to a variety of stage plays, music performances and special events. At 234 N. Main. Call 936/441-7469 for performance schedule.

CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION—See THE WOODLANDS.

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. 936/539-6873.

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 more than 150 species identified; boasts highest density of rare red-cockaded woodpecker. Sweet Leaf Nature Trail, self-guided tour. Open seven days a week during daylight hours. Call 936/273-2261 for more information. 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. Closed Mon. On Texas 105 seven miles west of I-45. Admission fee. For information, call 936/788-8302.

LAKES—Conroe. See LAKES listing.

PADDLE WHEELER SOUTHERN EMPRESS—Ply the waters of Lake Conroe while dining and dancing. Reservations required. Departs from Del Lago Resort off of Hwy 105 West and Walden Road. 800/324-2229.

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.

CROCKETT

Pop. 7,251

Alt. 350

Map N-21

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 tourism, timber, agriculture, plastics, chemicals and clothing manufacture.

Architectural District includes beautiful homes and businesses, antique shops, restaurants and more. Old Town Crockett features statue of blues legend and native son Lightnin' Hopkins. Events include World Championship Fiddlers' Festival, Peanut Festival, Heritage Days and more. Nearby waterways include Trinity and Neches rivers, and several lakes, bayous and streams.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce at 936/544-2359 or visit www.crockettareachamber.org.

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—Largest National Forest in state. Features camping, fishing, boating, hiking, swimming and 20-mile nature trail. *Big Slough Wilderness Area* is located within forest. Nearest entrance about 10 miles east on Texas 7. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

DAVY CROCKETT SPRING—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 site where the spring still flows; on W. Goliad St. at underpass (intersection of Texas 7/21).

DOWN-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 fee.

MISSION TEJAS STATE 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 fee.

ELIZA BISHOP DEPOT MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER—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. Located close to Davy Crockett Spring and Old Town at Camp 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 used 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 fee. 800/792-1112

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.

More than 50 historical markers are found in the city and around the county, including a 1936 granite marker in Roosevelt Park on site of early 19th-century Cherokee Indian village. Markers on the courthouse lawn tell about the Cherokee



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT



Trace, traveled by Sam Houston and other Texas Revolution heroes on first trips to Texas.

Gilmer became a Texas Main Street City in 1998, won Texas Main Street City of the year in 1999 and in 2000 was named a National Main Street City. Historic Gilmer Main Street features downtown square with red brick-paved streets, shops and restaurants. For information, call 903/843-0086.

Gilmer is also part of the Texas Forest Trail Region, the heritage tourism initiative of the Texas Historical Commission that encompasses 35 counties in East Texas.

Don't miss East Texas Yamboree, third weekend in Oct., which pays homage to the sweet potato and is one of the oldest annual festivals in Texas. For information on events, attractions, and accommodations, call the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce at 903/843-2413.

HISTORIC UPSHUR MUSEUM—General history museum in 1925-vintage Gilmer Post Office building on courthouse square. Chronological exhibits including Caddo artifacts, forestry and other industries, model drilling rig, Yamboree exhibits and more. Open Mon. - Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Northeast corner of square downtown. 903/843-5483. E-mail: hum-lite@juno.com.

LAKE GILMER—Opened in 2001, lake covers 1,010 surface acres and activities include fishing, swimming, skiing, personal watercraft and duck hunting. 903/797-3034. E-mail: lakeglmr@ctex.net.

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

Fall color in East Texas

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. The "Antique Capital of East Texas" city boasts more than two dozen antique shops.

Annual events include the East Texas Gusher Days held in April, the Gladewater Round Up 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). Ask about bed and breakfast facilities in the area. Call 903/845-5501 or 800/627-0315, visit www.gladewaterchamber.com or e-mail gladewatercoc@cox-internet.com.

A local skydiving club meets on weekends and practices skydiving skills at the Gladewater airport.

GLADEWATER SATURDAY NIGHT OPRY—Toe-tapping country/Western music show and comedy stage show every Sat. night. Free gospel show on Fri. night. At 108 E. Commerce St. Admission fee. For information, call 903/845-3600 or 903/734-4444.

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 C.R. 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.

HALLSVILLE

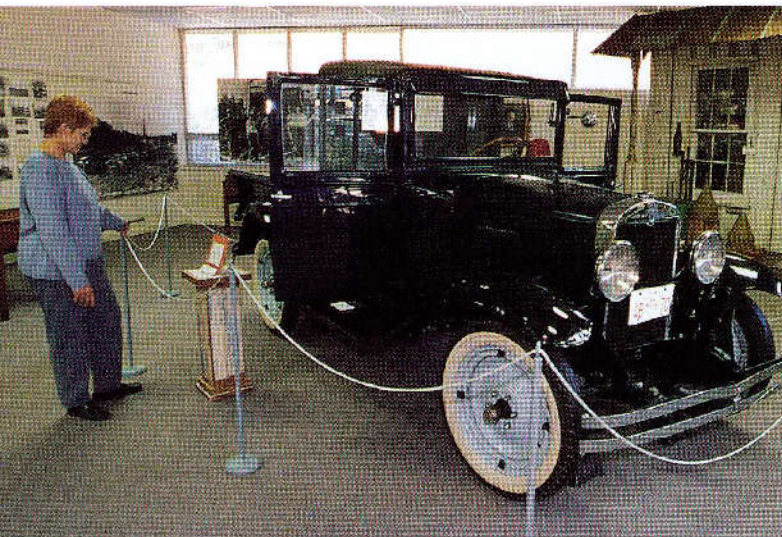
Pop. 2,772

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.

HALLSVILLE RACEWAY—NHRA championship drag racing is held Fri. and Sat. Feb. - Oct.; Sun., Nov. - Jan., weather permitting. Features the NHRA



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Depot Museum and Children's Discovery Center in Henderson

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. Annual events include the Wildflower Driving Trails held Apr. 15 - May 31, and the Annual Heritage Syrup Festival in Nov.

For more information on events, accommodations, dining or to receive a map, contact the City of Henderson Department of Tourism at 866/650-5529, or write to 502 W. Main St., 75652.

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. Orate, 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 fee.

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 No. 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 C.R. 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." See JOINERVILLE.

The site of the Daisy Bradford No. 3 is about a mile north of Pioneer Park on C.R. 4136 and is marked by a 1936 pink granite marker.

Today, the city is part of the National Register of Historic Downtown Squares. **GASTON MUSEUM**—See JOINERVILLE.

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.

LAKE FOREST 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.

HUNTSVILLE

Pop. 35,078 Alt. 401 Map O-20

GENERAL—Founded as Indian trading post in 1835-36, 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 historic downtown area is home to a variety of antique, and arts and crafts shops. A Texas Main Street City.

Be sure to see the beautiful mural of Sam Houston by architectural illusionist Richard Haas on the northeastern edge of the square. The annual "Fair on the Square" festival is held the first Sat. in Oct.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Sam Houston Statue Complex in Huntsville



Additional information may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce at 1327 11th St. (Texas 30) or call 936/295-8113 or 800/289-0389. www.huntsvilletexas.com.

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—Built in 1862 by Thomas Gibbs, only Greek Revival-style dwelling in city. Gibbs was one of city's early businessmen and was often visited at the home by personal friend Sam Houston. Today, house is a Texas recorded historic landmark and has been declared an archaeological landmark by Texas Antiquities Committee. Open Thurs. - Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. 1238 11th St. at Ave. M. Admission fee. 936/295-2914 or 936/295-8113.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

LAKES—Gibbons Creek, Livingston. See LAKES listing.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY—Sam Houston's burial site along with other Texas personalities, Confederate and Union soldiers, and pioneers. Houston's tomb bears Andrew 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 1842. 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. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 4:30 p.m. At 1836 Sam Houston Ave. 936/294-1832.

SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST—City is at northwestern boundary of forest. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

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. Historic Walls Unit, 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, replica of 9 x 6 cell, and "Old Sparky," the state's electric chair used between 1924 and 1964. Rotating exhibits. Along with other penal artifacts, visitors also see crafts and products produced by inmates. Special weekday group tours and group rates available by appointment. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (till 6 p.m. during daylight savings time), Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Located at 491 Texas 75 N., (take Exit 118 from I-45). 936/295-2155. Admission fee.

VETERANS MUSEUM OF TEXAS-HEARTS—Dedicated to the preservation of the memory of veterans who served in past wars, facility has more than 5,000 square feet of military memorabilia, including war artifacts, photos, love letters and personal effects. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and open and special holidays for pre-arranged tours. Located in West Hill Mall on Texas 30 (one block west of I-45). 936/295-5959. www.heartsmuseum.com.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Sam Houston Memorial Museum Complex in Huntsville

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 in Texas. 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 800/376-2217, or visit www.jacksonvilletexas.com.

CHEROKEE TRACE DRIVE-THRU SAFARI—Nestled in the lush piney woods of east Texas, park is home to amazing variety of wildlife. See more than a dozen exotic and endangered species that thrive in an open habitat similar to their native territory. Enjoy a self-paced, self-guided drive through the hills and open savannahs on this 300-acre preserve, and see an African longhorn cow, Canadian bison, Blackbuck, Fallow, and even alligators. Open Apr. - Aug., Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 7 p.m. Open Sept. - Feb., Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Located east of Jacksonville at 1200 CR 4405. Admission fee. For more information, call 903/683-3322 or visit www.cherokeetrace.org.

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 903/586-2217. 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.

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.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Martin Dies Jr. State Park near Jasper

JASPER

Pop. 8,247

Alt. 221

Map N-23

GENERAL—Seat of Jasper County, established in late 1800s and 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 built in 1889, two bed & breakfasts, art galleries, outdoor art sculptures, antique shops, murals, and the old county jail where county archives are housed. Sandy Creek Park, downtown, features children's playground equipment, fishing ponds, walking trail, picnic areas, basketball courts, and a pavilion over the water.

Annual events include Azalea Festival in Mar., Air Show in Apr., Fourth of July Celebration, Fall Festival in Oct., Christmas Open House in Dec.

For information on events, accommodations, and dining, stop by the Jasper Information Center at 246 E. Milam, open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or call 409/384-2672 or visit www.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 409/698-8620. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

EAST TEXAS REGIONAL ARTS CENTER—Features world-class art exhibitions and art gallery. Located at 364 N. Austin. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. No admission fee. 409/384-2404

HISTORIC HOMES—Several of city's historic homes are open for tours:

Beaty-Orton House, built in 1888 by Sen. John Thomas Beaty, is outstanding example of Victorian architecture and has been restored to original beauty and furnished with antiques. Open for tours Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 409/384-2650.

Belle-Jim Hotel was built in 1910 by Mamie Patten and named for her children, Belle and Jim. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 409/384-6923.

Swann Hotel, built in 1901 by A.L. Dunkin for his family home, purchased by Swann family in 1915 and converted into hotel. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 877/489-9717.

JASPER'S FIREMAN'S MUSEUM—Filled with historical memorabilia, including Jasper's historic Engine No. 1. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 205 Water St. No admission fee. 409/383-6168.

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 fee. 800/792-1112

SIECKE STATE FOREST—25 miles south on U.S. 96. See STATE FORESTS IN TEXAS.

JEFFERSON

Pop. 2,199

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.

The Historic Jefferson Railway Company re-creates the Golden Era of steam railroading on a live steam, narrow gauge railway. Scenic journey winds through Big Cypress Bayou. For more information and tour schedules, call 903/665-6400.

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 888/GO-RELAX. Also visit 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. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Closed Sun. 301 Lafayette St.

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; most are on National Register of Historic Places:

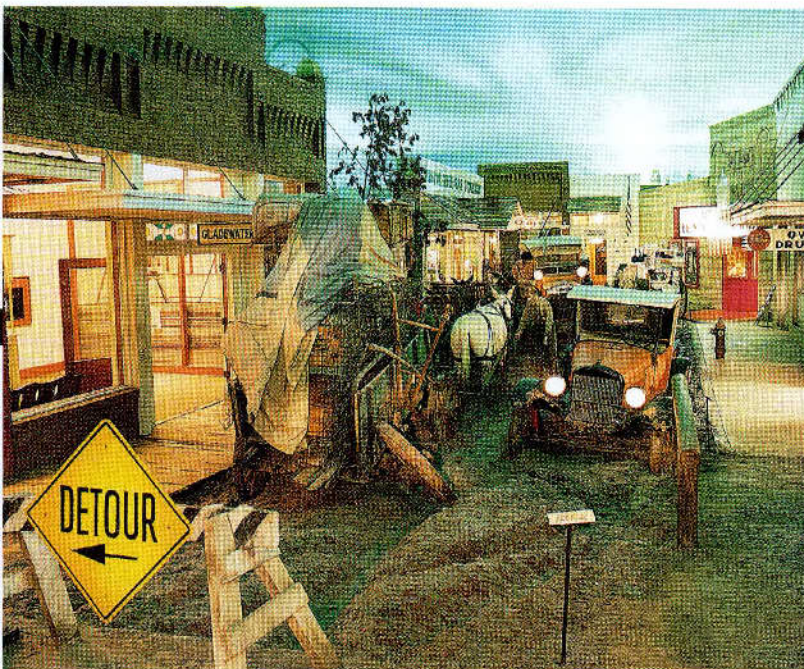
First Bed and Breakfast in Texas/Pride House—First bed and breakfast in state. This Victorian mansion features more than 30 original stained glass windows and 12-ft. tall ceilings. Elegantly furnished. Open for tours Fri. 3 - 5 p.m. For information and reservations, call 903/665-2675 or 800/894-3526. At 409 Broadway St.

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. 903/665-8000. At 40 S. Alley St. Admission fee.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone with the Wind Museum in Jefferson



STAN A WILLIAMS/TXDOT

East Texas Oil Museum in Kilgore

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 and 2 p.m. 211 W. Austin St. Tour fee.

Jefferson Hotel—A cotton warehouse in 1861, converted to hotel in 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 fee.

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM—Four floors of articles, documents and antiques from bygone era. Mementos of pioneer days, early steamboat commerce, and antebellum society. Paintings and sculpture from D.D. Feldman collection. On display is one of the outstanding doll collections in Texas. Open daily 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Federal Building, Austin and Market sts. Admission fee. 903/665-2775.

LAKES—Caddo, Lake O’ the Pines. See LAKES listing.

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 Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and other times by appointment. At 408 Taylor St. For information, call 903/665-1939. www.scarlettohardy.com.

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, call 903/665-2222.

JOINERVILLE

Pop. 140 (est.) Alt. 500 Map K-21

GENERAL—Located on Texas 64, approx. six miles west of Henderson, is home to East Texas Oil Field’s Discovery Well, once the largest oil field in the world. Town (previously known as Cyril) named in honor of wildcat driller C.M. “Dad” Joiner in 1931 and also home to Daisy Bradford No. 3. In Pioneer Park, monument and historical markers honor those oilfield “roughnecks.” The Daisy Bradford No. 3 well blew in 1930 and is still producing today. City is also part of Texas Forest Trail Region.

GASTON MUSEUM—When C.M. “Dad” Joiner struck oil here on Oct. 3, 1930, this sparsely populated farming community became a bustling boomtown. Museum is dedicated to the preservation of the area’s history and heritage, inviting visitors to step back into the 1930s. Focusing on life in an East Texas oil field, includes an oil field “tent house,” a 1930s Dixie Service Station and a 1940s roadside cafe on the museum grounds, and each building contains original furnishings. Open Thurs. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., other times by appointment. On Texas 64, 2.2 miles from East Texas Oil Field’s Discovery Well. 903/847-2205. www.gastonmuseum.org.

KARNACK

Pop. 775 (est.) Alt. 237 Map J-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.

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, boating, hiking, nature trails and interpretive center. Two miles north off Texas 43. Admission fee. Call park at 903/679-3351 or 512/389-8900 to make reservations.

LAKE—Caddo. See LAKES listing.

KILGORE

Pop. 11,928 Alt. 371 Map K-22

GENERAL—Surrounded by the pine forests and clear blue skies of East Texas about 120 miles east of Dallas. In 1930, this quiet farming town was thrust into the world limelight by discovery of huge oil field; more than 1,200 oil wells once within city limits; some still producing. More than 24 restored steel derricks are nostalgic reminders of early boom days; now decorated during Christmas.

For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 903/984-5022 or visit www.kilgorechamber.com.

EAST TEXAS OIL MUSEUM—Every aspect of the 1930s oil boom days is re-created through dioramas, films, sound effects and mementos of the oil field, and from the daily lives of the people. See an old-fashioned drilling rig displayed outside. Walk in the footsteps of the boomers in the street scenes that bring the past to life. Also, hop aboard an elevator that simulates a 3,800-foot ride below ground to the see oil formations within the earth. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (till 5 p.m. Apr. - Sept.); Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Special holiday schedule between Christmas and New Year’s Day. U.S. 259 at Ross St. 903/983-8295. (On Kilgore College campus.) Admission fee.

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 “high kick” routine. The first of its



KEVIN STELLMAN/FOXOT

Gaston Museum in Joinerville



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. No admission fee. 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 26 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, 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. Seicke 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-22

GENERAL—Established as railroad town 1881. Seat of Hardin County, an area more than 89 percent forested that produces more than 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.



KEVIN SHILLMAN/IXDOT

Lake Livingston

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 12 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 Big Thicket information station above.

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-round. Admission fee. 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 Liberty 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 barbecue 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. 10 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 Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m. 936/336-5736.

LIBERTY OPRY ON THE SQUARE—Live shows every Sat. at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., featuring country/Western, gospel, and comedy themes. For more information call 800/248-8918 or 936/336-1079. www.libertyopry.com. E-mail: john@libertyopry.com.

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. No admission fee. Three miles north of Liberty on F.M. 1011, off of Texas 146. 936/336-8821. www.tsl.state.tx.us/shc.

LIVINGSTON

Pop. 5,433 Alt. 194 Map O-21

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. Scenic camping areas, fishing lake, and swimming. For information, call 936/563-1100; visit www.alabama-coushatta.com.

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 fee. 800/792-1112

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/FF-19

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 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 more than 200 manufacturing firms. Home of LeTourneau University.

Like Nowhere Else in Texas!



- ★ Longview Museum of Fine Arts
- ★ Great Texas Balloon Race
- ★ Gregg County Historical Museum
- ★ AlleyFest
- ★ R.G. LeTourneau Museum
- ★ Zonta Antique Show



Longview Convention & Visitors Bureau
410 N. Center St. 903-753-3281 Longview, TX 75601

www.VisitLongviewTexas.com

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—Three 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.

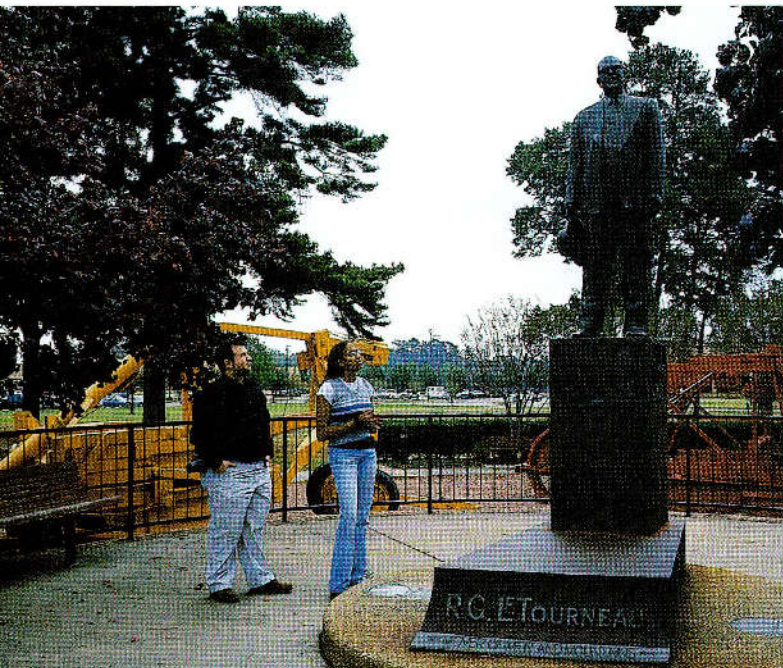
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Exhibits devoted to local East Texas history, agriculture, communications, and military collections. Reproductions of early rooms: banker's office, parlor, kitchen, and interior of log cabin. Audiovisual historical program. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Housed in historical-marked 1910 bank building, 214 N. Fredonia. For information, call 903/753-5840. Admission fee.

HERITAGE PLAZA—Built on the site of the Gregg 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.

J.R. CURTIS MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR THE BLIND—Located on grounds of Maude Cobb Activity Complex, garden provides unique hands-on learning environment and surrounds pond, fountain, ADA sidewalks, gazebo, wooden bridge, and butterfly garden. At 100 Grand Blvd. Open year round. 903/237-1230.

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 track serves a challenging course for drivers. Races every Sat. night Mar. - Oct.; gates open 6 p.m., racing starts 8 p.m. I-20 at F.M. 2207. 903/984-3699. Admission fee.



KENNETH STULL/ARND BRONKHORST

R. G. LeTourneau Museum in Longview

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. 903/753-8103.

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/JJ-1

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 fee. 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.)

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 service 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, call 409/755-7322. For reservations, call 512/389-8900.

MARSHALL

Pop. 23,935 Alt. 375 Map K-22/FF-21

GENERAL—Settled 1839, became seat of Harrison County in 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.

Annual festivals include Stagecoach Days in May, Fireant Festival in Oct., and Wonderland of Lights in Nov. - Dec.

The red and white clay in the area is perfect for stoneware. There are eight wholesale pottery manufacturers and two retail outlets in the city.

CADDO LAKE STATE PARK—See KARNACK.

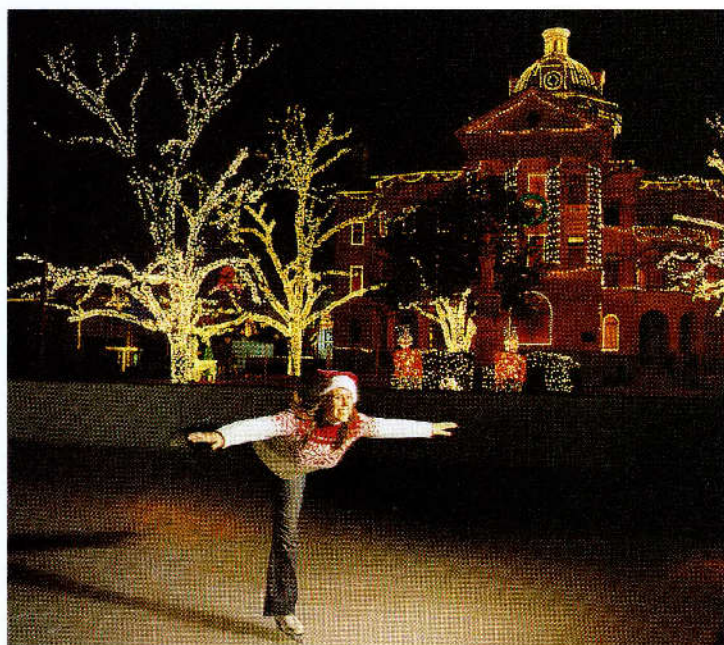
GINOCCHIO NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT—Three square blocks in the heart of old downtown surround the 1896 Ginocchio Hotel. Another feature of the historic district is the nearby Allen house, a typical example of early Texas architecture, circa 1877, with upper and lower verandahs fronting the full length of the white frame house, 610 N. Washington St.

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Temporarily housed in the Ginocchio Hotel while the former county courthouse is remodeled. 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. Temporary location is 707 N. Washington. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed holidays. Admission fee. 903/938-2680.

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 Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Special tours may be arranged for groups of 10 or more. 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



J. GARDNER/STAFFING

Wonderland of Lights in Marshall

the pottery's beginning. At main showroom 2.5 miles SE of Marshall on F.M. 31, visitors see hundreds of decorative and utility pots, bowls, plaques and figurines. 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. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 - 6 p.m. Reservations 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 20th-century artists such as Abraham Walkowitz, David Burluk and Milton Avery; and the Ramona and 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 fee. 903/935-9480.

STARR FAMILY HOME 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 Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 407 W. Travis St. 903/935-3044. Admission fee.

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 "Crown Jewel," the Harrison County Historical Courthouse. 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-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, bluebonnets, 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.

MONTGOMERY

Pop. 489 Alt. 286 Map P-20

GENERAL—Known as the "Birthplace of the Texas flag," city was established in 1827 as the second of Stephen F. Austin's colonies. Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart, a resident of the town from 1838 to 1885, designed the first Republic of Texas flag and official seal, which was approved by the legislature and President Mirabeau B. Lamar in 1839. Dr. Stewart was the Republic's first Secretary of State and the first to sign Texas' Declaration of Independence. In 1997, Governor George W. Bush signed a resolution that officially proclaimed Montgomery County as the Birthplace of the Lone Star Flag.

More than 50 historic homes and buildings are located throughout the city. A self-guided City Tour and Shopping Guide are available at the Nathaniel H. Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum or in area stores and restaurants. Private tours are also available by calling 877/898-STAR (7827).

Annual events include Christmas in Historic Montgomery in Dec., Historic Montgomery Food and Wine Trail in Sept., and Old Fashioned Fourth of July.

For more information, visit the City of Montgomery Web site at www.historicmontgomerytexas.com or the Greater Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce at www.conroe.org.

LAKES—Conroe. See LAKES listing.

NATHAN H. DAVIS PIONEER COMPLEX & MUSEUM—An example of a pioneer home, the Davis log house was originally built in 1851 for local attorney Nathan H. Davis. Furniture and household belongings reflect the period 1850 to 1890. Adjacent to the museum is the Davis Law Office, built in 1845, which served as Davis' living quarters before the cottage was constructed.

A copy of Dr. Charles B. Stewart's original drawing of his design of the Republic of Texas flag hangs in the museum.

The museum is also home to a branch office of the Greater Conroe/Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce. Open Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open daily Jun. - Aug. 936/597-4155.

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 by Caddo Indians for free flowing mineral springs. In early 1900s, town attracted resort visitors to red mineral springs nearby. Today, commercial center for manufacturing and poultry industries. Home of Northeast Texas Community College, serving Camp, Morris, Titus, and Franklin counties and portions of Cass, Hopkins, Upshur and Wood counties. Whatley Center for the Performing Arts on campus hosts musical and cultural events.

More than 17,000 acres of boating, fishing, camping, parks and skiing found on Lakes Bob Sandlin, Monticello and Welsh, all famed for producing outstanding crappie, catfish and state record catches of largemouth bass.

STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT



Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in Nacogdoches

Visit nearby West New Hope Methodist Church, which was built in 1909 and includes mural on back interior wall painted by local artist David Freeman. Call 903/524-2312 or 903/572-3917 for more information.

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.

Mount Pleasant is a Texas Main Street City and has been named "One of the 100 Best Small Towns in America." An abundance of antique and specialty gifts available, as well as tearooms and shops. For additional information on shopping, accommodations, and restaurants contact the Mt. Pleasant-Titus County Chamber of Commerce at 1604 N. Jefferson, 903/572-8567.

DELLWOOD PARK—Twenty-five acres in wooded area where mineral springs resort once stood. Picnicking and playground area, tennis courts, swimming pool, and picturesque small stream; off Texas 49 east.

LAKE 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. 800/792-1112

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.

LEGENDS & LAWLESS MUSEUM—Collection of John Wayne and western memorabilia. At 2747 Old Paris Rd. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission fee. 903/572-9416. www.legendsandlawless.com

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. 903/575-4180. www.mpcity.net.

NORTHEAST TEXAS BLUE BIRD TRAIL—Self-guided tour through country roads in Titus County follows established trail of bluebird nesting places. Map and driving directions available at Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, 1604 N. Jefferson. Best viewing is late-Feb. through May.

PLEASANT JAMBOREE—Housed in former Martin Theater built in 1913 that 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 7:30 p.m. At 112 W. Third St. For information, 903/572-2232. www.cndent.com.

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.

VISITOR INFORMATION—For information on events, accommodations, shopping, restaurants and more, visit the Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce at 1604 N. Jefferson. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with 24-hour kiosk. 903/572-8567.

www.mtpleasanttx.com.

WHATLEY 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, 903/434-8181.

www.ntcc.edu.

NACOGDOCHES

Pop. 29,914

Alt. 283

Map M-22/FF-2

GENERAL—The "Oldest Town in Texas," named for the Caddo family of Indians who once lived in the area. Remained a Caddo settlement until 1716 when Spain established a mission here. In 1779, received designation from Spain as a "pueblo," or town, and Antonio Gil Y'Barbo, a prominent Spanish trader, was named Lt. Governor. Y'Barbo laid out streets of present-day downtown with intersecting El Camino Real and El Calle del Norte as central point. 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.

Numerous landmarks and museums pay tribute to the town's historic past, which makes it a popular tourist destination today. The city is also home to Stephen F. Austin State University.

DURST-TAYLOR HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDENS—This circa 1830s home was occupied by several great Texas pioneers including Joseph Durst, founder of the Texas town of Angelina and Alcalde (mayor) of Nacogdoches; Isaac W. Burton, veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto; Bennet Blake, delegate to the 1875 Constitutional Convention; and Thomas J. Rusk, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and one of Texas' first two U.S. Senators. The grounds of this historic landmark includes a blacksmith shop, smokehouse, and historic gardens. Located at 304 North St. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 936/560-4443.

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 HISTORIC VILLAGE—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 fee.

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 1845, 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, founder of Nacogdoches, built the original stone house circa 1779 as the formal portal 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. 936/468-2408 weekdays for more information.

RUBY M. MIZE AZALEA GARDEN—Texas’ largest azalea garden features more than 6,500 azaleas spread over eight forested acres. The garden is located south of SFA Johnson Coliseum on University Drive. Peak bloom time is late March through the first week of Apr. Open daily dawn to dusk. 936/468-1832

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN MAST ARBORETUM—Started in 1985, this was the first arboretum at a university in Texas. Special features include an 11-acre arboretum of rare trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, a children’s garden that lies along the Lanana Creek Trail, 8-acre Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, filled with Japanese maples, hydrangeas, camellias, and more than 6,500 azaleas, and 39-acre Pineywoods Native Plant Center, home to endangered plant research and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Demonstration Garden, a satellite of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Open daily dawn to dusk. Universally accessible. At 2900 Raguet St. on the north side of SFASU campus. 936/468-1832.

STERNE-HOYA HOUSE MUSEUM—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 Tues. - Sat. 10 - 4 p.m. (closed Sun. - Mon.). At 211 S. Lanana St., a block off E. Main St. (Texas 21). 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 www.visitnacogdoches.org, or call 888/OLDEST-TOWN.

STAN A. WILLIAMS/STREET



Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum in Nacogdoches

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 fee.

NEWTON

Pop. 2,459

Alt. 190

Map N-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 Big Thicket Loop of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. There are more than 220 species of birds that reside or migrate in the county. There are several Texas Historical Markers and Medallions placed throughout the county.

Details and information on schedule of events, dining, accommodations, nature trails and area trail maps are available at the Visitor Center housed in the old City Service Station located on the historical Courthouse Square. 409/379-5527. www.newton-texas.com. E-mail: chamber@newton-texas.com.

NATURE TRAILS—*Canyon Rim Trail* is located off Texas 87 north of Burkeville. Various tree species and points of interest are identified, and rest stops are provided throughout the trail.

Horse-Sugar 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. Three miles east on U.S. 190 opposite highway roadside park.

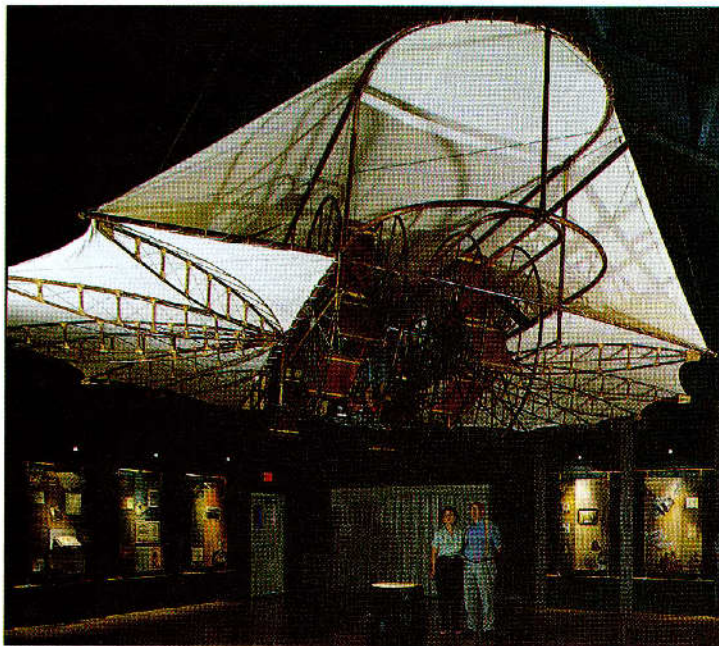
Wild Azalea Canyons Trail—A pocket wilderness featuring growth of wild azaleas (most spectacular in March) and other native flowering plants. Scenic rock cliffs. Five miles north on Texas 87; 10 miles east on F.M. 1414 (not shown on most maps).

NEWTON COUNTY HISTORY CENTER/MUSEUM/ GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY—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. 105 Court St. 409/379-2109.



London Museum and Tea Room in New London

KEVIN STILL/MANTRODOT



MICHAEL AMADOR/TOOT

Ezekiel Airship in Pittsburg

PARKS—*New Caney Creek Park* features picnic spots U.S. 190, *Pete Hughes Memorial Park* on High St.

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 10 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 1901, an inspired preacher-inventor built an airship based on description in Biblical book of Ezekiel. Said to have flown briefly in 1902, 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 artifacts, photos and documents from 1854 when town was 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.

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 that 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. 8:30 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, Hawkins, Holbrook, Quitman and Winnsboro. 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 foot-bridge, said to be nation's longest, originally built 1861 for crossing valley during rainy season. Two blocks east of town square.

JIM HOGG HISTORIC PARK—175-acre scenic forest area of lofty pines. Dedicated as memorial to Governor Hogg, attractions include restored birth-place, 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/PALESTINE STATE PARK—Each of the two units of the park offers outdoor fun and recreation, such as camping, hiking, picnicking, and pedal boating, along with watching native birds and small mammals. Rusk/Palestine State Park in East Texas includes the terminals of the popular Texas State Railroad. Admission fee. Reservations: 512/389-8900.

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.



KEVIN STULLMAN/TOOT

Lake Fork near Quitman



LOUISIANA WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Texas State Railroad in Rusk

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 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 nationally designated historic trail, "El Camino Real de los Tejas" (the Royal Highway, now Texas 21 in this area). Sam Houston had an office here; Davy Crockett was feted on his way to the Alamo; and James 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 CME Black Methodist. The San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce has detailed regional information online, visit www.sanaugustinetx.com. The Chamber is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 611 W. Columbia St. 936/275-3610.

ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST—Nearest entrance about 11 miles south on Texas 147. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS—Spanish for the King's Highway, also called Old San Antonio Road, the first "interstate" (actually international) highway system in North America. Tejas became a province of Spain in 1691, the same year the royal road was blazed by Domingo Teran de los Rios, the first Provisional Governor.

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., but call ahead for tour times. At Congress and Market sts.

LAKES—Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend. See LAKES listing.

MISSION SEÑORA DE LOS DOLORES DE LOS AIS—Established in 1717 but abandoned due to French invasion in 1719; restored in 1721 near the village of Ais Indians. Closed in 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 new "Mission Delores" visitor center. 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*. Restored, complete with sweetgum roller, hand-wrought iron handle and oaken bucket, located in Old Stripling Drug Store, now the San Augustine Historical Society Emporium, includes tourist and gift center.

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.

SHENANDOAH

Pop. 1,503 Alt. 60 Map P-20

GENERAL—Incorporated in 1974, this Montgomery County city is in the East Texas piney woods 30 miles north of Houston. Visitors enjoy an array of first-class shopping, dining, lodging, golfing, and entertainment choices.

Treat yourself to a wonderful shopping experience in an Old World Venice atmosphere at Portofino Center. Stroll around Roman fountains and 10-foot waterfalls, and indulge in a memorable dining experience at a beautiful patio restaurant. Local musicians perform every Sat. from 7 - 9:30 p.m., featuring a variety of music including gospel, bluegrass, contemporary, and jazz, and free to the public. Located at 19075 I-45.

In nearby Old Town Spring, take a walking ghost and history tour of the city dubbed the Ghost Capital of Texas. No fewer than a dozen buildings in this turn-of-the-century railroad town are said to house ghosts and spirits. In March, attend SpringFest, which includes wine, art, and food festivals, and much more. The Texas Crawfish Festival, held in the spring, is the largest crawfish festival outside of Louisiana. For more information, contact the Shenandoah Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/207-9463 or 281/292-5953 or visit www.shenandoahtxcvb.com.

CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION—See THE WOODLANDS.

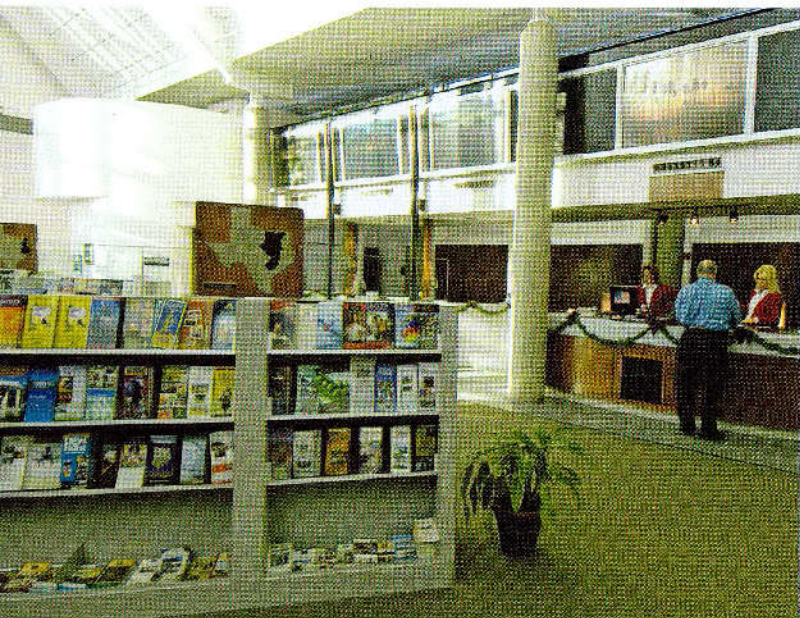
FOOTPRINTS IN COURAGE MUSEUM—Exhibits feature photos, toys and other memorabilia of town's most famous resident, David the Bubbleboy. Museum also features history of South Montgomery County, and an exhibit called Honoring Our Heroes, including uniforms from the Marines, Special Forces and Army, and the largest collection of law enforcement patches in the state. Located in the Shenandoah Municipal Complex at 29955 I-45. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. No admission fee. For more information, contact the Shenandoah Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/207-9463 or 281/292-5953 or visit www.shenandoahtxcvb.com.

JONES STATE FOREST—See STATE FORESTS.



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Footbridge Garden Park in Rusk



KEVIN STILWATER/DOOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Texarkana

LAKES—Conroe and Houston. See LAKES listing.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRESERVE—71-acre forever preserved tract of pine and hardwood forest along Spring Creek, often referred to as “The Little Thicket.” Home to numerous plant and animal species. Open year-round self-guided exploration. Naturalist events held yearly, offering guided tours and instructional seminars. No admission fee. Located at 1122 Pruitt Road in Spring. For more information, contact the Shenandoah Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/207-9463 or 281/292-5953 or visit www.shenandoahtxcvb.com.

SPLASHTOWN WATERPARK—See SPRING.

TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL—See PLANTERSVILLE.

SILS BEE

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 Southeast 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 409/385-4700.

ICEHOUSE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC.—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 Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.. At 418 Ernest St. For information, call 409/385-2444.

ROY E. LARSEN SANDYLAND SANCTUARY—A Nature Conservancy of Texas Preserve of 5,654 acres. Known for biological diversity, preserve harbors upland and wetland forest communities along 8.5 miles of Village Creek. Forested communities include arid, sandy uplands with prickly pear cactus, yucca and longleaf pine. American beech and Southern Magnolia slope forests lead to hardwood bottomlands and cypress-tupelo sloughs along white sandbars of creek.

American Bird Conservancy Globally Important Bird Area. Site 17, on Upper Coast Loop of Great Texas Birding Trail. More than 120 species of birds spotted here.

Village Creek flows eight miles through sanctuary providing an enjoyable canoeing experience, including an eight-mile hiking trail. Local vendors provide canoe

rentals and shuttle service. Preserve open for day-use only, sunrise to sunset. Located three miles west on Texas 327. 409/385-0445. www.nature.org/texas.

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, Arkansas, 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

TEXARKANA

Pop. 34,782 Alt. 325 Map G-23/AA-2

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.

Nation’s only bi-state 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 used 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 Draughon won a huge pot in poker game by playing the ace of clubs. House’s floor plan is based on the club on 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 fee. 903/793-4831.

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 fee.

LAKE—Wright Patman. See LAKES listing.

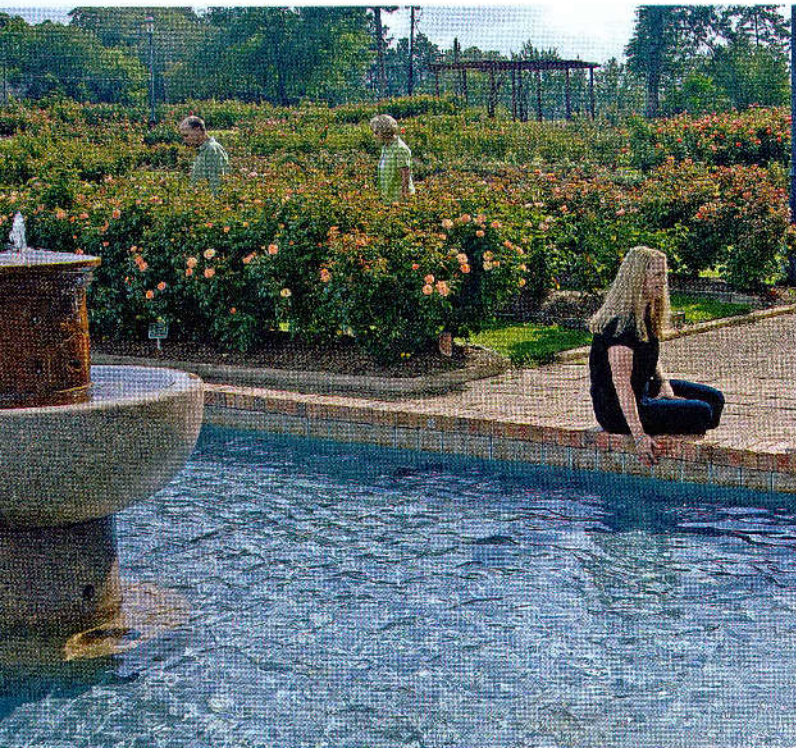
OAKLAWN OPRY—Good old family entertainment every Sat. night specializing in new and old country/western music. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show starts 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 903/838-3333. In Oaklawn Village at intersection of Robison Rd. and New Boston Rd. www.oaklawnopry.com.

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 national/international touring productions of Broadway hits, drama, music, dance and specials. For information, call 903/792-4992 or visit www.trahc.org. Box office open Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Third and Main sts. No admission fee for tours.

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. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (open Thurs. until 6 p.m.). At Fourth St. & Texas Blvd. downtown. 903/792-8681. www.trahc.org. No admission fee for exhibits.

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 fee.



STAFF A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Municipal Rose Garden in Tyler

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER—In Northeast Texas at the Texas-Arkansas state line on West I-30, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 1200 West I-30. 903/794-2114. www.txdot.gov

TYLER

Pop. 89,500

Alt. 558

Map K-21/DD-2

GENERAL—Chartered 1847, named for President John Tyler. Diversified economy based on oil, manufacturing and agriculture. A famous product is the Tyler rose bush. 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 8-mile driving and walking tours showcasing a variety of spring flowers. Events include a historic homes tour, fun run, quilt show, arts & crafts and much more. 800/235-5712.

Don't miss the Hudnall Planetarium on the TJC campus. The observatory is open during the school year for specific showtimes. For times and information, call the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau.

East Texas State Fair, held over 10 days in 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 fee to some events. 903/597-3130.

For additional information, call the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau at 903/592-1661, or 800/235-5712. Visit 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 in early 1920s. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed major holidays. Call 903/534-2169 for group reservations. At 1600 W.S.W. Loop 323 & Old Jacksonville Hwy. www.brookshires.com/company/museum.asp

CALDWELL ZOO—Started in 1938 as backyard menagerie; now features more than 2,000 endangered and beautiful wildlife from Africa, North America and South America in natural habitats in this 85-acre park. Picnic facilities. Open daily: Apr. 1 - Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Oct. 1 - Mar. 31, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 2203 Martin Luther King Dr. 903/593-0121. www.caldwellzoo.org

CAMP FANNIN WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL—Located on University of Texas Health Science Center, unique monument honors Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine veterans who served during World War II. At intersection of U.S. 271 and Hwy. 155.

CAMP FORD HISTORICAL PARK—Once the largest prisoner of war compound used for Union troops west of the Mississippi during the Civil War, now the site includes a public park managed by the Smith County Historical Society. Features kiosk with extensive graphics detailing the history of the camp, a walking trail and interpretive signage, a reconstruction of a POW cabin, and picnic facilities. Open daily, dawn to dusk. At U.S. 271 and Loop 323. No admission fee. 903/592-5993. www.campford.org

CHARWOOD RESIDENTIAL HISTORICAL DISTRICT—Dating back to the 1860s, includes Tudor Revival, Classical Revival, Colonial, Craftsman, Queen Anne and Ranch-style homes. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 903/595-1960. www.historictyler.com

DEWBERRY PLANTATION—Completed in 1854, it is the oldest two-story building still standing in Smith County. History of the home and recent restoration is all detailed during a guided tour of the estate. Open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. 14007 E.M. 346 W. 903/825-9000. www.dewberryplantation.com

DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, THE—Two exhibit halls are featured at this downtown children's math and science museum. Many activities are included focusing on "hands-on" learning. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 308 N. Broadway St. 903/533-8011. www.discoveryscienceplace.com. Admission fee.

GOODMAN HOME—A delight for antique lovers and historians, this antebellum landmark brings the past to life with original furnishings, photographs and memorabilia dating from the mid-1800s. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 624 N. Broadway. 903/531-1286. www.cityoftyler.org

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. 903/595-2312. www.tyler.cc.tx.us

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



STAFF A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Camp Ford in Tyler

around Tyler ship hundreds of thousands of bushes to nurseries throughout the nation and to 25 foreign countries. Open daily. 1900 W. Front St. 903/531-1212.

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. 1900 W. Front. 903/531-1212. www.texasrosefestival.com

SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MUSEUM & ARCHIVES—Included in the National Register of Historic Places, the 1904 Carnegie Library building today serves as the Society's museum and archives. Exhibits feature artifacts reflecting Smith County's historic, social and economic culture, including Indian, Republic of Texas, Civil War and 20th-century eras. Museum open Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Archives open Wed. 1 - 4 p.m. No admission fee. At 125 S. College St. 903/592-5993. www.smithcountyhistory.org.

TIGER CREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE—A rescue facility for tigers, lions and cougars. A division of Tiger Missing Link Foundation. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. F.M. 14 N. 903/858-1008. www.tigerlink.com.

TYLER MUSEUM OF ART—Three galleries featuring exhibits and a growing permanent collection of 19th- and 20th-century art and photography. Gift shop and tea room. Open Sept. - Jun. Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. On Tyler Junior College campus. 1300 S. Mahon Ave. 903/595-1001. www.tylermuseum.org

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 fee. 800/792-1112. www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

UNCERTAIN

Pop. 150 Alt. 195 Map J-23

GENERAL—Town evolved from fishing camps and resort operations 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 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 an art gallery are located around the lake, as are fishing guides. Bed and breakfast accommodations available.

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, boating, hiking, nature trails and interpretive center. West of town on F.M. 2198 on Caddo Lake. Admission fee. Call park at 903/679-3351, or call 512/389-8900 to make reservations.

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 888/325-5459. Boat departs from Taylor Island off Bois d'Arc Lane. Admission fee. Visit www.caddolake.com or e-mail 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 wonder-land 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 fee.

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, and part muse-



KEVIN STILWANTZ/DOT

Mission Tejas State Park near Weches

um, 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—In East Texas near the Texas-Louisiana state line on I-20 East, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 1255 North I-20 East. 903/687-2547. www.txdot.gov

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 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 it was not successful and closed in 1693. Re-established 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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) and known as the Art Capital of East Texas. 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. Other annual events include Hog Rally and the Cruise-In in Oct. Call 903/342-0684 or 903/342-7788 for more information.

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 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 800/207-9463, or visit www.montgomerycounty.com.

CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION, THE—This 16,550-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 pavilion.woodlandscenecenter.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. Scenic camping areas,



Heritage Village Museum in Woodville



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Texas Travel information Center in Waskom

fishing lake, swimming. For information, call 936/563-1100 or visit www.alabama-coushatta.com.

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. (See 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 fee.

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 fee.

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.

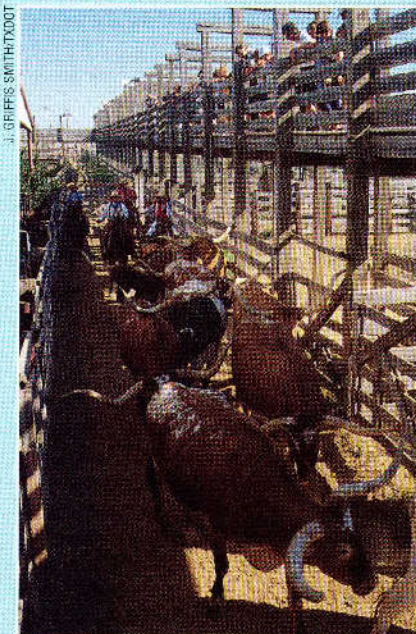
ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST—Town is within the forest boundary. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.

LAKE—Sam Rayburn. See LAKES listing.

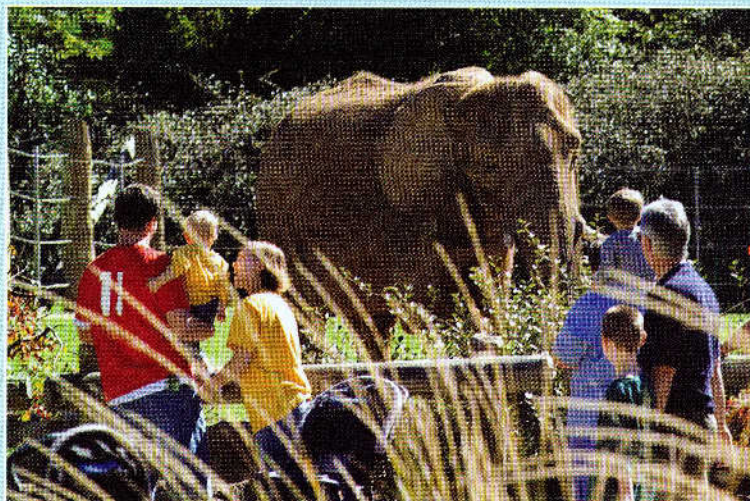
PRAIRIES AND LAKES



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT

Clockwise from top: The Dallas skyline view from Pioneer Plaza; the Fort Worth Stockyards; Cameron Park Zoo in Waco

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING, "Everything is bigger in Texas." That's especially true when talking about the Prairies & Lakes region, because it's the largest of all the travel regions in the Lone Star State. Here you'll find that everything is big: Big cities, big attractions, and big fun!

Just how big is this region, you ask? Well, its northern border is the Red River, which separates Texas from Oklahoma, and its southern edge is more than 350 miles away, just a little southeast of San Antonio. This area has everything, from bustling big cities to quaint small towns, and from fast-moving rides to slow-moving experiences. There's no doubt you'll have a great time while you're here.

If you're looking for some really big adventures, look no further than the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Dallas, one of the largest cities in the country, is filled with fantastic attractions like the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Zoo, Fair Park (home to the State Fair of Texas, held every September and October), Deep Ellum entertainment district, the Sixth Floor Museum, and so much more.

In Fort Worth, get a sense of the true cowboy spirit at the Stockyards National Historic District, the Stockyards Collection & Museum, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, and Billy Bob's Texas—the largest honky tonk in the world. You can also immerse yourself in culture at the Amon Carter

Museum, Kimbell Art Museum, Bass Performance Hall, and more. There's plenty of family entertainment, as well, at the Fort Worth Zoo, which includes an eight-acre exhibit featuring more than 200 animal species that are native to Texas.

While Dallas and Fort Worth may be the two largest cities in the region, there are many other cities in the metroplex that are home to attractions. In Arlington, experience Six Flags Over Texas, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, and Ameriquest Field—home of the Texas Rangers baseball club. Just a few miles away is Irving, and Texas Stadium, where the Dallas Cowboys play their home games every fall.

To the east lie communities such as Paris, Sulphur Springs, Commerce, Mount Vernon and more. There's so much to see and do here, from visiting historical and heritage museums to visiting one of Texas' outstanding state parks and taking in the fantastic events that are happening almost every weekend. You're sure to find a friendly face and a fun-filled experience.



Lake Texoma near Denison

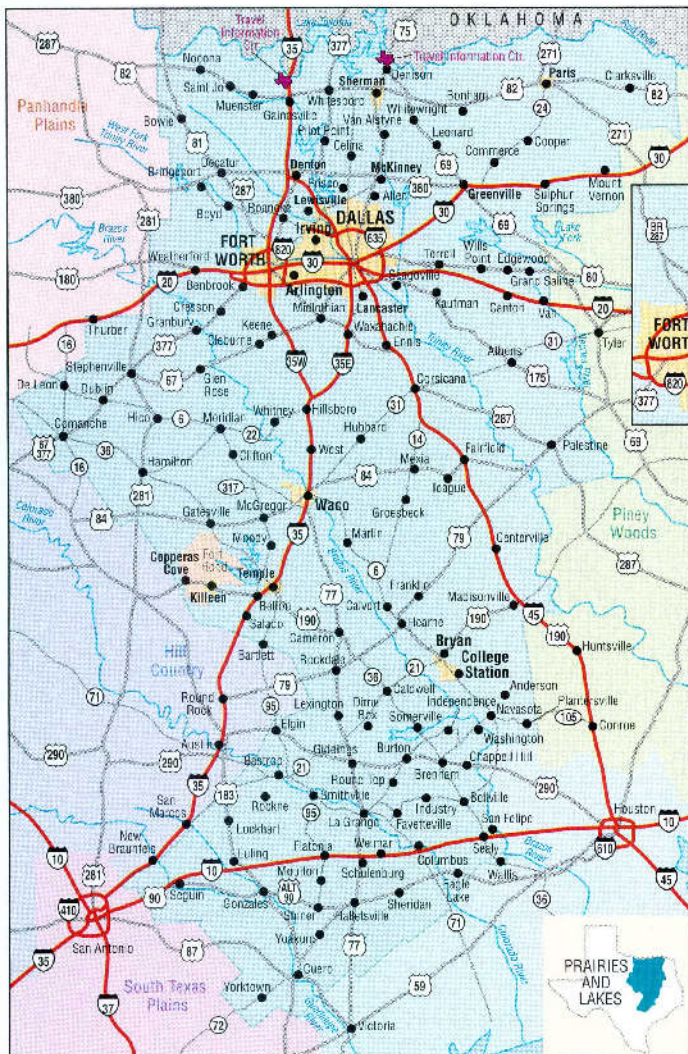
Head south and you'll find Waco, the heart of the Prairies and Lakes region. This busy city features some remarkable sites, like the Dr Pepper Museum, Cameron Park Zoo, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Armstrong-Browning Museum, and the

Mayborn Museum Complex. Nearby are water recreation activities to be found at Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Lake Brazos, and Lake Belton, just to name a few.

To the southeast lies the Bryan-College Station area, two cities that combine their wonderful resources to make a destination for every type of traveler. The sites found on the Texas A&M University campus, the splendor of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and the elegance of the Messina Hof Wine Cellars are among the many options that will entertain the entire family.

Further south are attractions that provide glimpses into early Texas life in the communities of Burton, Washington, Bastrop, Lockhart, Seguin, Gonzales, Columbus, and more. For the ice cream fanatics in your travel party, don't miss the chance to sample some of the many delicious creations found at Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham, home to the world-famous Blue Bell ice cream.

Be sure to peruse the information on the following pages about the attractions found in the cities and towns in the region, and you're sure to find many fun options. So, if you're ready for a big time in Texas, plot your course and prepare for a big adventure in the Prairies & Lakes region.



KEVIN SHILMAN/ISTOCK



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.

The Addison Arts & Events District features a one-of-a-kind collection of indoor and outdoor venues that can help make any meeting or conference special. For more information, call 972/450-6221.

Annual events include the NorthTexas Jazz festival in April, Taste Addison and ArtFest in May, Shakespeare Festival in June, Addison Kaboom Town! in July, and Oktoberfest in Sept.

Addison Airport is the third-busiest general aviation airport in the country. For more information, call 800/ADDISON or visit www.addisontexas.net.

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 www.watertowertheatre.com. Located at 15650 Addison Rd.

CAVANAUGH FLIGHT MUSEUM—Chronicles history from World Wars I & II and Korea. You'll see aircraft refurbished to the condition they were in 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. 972/380-8800. www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com.

MARY KAY MUSEUM—See the history behind Mary Kay Ash and her world-famous company, Mary Kay Cosmetics. Displays show many of the lavish rewards given to salespeople who made the Mary Kay line famous, including diamond bar pins, diamond rings, and the ultimate prize—the pink Cadillac. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. On 16251 N. Dallas Parkway. For more information, call 972/687-5720. www.marykay.com.

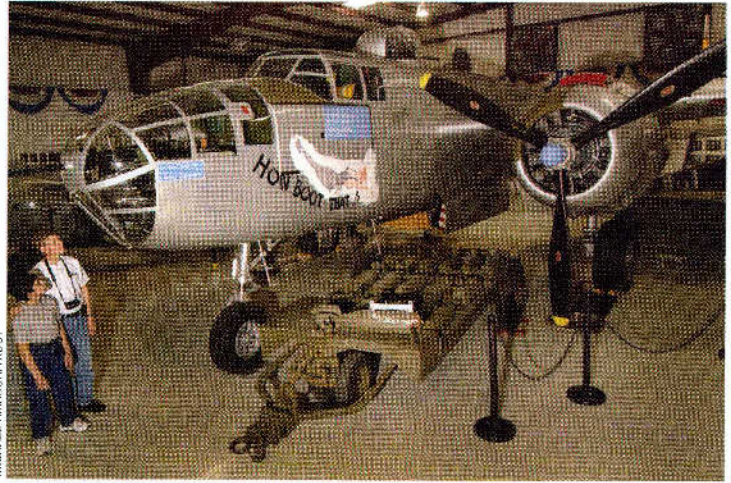
ALLEN

Pop. 37,216

Alt. 658

Map J-18/PP-9

GENERAL—Established in 1870 and named for Ebenezer Allen, former attorney general of Texas. In 1880, notorious outlaw Sam Bass supposedly committed first train robbery in state here. Today, vibrant community growing rapidly due to economic growth of nearby Dallas and location of nearby Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.



MICHAEL AMADOR/FYKOD

Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison

Bethany Lakes Park features large stocked pond and fishing pond, picnic tables, walking trail and playground. Chase Oaks Golf Club is municipally owned 18-hole course. Call 972/517-777 or visit www.chaseoaks.com for more information.

Walking trail and swimming pool are also available within city. For more information, visit the City of Allen's Web site at www.cityofallen.org.

ALLEN STATION PARK—Features only stone dam that is still standing; built in 1874; constructed and used for railroad purposes. Dam can be seen by parking at Allen Business Park. Walking trail also available. Located at 1120 N. Cedar Dr.

CELEBRATION PARK—Great place for kids to play, features water-spray ground and the "KidMania" playground, one of the largest disabled-accessible playgrounds in Texas. At 701 Angel Pkwy. For more information, call 214/509-4770 or visit www.allenparks.org.

DON RODENBAUGH NATATORIUM—Indoor swimming facility that features leisure pool, water flume slide, water play equipment, spinning vortex and lazy river. Public swim times available daily. Also includes indoor climbing rock wall, available for climbers of all skill levels. Instructors available to help climbers ages 5 and up. Admission fee. At 110 E. Rivercrest Blvd. 214/509-4770. www.allenparks.org.

EDGE AT ALLEN STATION PARK—A must-see for extreme sports enthusiasts, includes largest outdoor skate park in Texas and BMX course and two in-line hockey/skate rinks. No admission fee. Open daily. Located at Saint Mary's Dr. and Cedar Dr.

ANDERSON

Pop. 257

Alt. 215

Map 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. With many historic structures and beautiful scenic hills, home to fully restored Grimes County Courthouse.

FANTHROP INN STATE HISTORIC SITE—Log structure inn, built in 1834 before the 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. Authentically restored and furnished, as it would have been in early 1830s when 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. Full-size replica replica of 1850s Red Concord stagecoach available for rides one Sat. per month. Fee for ride. Open for tours Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. On Main Street, south of courthouse. Admission fee. 936/873-2633.

GRIMES COUNTY COURTHOUSE—An 1894 Edwardian Victorian structure made of hand-formed red bricks and native stone; courtroom has pressed metal ceiling and original furnishings. Full restoration completed in 2002 under direction of Texas Historical Commission. Historic designations include State Archeological Landmark, Texas Historic Landmark and National Register.

SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST—Nearest entrance about 13 miles east on F.M. 149. See NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS.



LOOKUP/STILLMAN NIXON

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site in Anderson



ARLINGTON

Pop. 355,007

Alt. 616

Map J-18/UU-5

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 the town moved to present site when railroad was built through.

Today, "Fun Central," Arlington is well-known for fun family activities. City is home to some of Texas' best-known family fun spots like Six Flags Over Texas, Hurricane Harbor, and Ameriquest Field in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers. In addition, Arlington will soon be home to the Dallas Cowboys, as construction on a new stadium began in 2006 and the first games will be played here in 2009.

For golf enthusiasts, Tierra Verde is a beautiful municipally-owned course that's been carved from 250 acres of secluded terrain. Pro shop, outdoor pavilion and full-service restaurant included. Call 817/573-1300 for more information.

Travel to Arlington is easy, as it's centrally located between Dallas and Fort Worth.

AMERIQUEST FIELD IN ARLINGTON—Home for the American League Texas Rangers. Home games played in the evenings from Apr. - Sept. With its dark-red brick-and-granite exterior and exposed steel girders recalling the classic stadiums from the early part of the last century, Ameriquest Field is an attraction in itself, with hot spots such as Rawling's All American Grille, Legends of the Game Baseball Museum and Children's Learning Center, Dr Pepper Youth Ballpark, the Diamond Club, and a centerfield picnic area. Call 817/273-5098 for information and admission fees for ballpark tours; for information on the 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.

ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART—The state's only museum focusing on Texas Contemporary Art with a recently finished \$1 million renovation that modernized and enhanced its current location. Open Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 201 W. Main St. 817/275-4600. Admission fee.

DYNO ROCK INDOOR CLIMBING GYM—State-of-the-art indoor climbing gym with 15,000-square feet of climbing surface for all skill levels. For more information, call 817/461-3966.

FIELDER MUSEUM—This prairie-style home built in 1914 was 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. 1616 W. Abram at Fielder Rd. 817/460-4001. (Exit south off I-30 at Fielder Rd.) Donations accepted.

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. No admission fee.

JOHNNIE HIGH'S COUNTRY MUSIC REVUE—Voted 'Best Live Country Music Show' by the American Country Music Association for the past four years, where many superstars, including LeAnn Rimes, got their start. Show features a cast of 20 singers and musicians, and offers a dazzling line-up of entertainers. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Admission fee. Call 817/226-4400 for reservations and information. 224 North Center St. www.johnniehighscountrymusicrevue.com.

LAKES—Arlington and Joe Pool. See LAKES listing.

LEGENDS OF THE GAME BASEBALL MUSEUM AND LEARNING CENTER—Located at Ameriquest Field 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, as well as 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.

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20 ball fields, 26 lighted tennis courts, and 3 municipal golf courses.

PLANETARIUM AT UTA, THE—The biggest and best in the state, boasts a 60-foot dome and 165 seats. Equipped with the latest 3-D, digital animaton using the Digistar 3 system. It's an experience of astronomical proportions. For more info, call 817/272-1183.

RIVER LEGACY PARK—A 950-acre nature park with educational and recreational activities found along the riverbanks of the Trinity River. Hiking and biking trails and nature trails enhance the experience. River overlooks picnic areas.

River Legacy Living Science Center features interactive exhibits that teach about regional flora and fauna. Displays include terrariums, aquariums, and a Texas rivers map, and a simulated raft ride of the Trinity River using High Definition Technology to make the experience exciting. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Located at entrance to parks at 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd. For more information, call 817/860-6752 or visit www.riverlegacy.org. Admission fee for science center; no admission fee for parks.

SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOR—Cool off at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor with more than three million gallons of invigorating water. Take a twist on the Tornado, as the tubes hug the inside of the tunnel, splashing back and forth on 5,000 gallons of swirling water. Or, perhaps you'd prefer to ride the Sea Wolf that takes riders through more than 830-feet of high-speed banks and heart-stopping drops in a raft large enough for three; Blue Raider, a two-passenger escape into a dark, flooded tunnel filled with drops and turns. Other rides include the Blue Niagara, Geronimo and the famed Black Hole. Experience ocean-sized waves in Surf Lagoon, take a leisurely float around the park on the world's first lazy river or catch the perfect wave on Surf Rider. Hooks Lagoon is a five-story treehouse with 150 aquatic features and tot-sized slides for the little fish in the family. And if it's competition you are looking for... challenge your friends to a game of sand volleyball on one of the five courts in the park. For relaxing in the sun, there is Suntan Lagoon, a one million-gallon activity pool with a waterfall in the center of the pool surrounded by a suntan deck. 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. 817/265-3356 or visit www.sixflags.com for more information.

SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS—This Lone Star legend has defined excitement and thrills for generations.

In Spring 2006, Six Flags unveiled its largest capital expansion with 10 new family rides. Take a spin on Crazy Legs a whirling, twirling fun ride for the whole family. This "crazy" ride moves in a circular fashion with gondolas that move in the opposite direction. Try the Caddo Lake Barge, featuring a unique combination of rocking motions which has received top awards from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. Or maybe you'd like Cloud Bouncer where you experience a breathtaking view of the park while riding on unique motorcycle-like pedestal seats facing outward.

Don't miss SpongeBob SquarePants 4-D the Ride! Based on the popular

Nickelodeon cartoon, this funny fast-paced underwater adventure will capture the imaginations of young and old alike as riders join SpongeBob SquarePants on the hunt for an elusive pickle needed to create the perfect Crabby Patty! Featuring exciting special effects and hilarious hi-jinks, this all new attraction promises to become a family favorite.

For thrill seekers, take on Superman Tower of Power, the tallest ride of its kind in the world. Riders are catapulted skyward for an amazing view of the Dallas/Fort Worth Skyline, then blasted back down to earth at speeds of up to 50 mph.

The Titan continues to reign as the largest steel coaster in the Southwest. Towering an amazing 245 feet above the earth, the Titan stretches more than a mile in length and propels riders along at an unbelievable 85 miles an hour. Also check out the Texas Giant, consistently named one of the top wooden roller coasters in the world.

For younger guests, Looney Tunes USA offers pint-sized thrills like Wile E. Coyote's Grand Canyon blaster and Yosemite Sam's Texas Teacups.

For more information, call 817-640-8000. It's Playtime!" www.sixflags.com.

TEXAS RANGERS BASEBALL CLUB—See Amerquest Field in Arlington.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—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, call 817/461-3888 or 800/433-5374. www.arlington.org.

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.

According to local lore and research of Frank X. Tolbert, the hamburger is said to have been originated here. The story goes that after serving hamburgers in his downtown diner, Fletcher "Uncle Fletch" Davis introduced his creation to the world at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. City celebrates Uncle Fletch and his creation the second weekend each June at the Uncle Fletch's Burger and Bar-B-Q Cook-Off.

Home to Annual Texas Fiddlers Contest and Reunion, the oldest such event in the U.S., held the last Friday in May on the Courthouse lawn.

ATHENS SCUBA PARK—With underwater visibility of up to 70 feet, there's no telling what you might see—a tour bus, houseboat, airplane, motorcycles and more. Divers flock to the park's clear blue waters for recreational certification. Park also features 12 dive platforms, camping sites, volleyball court, barbecue pits, swimming pool, and more. At 500 N. Murchison St. Open spring/summer Wed. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; fall/winter Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 903/675-5762. Admission fee.

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. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For information, call 903/677-2000. At 915 S. Palestine.

EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL SOCIETY—The 100-acre arboretum features walking trails and a bluebird trail, suspension bridge, historic Wofford House museum, water gardens, water gardens, and wild and cultivated plantings. An outdoor pavilion provides a beautiful spot for picnics. Open daily; events and classes offered year-round. Off U.S. 175 on Patterson Rd. For information, call 903/675-5630.

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 school-room. Open Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

LAKES—Athens, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Palestine and Richland-Chambers. See LAKES listing.

PURTIS CREEK STATE PARK—1,533-acre park includes 355-acre Purtils Creek Lake. Following its construction, the reservoir was stocked with Florida largemouth bass, channel catfish, copper-nose bluegills, shad and red-ear sunfish. 50 boat limit and no-wake rules are 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 12 miles. Reservations accepted. 800/389-8900.

TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER—This innovative complex features more than 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. Dive show is Tues. - Fri. at 11 a.m., Sat. at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. Go to the Angler's Pavilion and Casting Pond for a hands-on experience catching rainbow trout or channel catfish. Ride the tram and walk the wetlands trail. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; closed Mon. At 5550 Flat Creek Rd. (F.M. 2495) near Lake Athens. For information, call 903/676-2277. Admission fee.

VISITOR CENTER—Directions and details for local attractions, events, hotels, restaurants and shopping are available at the Athens Visitors Center. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On the downtown square at 124 N. Palestine. For information, call 888/294-AVIP, or visit 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 the townsite to Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad. In 1878, the community had three residences. Divided by Bell and Williamson county lines, history has it that enterprising saloon proprietors took advantage of the county line dissecting their business by having a bar on wheels to accommodate laws in both counties.

The Bartlett Historic Commercial District, listed on National Register of Historic Places, is a 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 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, antiques and artifacts from town's early history. Open the first Sun. of each month, 1 - 4 p.m. No admission fee. At 300 West Bell St.

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 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 130 historic structures in Bastrop 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



MICHAEL AMADORI/STOCK

Old Bedford School

the Colorado River.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

BASTROP ADVERTISER, THE—Oldest weekly newspaper in Texas, established 1853. 908 Water St.

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. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 702 Main St. Admission fee.

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 and hiking. One mile east of the intersection of Texas 21/71. Admission fee. 800/792-1112. Scenic Park Road 1 connects with Buescher State Park 15 miles to east. See SMITHVILLE.

CAPITAL OF TEXAS ZOO—Offers a picnic area and petting zoo to complete your day in a natural zoo setting. Open Thrus. - Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and most holidays. At 376A Jenkins Rd. in Cedar Creek. 512/303-6675

CENTRAL TEXAS MUSEUM OF AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY—A century of automotive history in 125 fully restored cars, from Stanley Steamers to Duesenbergs to Jaguars, along with an extensive automobile library. Open Apr. 1- Sept. 30 Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.; Oct. 1 - Mar. 31 Fri. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m. Located 12 miles south on Tex. 304 near Rosanky. 512/237-2635. Admission fee.

DINOSAUR PARK—An educational and fun facility to learn about the majestic animals that ruled our planet more than 150 million years ago. Six life-size dinosaur replicas on display throughout nature trails, dino-dig, playground, and picnic area. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (closed Wed.). At 893 Union Chapel Rd. in Cedar Creek. 512/321-6262. Admission fee.

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 Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. For information, call 512/303-5073. Located 8 miles west of Bastrop at 1884 Texas 71 West. Admission fee.

VISITOR CENTER—The 1889 First National Bank Building serves as Bastrop's Old Town Visitor Center in the heart of the Historic District. Open daily at 1016 Main Street with historic displays and a self-guided walking tour brochure.



Call 512/303-0904 or e-mail oldbankcenter@sbcglobal.net. For information about events, attractions, or places to dine, stop by the Bastrop 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. 512/303-0558. E-mail: info@bastropchamber.us.

BEDFORD

Pop. 47,152 Alt. 616 Map J-18/TT-4

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 was 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 beautifully restored 1915 vintage schoolhouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and features a visitors center, a gallery with changing exhibits and an authentically furnished 1915 classroom. The site also has a 149-seat auditorium for 25 performances each year. 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 www.oldbedfordschool.com.

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/CC-9

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 from the early 1860s to turn-of-the-20th-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 is home to the annual 4th of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo. This weeklong event includes a parade, festival, carnival, fiddlers' contest, barbeque and more.



Bell County Museum in Belton

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.

For more information, contact the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce at 254/939-3551.

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 a library in 1904; National Register property. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 201 N. Main St. No admission fee. 254/933-5243.

COCHRAN, BLAIR & POTTS MUSEUM—Located upstairs at the Cochran, Blair & Potts department store, museum features memorabilia celebrating the oldest department store in Texas, which opened in the 1860s. Antique office equipment, fixtures, and many more items on display. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 221 E. Central Ave. 254/939-3333.

LAKES—Belton and Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

MILLER SPRINGS NATURAL AREA—See TEMPLE.

SUMMER FUN USA—Tube down a "Lazy River," 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 fee. 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.

BENBROOK

Pop. 20,700 Alt. 678 Map K-17/VV-1

GENERAL—Settlers first arrived in 1850 and founded communities of Peter's Colony and Miranda, which eventually grew together. In 1880, Texas and Pacific Railroad built station along Mary's Creek and named it for James M. Benbrook, local resident who petitioned for the railroad. Branch of Chisholm Trail passed through area and Butterfield Stage line ran along Mary's Creek on its way west. While one of the oldest cities in Tarrant County, Benbrook is also one of area's newest, having been incorporated in 1947.

Today, Benbrook Lake and Benbrook Antiques Mall, featuring 140 dealers in 35,000-square foot facility, are biggest tourist attractions. For more information on dining, accommodations and events, call the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at 817/249-4451, e-mail info@benbrookchamber.org or visit www.benbrookchamber.org.

LAKES—Benbrook. See LAKES listing.

PATE MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION—Museum features several antique and classic cars, vintage aircraft, space program exhibits and military items. On U.S. 377, 12 miles south of town. No admission fee. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 12:30 - 5 p.m. 817/396-4305

BONHAM

Pop. 12,974 Alt. 617 Map G-19

GENERAL—Seat of Fannin County in an area of Blackland Prairie south of the Red River that marks the 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, playground, and hiking and biking trails. Access via Texas 78 south, F.M. 271. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

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 INGLISH PARK—Replica of log blockhouse and stockade built by Bailey English in 1837; nucleus of homesteads that became the 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.

MAMA MURIEL'S DOLL MUSEUM—Come enjoy the wonders of expert doll makers, and see thousands of dolls on display. From Madame Alexander to Civil War-era dolls, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Open Apr. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Located at 5285 F.M. 1553 in Leonard, Tx. Admission fee. 903/587-3655.

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. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reservations required for group tours; 903/583-5558. At 890 W. Hwy. 56.

SAM RAYBURN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM—A division of the Center for American History, UT-Austin, facility contains exhibits that detail Sam Rayburn's life and career. Collection includes photographs, original letters, political cartoons, art, furniture, and personal memorabilia relating to important events in the life and times of Rayburn, as well as his personal library of books. Featured is an exact replica of the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives during Rayburn's tenure in that position. The Library and Museum is open to the public for visitation and tours (call in advance for groups of 10 or more) and is located on a 4.3 acre tract along U.S. 56 (Sam Rayburn Drive), four blocks from downtown. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. (closed Sun.). For more information, call 903/583-2455 or visit www.cah.utexas.edu/divisions/Rayburn.html.

BOWIE

Pop. 5,450 Alt. 1,145 Map G-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, city serves as a retail shopping center. Industry, ranching, agriculture, oil and retail trade form a diversified base for its economy.

Antiques, collectibles, gift shops, tearooms, homestyle cooking, bed & break-



STARR A. WILLIAMS/ISTOCK

Fort English Park in Bonham

fasts and more. Annual celebrations include the Fantasy of Lights Parade in Dec., Jim Bowie Days in the summer and Chicken and Bread Days Heritage Festival in the fall.

Bowie is a Texas Main Street City. More than 50 businesses reside in structures built in 1880s through 1920s in historic eight-block area downtown.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the Chamber of Commerce at 866/872-1173 or 940/872-1173 or visit www.bowietxchamber.org.

CHISHOLM TRAIL MEMORIAL PARK—This small park pays tribute to the cattle drives along 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 that 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.

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 Trade Days.

SECOND MONDAY TRADE DAYS—The city operates a three-day market, the weekend prior to the second Mon. of each month, for vendors to sell whatever they can. More than 250 vendors are on hand for the longest running flea market in North Texas. 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 the city relies primarily on agriculture and various light industries.

LAKES—Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain. See LAKES listing.

INTERNATIONAL EXOTIC FELINE SANCTUARY—Founded in 1988, the facility's mission is to care for its exotic feline inhabitants, as well as educate the public about their needs. Bobcats, cougars, jaguars, leopards, lions and tigers are among the species living on the site, which currently features more than 60 big cats living on the grounds. Visitors can view the cats and learn fascinating facts about them. Guided walking tours of the facility take approx. two hours. Open Sat. - Sun, but call in advance to confirm tour times. Large group tours available by appointment only. For information, call 940/433-5091 or visit www.bigcat.org.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham

For more information or reservations, call 800/327-8135 or 979/830-2197, or visit 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 fee.

BRENHAM HERITAGE MUSEUM—Housed in the 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 fee.

ELLISON'S GREENHOUSES—Only commercial wholesale greenhouse operation in the state that allows the public to tour its working operations. Five acres of greenhouses produce year-round crops of foliage, mums, gloxinias, and African violets. Seasonally, half-acre greenhouses are filled with poinsettias, tulips, Easter lilies, and hydrangeas. Host of the Poinsettia Celebration the weekend before Thanksgiving. Tours of the commercial greenhouses are available by appointment. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 2107 E. Stone St. For information, call 979/836-0084. Tour fee.

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 Tues. - Sat. 1:30 - 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 the 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 South, then go west on Salem Rd. about 1 1/2 miles to F.M. 3456. For information, call 979/830-VINE (8463).

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.

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 the 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 888/BRENHAM (273-6426) or visit www.brenhamtexas.com.

Brenham's "Main Street" district is the heart and soul of Washington County. The historic downtown features a variety of shopping opportunities. Brenham has been named a "National Main Street City."

Brenham lies halfway between Houston and Austin on U.S. 290 and on Texas 36, which is a segment of the Ports-to-Plains Highway connecting the state's heartland to coastal ports.

BED AND BREAKFAST REGISTRY—For information on more than 30 bed and breakfast inns in and around the city, call 888/BRENHAM.

BLUE BELL AQUATIC CENTER—Features a large outdoor recreation pool with an area for babies, an Olympic-sized indoor pool, and an indoor therapy pool. Admission fee. Located on F.M. 577, one-half mile south of Blue Bell Creameries.

BLUE BELL CREAMERIES—Founded in 1907 as the Brenham Creamery Co. Name 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 tasting 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 employees tell you it's really still 'The Little Creamery in Brenham' you believe them." Judge for yourself!

Tours (weekdays only) are 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.)

BRIDGEPORT

Pop. 4,309 Alt. 367 Map H-17

GENERAL—City's history began in 1860, when a toll bridge near current townsite was built across the Trinity River to accommodate the Butterfield Stagecoach that ran from St. Louis to San Francisco. Post office was established in 1873 near the toll bridge that gave birth to the city.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Center for Animal Research and Education in Bridgeport



J. GRITTS SMITH/ISTOCK

George Bush Presidential Library in College Station

To celebrate the days of the stagecoach, the city hosts its largest event of the year, Butterfield Stage Days, the second weekend in May. The annual rodeo is held during the second weekend in July, and other events include Coal Miner's Heritage Festival in Sept., and the Cavalcade of Lights Christmas parade.

Bridgeport is a Main Street Provisional City and features historic downtown shopping area, with gift and antique stores and more.

The Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce is located at 1107 8th St. and is open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, visit the Chamber or call 940/683-2076 or visit www.bridgeportchamber.org.

BRIDGEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Artifacts and displays showcase the city's history from the late 19th century. Exhibits include a display depicting a downtown store and the household of an early settler in Bridgeport. In addition, there are artifacts from the town's early coal mining days, including actual coal and maps that the miners used. Other highlights include areas showing a brickyard, coal company store with facade, a section covering schools, and an archive system with family histories. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At 1102 Lawdwin St. For more information, call 940/ 683-4341.

CENTER FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION—An animal refuge designed to care for abused and unwanted or neglected big cats, visitors can drive by anytime during daylight hours to see these beautiful animals. Feeding times are dawn and dusk, and a special three-day 'hands-on' training program is available, for a fee, for interactive experiences working with live lions, tigers, leopards and cougars. Located at 245 C.R. 3422. For more information, call 940/683-5034 or 800/704-0667, or visit www.greatcatsoftheworld.com.

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION

Pop. (Comb.) 133,570 Alt. 367 Map O-19/MM-12

GENERAL—Located in Brazos River Valley, where Stephen F. Austin's colonists settled between 1821 and 1831.

Bryan was established in 1855, in honor of William Joel Bryan, nephew of Texas pioneer Stephen F. Austin, and has been agricultural and commercial center of area since 1867 when H&TC Railroad began train service through town.

College Station became a city in 1938, although it was "born" in 1871 with the founding of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, now known as Texas A&M University. City got its name from being railway stop by the Postal Service in 1877.

Today, twin cities feature numerous business and tourism opportunities. Hunting, fishing, and camping are popular almost year-round at nearby streams and woodlands.

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**—Museum educates visitors about plant, animal, mineral and human activity within the Brazos Valley. Features exhibits of fossils, sculptures, antique farming and survey equipment, and more. Discover room has more than 15 varieties of live animals on display, including an active glass-front beehive, and several interactive exhibits. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Brazos Center at 3232 Briarcrest Dr. at Bypass 6 in Bryan. 979/776-2195. bvmuseum.myriad.net.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY—This historic building was built in 1903 with funds from the Carnegie foundation, and it is the oldest Carnegie Library in Texas. 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. 979/209-5630. www.bcslibrary.org.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY—Museum provides a hands-on learning environment for children, and adults too. Kids can experience the worlds of theater, commerce, medicine and nutrition, media, and the arts. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 111 E. 27th St in Historic Downtown Bryan. 979/779-KIDS. Admission fee. www.mymuseum.com.

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 fee. 979/691-4000. bushlibrary.tamu.edu.

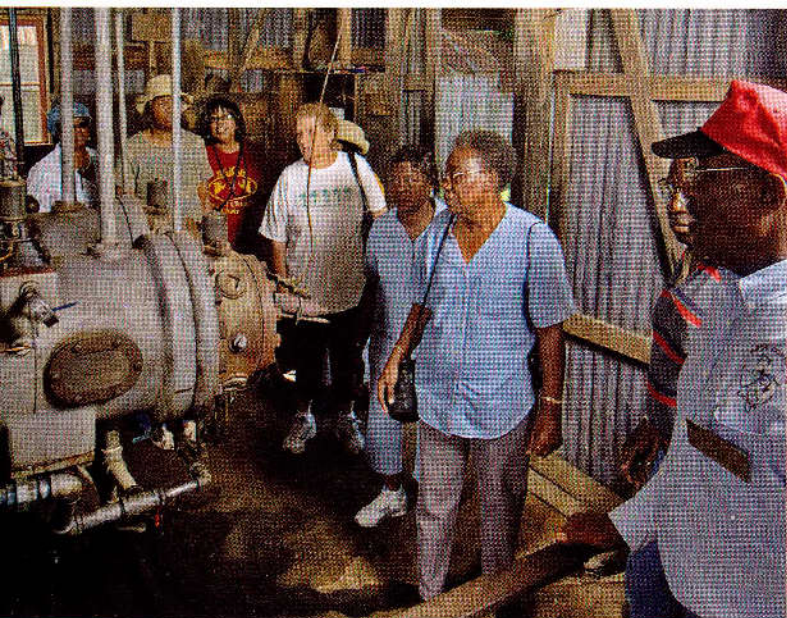
LAKES—Lake Bryan is an 828-acre facility located five miles west of Bryan that's open for hiking, picnicking, camping, water recreation, fishing and mountain biking. A daily use fee is charged at park's entrance. Call 979/209-5200 for more information. Gibbons Creek Reservoir is a 2,500-acre facility operated by the Texas Municipal Power Agency. Fishing, boat ramp (open every day except Wed.), and day-use picnic areas are available. No camping available at site. A day-use fee is charged at the park. Located 22 miles east of Bryan on C.R. 164 off F.M. 244, one-mile north of Texas 30. Call 936/873-1173 for more information.

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, 2:30 & 5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m., 12:30, 2:30, 4 & 5:30 p.m., and Sun. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Retail store and tasting room open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.,



J. GRITTS SMITH/ISTOCK

Messina Hof Wine Cellars near Bryan



LOOKING FOR THE HISTORY OF BURTON

Burton Cotton Gin and Museum in Burton

Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 4545 Old Reliance Rd. off of Texas 6, six miles northeast of Bryan. 979/778-9463 or 800/736-9463. www.messinahof.com.

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. Today, approximately 44,000 students attend the university's 10 different colleges.

The Information Center in Rudder Tower, open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., provides information and maps for campus attractions: 979/845-5851. www.tamu.edu.

Cushing Memorial Library and Archives is the university's archives repository, and it houses rare books, special collections, and fascinating artifacts. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 979/845-1951. library.tamu.edu/cushing.

J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries; exhibits ranging from traditional fine arts to architecture, archaeology, history and science. Plays host to approx. 14 traveling exhibits each year. Open Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Closed Mon. and school holidays. stark.tamu.edu. 979/845-8501.

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries is the home of the Bill & Irma Runyon Art Collections, and it features one of the most extraordinary collections of English Cameo Glass. Art glass collections, including works by Tiffany, Steuben, and Mount Washington Glass Co. Also features paintings by Mary Cassatt, Frederick Remington, and Charles M. Russell. In the Memorial Student Center; open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Visit forsyth.tamu.edu/main.html. 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, plus the Sam Houston Sanders Commemorative Colt Collection. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 979/862-2862. www.aggiecorps.org/home/corpscenter.

Texas A&M Lettermen's Association Athletic Sports Museum is located in the Zone of Kyle Field, the University's football stadium. The museum offers visitors an opportunity to experience Aggie sports history, including memorabilia, displays, and interactive multimedia. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 979/846-3024. www.aggieathletics.com/lettermen/museummain.htm.

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. More than 1,000 plant specimens are grown in 30 different beds and planting areas. Walking paths wind through the gardens. Open daily during daylight hours. The gardens are on Hensel St. on TAMU campus. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/.

VISITOR CENTER—For additional information on dining, accommodations, and area events, stop by the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors

Bureau at 715 University Drive East, or call 979/260-9898 or 800/777-8292, or visit www.visitaggiland.com.

BURTON

Pop. 359

Alt. 415

Map P-19

GENERAL— This small, historic community, founded in 1870 and named after John Burton, became the terminal for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Community is located 12 miles west of Brenham on U.S. 290 halfway between Houston and Austin. Today, visitors can enjoy a walking tour and view many of its historic buildings. Famous Texas Ranger, Capt. Leander McNelly, is buried at Mt. Zion Baptist Church cemetery. Antique seekers enjoy Burton during the spring and fall shows in the area. The annual Cotton Gin Festival is held in April.

BURTON COTTON GIN AND MUSEUM—Built in 1914, it is the last surviving gin of its vintage that still operates with the same equipment in the original building and on the same site. Today, its mission is to educate and celebrate the rich cotton history and the life and times of small rural communities during the cotton era. Although the gin closed commercially in 1974, it was restored by volunteers in 1992, under the guidance of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Powered by the 16-ton 1925 Bessemer oil engine, it demonstrates the removal of the seed from the cotton fiber and the process of ginning cotton from wagon to finished bale. The gin is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark; listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and designated a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. Visitor Center is open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (except on major holidays). Tours offered Tues. - Sat. For seasonal hours or more information, call 979/289-3378 or visit www.cottonginmuseum.org. E-mail: burtoncottongin@earthlink.net.

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 979/289-0546 or 979/289-3718. Admission fee.

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 979/289-0546 or 979/289-3718. Admission fee.

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 frontiersman and signer of Texas Declaration of Independence. In 1850s town was rendezvous for westbound 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 the 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 Tenoxitlán, a fort established by Mexico in 1830 to promote Mexican settlers and thwart Anglo-American colonists. It's a



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 or visit www.calverttx.com.

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR—A self-guided driving tour through the National Historic District describes the history and architectural features of each historic home. Pick up a guide from any of the local downtown shops. Nominal guide fee. On the first Sat. and Sun. in May and Dec., six to eight homes are open to the public for viewing. Open 1 - 5 p.m. Admission fee.

KATY HAMMAN STRICKER LIBRARY—Built in 1909 by the American Women’s League (AWL), it was the first AWL Chapter House in Texas and one of the first four built in the country. Building incorporates progressive turn-of-the-century “Prairie School” architecture, and much of the original mission furniture remains. Today, the facility is a museum as well as a library and community center. Open Thurs. & Sat. 1 - 3 p.m. At 404 E. Mitchell St.

VIRGINIA FIELD PARK—Features large gazebo and shady playground. Once the site of an unusual prison during Reconstruction Days that featured a “sky parlor” jail built atop a tall pole.

CAMERON

Pop. 5,909 Alt. 402 Map O-18

GENERAL—The county seat of Milam County, city was established in 1846 and is located on the Little River. Named for Ewen Cameron, a Scot highlander prominent in the Texas Revolution. Downtown has been revitalized, with the renovation of the Milam County Courthouse and an 1891 Victorian-style building that now serves as Cameron City Hall and Municipal Center. Enjoy a walking tour of historic downtown and experience history and progress coming together.

Cameron lies at the crossroads of U.S. 77 and Texas 36, a segment of the Ports-to-Plains Highway connecting the state’s heartland to coastal ports. More recently, city lies in heart of the *El Camino de los Tejas* National Trail, which was signed into law in October 2004.

Be sure to visit the restored Victorian homes, the Magnolia Inn, Travis Tea Room and Dallis Rose Inn, for tours, lodging and dining. For advanced reservations, contact Cameron Country Inns at 254/697-3160.

Annual events include Cameron Dewberry Festival in Apr. and Lighted Christmas Parade in Dec. For additional information, contact the Cameron Chamber of Commerce at 254/697-4979 or visit www.cameron-tx.com.

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 County Clerk’s Office at 104 West Main St.

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. New park also features swimming pool, basketball courts, baseball fields and a hike-and-bike trail. *Wilson-Leadbetter Park* offers fishing from Brushy Creek Bridge and picnic sites under majestic trees. 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. Open Tues. - Sat. 1 - 5 p.m., located at Main and Fannin sts. Also, visit the Milam County Museum Annex and view Indian artifacts discovered in area, ranch and trail-driving tack, cowboy gear, and weapons. Open Tues. - Sat. 8 a.m. - noon. 201 E. Main, 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 sunup ‘til sundown 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 about First Monday Trade Days and dining opportunities, events, and accommodations, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 903/567-2991, or visit www.chambercantontx.com.

CARROLLTON

Pop. 109,576 Alt. 470 Map J-18/RR-7

GENERAL—Settlers from Carrollton, Illinois, and at least one from Carrollton, Maryland, built a camp in 1844 near the present site of today’s Farmers Branch Elementary School, but hostilities forced a move north to the present site; established 1872 as a stop on the MK&T Railroad. Today, Carrollton is a vibrant corporate and residential community. City, named a national “Kid-Friendly City” and “Tree City USA,” has more than 56 neighborhood parks and greenbelts, plus 15 miles of walking and biking trails.

Historic Downtown Carrollton, featuring gazebo in town square, is home to antique and craft shops, restaurants and the Plaza Arts Center.

Indian Creek Golf Club features two 18-hole courses, the Creek Course (named one of “America’s Best New Courses” in 2004 by *Golf Digest*) and Lakes Course. At 1650 W. Frankford at I-35. 972/466-9851. www.indiancreekgolfclub.com.

For more information, visit www.cityofcarrollton.com.

A.W. PERRY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM—Built in 1909 from material salvaged from the first Perry home built in 1857. Furnishings, tools and the adjacent barn afford visitors a nostalgic look at an earlier time in Texas. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. 1509 N. Perry Road, north of Belt Line Road east of I-35. 972/466-6380. No admission fee.

ELM FORK NATURE PRESERVE—This 40-acre ecosystem offers wooded trails for hiking 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Features include a pond, Interpretive Center, guided hikes, classes, and annual Elm Fork Nature Fest in Apr. Located within McNish Sports Complex, off Sandy Lake Road, one mile west of I-35. 972/466-9813. No admission fee.

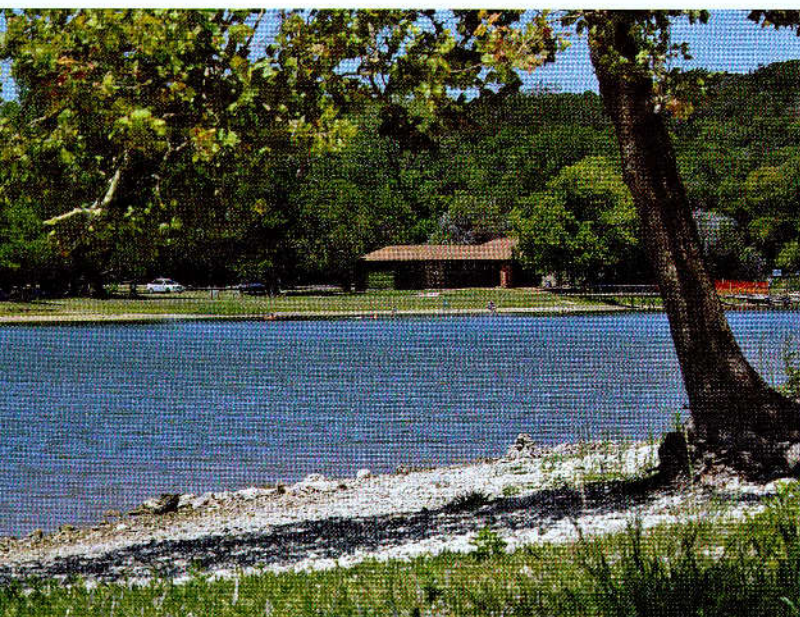
SANDY LAKE AMUSEMENT PARK—Family-oriented park features a lake, paddle boats, giant swimming pool, miniature golf, bumper cars, and amusement rides and more. Open Apr. - Sept. At 1800 Sandy Lake Rd. For information, call 972/242-7449 or visit www.sandylake.com.

STONE WORKS CLIMBING GYM—World’s largest indoor climbing gym is a 110-ft. grain silo converted for beginner, intermediate and advanced climbers. Also has outdoor climbing area. Open daily. For information, call 972/323-1047 or visit www.stoneworkssilos.com. At 1003 Fourth Ave. Admission fee.



Celina Area Heritage Museum

MICHAEL AMADOR/7000



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Cleburne State Park

CEDAR HILL

Pop. 32,093 Alt. 800 Map K-18/WW-6

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 University.

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 softly reflected in the lake. 800/792-1112.

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.

CELINA

Pop. 1,861 Alt. 353 Map H-18

GENERAL—Located in the northwest corner of Collin County, town was settled in 1879. John T. Mulkey, Celina's first postmaster, named the town after Celina, Tennessee. For more information, contact the Celina Chamber of Commerce at 972/382-3600.

CELINA AREA HERITAGE MUSEUM—The museum houses memorabilia of the Alla Hubbard Estate, a physician who spent 40 years in Celina. Displays include photographs, artifacts, books, newspapers dating to the 1930s, World War II relics and more, and the museum features rotating exhibits as well. Located at 211 W. Pecan St. on the city's historic square. Open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donations accepted.

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.

FORT BOGGY STATE PARK—In the 1840s a fort was built here to protect settlers and later the site was farmed. Now this area has wooded, rolling hills, bottomland meadows, and wetlands. White-tailed deer, raccoons, squirrels, foxes,

beavers and waterfowl live in the park. It is currently open Wednesdays through Sundays for day use only (8 a.m. - sunset). There is a boat ramp and lake open to small boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. The park has a beautiful beach, swimming area, hiking/mountain bike/nature trails, rest rooms without showers, picnic tables, and an open-air group pavilion available by reservation. Admission fee. 903/344-1116
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. 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. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; at. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 1-4 p.m. On Church St.

The 1855 Henry C. Brandt house was sold to the Providence Baptist Church in 1893 and served from time to time as a pastor's residence. A derelict structure by 1996 when the Historical Society acquired it, this historic building has now been reconstructed and serves as the Chappell Hill Visitor Reception Center. A public rest room facility has been erected just behind the Visitor Reception Center.

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



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Layland Museum in Cleburne's Carnegie Library



STAN A. WILLIAMS/ISTOCK

Historic home in Columbus

building that was the former Main Hall of Clifton College, the Bosque Conservatory, a non-profit organization, has become a center for visual and performing arts, which include cultural classes and workshops, national art competition and sale, a permanent art collection, and performing theater for local residents. 1701 W. 9th St. For information, call 254/675-3724 or visit www.bosqueconservatory.com.

BOSQUE MEMORIAL MUSEUM—This museum displays the largest collection of Norwegian artifacts in the South and Southwest. Permanent displays include a furnished log cabin, blacksmith shop, and early kitchen before electricity. Also included are mineral and fossil collections, farm tools and Indian artifacts. The museum has yearly changing exhibits. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 301 South Ave. Q. For information, call 254/675-3845. www.bosquemuseum.org. Admission fee.

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 include “Syttende Mai” (Norwegian Constitution Day) in May, smorgasbord in Nov., and Norwegian Country Christmas and Lutefisk Dinner on first Sat. in Dec. Access via F.M. 219 west, F.M. 182 north. For more information, or to rent or purchase a driving tape, call the Clifton Chamber of Commerce.

TIN BUILDING THEATRE—Housed behind the Bosque County Conservatory of Fine Arts, the theater is a unique tin building on the outside, while the inside boasts a state-of-the-art, fully equipped theater. Season begins on July 4 with old-fashioned melodrama and sing-along. For more information, call 254/675-2278.

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.” A 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, drive-by views are rewarding. The United Daughters of the Confederacy Museum (admission fee), once known as the Old Water Tower, is open Mon. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Preston Kyle Shatto Wildlife

Museum is open every first and third Thurs. of the month from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., except Aug., or for group tours by prior appointment through the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau. 877/444-7339. E-mail: ccvb@intertex.net.

BED AND BREAKFAST REGISTRY—For information and reservations: call 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 fee. 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, tea-rooms, 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. 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. Admission fee.

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 Thurs. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Wed. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1014 Milam. Donations accepted.

Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum—More than 2,000 old, new, foreign and American Santas in various media. Collected works include Santas from the Sundblom Coke Santas. 604 Washington. Open Mon. and Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission fee.

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. Call 979/732-5135 or 877/444-7339. Visit www.columbus-texas.org.

COMANCHE

Pop. 4,482 Alt. 1,358 Map L-15

GENERAL—Named for the Comanche Indians, established as trade center for surrounding ranches 1858. Two Comanche County icons - the “Fleming Oak” and “Old Cora” - sit on southwest corner of town square. Today seat of Comanche County with agricultural production, including peanuts, pecans, dairies, fruit, cattle, livestock feeds, and pottery. Antique shops, restaurants, and more can be found here. Great camping, fishing, golf and water parks can be found at nearby Lake Proctor. The beautiful 42-acre City Park, Twin Creek Hiking Trail, and Community Center attract visitors and reunions alike. Hunting is great for deer, quail, dove and wild turkey.

Historic walking tour features courthouse square and historic business district, and maps are available at the Main Street and Chamber of Commerce offices. For information on events, accommodations, and dining facilities, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at 915/356-3233 or visit www.ComancheChamber.org.

BRENNAN VINEYARDS & WINERY—Only eight blocks south of county courthouse on Hwy. 16, enjoy tour of facility and visit tasting room and gift shop located in the Historic McCrary House. At 802 S. Austin St. Open Fri. 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 325/356-9100.

COMANCHE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Covered wagon, surrey, Indian and pioneer artifacts housed in replica of frontier store. Other



Republic and Confederacy, children of William B. Travis, Jacob Haller (town founder) and other early Texas pioneers. Rest rooms and benches for visitors.

SCENIC DRIVE—F.M. 1155 north to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site winds through beautiful pastoral landscapes of Brazos River Valley, along historic route used by early settlers.

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE—

A few miles northeast on the 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-acre 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 are visible from the road. Eastern "Wild Turkey Capital of Texas" with hunting leases available.

For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the chamber of commerce at 903/427-2645 or Main Street Office at 903/427-4019.

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.

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.

RED RIVER COUNTY HALL OF FAME & ART GALLERY—Both are located inside the Chamber of Commerce building. Please call 903/427-2645 for hours of operation. www.red-river.com.

CLEBURNE

Pop. 29,052 Alt. 764 Map K-17

GENERAL—Located on the Chisholm Trail, seat of Johnson County, established about 1854 and first known as Camp Henderson. In 1867, name changed to honor Confederate Gen. Pat Cleburne. 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 shop. Currently on display in Hulen Park is the historic locomotive No. 3417 featured during Whistle Stop Christmas.

Stroll through the historic downtown district. Enjoy shopping through dozens of the antique and specialty stores, or treat yourself to a great meal at one of the cafes. Annual events include Springfest in April, Antique Alley and Yard Sale in Apr. and Sept., and Chisholm Trail celebration.

For more information, contact the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce by calling toll-free 888/5-CLEBURNE or visit www.visitcleburne.com.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY—Beautiful 1904 building now houses the Layland Museum. The museum offers a glimpse into the country's historic past. More

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For Visitor Information Contact the Cleburne Chamber:
1511 W. Henderson, Cleburne, TX 76033
(817) 645-2455 info@cleburnechamber.com

1-888-5CLEBURNE
WWW.CLEBURNECHAMBER.COM
WWW.CI.CLEBURNE.TX.US

than 10,000 items in collection relating to American home life in north central Texas and the southwest. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. At 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. The player's produce four shows each year from all genres of theaters. Call 817/645-2455.

CLEBURNE STATE PARK—498 scenic acres offering camping, picnic sites, rest rooms and showers, group camp facilities, fishing, swimming, boat rentals, groceries, trail facilities, and hiking trails. Park contains wildlife refuge and 116-acre Cedar Lake; 12 miles southwest of Cleburne, U.S. 67, Park Rd. 21. Call 800/792-1112.

HISTORIC HOMES—Several homes in varying architectural designs have been restored to their original charm of the 1800s. Several of the homes are

open and decorated for the Candlewalk Tour of Historic Homes during the Whistle Stop Christmas each year.

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 required. At 808 S. Anglin St. 817/641-7433.

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. Located in historic Downtown Cleburne.

LAKE—Pat Cleburne. See LAKES listing.

SPLASH STATION WATERPARK—Premiere venue for aquatic recreation in Johnson County. Located in Hulen Park, it consists of two main pools. The eight-lane, 25-yard lap pool is open year-round and is designed to host area swim meets and recreational swimming. The leisure pool is designed with many features, including two large slides, and interactive spray ground, a vortex pool and other attractions.

VISITOR CENTER—For additional information and accommodations, events and dining, stop by the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center at 1511 W. Henderson St., or call 888/5-CLEBURNE or 817/645-2455. Visit www.visitcleburne.com. E-mail: info@cleburnechamber.com.

CLIFTON

Pop. 3,542 Alt. 670 Map M-17

GENERAL—Settled about 1852 on Bosque River, today largest town in county; marketing center for surrounding agricultural efforts, and gateway to Lake Whitney. City park offers picnic facilities, playground equipment and RV slots. Fishing available on the Bosque and Lake Whitney. Clifton designated the "Norwegian Capital of Texas" in 1997 by the Texas State Legislature, and Scandinavian traditions still observed by descendants of Norse settlers.

Clifton is a Texas Main Street City. Three antique malls feature more than 100 antique dealers in the downtown area. For information on dining, accommodations, and events, call the Clifton Chamber of Commerce at 800/344-3720 or 254/675-3720. www.cliflontexas.org. E-mail: info@cliflontexas.org.

THE BOSQUE CONSERVATORY—Housed in a three-story historical

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. 325/356-5115

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 battle 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—Texas' oldest 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-20

GENERAL—Originally known as Cow Hill, the town was established in 1872 by merchant William Jernigin 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 late September.

The lovely, quaint square and downtown are lined with lampposts, benches, live oak trees and colorful plants, with antique brick streets completing the historic setting. Stop by Cow Hill Express where people gather for a cup of Cow Hill cappuccino. Quilters will enjoy the delightful quilt store, and Westside Barber Shop, established in 1886, is glimpse of barbering in the early days.

For more information, visit www.commerce-chamber.com or e-mail cchambr@koyote.com.

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.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM—15,000-square foot facility allows children many different experiences within various exhibits, including a working darkroom, fire engine exhibit, rocket, aircraft, garden, log cabin, court, art and dress-up rooms, magnetic forces and bubble room. At 2216 Live Oak. Call 903/886-6055 for operating hours. www.netxcm.org. Admission fee.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE PLANETARIUM—Features a state-of-the-art digital projection system with a 10-speaker surround sound and reclining seats in \$28 million Science Building, which opened in 2006. Public shows on Fri. - Sat., 7 - 8 p.m. Shows for school groups during the week. Planetarium located in Texas A&M-Commerce Science Building, West Neal St. on campus. Ticket reservations encouraged. For more information, call 903/468-8652 or visit www.tamu-commerce.edu/university/planetarium.

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 open by appointment only, it's worth checking with the local chamber of commerce for an appointment. Delta County Library, at 300 W. Dallas Ave., features outstanding genealogy department.

Annual events include Cooper Lake Bass Classic in Apr.; Delta County Roping Club Rodeo and Jamboree in June; Dickens Christmas Festival and lighted parade on first Sat. in Dec.; and National MPS Run for Ashtyn's Cure and Annual Chiggerfest in Oct.

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. www.deltacounty.org. E-mail: deltacounty@koyote.com.

COOPER LAKE STATE PARK—Two units on Cooper Lake; Doctor's Creek features 42 multiuse 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 fee. For information, call 903/395-3100 for Doctor'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 jukebox plays updated tunes. 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/CC-4

GENERAL—Protected by five surrounding hills, and a source of abundant spring water (some of which was said to have a copper taste), the original town-site became a stopping point as drivers brought their herds to the Chisholm Trail. The coming of the railroad saw the town move about two miles east, and the "new" Copperas Cove, its growth accelerated by the arrival of Camp Hood in 1942 (later named Fort Hood), became the largest city in Coryell County. Home of Central Texas College, Copperas Cove also boasts the closest hotel to the new Killeen/Fort Hood Regional Airport.

Annual events include Rabbit Fest on the third weekend of May, the Ogletree Gap Heritage Festival the third weekend in Oct., and the Krist Kindl Markt holiday bazaar the first weekend of Dec.

The scenic area around the city is quickly becoming a mecca for bicyclists and runners. The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce hosts several Bike Central Texas and Run Central Texas race and tour events throughout the year. Cycling route maps are available at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. For more information, call 254/547-7571 or visit www.copperascove.com, www.rabbitfest.com, or www.ogletreegap.net.

FORT HOOD—See KILLEEN.

TOPSEY EXOTIC RANCH AND DRIVE THROUGH SAFARI—More than 50 species of animals, including camels, kangaroos and llamas, roam through the park and 'pose' for visitors' cameras. Although the animals are wild, most are so gentle they may be hand fed from the safety and comfort of your car. 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 fee.

CORSICANA

Pop. 24,485 Alt. 448 Map L-19

GENERAL—Established 1848; 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



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Pearce Collections Museum in Corsicana

crude oil for locomotive fuel. Today, city features municipal park, swimming, and golf. Home of Navarro College.

COOK ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER,

THE—On the campus of Navarro College, the center is designed to educate, enlighten and entertain. Features include NASA artifacts, F-4 Phantom fighter jet, and star, laser and movie shows in 60-foot domed planetarium that puts you in the middle of the action. Gift shop also available. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At 3100 West Collin Ave. For more information call 800/988-5317 or 903/875-7596. www.pearcecollections.us. Admission fee.

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, available year-round. Bakery open Mon. - Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m. At 401 W. 7th Ave. For information, call 800/292-7400 or 903/872-8111. www.collinstreet.com.

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 country/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 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.

PALACE THEATRE—Restored 1921 vaudeville theater located downtown, hosts performance series featuring major artist. At 112 W. 6th Ave. For more information, call 903/874-7792 or visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

PEARCE COLLECTIONS MUSEUM—Includes Pearce Western Art Museum, which is home to original works by masters of Western art. Also includes Pearce Civil War Museum, which displays selections from more than 8,000 items in an interactive, multi-media museum. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. noon - 4 p.m. At 3100 W. Collin St. Admission fee. Call 800/988-5317 or 903/875-7596. www.pearcecollections.us.

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 fee.

CRESSON

Pop. 320 (est.) Alt. 1,047 Map K-17

GENERAL—On U.S. 377 at junction 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.

CUERO

Pop. 6,751 Alt. 177 Map S-17

GENERAL—(KWER-o) An unusual name derivation: A local creek was notorious for trapping cattle in bogs, but skinnners salvaged the hides. Indian word 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, 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 1,000 different species of wildflowers present. April is designated as ‘Wildflower Month’ with the only live wildflower specimen exhibit in the State of Texas, located at the DeWitt County Historical Museum.

Cuero welcomes visitors to its 50 historic 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. Walking trails, swimming, picnicking, fishing, golf and a basketball pavilion in 200-acre recently updated municipal park. Annual events include the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration and the Turkeyfest Celebration every Oct., and Christmas in the Park, a self-guided tour along breathtaking lighted displays Nov. - Dec.

For additional information on city’s amenities, contact the Cuero Chamber of Commerce at 361/275-2112 or www.cuero.org. The Chamber is open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.

CHURCHES—More than 40 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, whose congregation was chartered in 1878; and St. Michael’s Catholic.

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM—Established in 1993, the museum houses the new permanent exhibit “Cuero Talks Turkey,” which features news articles, pictures and memorabilia of the first five Turkey Trots dating from 1912-1927 and from more than 30 years of Turkeyfest Celebrations. The Royalty Room displays costumes of Sultans and Sultanas who reigned over past Turkey Trots. The Museum is also home to the “WWII Brayton Flying Field” exhibit, a training school for pilots during 1941-1945. The third exhibit is the “Cattle and Cowhands” exhibit, a tribute to the working cowhand past and present. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. 361/275-2112.

DEWITT COUNTY COURTHOUSE—Completed in 1896, was designed by two famed Golden Age architects, A.O. Watson and Eugene T. Heiner. Built in Romanesque style with a belfry, it is listed as a Texas Historical Landmark and on the National Registry of Historic Structures. The courthouse received a restoration grant in 2003 and has undergone a complete refurbishment of the facade and interior.

DEWITT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Housed in a restored 1886 home, built partly with timbers salvaged from ruins of the original home destroyed in the old seaport town of Indianola by the storm of 1886. Features period furnishings, documents, clothing, ranch and home articles; also a restored log cabin. Special new exhibits each month. Open Wed. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed during the noon hour; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. The museum is open daily during the month of April, except Easter Sunday, for Wildflower Month. For information, call 361/275-6322.

HISTORICAL 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. At 124 E. Church. For information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call 361/275-2112. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.

HISTORIC HOMES—Many homes were built in the 1880s and 1890s and include a variety of architectural features—Classical Revival detailing, Tudor Revival detailing, Queen Anne-style, and “T” plans. Over 60 homes display a Texas Historical Commission marker. Call the Chamber of Commerce for tour information.



DALLAS

Pop. 1,188,580

Alt. 512

Map J-18/UU-8

GENERAL—In 1841, John Neely Bryan laid claim to this area and built a single log cabin. He envisioned a commerce center that capitalized on the expanse of land and its river. With the arrival of the railroad in the mid-1870s, Dallas became a thriving business town and market center. An influx of French, German, Swiss and English immigrants, highly skilled and cultured, gave Dallas a cosmopolitan air unmatched anywhere on the frontier at the time. Dallas continued to emerge as a major economic force due to a strong entrepreneurial, can-do spirit. Neiman Marcus was founded in 1907, followed by the Federal Reserve Bank in 1914, Southern Methodist University in 1915 and Dallas Love Field Airport in 1927. “Dad” Joiner struck oil nearby on the East Texas Oil Field in 1930 and the Texas Centennial Exposition was held in 1936. With DFW International Airport’s opening in 1973, Bryan’s dream of a major inland port was unquestionably accomplished.

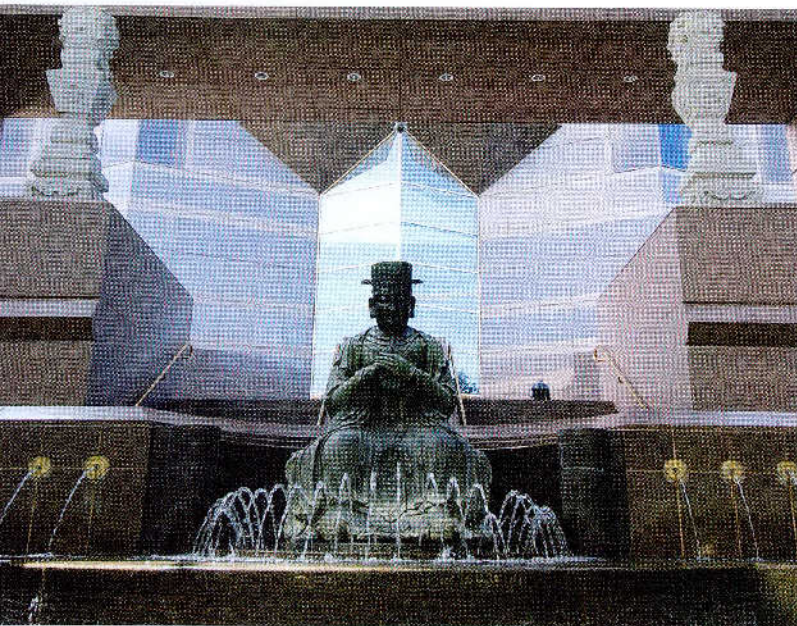
Dallas is a mecca for shoppers, as it boasts more shopping centers per capita than any other U.S. city. Not only is Dallas home to the internationally recognized specialty store Neiman Marcus and retail giant JCPenney, but it is also the site of America’s oldest shopping center, Highland Park Village. Other well-known centers that are a magnet for regional and national clients include Galleria Dallas, NorthPark Center, West Village, Mockingbird Station and many more.

Dallasites pursue art and culture with almost as much enthusiasm as shopping. Collector and philanthropist, Raymond Nasher, and his late wife, Patsy, gifted Dallas with the \$70 million Nasher Sculpture Center, located in the Dallas Arts District. The new Latino Cultural Center is buzzing with multicultural activities and artistic endeavors.


International cuisine and world-class accommodations are blended together in the very fabric of Dallas. There are more than 12 entertainment districts within a short distance of downtown, each with its local history and flavor, offering a unique mixture of arts, culture, shopping, dining and fun: Dallas Arts District, Fair Park, Deep Ellum, Main Street, Greenville Avenue, Knox-Henderson, Uptown, West Village, West End, Oaklawn, Mockingbird Station, and the Bishop Arts District.

You can also experience live theater, comedy to drama and outstanding opera. The Dallas Summer Musicals are held June through October at the Music Hall in Fair Park with the last production running through the State Fair of Texas. Held in the fall, the State Fair draws more than 3 million visitors annually to the 277-acre campus of Fair Park. It is the largest exposition in North America and features prize livestock and horse competitions, Big Tex, Fletcher’s famous corny dogs, big name entertainers, the annual Texas-OU Football Game, the Grambling-Prairie View Football Game and a huge midway with the “Texas Star” Ferris wheel, the tallest in the northern hemisphere and one of the largest in the world.


Professional sports are played throughout the year with six teams making their home in the Dallas area: The Dallas Cowboys (NFL), Dallas Mavericks




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(NBA), Dallas Stars (NHL), Dallas Desperados (AFL), FC Dallas (MLS) and Texas Rangers (MLB).

Getting around is a breeze on the Light Rail System of Dallas Area Rapid Transit System. DART provides fast, convenient service to work, shopping and entertainment areas in Dallas, Garland, Plano and Richardson. Plus, the Trinity River Express commuter line links DART customers to DFW International Airport and downtown Fort Worth. For schedules and fares, visit www.dart.org.

Stop by the Visitor Information Center at the historic Old Red Courthouse with touch-screen kiosks and friendly staff, to help make your visit to Dallas more enjoyable. www.visitdallas.com. 800/C-DALLAS.

AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER AT VICTORY PARK—Center is home to the NHL’s Dallas Stars, NBA’s Dallas Mavericks and blockbuster concert schedule. 72-acre park features two five-story retail buildings with facilities for concerts and events, plus hotel and more. 2500 Victory Lane. 214/222-3687. www.americanairlinescenter.com. www.victorydallas.com.

BRYAN CABIN—Located in the Dallas County Historical Plaza. Reconstructed log cabin of John Neely Bryan who, in 1841, was the area’s first settler. Main & Record Streets.

CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART—The Crow Collection contains more than 600 paintings, objects of metal and stone, and large architectural pieces from China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. More than 300 works are on display in the galleries, including precious jade ornaments, delicate Japanese scrolls, and a rare sandstone facade of an 18th-century Indian residence. Open: Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thurs. until 9 p.m. Closed Mondays. Admission is free. 2010 Flora St. 214/979-6430. www.crowcollection.org.

DALLAS ARBORETUM—On the shores of White Rock Lake, just minutes from downtown, 66 acres of floral splendor afford peaceful counterbalance to pace of urban life. Also on grounds are two historical mansions; the DeGolyer House and the Camp Estate, which were built in 1939 and feature 17th- and

18th-century art and furniture. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed major holidays. Tours of the DeGolyer House 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8525 Garland Rd. (Texas 78) overlooking White Rock Lake. 214/515-6500. www.dallasarboretum.com.

DALLAS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART—A non-profit exhibition, education and information center for the visual arts. The center's year-round exhibitions feature the work of regional artists. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2801 Swiss Ave. 214/821-2522. www.thecontemporary.net.

DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER—Form and function are perfected in expanded and renovated Center. Features more than one million square feet of exhibit space. 650 South Griffin St. 214/939-2700. www.dallasconventioncenter.com.

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL PLAZA—This plaza is marked by an open area with several historical monuments and a cluster of historical buildings including The Old Red Courthouse, John Neely Bryan Cabin, Kennedy Memorial and a terrazzo map of Dallas County in the 1800s. Market, Elm, Commerce, and Houston streets. Open year-round, 24 hours a day. 214/571-1300.

DALLAS COWBOYS/ TEXAS STADIUM—See IRVING.

DALLAS FARMERS MARKET AND RESOURCE CENTER—One of the largest open-air markets in the country, the Dallas Farmers market was established in 1941 and is recognized nationally as a true farmer's market where farmers sell their crops directly to the customers. Open daily 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Located at 1010 S. Pearl St., on southeast corner of central business district downtown. 214/939-2808. www.dallasfarmersmarket.org.

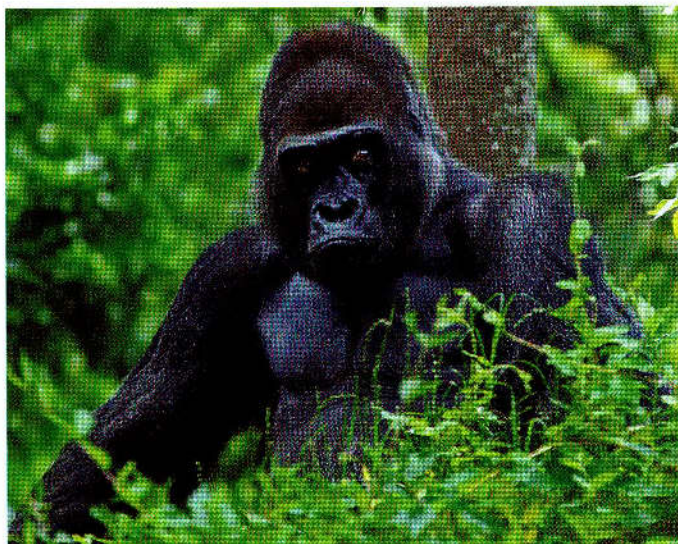
DALLAS HOLOCAUST CENTER—Non-profit organization dedicated to teaching lessons of the Holocaust and memorializing its victims. Provides guided tours for groups, public lectures and exhibits, and other programming. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 211 N. Record St., Ste. 100. 214/741-7500. www.dallasholocaustmuseum.org.

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART—The Dallas Museum of Art's collection includes American masterpieces by Church, O'Keeffe and Wyeth, contemporary art by Pollock, Rothko, Warhol and Lichtenstein, European and impressionist art by Renoir, Van Gogh, Cezanne, and Monet, and art of the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Special temporary exhibits are on display throughout the year. Thursday nights in May and June enjoy "Jazz Under the Stars," a free outdoor concert series featuring local, regional and national jazz talent. Enjoy 'Late Nights' on third Fri. of month from 6 p.m. - midnight, features performances, concerts, reading, film screenings, and more. Open Tue. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. 1717 N. Harwood at Ross St. 214/922-1200. www.dallasmuseumofart.org.

DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA—See Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallasymphony.com.

DALLAS THEATRE CENTER—Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright this architectural gem is home to the permanent repertory company, which performs comedy and drama 8 months of the year. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Box office 214/522-8499. www.dallastheatercenter.org.

DALLAS WORLD AQUARIUM—Exotic plants and creatures from around the world inhabit the Dallas World Aquarium where you can explore a South American rainforest or take a walk through a water tunnel surrounded by



Dallas Zoo



State Fair of Texas in Dallas' Fair Park

reef life from the Continental Shelf. Observe monkeys, stingrays, piranhas and penguins. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. 1801 North Griffin St. 214/720-2224. www.dwazoo.com.

DALLAS ZOO—The world-class zoo covers 95 acres and features many rare and endangered species. Key exhibits include the ExxonMobil Endangered Tiger Habitat with Indochinese and Sumatran tigers, the Lacerte Family Children's Zoo with interactive, educational exhibits for children and the 25-acre Wilds of Africa, named the best African exhibit in the United States. Summer hours, open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 650 South R.L. Thornton Frwy. (I-35E). 214/670-5656. www.dallas-zoo.org.

DEEP ELLUM ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT—Hotbed of jazz and blues in the early 1920s, offers restaurants, shops, galleries, murals, bars and great live music. All nestled within old warehouse district. Several blocks are bounded by Elm, Commerce, Oakland and Good Latimer. 214/748-4332. www.deepellumtx.com.

DEGOLYER ESTATE—See Dallas Arboretum.

FAIR PARK—This 277-acre national historic landmark holds the largest collection of cultural facilities in Dallas. It's open year-round and is home to eight museums and a Vietnam Memorial. Fair Park is Dallas' largest cultural center, and a historical treasure of national importance. Established in 1880, Fair Park is owned and operated by the City of Dallas and has nearly 300 acres of museums, exhibit facilities, and park areas. The State Fair of Texas is held here every year in late Sept. - mid Oct. 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. 214/670-8400. www.fairparkdallas.com.

Attractions in Fair Park:

Age of Steam Railroad Museum: Relive the golden age of the passenger train at this excellent outdoor exhibit. Features the world's largest diesel electric locomotive. Closed Mon. and Tues. Open Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 214/428-0101. www.dallasrailwaymuseum.com.

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. Open: Tues. - Fri. 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Mon. 3536 Grand Ave in Fair Park. 214/565-9026. www.aamdallas.org.

Cotton Bowl Stadium: Stadium seats more than 68,000 for several major collegiate football games, including the Texas-OU game during the State Fair and the



AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic held on New Year's Day, international soccer tournaments, concerts, and rallies. 3750 Midway Plaza.

Dallas Aquarium: Electric eels, moon jellyfish, endangered green sea turtles and a giant alligator snapping turtle are just a few of the 5,000 aquatic animals featured from around the world. The Amazon Flooded Forest exhibit showcases fish of the Amazon River. At 1462 First Ave. & Martin Luther King Blvd. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 214/670-8443. www.dallas-zoo.org.

Dallas Museum of Natural History: Rare finds abound at this museum with a reconstructed giant 90-million-year-old protostega sea turtle and the "Texas Tenontosaur." With on-staff archeologists and paleontologists, the research-driven, collections are constantly evolving. The museum's collection of more than 280,000 specimens includes the world's largest exhibition of Texas wildlife habitats, rare and extinct animals, and fossils. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. At 3535 Grand Ave. 214/421-3466. www.dallasdino.org.

The Dallas Opera: A 48-year tradition of artistic excellence and community service has made Dallas Opera a major factor on city's cultural and economic impact of the arts in area. 214/443-1043 www.dallasopera.org.

Hall of State: A national landmark celebrating the history of Texas. Dallas Historical Society exhibits are located in this art deco monument. Open Tues - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 214/421-0281. www.hallofstate.com.

Music Hall at Fair Park: Made its grand debut in 1925, designed in Spanish Baroque style with Moorish architectural influences. Today, hosts performances by Dallas Opera, Dallas Summer Musicals and Texas Ballet Theater. 909 First Ave. 214/565-0071. www.liveatthemusicahall.com

Science Place & TI Founders IMAX Theater: The Science Place strives to make science accessible and understandable to adults and children through its many hands-on exhibits and displays about medicine, physics, nature, and discoveries and inventions. The Science Place Planetarium and the IMAX Theater's giant domed screen make discovery and exploration a unique adventure. Open Tues. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. At 1318 2nd Ave. 214/428-5555. www.scienceplace.org.

Smirnoff Music Centre: This outdoor performing arts theater features a covered performance pavilion and 7,533 reserved seats. An additional 12,578 seats are available on the lawn. Concerts run April - Oct. At 1818 First Ave. 214/421-1111. www.hob.com/venues/concerts/smirnoff.

State Fair of Texas: 1936 marked the Texas Centennial Exposition, which was held on the Fair Park grounds and has been held annually ever since. The fair is the largest exposition in North America and hosts more than three million visitors a year. It runs three weeks beginning the last week of September and the first 2 weeks of October. Exhibit buildings open daily 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. At 3921 Martin Luther King Blvd. 214-565- 9931. www.bigtex.com.

Texas Discovery Gardens: Featuring the Benny J. Simpson Texas Native Plant Collection, the center also includes a two-story tropical conservatory, waterfall, and a scented garden for the blind. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun noon- 5 p.m. At 3601 Martin Luther King Blvd. 214/428-7476. www.texasdiscoverygardens.org.

The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future: A national center for the celebration and study of the immeasurable contributions women have made to society. Exhibits commemorate the women's movement, as well as women in the arts, sports, and science. Inductees include Eleanor Roosevelt, Barbara Jordan, Georgia O'Keeffe, Margaret Mead and others. Open Tues - Sun 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. At 3800 Parry Ave. 214-915-0860. www.thewomensmuseum.org.

FREEDMAN'S CEMETERY MEMORIAL—Pre-Civil War African-American burial ground and historical landmark honoring the lives of more than 7,000 of America's earliest pioneers. The memorial is built on the site of Freedman's Cemetery, established in the late 1850s with the abolition of slavery. Lemmon Avenue and Central Expressway. 214/670-3284.

FRONTIERS OF FLIGHT MUSEUM—Now in its new home, the Frontiers of Flight Museum is bigger and better than ever! From the Kitty Hawk to the Moon Walk, relive the History of Aviation amidst one of the world's finest collections of artifacts, scale models, photographs and other exciting memorabilia. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 6911 Lemmon Ave. 214/350-3600. www.flightmuseum.com.

GALLERIA DALLAS—Inspired by Milan Italy's famous Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, features an impressive ice rink surrounded by celebrated shops and just-completed expansion. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun. noon - 6 p.m. 13355 Noel Road. 972/702-7100. www.dallasgalleria.com.

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL—See The Sixth Floor Museum.

KNOX-HENDERSON ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT—One of Dallas' oldest shopping districts, Knox-Henderson has also become a trendy hot

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spot for dining and nightlife. Revitalized in the mid-1990s, many of the original 1920s storefronts remain. On the west side, Knox Street boasts a variety of restaurants as well as unique furniture stores and antique galleries. Henderson Street, on the east side of Central, has restaurants and clubs, and it is known for its own selection of small antique shops and galleries. North Central Expressway, Knox and Henderson.

LAKES—Bachman, Grapevine, Joe Pool, Lavon, Lewisville, Mountain Creek, Ray Hubbard, White Rock. See LAKES listing.

LATINO CULTURAL CENTER—The Latino Cultural Center provides artists, cultural organizations and the Latino community with the facilities and opportunities to develop and celebrate the unique cultural talents and gifts. The Center will present opportunities for education and experience in quality visual, literary, media and traditional arts. The center

also provides a venue and workspace for artists. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. 2600 Live Oak. 214/670-3320. www.dallasculture.org/latinoce.

LOWER GREENVILLE—Greenville Avenue is one of the oldest entertainment areas in Dallas and is home to many boutique and eclectic shops as well as live entertainment clubs, great bars and restaurants. Greenville Ave. between Mockingbird & Ross Ave. 214/368-6722.

MAIN STREET INITIATIVE—Anchored by Neiman Marcus' flagship store, the historic Adolphus and Magnolia Hotels and located just blocks from the Dallas Convention Center, this entertainment district features restaurants, clubs, retail and seasonal concerts. 214/744-4819.

MCKINNEY AVENUE TROLLEY—Visitors can ride McKinney Avenue's free nostalgic trolley between Dallas' Arts District and the McKinney Avenue Uptown neighborhood, enjoying the route's eclectic offering of antique shops, restaurants and clubs. The restored, historic, vintage streetcars are also available for private events. Runs Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. 214/855-5267. www.mata.org.

MEADOWS MUSEUM—The centerpiece of SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, the Museum houses the most significant collection of Spanish art outside of Spain, itself. The collection includes works by Velazquez, Ribera, Zurbaran, El Greco, Murillo, Goya, Miro and Picasso. Open Wed. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 5900 Bishop Ave on the SMU campus. 214/768-2516. meadowsmuseumdallas.org.

MOCKINGBIRD STATION—A unique urban village bustling with activity for the busy urbanite with luxury lofts, a DART rail station, 90 shops, sidewalk bistros and the independent Angelika Theater. Mockingbird Lane between North Central Expressway (U.S. 75) and Greenville Ave. 214/252-1183. www.mockingbirdstation.com.

MORTON H. MEYERSON SYMPHONY CENTER—Multi-million-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 a full schedule of both home performances and tours. The symphony's consistent excellence rates it among the nation's top 10. The Meyerson is also a public facility utilized by numerous groups. Available for group tours and regularly scheduled tours. Open for scheduled performances. 214/670-3600. 2301 Flora St. www.meyersonsymphonycenter.com.

NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER—The Nasher Sculpture Center is the newest addition to the Dallas Arts District and provides an urban oasis of art

and nature. The Center consists of a 54,000-square-foot building designed by architect Renzo Piano featuring the contemporary art collection of philanthropist and collector Ray Nasher and his late wife, Patsy, and a two-acre sculpture garden created by landscape architect Peter Walker. The Nasher Collection is considered one of the foremost collections, private or public, of contemporary 20th-century sculpture in the world. Comprised of more than 300 pieces, the collection features works by Calder, de Kooning, Kelly, Matisse, Miro, Picasso, Rodin and Serra, among many others. Open Tues. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. At 2001 Flora St. 214/242-5100. www.nasher Sculpture Center.org.

OLD CITY PARK—Old City Park, located on the edge of downtown, is an outdoor museum of architectural and cultural history with a restored antebellum mansion and a historic bank. The historic village is situated on 13 lush acres. Discover how North Texans lived at the turn-of-the-century. Open: Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. noon - 4 p.m. 1717 Gano St. 214/421-5141. www.oldcitypark.org.

OLD RED COURTHOUSE—Built in 1892 of red sandstone, this Richardsonian Romanesque structure is one of Dallas' oldest remaining buildings. Site of Dallas' state-of-the-art, high-tech Tourist Information Center and affectionately branded "Old Red," this magnificent courthouse has been restored to its original elegance. Walking distance from the Dallas Convention Center. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., by appointment on weekends (closed holidays). 100 S. Houston St. 214/571-1300. www.visitdallas.com.

PALACE OF WAX/RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!—See GRAND PRAIRIE.

PARKS—Dallas City Parks and Recreation Department offers year-round indoor and outdoor activities at 550 recreational facilities and 406 parks. 214/670-4100.

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. Young and Griffin streets. 214/953-1184.

REUNION TOWER—Focal point of the Reunion area, which was a settlement of French immigrants in the 19th century. Fifty-story tower features an observation deck (fee), restaurant and revolving lounge; adjacent to glass-tower Hyatt Regency. Amtrak runs through Dallas at the nearby, restored Union Station, c. 1914. Reunion Arena schedules sporting events, concerts, and rodeos. Just off I-35E at the southwest edge of downtown; Houston St., Reunion Blvd., Sports St. www.reuniontower.com.

SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS—See ARLINGTON.

SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOR—See ARLINGTON.

SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM, THE—A permanent, educational exhibition at Dealey Plaza on the life, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy. Exhibits feature photographs, artifacts, a 30-minute audio tour and six films. Visit the 7th floor gallery for rotating exhibits throughout the year. The 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. Located at 411 Elm St. 214/747-6660. www.jfk.org.



The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas

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Other Kennedy Memorials include historical marker on Houston St. near Elm St., which marks the spot where President Kennedy was assassinated during the motorcade, Nov. 22, 1963. Cenotaph and Memorial Park, designed by Philip Johnson, at Main and Market Streets, is a landscaped city block with open-style monument dedicated to the slain President.

SOUTH FORK RANCH—See PLANO.

SOUTH DALLAS CULTURAL CENTER—Multi-purpose arts facility in South Dallas serves artistic community with 100-seat theater, visual art gallery, dance studios, two-dimensional arts, ceramics, printmaking and photography. 3400 South Fitzhugh Ave. 214/939-2787. www.dallas culture.org/sdcci.

SPEED ZONE—Entertainment complex featuring sprint racing tracks and vintage racing cars; miniature golf, bumper boats

and more than 100 video games. Open Mon. - Thurs. noon - 10 p.m., Fri. noon - 1 a.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 1 a.m., Sun 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. 11130 Malibu Dr. 972/247-RACE. www.speedzone.com.

THANKSGIVING SQUARE—Opened in 1977, the interfaith Chapel of Thanksgiving is regular site of worship services. Waterfall and landscaping provide quiet retreat in the center of city. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., holidays 1 - 5 p.m. 1627 Pacific St. 214/969-1977. www.thanksgiving.org.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER—The Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a tourist information center offering abundant details about local events, accommodations, 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 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed holidays). West End Historic District, Main and Houston Streets. 214-571-1300, or visit www.visitdallas.com.

WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT—This turn-of-the-century warehouse district west of downtown is the site of more than 100 restaurants, shops and nightclubs in the restored, redbrick warehouses. The 55-acre historic district is the center of tourist activity. Check out the many historical sites within walking distance or experience a horse-drawn carriage ride. Lamar, Record, and Market Streets. 214/741-7180. www.dallaswestend.org.

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 a short film at the Wilson Carriage House behind 2922 Swiss Ave. For information, call Preservation Dallas at 214/821-3290. www.preservationdallas.org.

DE LEON

Pop. 2,433 Alt. 1,361 Map L-15

GENERAL—Established in 1881 by the Houston and Texas Central Railroad and named due to its close proximity to the Leon River. De Leon is home to Texas' largest fruit farm, the largest peanut shelling plant in the U.S., and more than 10,000 acres of pecan trees.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Wise County Heritage Museum in Decatur

The area is popular with hunters searching for doves, quail, deer and turkeys plentiful during season. Fishing and water activities are popular on nearby Lake Proctor. Also, don't miss the 'Weeping Oak,' the town's great oak tree, which has been featured in "Ripley's Believe It or Not," that has limbs growing downward.

Texas' oldest Peach and Melon Festival is held Tues. - Sat. during the first full week in August. For more event information, call 254/893-6600 or 254/893-2083.

LAKES — Proctor. See LAKES listing.

TERRILL ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM — See several rare automobiles, some more than 100 years old. From a 1901 steam-powered car to a 1941 Packard convertible. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 500 N. Texas St. Admission fee. For more information, call 254/893-3773.

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 LBJ 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 fee.

DENISON

Pop. 22,773 Alt. 767 Map G-19/NN-2

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. City features widely diverse industrial base and has largest medical community and services between Dallas and Oklahoma City. Home of Grayson County Junior College.

Unique downtown district is an art mecca with 11 galleries and three international artists. Also, home of Homestead Winery & Tasting Room, numerous antique shops, cateries, and bed & breakfasts.

Historical Driving Tour and details on area attractions available at Denison Chamber of Commerce, 313 W. Woodard. 903/465-1551. www.denisontexas.com.

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE — 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 fee.

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, E.M. 1310, and Park Road 20. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

GRAYSON COUNTY FRONTIER VILLAGE — Collection of 19 rustic buildings dating from 1840 to 1900 includes 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. Also is location of annual Grayson County Holiday Lights Tour. 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 a 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. 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.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site in Denison



KEVIN S. ILLMAN/TXDOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Denison

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—In North Texas at the Texas-Oklahoma state line on U.S. 69/75, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 6801 U.S. 69/75. 903/463-2860. www.txdot.gov

DENTON

Pop. 91,150 Alt. 620 Map H-18/PP-5

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 2004. 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 on 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 great treasures in shops within its award-winning downtown district. Bed and breakfast accommodations are also 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 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 Brooks 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.

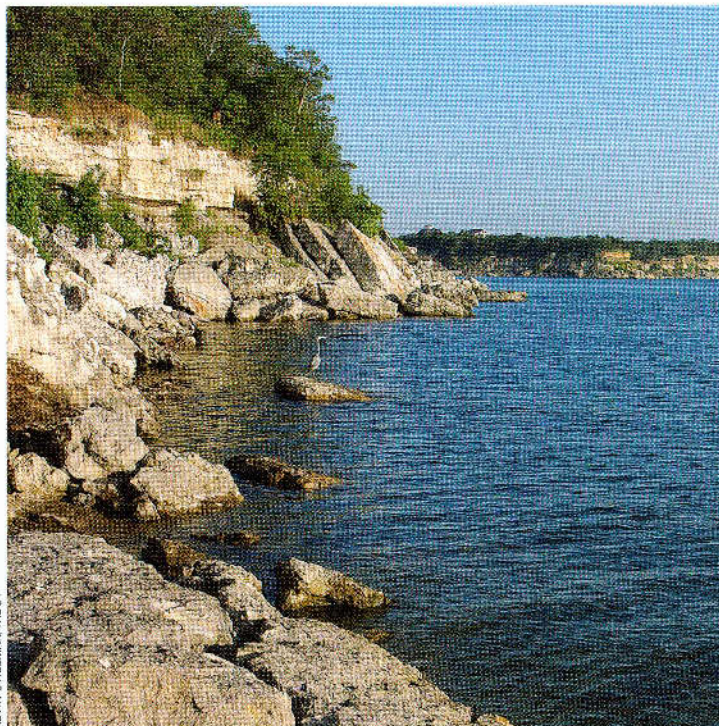
LAKES—Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Roberts. See LAKES listing.

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 a 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 in Historical Park of Denton County, at 317 W. Mulberry, just minutes from downtown square. This Queen Anne-style Victorian house museum is furnished to represent turn-of-the-century Denton life. Tours are available. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - Noon, 1 - 3 p.m.; closed Mon. and holidays. No admission fee. 940/349-2865. www.dentoncounty.com/bsh.

Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum is housed in Denton's historic courthouse built in 1896 and restored in 1986. 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. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. First floor of Denton County Courthouse. For information, call 940/349-2850. www.dentoncounty.com/chos.

Denton County Historical Museum, Inc. and Texas Heritage Center is located at the Denton Factory Stores. This museum displays artifacts and memorabilia



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Lake Texoma near Denton



LOOK UP! LILIAN STUBBS

Oak-Hickory Historic District in Denton

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 Tues. - Sat. 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 fee. For information, call 940/565-3599.

RAY ROBERTS STATE PARK ISLE DU BOIS UNIT AND JOHNSON BRANCH UNIT—See PILOT POINT.

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 Nextel 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, call 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 888/381-1818. 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.

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 F.M. 141 downtown. **LAKE**—Sommerville. See LAKES listing.

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 attacks. 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 it is also supported by beef, feed and fertilizer. Golf legend Ben Hogan was native of city.

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. RV park features tent camping and full-service RV hookups with utilities, bathrooms, showers and dump station. Night use fee. 254/445-3331.

For information on dining, accommodations, or events, contact the Dublin Chamber of Commerce at 800/9-DUBLIN or 254/445-3422.

DR PEPPER BOTTLING CO. & OLD DOC'S SODA SHOP—Tour the plant where Dr Pepper is still made the "original" way, then visit the museum and restored soda fountain for a DP frosty! Museum features memorabilia and wonderful stories of the history of the bottling company, which opened in 1891. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Admission fee, but ages six and under admitted free. At 221 S. Patrick. 254/445-3939.

LAKE—Proctor. See LAKES listing.

DUNCANVILLE

Pop. 36,081 Alt. 727 Map K-18/VV-7

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 972/780-5090. www.ci.duncanville.tx.us.

CEDAR HILL STATE PARK—See CEDAR HILL.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Denton County Courthouse



PRAIRIES AND LAKES

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 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. 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 a 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—"The Goose Hunting Capital of the World," is named for the lake where Stephen F. Austin and his explorers killed an eagle in 1821. Area produces abundant rice harvests that exceed a million bushels annually.

The environment includes open lands to the south and east, woodlands to the north and west plus riparian growth along the Colorado River and Eagle Lake. The city is also nestled on the Central U.S. Flyway, making it possible to see more than 250 species of birds.

Situated in Colorado County, Eagle Lake, a Texas 2000 Main Street City, is located in the Texas Independence Region and on the Texas Pioneer Trail covering a four-county area. For additional information and map, contact the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce at 979/234-2780 or visit www.elc.net/cityofeaglelake.

ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—Sanctuary for Attwater, or coastal, prairie chicken covers 3,500 acres near San Bernard River. Rate of decline in bird population exceeded that of whooping cranes through middle years of the last 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.

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 fee.

LAKES—Cedar Creek, Fork, and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

St. Patrick's Day in Dublin

ELGIN

Pop. 7,200 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! Three 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."

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.

The Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce is in the newly restored H&TC Freight Depot on Central Ave. For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 512/285-4515 or visit www.elgintx.com.

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. 310 North Main. Tours available Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 512/285-4515.

UNION DEPOT MUSEUM—Built in 1903 as a train depot, thanks to a 'union' effort of two independent railroads that operated in the area, facility was renovated in 2002. Permanent exhibit details town's history and development through transportation from the early 1900s. Museum also features rotating exhibits. Open Tues. - Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Located at 14 Depot St. 512/285-2000. Donations accepted.

ENNIS

Pop. 18,500 Alt. 548 Map K-18

GENERAL—Established 1872 when railroad reached town; named for Cornelius Ennis, director of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Today original railroad community is 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 weekend.

As one of the first "Rural Tourism Certified" tourist communities, Ennis has preserved many buildings in historic downtown area, some of which are 110 years or older. Each April, the Ennis Garden Club sponsors the 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 www.visitennis.org or e-mail 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 N.E. Main St. Admission fee. 972/875-1901.

TEXAS MOTORPLEX—Premier NHRA racetrack hosting one annual national racing event in Sept., professional and amateur drag racing all year. Seats 30,000. On U.S. 287, five minutes from Historic Downtown Ennis. For racing information, call 972/878-2641 or 800/MOTORPLEX. www.texasmotorplex.com.

EULESS

Pop. 46,005 Alt. 603 Map J-18/SS-5

GENERAL—Early settlement called Bird's Fort was established just south of the present city in 1841. The community began when settlers reached the confluence of Big Bear and Little Bear creeks on the eastern edge of present Euless, 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 Euless and the post office closed in 1868. In 1881, Elisha Adam Euless, 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.

Euless is widely known for its Arbor Daze Festival, held the last weekend each April, that promotes and celebrates the planting of trees throughout the city by giving away 10,000 trees each year.

Heritage Park features a playground, picnic areas, a 1/2-mile walking trail, Ruth Millican Center, Fuller House and Himes Log House. The Fuller House, which is home to Euless' museum, and the Himes Log House are open to the public the second Sat. of the month 1 - 5 p.m. No admission fee. 817/685-1649.

For additional information about Euless, call 817/685-1400 or visit www.ci.euless.tx.us.

EULESS 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. 817/685-1400.

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 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. 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

FREESTONE COUNTY MUSEUM—Housed in county's third jail building, built in 1879-80. Fortress-style jail made of local handmade brick, extra thick

brick walls with some original floors. The dungeon, or prison cells, were upstairs and sheriff and family lived downstairs. Building was used as residence from 1913 to 1967, when group of local citizens rescued structure from destruction and decided it was ideal location for county museum. Today, artifacts from time of county's beginnings in 1851, including Civil War items, on display.

Also included on grounds are two pre-Civil War cabins, a one-room and dog-trot style, an antique telephone museum, and a 1930s Assembly of God church established in hopes of reforming bootleggers of county at the time.

Open Wed., Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 302 E. Main St., one block E. of courthouse. Admission fee. 903/389-3738.

LAKES—Fairfield, Richland-Chambers. See LAKES listing.

FARMERS BRANCH

Pop. 27,600 Alt. 633 Map J-18/SS-7

GENERAL—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 2,600 companies, including 65 U.S. headquarters, 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 North Dallas Design District between Alpha and Midway roads.

HISTORICAL PARK—The 1856 Gilbert House, oldest structure in Dallas County, sits on original foundation and is cornerstone of 22-acre park. Grounds also include historic buildings, like 1870s Farmers Branch Depot, 1900 Farmers Branch school, 1930s Dotson House, 1855 Queen Anne Victorian Cottage, 1890s old church, and unique examples of early log cabin architecture. Museum Store. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Park closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. At 2540 Farmers Branch Ln. For information, call 972/406-0184 or visit www.farmersbranch.info/ParksRec/Historicalpark.html.

FAYETTEVILLE

Pop. 261 Alt. 411 Map Q-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 immigrants 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.

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 and the half-hour. Antique stores, a restaurant and other businesses surround the town square.

Annual events include the Lickskillet Festival in Oct. Favorite spot for bicyclists and motorcycle enthusiasts alike, and bed & breakfasts and guest cottages available.

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 888/575-4553. www.fayettevilletx.com.

FAYETTEVILLE AREA MUSEUM—Sited in turn-of-the-century building on old courthouse square. Quaint museum, with German-Czech heritage, features exhibits from Baca Band (first Czech family band in Texas) memorabilia to prehistoric and religious items. Open Fri. & Sun. 2 - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon and 2 - 4 p.m., other times by appointment; just off Texas 159. 979/378-2378 or 979/378-2279.

LAKE—Fayette. See LAKES listing.

FLATONIA

Pop. 1,377 Alt. 458 Map Q-18

GENERAL—Agricultural village just off I-10 half way between Houston and San Antonio, founded by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1873; named 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 Czhlispicel. Local sausages and kolaches are popular. City is a very well known train watching spot, especially with the crossrails that run north and south and east and west.

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 E. North Main St. in the E.A. Arnim Archives and Museum building, or call 361/865-3920. www.flatoniachamber.com. E-mail: chamber@flatoniachamber.com.

ARNIM & LANE MERCANTILE—A genuine country store dating from 1886, still operating with fascinating variety of antique and modern merchandise. Open weekdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. corner of E. North Main St. and Texas 95.

E. A. ARNIM ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM—Wealth of historical miscellany from town, includes antique furniture, household items, clothing, china and glassware, historical documents. Also livery stable with wagons, buggies, vintage tack, farm implements and more can be seen. Open Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. - noon. 101 E. North Main. 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.

FLOWER MOUND

Pop. 61,550 Alt. 693 Map J-18/RR-5

GENERAL—Settled in the 1830s by early pioneers, the Town of Flower Mound derives its name from a 50-foot-tall pristine hill covered in wildflowers known today simply as The Mound. Located approximately 30 miles north of Dallas and Fort Worth in southwest Denton County, Flower Mound was incorporated in February 1961 with a mayor-commission form of government at the Presbyterian Church on Round Grove Road.

Providing easy access to downtown Dallas, Fort Worth, and the DFW International Airport, Flower Mound prides itself on balancing a unique blend of country atmosphere with a dynamic environment for economic development. A master-planned community, Flower Mound is ideal for living, working, and playing.

Recreational enthusiasts find inspiration through a variety of outdoor opportunities in Flower Mound including 545 acres of parkland, more than 30 miles of multi-purpose trails, Lake Lewisville, and Grapevine Lake, the Town's southern border.

In addition, numerous special events and traditions bring the entire community together, including the Easter Egg Scramble, Independence Day Children's Parade and Fireworks Extravaganza, Veteran's Day Ceremony, and the Holiday Stroll and Parade.

Flower Mound has been recognized as one of the best communities to live in by *Money Magazine* and the book "Best Places to Raise Your Family: The Top 100 Affordable Communities in the U.S." For more information, visit www.flower-mound.com.

FLOWER MOUND, THE—Rising 50 feet above its surroundings, The Mound is a nod to the town's formative years and comprises nearly 13 acres of uninterrupted, beautiful countryside populated by wild flowers. The area was once part of the great American Black Land Prairie that ran from Canada to the Rio Grande and from the Rockies to the Mississippi. The immediate area, of which only 1,000 acres remain out of the original 20 million, was part of the Tall Grass Prairie. Because early pioneer settlers never plowed the land, more than 175 species of wild flowers flourish throughout the year including the Tall Bluestem, Bluebonnet, Field Pansy, Indian Blanket, and Wild Foxglove. Visitors can enjoy the various species of wild flowers and catch a glimpse of downtown Dallas on the horizon. The Mound Foundation was established in 1983 as a non-

profit organization to preserve the landmark, which was officially recognized a year later by the Texas Historical Commission. Located at 2500 FM 3040, The Mound is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and admission is free. For information, call The Mound Foundation at 817/430-3032 or visit www.flower-mound.com/comm-info/brochure.php.

HISTORICAL STRUCTURES—Abundance of significant locations including historical cemeteries, places of worship, and schools found throughout city. The Flower Mound Presbyterian and Shiloh cemeteries have weathered the progress of agricultural development and urbanization. Characterized by hand-carved native headstones, the cemeteries also contain markers from the Civil, First World, Second World, Korean, and Vietnam wars, and graves from the 1860s to date, including those of pioneers and veterans. Located at 6500 Cross Timbers Road, the *Shiloh Cemetery* is open from sunup to sundown, seven days a week, and admission is free. Located at 1501 Flower Mound Road, the Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery is open from sunup to sundown, seven days a week, and admission is free. For information on the cemeteries, call the Mulkey-Mason Funeral Home from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Saturday at 972.436.4581. The *Flower Mound Presbyterian Church* was constructed as a log cabin after years of patrons meeting at each other's homes. The original facility was replaced with the current structure in 1901. Located at 1501 Flower Mound Road, the church is open 1 - 5 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and admission is free. For information on the church, call 972/539-7184.

LAKES—Grapevine and Lewisville. See LAKES listing.

PARKS—Flower Mound maintains approximately 545 acres of parkland in more than 40 parks. More than 30 miles of multi-purpose trails link together parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. With an abundance of conserved open space and undeveloped land, the Town also features 3.5 miles of equestrian trail. Widely known across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as a haven for hike-and-bike enthusiasts, Flower Mound is home to the popular Northshore Trail. The nine-mile hike and bike trail winds along Grapevine Lake, and is a habitat for such wildlife as rabbits, foxes, and waterfowl. Accessible at 3477 Twin Coves Park Road, the trail is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is free. For information or trail conditions, call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 817/481-3576.

FORT WORTH

Pop. 661,850 Alt. 670 Map J-17/UU2

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. The Fort Worth to Yuma, Ariz., stage line was established 1850. Became seat of Tarrant County 1860. After the Civil War, became major shipping and supply depot for cattlemen.



Texas Wild! exhibit at Fort Worth Zoo

J. BRIEFIS SMITH/TXDOT



Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth

Today Fort Worth is one of Texas' major cities with a wide range of industries including Lockheed Martin, American Airlines, Pier 1 Imports, Radio Shack, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

The impressive Fort Worth 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.

Fort Worth is home of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Tarrant County 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; Texas Frontier Fests Muster in Spring; Fort Worth Symphony's Concerts in Garden in June-July; and Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival in Oct.

For baseball fans, catch a Fort Worth Cats game at LaGrave Field. Opened in the summer of 2002, the \$2.5 million ballpark seats 4,500 patrons and features a pavilion, boxed seating and excellent food. Admission fee. For schedule information and ticket prices, visit www.fwcats.com. 817/226-2287.

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 AA pilots, mechanics and employees, was flown to Fort Worth and hoisted into its place of prominence. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Adjacent to American Airlines Flight Academy at Texas 360 and FAA Rd. southwest of D/FW Airport. 817/967-1560. www.crsmithmuseum.org.

AMON CARTER MUSEUM—The newly expanded Amon Carter features Western and 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 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'Keeffe. 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. Open Tues, Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m.; drop-in tours everyday at 2 p.m.; closed Mon. At 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd. See www.cartermuseum.org. 817/738-1933. No admission fee.

BALL-EDDLEMAN McFARLAND HOUSE—Elegant Victorian residence. Tours Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.; weekend tours by appointment only. At 1110 Penn St. downtown. For information, 817/332-5875. Fee.

BASS PERFORMANCE HALL—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. Casa Mañana, 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 named one of the world's top 10 opera houses by *Travel & Leisure* magazine. Tours are Sat. 10:30 a.m., depending on production/rehearsal schedules. At 525 Commerce St. For information, call 817/212-4325. www.basshall.com.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING-WESTERN CURRENCY FACILITY—45-minute guided tour of facility features displays and exhibits showing history of U.S. paper currency, the production process and its technology, a 15-minute film of the production process, a quarter-mile elevated walkway tour overlooking the currency production floor, the MoneyFactory gift shop, and three live demonstration exhibits; a turn-of-the-century spider press, a mutilated currency redemption desk, and an engraver's bench. Open Aug. - May, Mon. - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and tours are conducted every 30 minutes; visitors should be checked in by 2 p.m. to attend the final tour of the day. Open June - Jul., Mon. - Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and tours are conducted every 30 minutes; visitors should be checked in by 5 p.m. to attend the final tour of the day. Closed weekends, federal holidays, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Group tours of 10 or more must schedule in advance. At 9000 Blue Mound Road (F.M. 156). For more information, call 866/865-1194 or 817/231-4000, or visit www.moneyfactory.gov.



Fort Worth's Stockyards National Historic District

MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

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 Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.; Sun. noon - 2 a.m. Admission fee. www.billybobstexas.com.

BOTANIC 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 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 1 - 7 p.m., but call ahead as hours vary by season. Conservatory open Apr. - Oct. Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Nov. - Mar. closes at 4 p.m. 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. www.fwb.com.

CATTLE RAISERS MUSEUM—History of the colorful Texas ranching industry portrayed in film, photos, and cowboy memorabilia. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Downtown at 1301 W. 7th St. For additional information, call 817/332-8551. Admission fee. www.cattleraisersmuseum.org.

FIRE STATION NO. 1—"150 Years of Fort Worth" traces city's colorful history. Open 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Second and Commerce sts. downtown. Call 817/255-9300 for additional information. No admission fee.

FORT WORTH HERD—The world's only daily cattle drive! Each day Texas Longhorn cattle are herded down E. Exchange Ave. Twice daily at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. 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®, Lone Star Dinosaurs, Hands on Science, and ExploraZone®. KIDSPACE is an indoor discovery area designed for children age 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 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 schoolchildren.

Weekday and weekend classes are offered at Museum School® throughout the school year. Weekday classes offered in the summer.

Construction slated to begin in 2007 on new facility, so call ahead for availability. Museum is open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. For additional information, call 817/255-9300. At 1501 Montgomery St. in the Cultural District. Admission fee. www.fortworthmuseum.org.

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER AND REFUGE—Growing from 35-acre Greer Island Nature Center, current 3,600-acre refuge offers interpretive center, hiking and self-guided nature trails. Bison herd intermingled with white-tailed deer often seen. Open summer Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; winter daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located 10 miles northwest of downtown (2 miles past Lake Worth bridge) on Jacksboro Hwy. (Texas 199). For information, call 817/237-1111. Admission fee. www.fwnaturecenter.org.

FORT WORTH ZOO—Mammals, birds, and reptiles from around the world. Zoo selected one of the top 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.

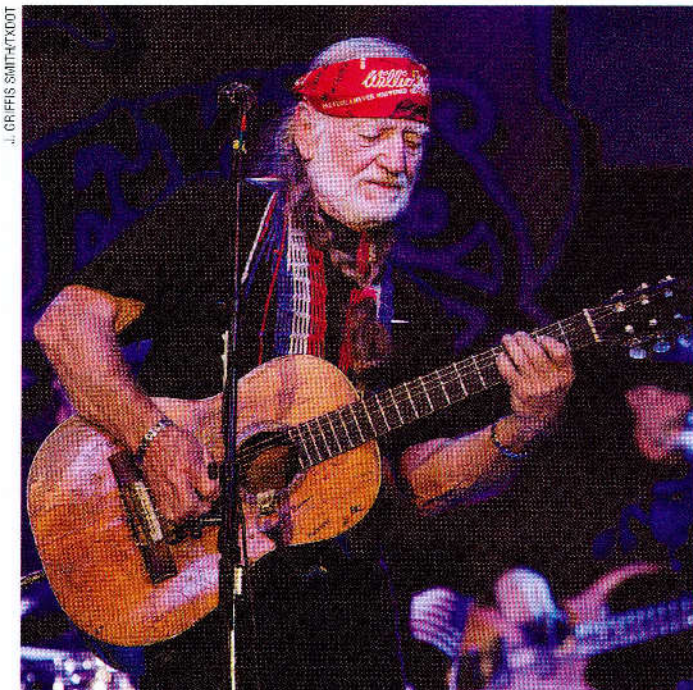
Herpetarium acclaimed for naturalistic exhibits and collection of frogs, turtles, crocodiles, and hundreds of snakes.

Asian Falls, carved out of existing hillside, is a 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.

Don't miss Texas Wild! This-8 acre exhibit dedicated to the Lone Star State's native flora and fauna houses more than 200 native Texas animals.

Open daily at 10 a.m., but closing time varies throughout the year. At 1989 Colonial Parkway. Admission fee. For information, call 817/759-7555. www.fortworthzoo.com.



Willie Nelson performs at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth



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. daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Apr. - Oct. daily 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. At 3220 Botanic Garden Dr. in Cultural District. Admission fee. For information, call 817/871-7685. www.fwbhg.com.

KIMBELL ART MUSEUM—Based on philanthropist Kay Kimbell's collection of 18th-century portraits and old masters, multi-million-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. and 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. www.kimbellart.org.

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 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. In Cultural District at University Dr. and Colonial Parkway in Forest Park. Admission fee. Call 817/926-5881 for information. www.logcabinvillage.org.

MD RESORT—Visitors can see a true Texas working cattle ranch. In addition, kids can meet different animals up close in the petting zoo. Bed & breakfast also available. In the town of Rhome, off I-35 N and 114 E. Phone 817/489-5150. www.mdresort.com.

MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH—Painting and sculpture by contemporary artists; special traveling exhibits. New facility, designed by Tadao Ando, opened in Dec. 2002 and is the second largest modern art museum in the country. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 3200 Darnell St. 817/738-9215. www.themodern.org.

NATIONAL COWGIRL MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME—The only museum in the world dedicated to honoring and documenting the distinguished women of the American West, including Georgia O'Keeffe, Dale Evans, Patsy Cline, Sacajawea, Willa Cather and Annie Oakley. Designed by David Schwarz, it includes a permanent exhibit, traveling collections, a multi-purpose theater, an expanded research library, a retail store and the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. At 1720 Gendy St. For more information, call 817/336-4475 or visit www.cowgirl.net. Admission fee.

PATE MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION—See BENBROOK.

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 or tickets, call 817/625-1025. www.cowtowncoliseum.org.

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. 817/625-5082.

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.

The White Elephant Saloon features live country music nightly, and it is the site of the "Last Great Gunfight of the Old West" re-enactment every Feb. At 106 E. Exchange Ave. 817/624-1887.

Stockyards Station, a 165,000-sq.-ft. market center includes stop for the Grapevine Vintage Railroad 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. www.stockyardstation.com.

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. - 6 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 130 E. Exchange Ave. For more 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 20-block area features cinemas, dining, live theaters, art galleries, museums and exciting night life. Bounded by Second, Fifth, Jones,

Beaumont Ranch Spa and Resort

16 B & B Rooms
40,000 Sq Ft of Meeting Space
Horses, Zorses, & More
On Site Cafe
Skeet, Paint Ball, Laser Tag
Chuck Wagon Meals
Mechanical Bull
All-Inclusive Packages ++

Grandview, Texas
www.beaumontranch.com
888-864-6935

and Throckmorton sts. downtown. 817/255-5700.

www.sundancesquare.com.

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. Hours change throughout the year, so please call in advance. At 2001 W. Seminary Dr. 817/923-1921 ext. 4000.

TARANTULA RAILROAD (GRAPEVINE VINTAGE 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 10-mile course to Eighth Avenue. Ticket office

in Stockyards Station at 140 E. Exchange Ave. 817/625-RAIL (7245). Fare. Operating dates and times vary, so call ahead. (Also see GRAPEVINE.) www.tarantulatrain.com.

TEXAS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM—Opened in 2006, home to the largest Civil War museum west of the Mississippi River, including the commissioned movie, "Our Homes Our Rights-Texas in the Civil War." See items such as guns, swords, uniforms, flags, personal items, Victorian dresses and accessories. Three galleries include the Civil War collection, Victorian Dress Collection, and UDC Texas Confederate Collection. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 760 Jim Wright Freeway N. Admission fee. For more information, call 817/246-2323 or visit www.texascivilwarmuseum.com.

TEXAS COWBOY HALL OF FAME—Museum honors 65 current inductees—Texas cowboys and cowgirls who have excelled in their careers. The inductee's booth contains photos, memorabilia and videos of championship performances. The museum also features the Sterquell Wagon Collection and the John Justin Trail of Fame. Located at the Horse and Mule Barns on East Exchange Avenue. 817/626-7131. www.texascowboyhalloffame.com.

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 Nextel 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 more than 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 Texas 114. For information, tours, and tickets, 817/215-8500. www.texasmotorspeedway.com.

TEXAS TRAIL OF FAME—Set in the sidewalks and other public walkways throughout the Stockyards National Historic District, the Texas Trail of Fame features some 109 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. Call to schedule a tour. At 1509 Pennsylvania. Admission fee. For information, call 817/336-1212. www.thistlehill.org.

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 equipment boast proudly of their days



Dr Pepper/7 Up Ballpark in Frisco

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. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. noon - 5 p.m., or weekday tours by appointment. At 505 NW 38th St. For information, call 817/624-1935 or visit www.vintageflyingmuseum.org. Admission free.

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, Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; in the Cultural District at 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed Sun.); or in Stockyards National Historic District at 130 E. Exchange Ave., open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. For more information, call the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/433-5747 or 817/336-8791, or visit www.fortworth.com.

WALKING TOURS—Tours of the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District are conducted Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Sun. noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; from the Stockyards Visitors Center and include stops at the Livestock Exchange Building, Cowtown Coliseum, Stockyards Station, and more. For information, call 817/625-9715. Admission free.

WATER GARDENS—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 817/392-SHOW (7469).

FRANKLIN

Pop. 1,470 Alt. 450 Map N-19

GENERAL—Originally established under different name (Morgan) in 1872, seat of Robertson County, named after Sterling C. Robertson, founder of Robertson's Colony. Mineral springs made it a popular health resort in the last decades of the 19th century. Today, cattle ranching, poultry production, electric power generation, and oil and gas production are some of the major contributors to the economy.

Pridgeon Community Center, open in 2000, is 10,000-square foot facility that can accommodate groups from three to 800. At 351 Cooks Ln. off Hwy 79. New Baden Jamboree held first Sat. each month at New Baden Community Center.

Don't miss the Robertson County Courthouse, built in 1881 and renovated in 1924 when the original roofs were replaced to suggest a Spanish Renaissance character. Entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

For information on events, lodging and dining, call the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 979/828-3276 or visit www.franklintexas.com.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY—Established in 1914, the historic, renovated building received its historical marker in 1987. One of the few Carnegie Libraries in Texas still being used for its original purpose. Open Tues. - Thurs. 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.

FRISCO

Pop. 75,256 Alt. 738 Map H-18/PP-8

GENERAL—City's history traces back to early 1900s, when it was formed as the result of the San Francisco Railroad being built through the area. The shortened name "Frisco" was used for this railroad line, thus the city name was formed. Today, city is one of the fastest growing in Texas.

Be sure to visit IKEA. This 310,000-square foot facility features unique Swedish-designed furniture. Includes 52 room settings, four model homes, 300-seat Swedish restaurant, and several children's play areas (including one supervised). Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. At 7171 IKEA Dr., at intersection of Hwy. 121 and Dallas North Tollway. 972/712-4532.

Two bronze cattle drives depict days of the Shawnee Trail, part of Frisco's early heritage. These outdoor sculptures can be seen year-round. For more information, contact the Frisco Convention & Visitors Bureau at 877/GO-FRISCO (463-7472) or visit www.visitfrisco.com.

DR PEPPER/7 UP BALLPARK—Home to the Frisco RoughRiders, the Double-A Texas League affiliate of the Texas Rangers baseball club. The season runs April through Sept. Tours are available the first and third Sat. of each month from 3 - 5 p.m. during the season. Exit Gaylord Parkway of Dallas North Tollway, one mile north of Texas 121 and approx. 20 miles north of downtown Dallas. For more information, call 972/731-9200 or visit www.ridersbaseball.com.

DR PEPPER STARCENTER—Beautiful ice rink is the official practice facility of the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League. Skating is open to the general public as well, and hockey lessons and figure skating lessons also available. Tours are available the first Sat. of the month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information call 214/387-5600 or visit www.drpepperstarcenter.com.

PARKS—Four large community parks and 10 neighborhood parks feature varying aspects of hike and bike trails, outdoor amphitheatres, multiuse sports complex, nature gardens and more. 972/335-5517 or www.friscotexas.gov.

PIZZA HUT PARK—This 21,000-seat arena, and surrounding 17 youth soccer fields, is home to FC Dallas' major soccer league team. Facility hosts professional soccer matches, live concerts, and internationally-known Dallas Cup soccer championship. Exit Main St. off Dallas North Tollway, just five miles north of



Texas Sculpture Garden in Frisco



LOOKING UP SHIRLEY T.

One of Gainesville's historic homes

Texas 121. For more information, call 866/979-0303 or visit www.fcdallas.net.

STRIKZ—New family entertainment center, features 32 bowling lanes, laser tag, video arcade, media room, karaoke stage and billiards. Open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - midnight, Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. Exit Lebanon Rd. off Dallas North Tollway, one mile north of Texas 121. 972/668-5263. www.strikz.com

TEXAS SCULPTURE GARDEN & INTERNATIONAL ART—Home to the largest private collection of contemporary Texas sculpture that is open to the public free of charge. Stroll through the garden, which winds around the lake, and enjoy 38 works of art that celebrate the talent of Texas' most important artists. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and located at 6801 Gaylord inside Hall Office Park. Tours are available upon request. 972/377-1100. www.texasculpturegarden.com.

GAINESVILLE

Pop. 15,538 Alt. 738 Map G-17

GENERAL—Originally a point on the California Trail, town was established in 1850 (near Fort Fitzhugh, an outpost that dated from about 1845), but town's frontier location made it too convenient for raids 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 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 shav-

ing 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—Housed in the 1884 former City Hall-Fire Station-Jail, the museum underwent a complete interior renovation in 2000. Visitors enter the exhibit area through an 1870s log cabin, original to Cooke County, where all facets of pioneer life are displayed on a rotating basis. Exhibits in the galleries, which focus on different aspects of the county's history from Native American life to the Civil War, cattle drives, immigrants, discovery of oil, formation of the Gainesville Community Circus, construction of Camp Howze during WWII, and much more, change every three months.

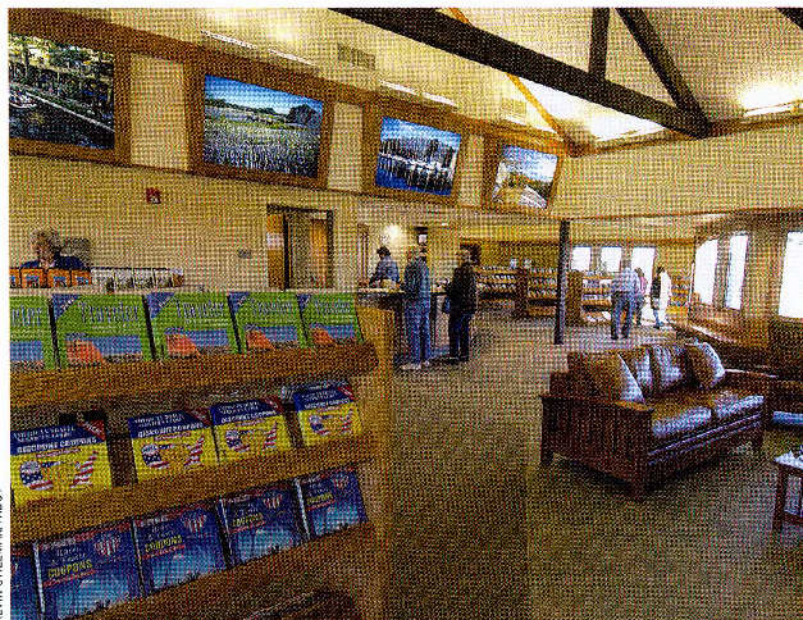
Several pieces of stained glass dating to the early 20th century are on permanent display, including a large stained glass skylight that is the focal point of the museum. A series of advertising mirrors from the same era are also on permanent display. The building has a Texas State Historical Marker. Open Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 940/668-8900.

SANTA FE DEPOT MUSEUM—Located in the 1902 newly renovated Santa Fe depot, the museum opened in January 2002. Managed by the staff of the Morton Museum of Cooke County, the Depot Museum contains three main rooms of displays. One highlights local transportation history, including the Harvey House restaurant, which was located in the building, and the others focus on Gainesville's Coca-Cola industry and Gainesville's Community Circus, an all-volunteer circus that operated from 1930 until the early 1960s, traveling and performing in dozens of towns before crowds of thousands. A re-created bedroom of one of the Harvey House waitresses is located upstairs. A film on the circus prepared for "Unusual Occupations" in the 1930s is shown in the museum's theater. Located at 605 E. California, the museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. No admission fee. For information, call 940/668-8900 or 940/612-4906.

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.

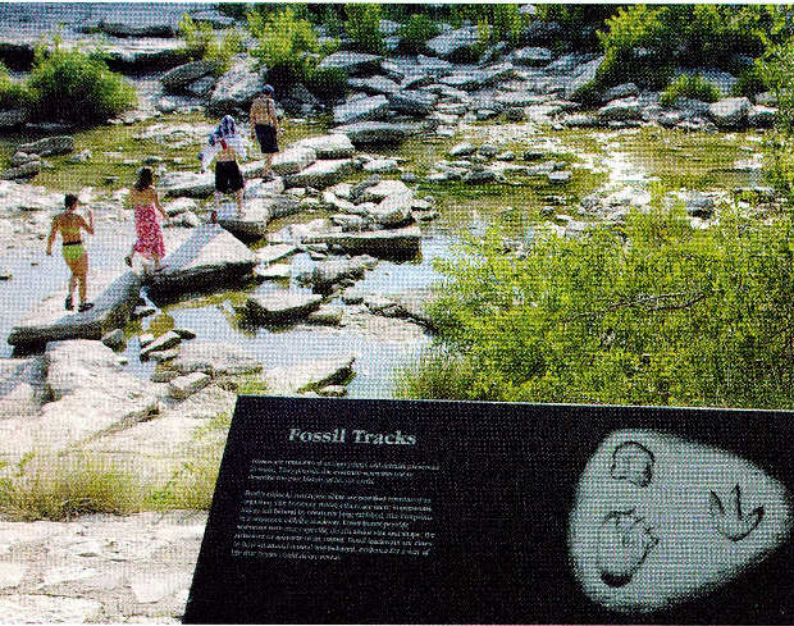
TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER—In North Texas at the Texas-Oklahoma state line on I-35, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation for the convenience of the traveling public. Uniformed, professional travel counselors welcome visitors and provide a wealth of free literature, information, and suggestions to make every Texas trip more pleasant.

Working with the *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



KEVIN STILLMAN/IXDOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Gainesville



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 4901 North I-35. 940/665-2301. www.txdot.gov.

GARLAND

Pop. 221,310 Alt. 551 Map J-18/SS-10

GENERAL—Suburban city 15 miles northeast of Dallas grew from farming community incorporated in 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, Garland Civic Theater and Garland summer musicals. Rebirth of the Plaza Theater, a state-of-the-art performing arts facility seating 338. Home of Amberton Univ.

Firewheel at Garland provides 63 challenging holes in the largest municipal golf facility in Texas and the third largest in the nation, according to the National Golf Foundation. 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, a restored “matchbox-style” home; exterior views only. Museum open first Sat. each month 10 a.m. - 3 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, and a special children’s area. Open daily Jun. - Sept. 440 Oates Dr. off I-635. For additional information, call 972/686-1237.

GATESVILLE

Pop. 15,591 Alt. 795 Map M-17

GENERAL—Name derived from nearby old Fort Gates; became county seat when Coryell County was 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 chuck wagon. Unusual 1855 double-wall log jail has underground dungeon. Other exhibit includes the Lloyd and Madge Mitchell Collection, which contains thousands of spurs, Western memorabilia, pocket knives, pocket and wrist watches, and more. Open. Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 718 Main St. 254/865-5007.

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.

GIDDINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER—Home for one of the largest Native American collections in the state. A local resident donated collection to the city for library to display on a permanent basis. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon. Closed Sun. and holidays. 979/542-2716.

LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE—The 1899 octagonal red-brick courthouse, known as Richardson Romanesque architecture. Total restoration was completed in 2004 and is available for viewing daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed holidays.

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.

LEHM BERG WINERY—Located outside of town on C.R. 208, in old family home built in 1927. Clay bricks used in home’s construction were fired in down draft kiln that’s still visible from the property. Tours of facility acquaint visitors with intricacies of wine making, from harvest to bottle. Open daily. 979/542-2726.

SERBIN COMMUNITY/WENDISH MUSEUM—Church celebrated 150th anniversary in 2004. German-settled town 6 miles south on F.M. 2239 (not shown on most maps). Church features hand-painted marble accents, and pulpit is tallest in Texas and placed in upper level of church.

The Wendish Museum is a collection of memorabilia celebrating life of these ethnically unique people. 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.



MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Glen Rose



WINEDALE HISTORICAL CENTER—Restored plantation house of 1830s. See ROUND TOP.

GLEN ROSE

Pop. 2,122 Alt. 680 Map L-17

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. Oakdale Park offers historic camping facility with cabins, RV hookups, tent sites and meeting facilities. Call 254/897-2321 or visit www.oakdalepark.com for more information.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Glen Rose Convention and Visitors Bureau at 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 254/897-3081 or 888/346-6282.

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. 254/897-5554

CREATION EVIDENCES MUSEUM—Includes artifacts and fossil displays. Acrocantiosaurus 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 fee. 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 fee. 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 fee. 254/897-2960. www.fossilrim.org

INN ON THE RIVER—Built in the 1919 and originally named Snyder's Drugless Sanitarium, today the facility provides a relaxed atmosphere for week-end getaways. Located on the banks of the Paluxy River and nestled under 300 year-old Live Oak trees, it is in the edge of downtown Glen Rose and offers porches, decks and rocking chairs overlooking the river, plus a state-of-art conference center. 800/575-2101 or 254-897-2929. www.innontheriver.com.

LAKES—Granbury, Pat Cleburne, Squaw Creek, Whitney. See LAKES listing.

THE PROMISE—A 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 Sept. - Nov. For exact dates, 254/897-3926 or 800/687-2661. www.thepromiseglenrose.com.

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 800/864-4705.

SOMERVELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Items depicting



J. GRIFFIS SMITH/XTODOT

Old 1887 jail houses Museum in Gonzales

local history, fossils, relics. Open year-round Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Elm and Vernon sts.

VISITOR CENTER—The Glen Rose Convention & Visitors Bureau operates a visitor center offering printed information regarding local events, attractions, dining and lodging. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 1505 NE Big Bend Trail. For information call 888/DINO-CVB (346-6282) or 254/897-3081. www.glenrosetexas.net.

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 in 1825 by Green C. DeWitt, American impresario 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.

For more information, call the chamber office at 888/672-1095 or visit www.gonzalestexas.com.

GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM—Handsome monument to those who fought first battle of Texas Revolution, and for 32 patriots who later answered Travis' call for help at the Alamo. Features the 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. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. E. St. Lawrence St.

Eggleston House is a carefully restored log house, originally built in 1848, that's furnished with antiques revealing a picture of Texas pioneer life. Free tours may be arranged through the museum curator or by contacting the chamber of commerce. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

GONZALES PIONEER VILLAGE LIVING HISTORY CENTER—Ten structures built in county during 19th century show a former way of life in Texas. Includes working broom factory, cabins, smokehouse and 1870s Hamon church. Open Sept. - May Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; June - Aug. Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Groups tours available Tues. - Sat. Inquire at chamber office, 830/672-2157. Admission fee.

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.



J. BRIHNS SAITH/TXDOT

Courthouse in Granbury

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. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. 414 St. Lawrence St. on courthouse square.

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.

KACTUS KORRAL—World's largest cactus ranch, includes 115 greenhouses, RV park, cactus showroom, gun shop and 1880s period clothing all in one place. Tour buses welcome. Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. On U.S. 90, 1.5 miles north of I-35 from Exit 642. 830/540-4521

LAKE—Wood. See LAKES listing.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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.

GRANBURY

Pop. 6,050 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."

Granbury Cemetery is final resting place of Jesse James. Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings. Detailed area information available at the Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau at 116 W. Bridge St. or call 800/950-2212.

ACTON STATE HISTORIC SITE—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 fee.

GRANBURY LIVE—Family-friendly, costumed and choreographed live Nostalgia Concerts with a professional cast performing music from the golden age of rock-n-roll and comedy without a cringe meter. Open weekends and holidays. Admission fee. 114 N. Crockett. For show times, call 800/989-8240 or 817/573-0303. www.granburylive.com.

GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE—Built 1886; restored and reopened 1975. Plays, musicals and melodramas presented throughout the year. 116 Pearl. Call for performance schedule, 800/547-4697 or 817/573-9191.

GRANBURY RIVERBOAT—Enjoy cruising aboard the luxurious 96-foot Granbury Riverboat, offering temperature-controlled cruises year-round; scenic, brunch, lunch or dinner with live entertainment or Murder Mystery. Private charters also available. Advance reservations required. Boat departs from Pier 144 Marina at 2323 S. Morgan, one mile south of Hwy. 377/144 intersection. 817/279-8687.

HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE—The first buildings erected on the town square, including the courthouse and county jail, were constructed of locally milled "rawhide" lumber. These were replaced in the 1880s and 1890s by structures built of locally quarried limestone, that stand today.

Few changes were made to the buildings of this agricultural county's town square in the ensuing years. Major restoration began in the early 1970s and, in 1972, the entire square site was the first in Texas to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

HOOD COUNTY MUSEUM—Housed in the jail, which was built in 1885 and used until 1978, museum depicts the history of Hood County from the days of colonization. Complete with an original cell block and hanging tower. Includes collections of memorabilia. Open Sat. - Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.; other times by appointment. 209 N. Crockett. 817/573-5135. Admission fee.

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 on group tours.

GRAND PRAIRIE

Pop. 134,435 Alt. 528 Map J-18/VV-5

GENERAL—Established at close of Civil War on Texas & Pacific Railroad with original name of Dechman. Renamed in 1873; incorporated 1909. Population spurred by large defense plants during World War II. Public recreation facilities, including Lynn Creek Park, Loyd Park and Splash Factory, feature playgrounds, picnic areas, athletic fields, swimming, boating and golf (Prairie Lakes 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).

LAKES—Joe Pool and Mountain Creek. See LAKES listing.

LONE STAR PARK AT GRAND PRAIRIE—World Class Thoroughbred racing in North Texas featuring live racing. The Grandstand is a seven-level, glass-enclosed, climate-controlled building with penthouse suites, terraced track-side dining room, box seats, and outdoor seating. The Post Time Pavilion offers simulcast racing with more than 150 television screens along with a sports bar and restaurant. For more information, call 972/263-RACE (7223) or visit www.lonestarpark.com. At 1000 Lone Star Parkway (I-30 and Belt Line Road).

LOYD PARK—Located on shores of Joe Pool Lake, park has eight rentable two-bedroom cabins with lake views and 221 wooded sites with water, electricity, concrete pads, group campsites, group picnic areas, dump stations, rest rooms, showers, hiking trail, off-road bicycle trails and equestrian trails, playground, boat docks, and softball field. At 3401 Ragland Road. For more information, call 817/467-2104 or visit www.loydpark.com.

NOKIA THEATRE AT GRAND PRAIRIE—This 6,333-seat indoor, state-of-the-art live entertainment venue opened in 2002 and features the biggest names in live entertainment. \$62.9 million venue presents a wide range of shows, from concerts and Broadway shows to comedy and more. At 1001 Performance Place (Belt Line Road and I-30). For schedule information, call 972/854-5050 or visit www.nokiatheatrefw.com.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! & LOUIS TUSSAUD'S PALACE OF WAX—Experience the unusual, bizarre, unbelievable and odd in Ripley's Believe It or Not! Robert Ripley collected the world's most interesting artifacts. You'll encounter eye-popping themed galleries, watch videos of the



unusual, walk over a simulated hot bed of coals, and experience the realistic effects of an earthquake and tornado!

A premier wax museum with more than 225 lifelike wax figures from Hollywood, history, horror, child fantasy and the Presidents of the United States. See Whoopie Goldberg, Brincey Spears, Tom Hanks, Brad Pitt, Jennifer Lopez and more.

Open daily at 10 a.m. Located at 601 Palace Pkwy. (Belt Line Rd. exit from I-30 between Dallas and Fort Worth.) For more information, call 972/263-2391 or visit www.palaceofwax.com. Admission fee.

TRADERS VILLAGE—This Texas-size flea market, with more than 3,000 dealers, is open every Sat. and Sun. year-round. The 152 acres feature shopping on a grand scale for bargain hunters. Special events include auto swap meets, chili and barbecue cookoffs, Indian Powwow and more. Thirty restaurants offer a variety of food. There also is an on-site RV park. Open daily, 2602 Mayfield Rd. off Texas 360. Parking fee; no admission fee. For more information, call 972/647-2331 or visit www.tradersvillage.com.

VISITOR CENTER—The Grand Prairie Convention and Visitors Bureau operates the Teri Jackson Tourist Information Center and Texas Gift Shop. Open daily, 2170 N. Belt Line Rd., 972/263-9588 or 800/288-8386. www.gptexas.com.

GRAND SALINE

Pop. 3,028

Alt. 407

Map J-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. 47,950

Alt. 650

Map J-18/RR-5

GENERAL—Prior to settlement in 1850, this well-watered location on the blackland prairie was site of important negotiations between Indians and Gen. Sam Houston, which led to the signing of the Treaty of Birds Fort that opened this 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.

The city's annual GrapeFest celebration is held the second weekend in September, and in 2003 it was selected as one of the "Top 100" events in North America by the American Bus Association.

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 more than 2,300 scheduled domestic and international flights daily. Group tours available through D/FW Airport Public Relations Office.

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

Grapevine Texas Experience It.

SHOPPING Whatever you are looking for you will find it here. *Grapevine Mills Mall, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World* and the *Grapevine Historic District* offer everything from art and antiques to trendy clothing and sporting goods.

ENTERTAINMENT Enjoy award-winning festivals throughout the year including Main Street Days (May) and GrapeFest (September). Experience the *Grapevine Vintage Railroad*, nine winery tasting rooms, 81 holes of golf, lake activities and more. Additionally, Grapevine is centrally located to all Dallas/Fort Worth area attractions.

DINING Over 200 restaurants offering everything from family-owned to national favorites to tea rooms. Whether you're hungry for barbecue or Italian, fast food or a five-course meal, you'll find a menu to match your appetite.



800-457-6338 ONE LIBERTY PARK PLAZA, GRAPEVINE, TEXAS • 76051
GrapevineTexasUSA.com

Foundation purchased the land and moved the depot back. Museum displays local and pioneer history exhibits. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 705 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 Sat. night featuring local, regional, and national artists. 300 S. Main St. Admission fee.

GRAPEVINE RAILROAD DISTRICT—Original site of Cotton Belt Railroad depot and cotton docks. Three-acre site is being developed as an artists' center. The center houses artisans who demonstrate and teach their craft. Gifts and custom orders available. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 701 S. Main St.

GRAPEVINE VINTAGE RAILROAD—Beautifully restored steam excursion train makes round-trips between Grapevine and Fort Worth's Stockyards. While in Fort Worth, the train makes a cross-city excursion to the city's south side along 10-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 817/410-3123 or 800/457-6338. (Also see FORT WORTH.)

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 705 S. Main St.

LAKE—Grapevine. See LAKES listing.

VISITOR CENTER—Located in the Cotton Belt Depot, the visitor center, operated by the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau, can provide additional information on events, accommodations, and other visitor information. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 705 S. Main St. or call 817/410-8136.

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.



PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Cross Timbers Winery is located in a historic farmstead that once belonged to the town's first physician. Many artifacts of early farm life on display. Open Sun. - Fri. noon - 5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 817/488-6789.

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 tubs, vats, and barrels. At 2000 Champagne Blvd. off Texas 121. Open for tours Sat. noon - 5 p.m.; tours on the hour with the last tour at 4 p.m. No admission fee for tour. Tasting begins at 12:30 p.m. with last tasting at 4:30 p.m.; tasting admission fee. 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 Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. Noon - 5:30 p.m. at 211 E. Worth St. 817/251-9463.

La Bodega Winery & Tasting Room is located in one of the world's busiest airports—Terminal A, Gate 15 at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Tasting room features a wide variety of Texas wine. For information, call 972/574-1440.

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.

Su Vino Winery offers visitors the chance to enjoy fine wine at their winery or make their own wines and participate in the six-week process that begins with adding the nuances of flavor to the juice through bottling, corking and labeling. Grapevine's newest winery is open Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 12:30 - 5 p.m. At 120 S. Main, Ste. 40. 817/416-9333.

GREENVILLE

Pop. 25,250

Alt. 594

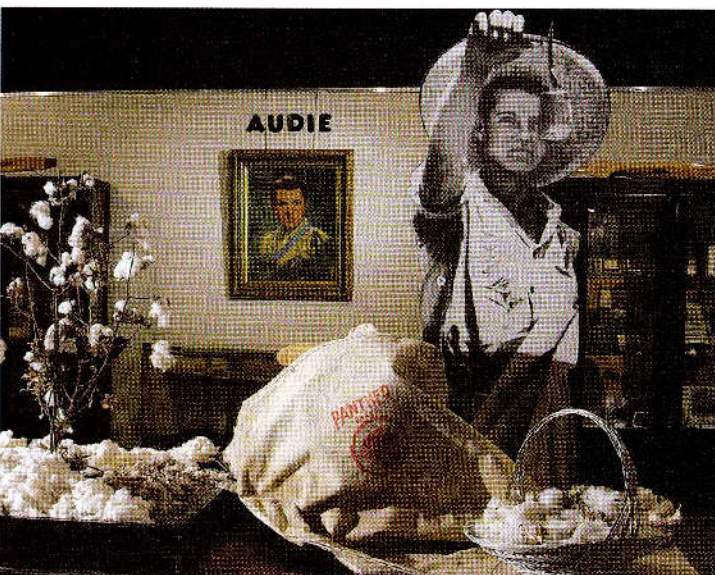
Map H-19

GENERAL—Established in 1846 and seat of Hunt county, once named "Cotton Capital of the World." 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, and mall make Greenville renowned for bargain shopping.

Visitors can find historical sites such as Majors Field, a WWII training base for many U.S. airmen and Mexican 201st Air Squadron, the only Mexican unit that saw active service.

For more information, contact the Greenville Chamber of Commerce at 903/455-1510 or visit www.greenvillechamber.com. E-mail: tourism@greenvillechamber.com.



Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville

Visit
GREENVILLE

Dozens of Antique Shops

Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum

- ★ Historic Downtown Walking Tour
- ★ Great Golf
- ★ Birding
- ★ Mary of Puddin Hill
- ★ Fishing & Water Sports
- ★ 800 Motel Rooms

Greenville Chamber of Commerce/CVB
903.455.1510
tourism@greenvillechamber.com
www.greenvillechamber.com

AUDIE MURPHY/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; located in the Hunt County Veterans' Military Exhibit. Also features 10-foot bronze statue of Murphy. 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. (Closed Sun. & Mon.) At 600 I-30 East. For information, 903/450-4502. Admission fee.

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—Fork, Lavon, Ray Hubbard, Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

MARY OF PUDDIN HILL BAKERY & STORE—Scrumptious array of world-famous pecan fruit cakes and chocolate delicacies tempt visitors, and marvel at amazing collection of sculptures made from real chocolate. Homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts served Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Store open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 201 E. I-30, Exit 95. 903/455-6931.

MATHEWS PRAIRIE PRESERVE—One hundred acres of virgin tall-grass 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 2.1 miles on F.M. 203, west 1.8 miles on C.R. 1116. Sign at northeast corner of C.R. 1116 and C.R. 1119 identifies the preserve. Parking available along county roads.

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 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. Nearby is restored Old Fort Parker. Park is 5 miles north via Texas 14, Park Road 28. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

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 fee.

MICHAEL AMADOR/TKDOT



OLD FORT PARKER—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 she 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. Fort features pioneer memorabilia, authentic log blockhouse and stockade, and also includes Mordecai Yell's two-story log cabin. 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 fee.

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.

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. Also home to State Championship Domino and Domino "42" Tournaments, State Championship Fiddler's Frolics and annual Kolache Fest.

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 Mon., Tue., Thurs. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 413 N. Main. For weekend tours, call for appointment at 361/798-2786. Museum's main phone number is 361/798-4113.

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. 361/798-2311.

HAMILTON

Pop. 2,977 Alt. 1,154 Map M-16

GENERAL—Established as county seat when Hamilton County was organized in 1858. Early settlers plagued by raids. On the courthouse lawn stands a memorial to Anne Whitney, frontier schoolteacher killed while defending students during raid by Comanches.

The Hamilton County Courthouse is a native limestone building constructed in the late 1800s after three prior courthouses were burned. The Hamilton County Historical Society displays old documents, pictures and artifacts in glass cases on the first floor of the courthouse. 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.

Surrounding the courthouse are a full range of specialty shops and restaurants. Homes dating from the late 1800s dot city streets and country lanes. Performances throughout the year by the Hamilton Civic Theatre are a high-



STANA A. WILLIAMSTADT

Lavaca County Courthouse in Hallettsville

light of local activity, as is the Hamilton County Dove Festival that celebrates the opening of dove hunting season.

For a free map or information on accommodations, shoppers guide, events and restaurants, call the Chamber of Commerce at 254/386-3216 or stop by at 204 E. Main St. www.ci.hamilton.tx.us.

HAMILTON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY LIBRARY AND CENTRAL TEXAS RESEARCH CENTER—One of the fastest growing and most comprehensive genealogy centers in the state. Documents, books and publications covering most of the U.S. are housed in the Center along with 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 are housed on the first floor of the old jail. Jail cells still operational on the second floor. Open Fri. 1 - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At 113 W. Henry St.

PECAN CREEK PARK—10-block linear park meanders through downtown along Pecan Creek with three cameo recreational areas plus a swimming pool, children's playground and picnic areas. Plaza entrance one block north of courthouse on Bell St.

HEARNE

Pop. 4,690 Alt. 287 Map. O-18

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, especially the pancake mix. She died in 1967 and is buried at the Hammond Colony Cemetery northeast of the city.

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 304 S. Market St. (Texas 6).



Texas Heritage Museum in Hillsboro

MICHAEL AMADOR/STOCK

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 800/361-HICO (4426) or visit 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 877/BILLYKD (245-5953).

LAKES—Proctor and Whitney. See LAKES listing.

SMOOTH WATER RANCH—This man-made 10-acre lake provides opportunities for water skiing, including competition matches. Camping facilities for RVs available. Outdoor festivals feature Texas musicians during spring, summer and fall months. Open year-round for camping; skiing available if weather permits. For information and admission fees, call 877/WE DO SKI (933-6754) or visit www.smoothwaterranch.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, hayrides, saddle bag lunches, sunset champagne rides, and more. For information, call 254/364-2676. Located about ten miles southeast on Texas 6. 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 past renovated homes and restored downtown area. Downtown area offers numerous antique dealers, 1900’s bed and breakfast, speciality shops, and historic square. Hillsboro was one of the first designated Main Street cities in the nation.

Prime Outlets of Hillsboro on I-35 features more than 75 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 800/HILLSBORO. Visit www.hillsborochamber.org.

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.

LAKE WHITNEY STATE PARK—About 16 miles southwest. See WHITNEY.

LAKES—Aquila and Whitney. See LAKES listing.

TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM—Commemorating the experiences of Texans during wartime; 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). No admission fee.

HONEY GROVE

Pop. 1,746 Alt. 668 Map G-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 look.

Local Lakes Coffemill 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 ranches, 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 Iris 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.

For visitor information, call the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 979/836-3695 or 888/BREHAM (273-6426).

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 original six-acre 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. Burleson. 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 the 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 HISTORIC SITE—A few miles east on the Brazos River. See WASHINGTON.



J. BRUFF'S SMITHSONIAN

Antique Rose Emporium in Independence

LINDEMANN STORE MUSEUM—Features original fixtures and exhibits collection of turn-of-the-century items sold during the store's 177 years in operation. Artifacts from millinery department to poultry supplies and everything in between that general stores of olden days had for sale. At 2227 Main St. Open fourth Fri. of month 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., other times by appointment. 979/357-2772.

IRVING

Pop. 191,615 Alt. 470 Map J-18/TT-6

GENERAL—Established 1902 by J.O. Schulze and Otis Brown as rail link between Dallas and Fort Worth. Both men dreamed of founding a town that would prosper alongside one of the rail lines they helped construct, so they purchased 80 acres at site. Town was founded in 1903 and incorporated in 1914, and local historians believe city was named after Mrs. Brown's favorite author Washington Irving. The thriving commercial, industrial, and residential city borders on western edge of Dallas and the eastern boundary of D/FW International Airport, and its boasts a population of 200,000. 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!

Be sure to visit Mandalay Canal and experience a romantic gondola ride. For more information, call 972/506-8037 or visit www.gondola.org.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and restaurants, call the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/2-IRVING or visit www.irvingtexas.com.

DALLAS COWBOYS FOOTBALL CLUB/TEXAS STADIUM—Home of the five-time Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys. The 45-minute guided tour includes stops on playing field and in locker room of America's Team. Tours begin and end at the Texas Stadium Pro Shop and run every hour on the hour Mon. - Sat. from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

INDUSTRY

Pop. 475 Alt. 360 Map Q-19

GENERAL—Settled by Germans in 1831, known as "First Permanent German Settlement" in Texas. Named by founder Friedrich Ernst, known as 'Father of German Immigration' to Texas. Today, many historic structures can be found and serve as museums, bed & breakfasts, gift shops, and boutiques. City celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2006. Visit the Ernst Memorial Park, which features restored Republic of Texas post office building that served as town's store and post office during the Republic period. Located at Bernuda Dr. and Ernst Pkwy.

KNOLLE DOCTOR OFFICE—Original instruments and medical artifacts used by town physician from 1886 to the 1920s on display. The restored structure also houses a 1940s pharmaceutical collection of physician who practiced here until the 1940s. Open fourth Fri. of month 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., other times by appointment. At 9021 Hwy. 109 N. 979/357-2772.



KIMBER AKAHORN/PHOTO

National Scouting Museum in Irving

(No tours on game day or during special events.) At 2401 E. Airport Freeway. Admission fee, but no admission fee for kids ages 5 and under. For more information, call 972/785-4787 or visit www.dallascowboys.com.

MUSTANGS OF LAS COLINAS & MUSEUM EXHIBIT—A must-see for visitors and residents alike, striking *Mustangs of Las Colinas* sculpture, nine mustangs that appear to be galloping through a granite stream. Created by African wildlife artist Robert Glen, it is the largest equestrian sculpture in the world and was installed in 1984. Stroll across the plaza and visit the *Museum Exhibit*, which includes an informative film about the mustangs and the creation of this sculpture as well as other works by the artist. The exhibit is in the West Tower of Williams Square Plaza and is open Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information, call 972/869-9047. The complex is on O'Connor Rd., just north of Texas 114. www.mustangsoflascalinas.com.

NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM—Located next to national headquarters of Boy Scouts of America, state-of-art museum features high-tech virtual reality adventures, hands-on learning experiences, and historical collection that traces scouting movement from its beginnings. Also boasts largest collection of Norman Rockwell paintings under one roof, including works he created for the Scouts in 1918 (his first) and in 1976 (his last). Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays and two weeks in Jan. Admission fee but kids ages 4 and under admitted free. At 1329 W. Walnut Hill Ln. 972/580-2100. www.bsamuseum.org.

KAUFMAN

Pop. 6,490

Alt. 440

Map K-19

GENERAL—First settled in 1840 by 40 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 Kings Fort. 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 was 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.

Turn-of-the-century buildings make up most of the town square. Visitors may stop by the chamber of commerce at 2100 S. Washington St. for information on festivals, accommodations, dining and special events, call 972/932-3118, or visit www.kaufmantx.com.

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.

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. 100,967

Alt. 833

Map N-17/CC-6

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.

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 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 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.

Additional information on events, accommodations, and attractions are available at the visitor information center in the Killeen Civic and Conference Center and Convention & Visitors Bureau, located at 3601 S. WS Young Dr. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 254/501-3888. www.killeen-cvb.com.

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 that 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. - 4 p.m., Sat. and Sun. noon - 4 p.m. Closed Christmas, New Year's Day and Thanksgiving. Visitors stop at main gate entrance from U.S. 190 west of Killeen.

LAKES—Belton, Stillhouse Hollow. See LAKES listing.

MAYBORN PLANETARIUM AND SPACE THEATER—On the campus of Central Texas College—immerse yourself in a state-of-the-art experience like no other. The facility opened in the fall of 2003, features Planetarium Sky Shows, Laser Light Shows, IMAX and other Large Format Films. Laser shows bring music to life with a sophisticated laser graphics projection system that uses digital computer graphics technology to create images, words and three dimensional objects, which are then carefully synchronized to the laser show's rock-and-roll soundtrack. Located on U.S. 190. Open Fri. - Sun., and large groups and school groups are accommodated during the week by appointment only. For information on current shows and show times, call 254/526-1800 or visit www.starsatnight.org.

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.



J. ROBERT SMITH/STREET

Monument Hill State Historic Site at La Grange

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 to be 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.

Selected as a Texas “Main Street” city, the downtown area includes 1890s courthouse (the first J. Reily Gordon-designed courthouse in Texas), location for the motion picture “Michael” starring John Travolta, 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 Trail. 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. www.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 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 fee (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-GENERAL 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/WW-8

GENERAL—For years, Lancaster (Lank-aster) was the second largest city in Dallas County. It 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.

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.

For more information, contact the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce at 972/227-2579 or visit www.lancastertx.org.

COMMEMORATIVE 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.

LEONARD

Pop. 1,846 Alt. 602 Map H-19

GENERAL—Started as 3,500-acre plot of land in 1843 purchased by Solomon L. Leonard, years after his death his surviving heirs entered into agreement to establish town and railroad in 1880. Surrounding city are two historic thickets: Wildcat Thicket to the south and Bois D’arc Thicket to the north. Annual events include summer picnic and bluegrass festival. For more information, call the City of Leonard at 903/587-3334.

GROVE HILL VILLAGE—Located six miles northeast of town, features working garden complete with six diamond-shaped herb gardens, lake, and 2,500-square foot museum that houses extensive doll collection, from antique bisque to modern vinyl Terri Lees. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 903/587-3655.

LEONARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM—On historic town square, features extensive collection of artifacts from city’s past. Items include a full lace, handmade wedding dress, an actual-size replica of a 1930s barber shop, antique household items, and memorabilia from every graduating class of Leonard High School. Open Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. 903/587-2212.

LEWISVILLE

Pop. 77,737 Alt. 490 Map J-18/QQ-6

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 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



Leonard Historical Museum

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 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 par 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.

FLYING & FLOATING TOYS—Parasailing, power parachute, and hot air balloon rides, and boat and jet ski rentals on Lake Lewisville. Open year-round, dawn to dusk, weather permitting. At 11258 Goodnight Lane, Suite 105. For more information, call 214/621-5499 or visit www.flyingandfloatingtoys.com.

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. 1, 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 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, stealing, 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.

City's largest event, held annually during second weekend in June, is Chisholm Trail Roundup & Kiwanis Rodeo. For more information, 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. www.lockhartchamber.com.

CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE—Stands in the middle of Lockhart's square, built of Muldoon limestone with red Pecos sandstone trim; completed 1894. Affectionately said to be "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 have temporarily relocated the library to 901 Bois d'Arc St.

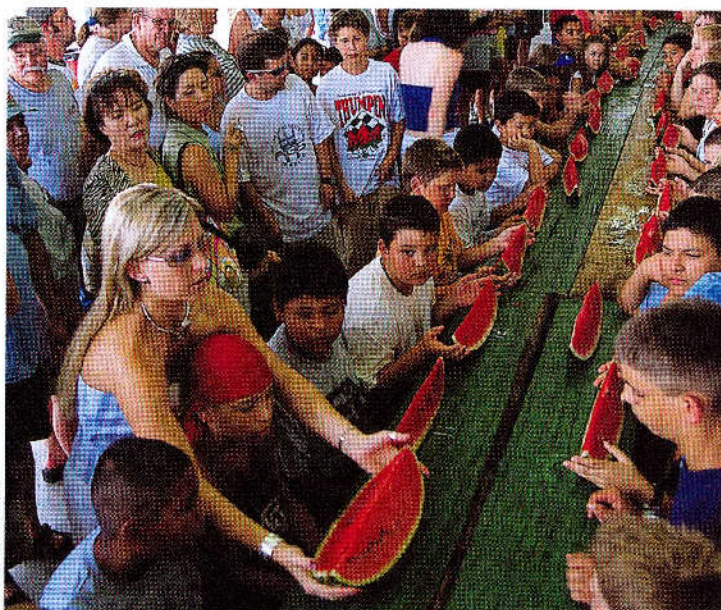
EMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH—One of Texas' oldest Protestant churches, built in 1856 of stone and wood, still in use as originally constructed with only minor alteration. Church and Walnut sts.

LOCKHART STATE PARK—257 acres feature swimming, fishing, picnicking and 9-hole golf course, plus rustic recreation hall overlooking picturesque valley. Campsites, RV and trailer facilities. About four miles southwest of Lockhart via U.S. 183 and E.M. 20. Admission fee. 512/398-3479.

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 was discovered 1922, and today visitors will



Watermelon Thump Festival in Luling



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.

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.

OIL MUSEUM—This quaint museum preserves the heritage of the oil industry in the area since 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 fee, 800/792-1112.

SCENIC DRIVE—Park Road 11 through Palmetto State Park.

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. Today, McGregor is a city with a thriving industrial park and a satellite McLennan College campus.

Annual events include Summer Blast in May, Founders Day Festival in Sept., and the Christmas Tree Lighting in Dec.

Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* from Chicago to Los Angeles stops here, the only Amtrak station in McLennan County.

For additional information on accommodations, dining and area events, contact the McGregor Chamber of Commerce at 254/840-2292 or visit www.mcgregor-texas.com.

AMSLER PARK—Swimming, fishing, and pit volleyball, horseshoes and picnicking 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.

McKINNEY

Pop. 91,000 Alt. 612 Map H-18/PP-9

GENERAL—Settled 1845 and incorporated in 1848, 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.

Historic Courthouse Square includes more than 100 shops featuring American and European antiques, art galleries, restaurants, speciality shops and more. The Old Collin County Courthouse was built in 1874 and remodeled to its current neoclassical facade in 1927. www.mckinneysquare.com.

For additional information on dining, accommodations, and events, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau by calling 888/649-8499 or visit www.visitmckinney.com.

BOLIN WILDLIFE EXHIBIT—An educational exhibit of preserved wildlife from North America, Africa and other parts of the world, and an antique museum highlighting early life in Collin County. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1028 N. McDonald (Texas 5). 972/562-2639. No admission fee.

CHESTNUT SQUARE HISTORICAL PARK—A collection of seven historic houses and buildings dating from the 1850s. Includes the oldest house in McKinney, a 1900s store and a chapel. Gift shop. For public tour times, call 972/562-8790 or visit www.chestnutsquare.org. Admission fee.

COLLIN CO. HISTORY MUSEUM—Built in 1911, operated by the Collin County Historical Society, this former Post Office now houses exhibits featuring early Collin County history life, American Indians, Collin McKinney, the Republic of Texas, railroads, and a Frank Klepper Civil War triptych. Museum shop features books and items related to county's history. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. 105 N. Chestnut St. at Virginia. Call 972/542-9457 or visit www.collincountyhistory.org. Admission fee.

COLLIN CO. YOUTH PARK AND FARM MUSEUM—Located on



KEVIN STILLWART/TOOT

Caldwell County Courthouse in Lockhart

83 acres northwest of town, the Youth Park features three arenas, a horse barn, banquet facilities and campground for public use. The Farm Museum is an agricultural museum. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 7117 Co. Rd. 166. 972/548-4793. www.co.collin.tx.us.

HEARD-CRAIG HOUSE—Built in 1900, this 7,000-square-foot masterpiece home was center of social, business, art and literary activities. Today, it is furnished with antique furniture, artwork and heirlooms. Tours offered Tues. and Thurs. 2 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. and by appointment. Gift shop. 205 W. Hunt St. 972/569-6909 or 972/542-5340 or visit www.heardcraig.org. Admission fee.

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM AND WILDLIFE

SANCTUARY—289-acre site is filled with natural history exhibits of flora, fauna and geology. Native live animal exhibits, native plant garden, education programs and more. Open daily. At One Nature Place, south 2 mi. on Texas 5; east 1 mi. on F.M. 1378. 972/562-5566 or www.heardmuseum.org.

LAKES—Lavon, Texoma. See LAKES listing.

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.

PECAN GROVE CEMETERY—Located on property granted by the Republic of Texas in 1845, the cemetery honors remains of the original Texas settlers of McKinney, including Dr. James Webb Throckmorton, governor of Texas in 1866-1867. In addition, headstones mark the presence of 203 veterans from the Texas Revolution, the Mexican War, Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Texas 5 at Industrial and Eldorado. 972/542-4029.

THIRD MONDAY TRADE DAYS—Antiques, arts and crafts, and other items attract shoppers on the weekend preceding the third Mon. of the month. More than 900 vendor booths open Fri., Sat., and Sun. Located on U.S. 380 two miles west of U.S. 75. Parking fee. For information, call 972/542-7174 or visit www.tmt.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



MICHAEL MAZUR/TODOT

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney

Mushrooms, Inc. The fresh mushrooms are harvested, packed and distributed to commercial centers in Texas and other states.

Madisonville has been officially designated by the Texas State Legislature as the Mushroom Capital of Texas, and it is home to the annual Texas Mushroom Festival. www.texasmushroomfestival.com. May and June are rodeo-filled events conducted by the Madisonville Sidewalk Cattlemen's Association. For more information, visit www.sidewalkcattlemen.com or call 936/348-3591.

For information on lodging, dining facilities, and events, call the Madison County Chamber of Commerce at 936/348-3591, visit www.madisonvillechamber.com or call the Convention & Tourism Office at 936/349-0742.

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 or visit www.woodbinehotel.com. At 209 N. Madison St.

MADISON COUNTY MUSEUM – Refurbished turn-of-the-century bank building is home to museum, which contains artifacts from Madison County citizens including memorabilia from the Truman Kimbro family. Kimbro was awarded Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his service in 1944 as a Technician Fourth Class during the Battle of the Bulge. Rotating exhibits include antique wedding dresses, antique quilts, and an exhibit commemorating veterans of World War II. Located at 201 N. Madison just off downtown courthouse square. Open Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 936/348-5230.

LAKES – Lake Madison features recreation for fishermen, ball players, and families for picnics. A new trail available for walking or running. Pavilion and lake house also available. Call 936/348-2748 or visit www.ci.madisonville.tx.us.

MARLIN

Pop. 6,628 Alt. 383 Map N-18

GENERAL – Established in 1830s, early settlers suffered numerous attacks, 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 building 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 its attractions, accommodations, and events, call the Marlin Chamber of Commerce at 254/803-3301 or visit www.marlintexas.com.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

MESQUITE

Pop. 124,523 Alt. 491 Map J-18/UU-10

GENERAL – Adjacent to east city limit of Dallas, known as the Rodeo Capital of Texas. Established 1872 as stop on T&P Railroad, named for nearby Mesquite Creek. Historic downtown was site of 1878 train robbery by notorious outlaw Sam Bass. More than 1,115 acres of parks, public golf course, four public swimming pools and recreation centers.

The Mesquite Arts Center is a 38,000 square-foot facility that features a 5,000-seat concert hall, black box theater, courtyard, and gallery and it is home to 16 arts groups. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and nights and weekends according to performance schedules. For more info, call 972/216-6444 or visit www.mesquiteartscenter.org.

CELEBRATION STATION – Kids love the entertaining games, shows, and challenging rides. Food court. Open Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight; Sun. noon - 11 p.m. 4040 Towne Crossing Blvd. For information, 972/279-7888 or www.celebrationstation.com.

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 fee. For racing information, 972/222-2421. www.devilsbowl.com.

FLORENCE RANCH HOMESTEAD – Early 1800s pioneer family homestead, period furnishings, antique farm equipment, gift shop. Tours every second Sat. of the month. 1424 Barnes Bridge Rd. 972/216-6468.

LAKES – Cedar Creek, Lavon, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

MESQUITE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO – Established in 1958 as an experiment in ongoing rodeo; has become popular attraction with coverage on Fox Sports Network. Facilities include air-conditioned grandstand seating for 5,500, restaurant, 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. www.mesquiteroдео.com.

SAMUELL FARM – Features include ponds for fishing, picnic tables and hiking. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 100 E. U.S. 80 East, exit Belt Line Rd. For information, 214/670-7866. Free.

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 flourishing community that is devoted to economic growth.

Mexia marks the country's independence with its Boom in on the 4th Celebration and Rodeo, which is held the last weekend in June. Festivities include concerts, sporting events, a car show, rodeo, and kids' events.

For more information, contact the Mexia Chamber of Commerce at 254/562-5569.

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE—Site of reunions of Confederate States of America veterans from 1889 till 1946. Historic features include 1872 Heritage House, the 1893 dance pavilion, 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 800/467-1306.

OLD FORT PARKER—See GROESBECK.

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.

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 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, Texas, by settlers from Perry, Illinois. 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 restaurants to visit. Bed & breakfast accommodations available in the city.

Several historical markers are found within the city, as well as the original Old Moulton townsite.

For more information, contact Moulton Chamber of Commerce at 361/596-7205 or visit www.moultontexas.com. E-mail: moultontexas@gvec.net.

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.

ORRIN WINTERS CABIN—Originally a two-room cabin built around 1853 near the Lavaca River by Orrin L. Winters, one of the original settlers of the town. The cabin was torn down in 1902 and the lumber used to construct a barn. In 1973 the barn was dismantled and restored as the original cabin. It was moved to City Park to represent the pioneer heritage of Lavaca County.

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. Included in Schulenberg's Painted Churches Tour. For information call 979/743-4514 or 361/596-4674.



S. A. WILLIAMS/LOCKSTOCK

Meridian State Park



LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES

Franklin County Courthouse in Mount Vernon

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.

More than 50 homes built before World War I are marked with signs designating the original owners and year of construction, and tour maps are available. The Cherokee Trace runs along the county's eastern edge, while the Choctaw Trail runs through the town's center, and the Bankhead Highway (first east-west transcontinental automobile route through the U.S.) remains the town's Main Street. Various remnants of all three of these travel routes still remain open to the traveling public. Maps/guides available at local museums.

This Texas Main Street City has a downtown area still reflecting 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. The city boasts a restored town square and historic courthouse and more than 65 historic homes. Several historical markers are located in town and the outlying area.

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 historical association offices at 7012 S. Kaufman St., 903/537-4760 for trail maps. Contact chamber of commerce at 109 S. Kaufman St., 903/537-4365, for additional information on accommodations, dining facilities and events, or visit www.mt-vernon.com.

BANKHEAD HIGHWAY VISITOR CENTER—In the 1868 home of Henry Clay Thruston, the tallest soldier in the Confederate Army during the Civil War (listed at seven feet, seven and one-half inches tall), and located on the Bankhead Highway, the first automobile route in the U.S. from San Diego, California to Washington, D.C., that opened in 1916; major restoration project opened in 2003. Quilting demonstrations. Open Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., other times by appointment. 903/537-4760.

Dupree Park Nature Center: Opened in 2002, this 57-acre nature preserve features winding hiking trails adjacent to 1868 home of Henry Clay Thruston. Preserve is open from dawn to dusk. 903/537-4760.

FRANKLIN COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE—Operating in the Old Jail Arts Center (immediately behind the courthouse on the town square) and in the Franklin County Arts Center (204 W. Main St.), permanent and changing contemporary exhibits on display. Open Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., and by appointment other days. 903/537-4034.

FRANKLIN COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY—Located in the 1894 Parchman-Meredith Store Building, exhibits detail county's history. Free research facilities with regional archives and trained research assistants on duty. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 104 W. Main St. (south side of town square).

FRANKLIN COUNTY MUSEUM—Housed in old City Hall built in 1940 by the WPA, museum features displays of butterflies, bird eggs, violins, wood carvings, arrowheads and changing exhibits. Open Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., and by appointment other days. At 111 S. Kaufman St. For information, call 903/537-7012 or 903/537-4760. No admission fee.

LAKES—Cypress Springs, Bob Sandlin, Monticello, Welsh and Fork. 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 1868 log cabin on the property for visitors to study log construction. Picnic tables available. Open Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., and by appointment other days. At the corner of Kaufman and Tolbert sts. For information, call 903/537-4760.

MOUNT VERNON RAILROAD DEPOT—In this restored 1894 Cotton belt Depot, museum features working telegraph and railroad exhibits, model train exhibit, 1902 Studebaker covered wagon, and more. A small 1880-built log cabin, a syrup press and mill and a blacksmith shop on the property. Open Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 1 - 3 p.m. and by appointment other days. 202 S. Kaufman St. 903/537-4760. No admission fee.

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, TX 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." Be sure to visit town's glockenspiel, the German-style clock tower that features carved wooden dancing figures and plays music. One of just a handful of glockenspiels in the country.

Information on events, accommodations, and dining opportunities are available from the chamber of commerce at 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 won the Governor's Community Achievement Award three times 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 that 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

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 ornate 19th-century architecture, antebellum and Victorian-style homes, plus beautiful parks and nearby museums. Along oak-lined streets visitors will find handmade treasures, antiques, and homestyle cooking. In addition, city is



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/STOCK

The glockenspiel in Muenster

home to many manufacturing and industrial facilities.

Driving tours, location maps, and visitor packets available through local Grimes County Chamber of Commerce or by calling 936/825-6600 or 800/252-6642, 117 S. Lasalle. www.navasotagrimeschamber.com.

HORLOCK HISTORY CENTER—In two-story Eastlake home built in 1892. Authentically furnished; three rooms devoted to exhibits that reflect the ethnic diversity of the area. For tours, call the Navasota Public Library at 936/825-6744. The center is at 1215 E. Washington St. (Texas 105). Admission fee.

LA SALLE MONUMENT—130 years before first Anglo-American settlers, the French arrived in Texas led by Robert René Cavalier, 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. While exploring inland, one of his men murdered La Salle near present Navasota. Statue on Texas 105 downtown honors the French trader-explorer.

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE—Six miles southwest on Brazos River, via Texas 105. See WASHINGTON.

NOCONA

Pop. 3,198 Alt. 1,055 Map G-17

GENERAL—Town's history can be traced back to early 1500s when Spanish explorers established missions in the area. Native Americans battled with Spanish settlers and forced them to vacate the area in 1750s. By 1800s Kiowa and Comanche tribes roamed freely. In 1860 Chief Peter Nocona and his Comanche warriors waged a fierce battle, which lasted three days, along the banks of the Pease River, against a group of Texas Rangers led by Capt. Sul Ross. Town, founded in 1887 and incorporated in 1891, was named for Nocona.

The city is home to two city parks and two 18-hole golf courses. The Chisholm Trail Rodeo and Parade is celebrated the second weekend in July, and Nocona Fun Days are held the third Saturday in May.

For more information, call the Nocona Chamber of Commerce at 940/825-3526.

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

Pop. 55,635 Alt. 750 Map SS-3

GENERAL—Pioneer W.S. Peters brought the first settlers to North Richland Hills as part of a land grant in 1848. Dairy farms flourished here prior to World War II and the City was incorporated in 1953 when the North Richland Hills Civic League was denied annexation to neighboring Richland Hills. As with most towns in the Metroplex, the city has grown significantly in recent years, making it the third largest in Tarrant County. North Richland Hills is home to Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, the University of Dallas Tarrant County Campus, and ATI Career Training Center.

For golf enthusiasts, Iron Horse Golf Course is a beautiful scenic and challenging 18-hole Dick Phelps-designed course has matured into one of Texas' best since opening in 1989. Iron Horse is considered a "thinker's course" by many because of its fantastic variety of holes. The train depot-styled clubhouse and outdoor pavilion are available for special events. The municipally owned course is located at 6200 Skylark Circle. For more information, call 817/485-6666 or visit www.ironhorsetx.com. City also boasts municipally-owned Richland Tennis Center, a 16-court facility located at 7111 N.E. Loop 820. Call 817/427-6680 or visit www.nrhtx.com for more information.

For information on events, accommodations and area attractions, call the city's Economic Development Department at 817/427-6090. More information on North Richland Hills is also available online at www.nrhtx.com.

LASER QUEST—Laser Quest combines the classic games of tag and hide and seek with a high-tech twist. Played in a large, multi-level arena featuring specialty lighting, swirling fog and heart-pounding music, players use their lasers to score as many points as possible by tagging the sensors on their opponents' equipment. Whether you're 7 or 77, the experience is exhilarating and immersive, with fun lurking around every corner. Located at 7601 Boulevard 26, just south of Loop 820. For more information call 817/281-0360 or visit www.laserquest.com.

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. 817/514-6233. Admission and fees per pound of catch.

MOUNTASIA FAMILY FUNCENTER—Tee up and test your skill against family and friends on two mountain adventure miniature golf courses. Play around cascading waterfalls, by raging rapids and through caves and caverns. Each exciting hole will lead you on an adventure. Mountasia also features go karts, bumper boats, arcade games, batting cages, and paintball. Located at 8707 Boulevard 26. For more information call 817/503-8833 or visit www.mountasiafamilyfuncenter.com. Admission fee.

NRH₂O—Beat the heat this summer at this family-themed water park. At NRH₂O, you'll find fun water activities for all ages to enjoy. Ride the world's largest uphill watercoaster, the Green Extreme, get drenched in Frogstein's Splashatory, the largest interactive water playground in Texas, plummet down 18 water slides, float in the Endless River or catch a wave in the NRH₂Ocean. NRH₂O offers free parking, free tubes and low admission prices all summer long. From N.E. Loop 820, take Texas 26 north to 9001 Boulevard 26. For more information, call 817/427-6500 or visit www.nrhz.com.

PARKS—With more than 20 parks and special-use facilities, North Richland Hills makes the great outdoors accessible to everyone. The picnic pavilions provide the ideal setting for a family gathering or company picnic, while the natural areas offer a resplendent retreat from a busy and hectic world. Enjoy a soccer or baseball game on one of the many athletic fields, or teach your child to fish at one of the fishing ponds. Several hike and bike trails are also available for walkers, joggers, bikers and skaters to enjoy. With so much to see and do, these parks are the perfect destination for the entire family. For more information, visit www.nrhtx.com or call 817/427-6600.

SMITHFIELD—This historic community was annexed by the city in 1958. The community is 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 are located at the 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 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.

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. 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 cabooses; recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. Admission fee (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).

RUSK/PALESTINE STATE PARK—Each of the two units of the park offers outdoor fun and recreation, such as camping, hiking, picnicking, and pedal boating, along with watching native birds and small mammals. Rusk/Palestine State Park in East Texas includes the terminals of the popular Texas State Railroad. Admission fee. Reservations: 512/389-8900.

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 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 at the Convention and Visitors Bureau office in the Palestine Convention Center at 1819 Spring St. 800/659-3484 or 903/723-3014. www.visitpalestine.com.

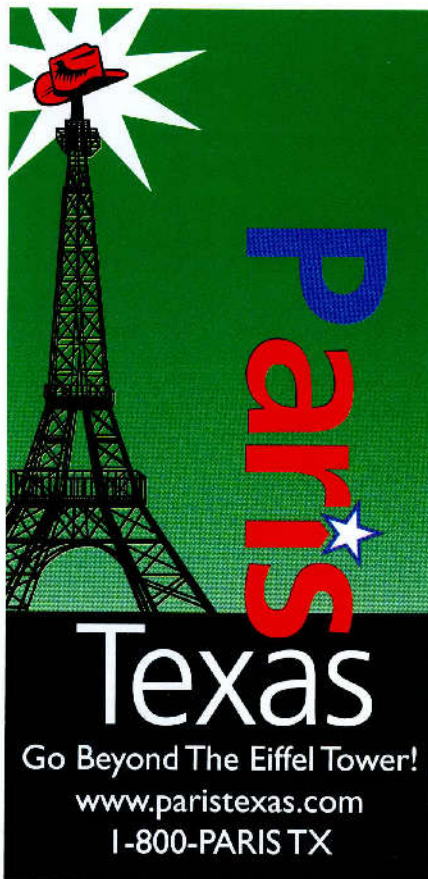
PARIS

Pop. 25,898

Alt. 592

Map G-20

GENERAL—Founded 1839 on divide between Red and Sulphur rivers; became seat of Lamar County in 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 1125 Bonham 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 the Hayden Museum of American Art, which is open by appointment. Stop by for information, or call 903/784-2501 or 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 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, handsome 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 HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—Gem of Victorian architecture built by Confederate General Maxey in 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 garden 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 fee. For information, 903/785-5716.

PILOT POINT

Pop. 3,850

Alt. 674

Map H-18

GENERAL—Settled near site of large post oak grove that was a prominent landmark for pioneer travelers and a lookout point for the Native Americans. Dripping Spring, just north of the grove (now underwater of Lake Ray Roberts), encouraged settlement as did the rich rolling black/sandy loam prairies to the east and the timber area to the west. The public square of the town was platted and laid out by George Newcomb on Christmas Day 1853, making it the oldest town in Denton County. Goods and lumber were hauled from Jefferson to supply the needs of the community until the Texas and Pacific Railroad came to the city.

A citywide effort to preserve buildings on historic square, built between 1870s and 1890s, has resulted in Pilot Point being chosen as a Texas Main Street City. Visitors can find antique shops and cafes on the downtown square. The Farmers & Merchants Bank Building, of Richardsonian and Romanesque architecture, was site of famous movie "Bonnie & Clyde" and is now an art gallery.



A monument has also been erected at the site of the 1903 founding of the First Church of the Nazarene.

For more information, call 940/686-5385 or visit www.pilotpoint.org or www.cityofpilotpoint.org.

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 fee. For information, call 940/686-2148.

Johnson Branch Unit—On the shores of the 30,000-acre reservoir, Johnson Branch offers fishing, sailing, swimming or water skiing as well as camping and nine miles of trails for hiking and biking. Experienced backpackers enjoy trekking along five miles of natural-surface trails and camping beneath the stars.

Jordan Park features Lantana Lodge, a full-service resort with more than 30 rooms and restaurant overlooking the lake on the Eastern shores just two miles from city. 940/686-0261.

BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLHOUSE—This one-room 1883 schoolhouse spent its first 93 years in a pasture. Building was moved in 1976 to Denton, then in 1993 moved to Pilot Point. One of very few remaining one-room school buildings, dedicated to providing living history, one-room educational experience for 4th grade students. Located one block of historic square on S. Washington St. Open Apr. - Oct., Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., other times by appointment; closed holidays. 940/686-5385 or 940/686-2165.

JAY'S CAFE & MUSEUM—Located in historic town square, museum displays more than 700 photos, documents and artifacts from the town's past. More than 10,000 items of history, nostalgia, and memorabilia including a Horse Country exhibit, Civil War artifacts, and antique displays of medical, barber shop, kitchen and sewing items. Restaurant also available and serves breakfast and lunch. Museum open Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.; closed Sun. No admission fee to museum.

PLANO

Pop. 243,500

Alt. 655

Map J-18/QQ-8

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 more than 240,000 in 2004.

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 800/817-5266.



Ray Roberts Lake State Park near Pilot Point



Downtown square in Paris

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 available Thurs. - Fri. 10 a.m., 1:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 1 p.m. & 2:45 p.m. Admission fee. Group rates available. 1900 W. 15th St. Admission fee. Call 972/881-0140. www.heritagefarmstead.org.

INTERURBAN RAILWAY STATION MUSEUM—Between 1908 and 1948 the Texas Electric Railway ran from Denison to Waco, linking small rural towns to big cities like Dallas and Fort Worth. Plano's Interurban Station was completed in 1908 and served as passenger depot and electric station. City of Plano restored building to its original condition in late 1980s. Today, museum contains memorabilia of railway history as well as overview of Plano's history. New interactive displays include an "O" scale model layout and model of rotary converter used to change alternating current to direct current to power interurban cars. Also, TER Car No. 360 has been restored and is open for tours. Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. In Haggard Park, 901 E. 15th St. For information, call 972/941-2117. No admission fee, but donations welcome.

LAKE—Lavon. See LAKES listing.

MAIN EVENT ENTERTAINMENT—Bowling, laser tag, billiards, arcade and virtual games, cafe, bar. Available for corporate parties, birthday parties, team building and company meetings. 3941 N. Central Expwy. 972-881-8181.

PARKS—Award-winning park system, with more than 3,600 acres of public parks, includes five swimming pools, three public golf courses, six recreation centers, 81 tennis courts including a 21-court tennis center, more than 38 miles of recreational trails, 93 soccer/football fields and 60 baseball/softball fields.

SOUTHFORK RANCH—Many visitors to the D/FW area 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. www.southforkranch.com. Admission fee.

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).



SARA A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Texas Renaissance Festival in Plantersville

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 visit www.kingsorchard.com.

TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL—Visit a recreated 16th-century British village over eight themed weekends during Oct. - Nov. Drive 45 minutes north of Houston and discover 53 acres of a magical medieval kingdom. Rub elbows with King Henry’s royal court along with peasants, harlequin jesters, minstrels, and armored knights. Visit each weekend as a different European country pays homage to Queen Katherine’s birthday. There will be jousting, juggling, human-powered rides and games, a Grand Parade and fireworks to end the day. Enjoy a bountiful feast of succulent turkey legs, sweet mead wine, roasted corn, bratwurst and dishes from all over the world. For information, call 800/458-3435 or visit www.texrenfest.com. Admission fee.

RICHARDSON

Pop. 95,650 Alt. 630 Map J-18/RR-9

GENERAL—Back in the 1840s, in an area inhabited by Comanche and Caddo Indian tribes, the beginnings of a community, eventually called Breckinridge, was formed. After the Civil War, the railroad bypassed Breckinridge, and an area just to the northwest became the new center of activity. It became known as Richardson, named for the railroad contractor who built the line from Dallas to Denison. Located immediately to the north of Dallas, the town gradually became a thriving community. Today, besides being well-known as the Telecom Corridor[®], for its large concentration of technology and telecommunications firms, Richardson hosts four award-winning music/art festivals each year and is home to a state-of-the-art performing arts facility that plays host to some of the region’s most popular attractions.

30 parks are scattered over the city with hike/bike trails, swimming pools, tennis courts, nature areas and much more. Breckinridge Park is the largest with 417 acres, three pavilions, 14 soccer fields, a 10-acre lake and 4.5 miles of hike/bike trails. Multi-use trails wind through beautiful nature areas in five of the parks, including Breckinridge. And, if golf is your game, Sherrill Park Golf Course offers 36 holes of beautifully manicured fairways and greens.

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Light Rail stops at four stations in Richardson, giving visitors easy access to other Metroplex attractions, such as the Sixth Floor Museum, Downtown Dallas, West End MarketPlace, the Dallas Zoo and more, in a matter of minutes and for a nominal fee.

For information on events, attractions, lodging, dining and more, call the Richardson Convention & Visitors Bureau at 888/690-7287 or visit www.richardsontexas.org.

CHARLES W. EISEMANN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS—State-of-the-art facility hosts music, dance, theater, and other special

events presented by regional, national and international artists. Features 1,500-seat performance hall, 350-seat theater, and meeting room large enough from 300 people. West wall of mezzanine level serves as public art gallery for changing art exhibits, including variety of artists showing media from photography to silk tapestries. No admission charge for viewing the gallery. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Located in Galatyn Park Urban Center and adjacent to a public plaza with a fountain of dancing waters. At 2351 Performance Hall. For more information or a schedule of events, call 972/744-4600 or visit www.eisemanncenter.com.

OWENS SPRING CREEK FARM—Commercial sausage-making firm maintains a showcase farm and small museum with old-time blacksmith shop, farm kitchen, antiques, and vintage sausage-making equipment. Children and adults alike enjoy the Petting Farm, as well as viewing miniature ponies.

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 daily 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. www.owensinc.com.

UTD HISTORY OF AVIATION COLLECTION—One of the finest aerospace reference libraries in the nation, containing approx. 2.5 million items and more than 200 separate collections pertaining to aviation history. Consists of more than 30,000 volumes, thousands of photos and periodicals covering the entire spectrum of flight, from pre-Wright aeronautica to present. Open Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located in Eugene McDermott Library at Campbell Road and University Dr., on campus of Univ. of Texas at Dallas in Richardson. 972/883-2570. No admission fee. www.utdallas.edu/library/special/aviaton.

WINEBURGH PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY—Stamp hobbyists will find “The Language of Philately” display panels intriguing, along with stamp collection exhibits and more than 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 in Richardson. No admission fee. 972/883-2570. www.utdallas.edu/library/collections/speccoll/.

ROANOKE

Pop. 2,810 Alt. 643 Map J-17/RR-9

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 on 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. 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 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 facility’s 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. 512/446-2030.

ROCKNE

Pop. 500 (est.) Alt. 480 Map Q-17

GENERAL—Founded in 1846 by families of Daniel and Moritz Lehman, who arrived from Prussia and settled along banks of Walnut Creek. Several other German families settled in area decade later. In 1931, local children renamed community (then called Hilbigville) in honor of Knute Rockne, famous football coach of Notre Dame University who died in plane crash earlier that same year.

HILBIG PARK—Features museum containing artifacts, pictures, documents and vintage antique Rockne and Bastrop County memorabilia. Also includes restored log cabins (c. 1860) of local settlers complete with period furniture, antique farm tools, corn crib, smoke house, and outhouse. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At 4065 FM 535. 512/303-3179.

ROCKWALL

Pop. 25,250 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.

For more information, contact the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce, at 697 E. I-30, by calling 972/771-5733 or visit www.rockwallchamber.org.

LAKE—Ray Hubbard. See LAKES listing.

ROCKWALL COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Housed in Manson-La Marceaux-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 wheeler 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 P-19

GENERAL—Established in 1822, and chartered in 1870, one of the smallest incorporated cities in Texas; established in 1835 as Jones Post Office. German immigrants arrived in the 1840s. Town is said to have received name from “the house with the round top,” an early stagecoach stand. 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.

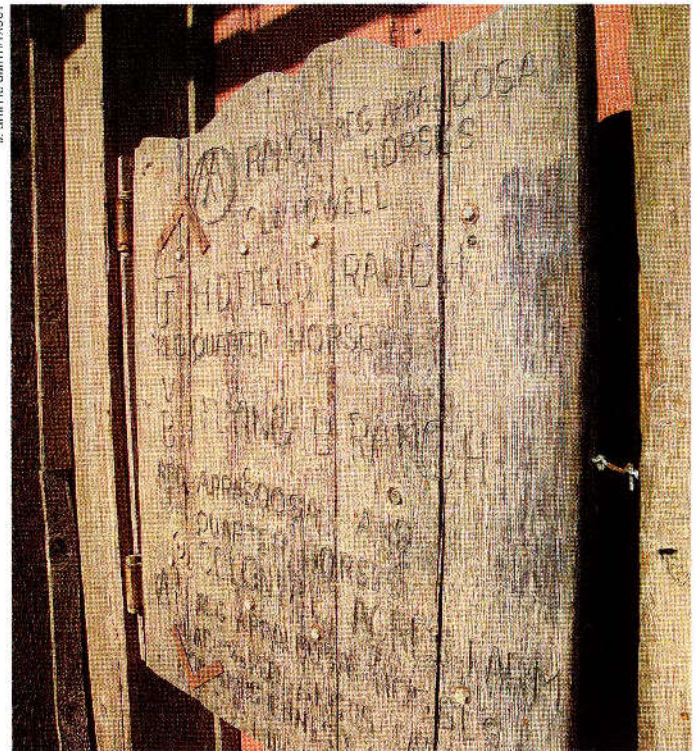
Voted one of the Top 100 Samm Art Towns in America and host to the “longest continuously celebrated Fourth of July west of the Mississippi” and the “largest Antique Festival” in the nation as proclaimed by the *Wall Street Journal*. City is located on Texas Independence Trail, El Camino Real and in the Texas Settlement Region, just south of the Presidential Corridor. Other events/attractions include the Annual International Guitar Festival, Big Joe Polka Fest, year-round art shows/classes, shopping, 80-plus bed & breakfasts.

For additional information on dining, accommodations and events, contact the Round Top Chamber of Commerce at 979/249-4042 or visit www.roundtop.org.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH—Oldest active Lutheran Church 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.

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 including in the Apothecary. Project of the Texas Pioneer Arts Foundation. Markt Fest held third Sat. in Feb. - Dec. Open Thurs. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Admission fee. 979/249-3308. www.texaspioneerarts.org

J. GRIFFIS SMITH/TXDOT



Stonewall Saloon Museum in Saint Jo

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL-INSTITUTE—Proclaimed one of Texas’ favorite things by *Texas Monthly*. Founded by acclaimed pianist James Dick, classical music/forums monthly, tour/hike/bike through the 217-acre complex (open daily year-round). Students in June and July 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 buildings available. For performance schedules, call 979/249-3129. Texas 237, five blocks north of Henkel Sq. www.festivalhill.org.

ROUND TOP FAMILY LIBRARY—Originally an historical church, now houses the Bybee Texas Heritage Collection, decorative arts, ongoing classes, and more. Open Tues. - Sun. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. 919/249-2700. E-mail: info@ilovetoread.org

SHAKESPEARE AT WINEDALE—Created in 1970, the University of Texas at Austin Shakespeare at Winedale program presents performances several times a year in the Theatre Barn at the Winedale Historical Center. The last two weekends in July and the first two weekends in August, this UT English Dept. program presents three Shakespeare plays repertory, with performances Thursday through Sunday, including weekend matinees. Other special performances throughout the year. For information and performance schedule, call 979/249-4171 or visit www.shakespeare-winedale.org.

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 into the oil and gas industry. Open Thurs. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. South on Texas 237. Admission fee. For information, call 979/249-5089. www.oldcarmuseum.com.

WINEDALE HISTORICAL CENTER—Restored 19th-century (early German) farmstead with plantation homes, log cabins, fireplace kitchen, smoke-house and barns. 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. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Four miles east of Round Top via F.M. 1457 and F.M. 2714 (not shown on most highway maps). Admission fee.

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.

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 it was incorporated in 1867. Named for Salado (salty) Creek, town prospered with the founding of Salado College in 1860, and it 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, the 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.

SALADO SILVER SPUR THEATER—Located downtown in the renovated 1950s Guest & Sanford Ganary, features live vaudeville-style family entertainment including variety acts, live music, classic cartoons, serials, and more. Performances every Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m., and Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m. (except last weekend of month). Admission fee. For more information, call 254/947-3456 or visit www.saladosilverspur.com.

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.

VISITOR CENTER—For information on dining, accommodations, events, etc., stop by the Salado Tourism Office, located in the historic 1926 Salado School, at 601 N. Main St. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 254/947-8634. E-mail: saladotourism@vvm.com.

Find Yourself in . . .



Salado, Texas

With more than you can do in a day, Salado is a wonderful place to stay throughout the year.

254.947.8634 www.salado.com

SAN FELIPE

Pop. 868 Alt. 155 Map Q-20

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, and 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 fee.)

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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 Schulenburg who donated land for depot. Schulenburg 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 Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (closed Tues. & Thurs.). At 311 Baumgarten St. For information, call 979/743-6559.

SEAGOVILLE

Pop. 10,823 Alt. 430 Map K-19

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.

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. Historic downtown features eateries, gift and boutique shops in district's brick buildings (no wooden structures) circa 1880s.

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.



STARR A. WILLIAMS/SHOOT

Heritage Park/Santa Fe Park Museum in Sealy

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 fee.

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. - 3 p.m. the fourth Fri. of the month, other times by appointment by calling 979/885-7431. At Main and Silliman sts. For additional information, contact the Sealy Convention and Visitors Bureau at 979/885-3222. Admission fee.

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 713. For information call 979/885-0731.

SCENIC DRIVE—Texas 36 north from I-10, Exit 720, is part of Central Texas Bluebonnet Trail which is spectacular in the spring when the bluebonnets and wildflowers are in bloom. Less than hour from Houston, the drive passes through farm country over hills and valleys covered with oaks and cedar trees.

SEGUIN

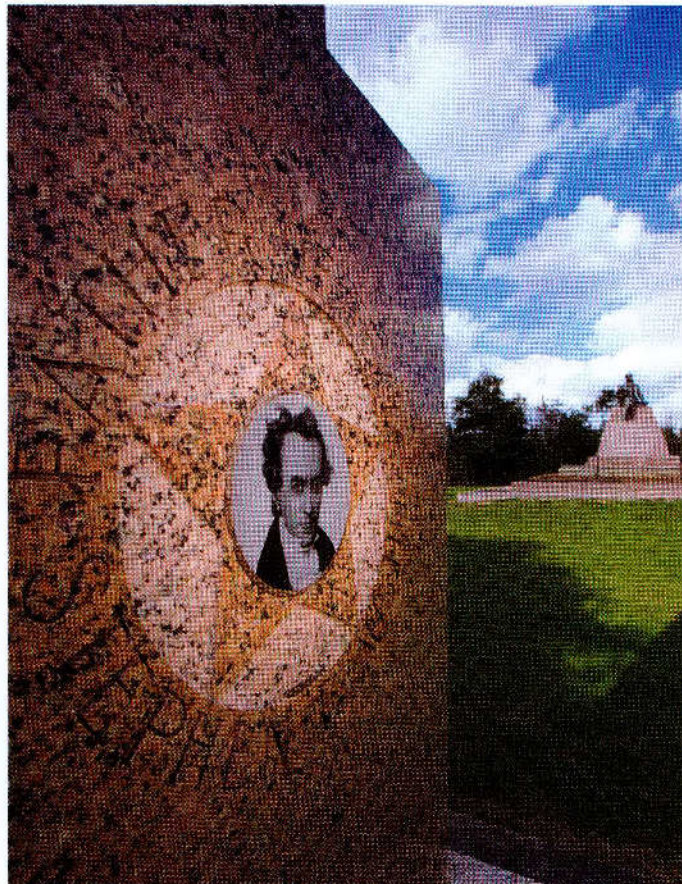
Pop. 22,011 Alt. 520 Map R-16

GENERAL—One of the oldest towns in Texas, founded in 1838 by a group of Rangers. Named in honor of Juan N. Seguín, distinguished Mexican-Texan. In the second half of 19th century, many German immigrants settled here and cotton was king. An oil boom in the 1930s financed a legacy of handsome Depression-era public facilities.

Be sure to visit the "World's Largest Pecan," a concrete statue that pays homage to a valuable local crop. Located on the courthouse lawn.

For more information, contact the Seguin Convention & Visitors Bureau at 830/379-6382.

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT—Notable early 20th-century architecture surrounds the Art Deco courthouse. Central Park is ringed with reproductions of vintage street lamps first installed in 1922.



J. GERRIE SMITH/SHOOT

Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe



STAN A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Juan Seguin Statue in Seguin

HERITAGE MUSEUM—Just across from City Hall, museum highlights the contributions made by German immigrants and other settlers to the area. One exhibit traces the history of Wilson pottery, the first successful African-American business in Texas that was started by freed slaves. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

JUAN SEGUIN STATUE—In the heart of downtown, a handsome bronze sculpture pays tribute to the Tejano patriot Juan N. Seguin. Dispatched by Sam Houston to urge settlers to flee from Santa Anna in the Runaway Scrape, Juan Seguin 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. Burnet, Seguin went on to serve as a Senator of the Republic of Texas and as Mayor of San Antonio.

JUAN SEGUIN BURIAL SITE—On a hillside across from the coliseum, a monument marks the grave of Texas patriot Juan Seguin. The inscription on the grave recounts his life.

LAKES—Lake Placid is small lake on Guadalupe River southwest of city offer a public boat ramp. Lake McQueeney, 5 miles northwest, is touted as “water ski capital of Texas.”

SEBASTOPOL HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—A landmark in the history of concrete, Sebastopol is split-level, Greek Revival-style architectural structure. Built by slaves of Col. Joshua Young prior to the Civil War, when town experimented with Limecrete, a 19th-century version of concrete. More than a century ago, city had more concrete buildings than any other place in the U.S., although only 20 of those relics survive today. Exhibits recount technology used to build these concrete buildings. Open Fri. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Off U.S. 90-A, west of downtown. Admission fee.

STARCKE PARK—A waterfall over a gracefully curving dam highlights a scenic river drive beneath towering Cypress trees. Golf course, wave pool, ball fields, Kids’ Kingdom playscape, hike-and-bike trails, pavilions, and picnic area. At Guadalupe River off Texas 123 south.

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 830/379-6582.

VISITOR INFORMATION—Self-guided tours pass hundreds of charming 19th- and 20th-century homes found along tree-lined streets. Information available at the Seguin Chamber of Commerce, 427 N. Austin St. Call 800/580-7322 or visit www.visitseguin.com.

WALNUT SPRINGS MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN—Stagecoach route down to the crossing on Walnut Branch, marked by fieldstone walls lined with roses.

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.

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, 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. In Sheridan Community Park. For information, call 979/234-7718. Admission fee. www.splashwaywaterpark.com

SHERMAN

Pop. 35,082

Alt. 728

Map G-18/QQ-1

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, Sherman remains a jewel in its cultural offerings, especially for a city its size, featuring the Sherman Symphony Orchestra and the Sherman Community Players live theater troupe. Live music abounds, especially in the summertime, with the Hot Summer Nights free concert series on the Municipal Lawn. Austin College, a private, coeducational liberal arts institution, provides residents and visitors with cultural and educational offerings throughout the year.

For additional information on events, accommodations, and area information, stop by the chamber of commerce at 307 West Washington, Suite 100. Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 888/893-1188 or 903/893-1184. www.shermantexas.com or www.hotsummernights.org.

C.S. ROBERTS HOUSE—Beautiful Victorian home that belonged to long-time family of Sherman is 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. Open for visits Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. and by appointment. At 915 S. Crockett St. 903/893-4067. www.shermanpreservationleague.org.

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 for tours Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 301 S. Walnut. www.texoma.net/rrhms. No admission fee.

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. 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 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.

SPOETZL 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 800/5-SHINER. Visit www.Shiner.com. At 603 E. Brewery St. (Texas 95).

SMITHVILLE

Pop. 3,901

Alt. 324

Map Q-17

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 fee. 800/792-1112.



Historical House Museum in Stephenville



J. BRIEFIS SMITH/XTODD

Lake Somerville State Park near Somerville

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 fee 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

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

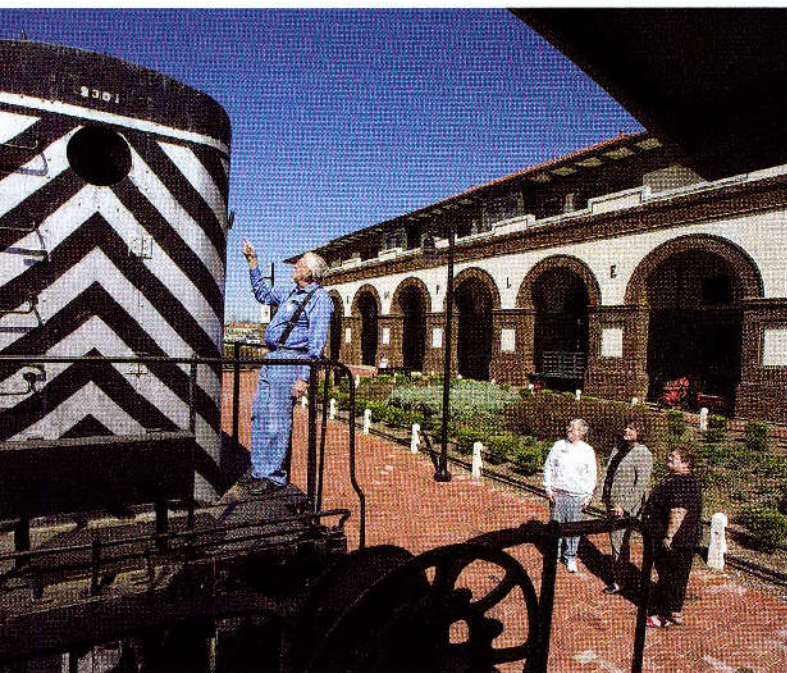
Pop. 15,500

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 state's largest dairy producer. Home of Tarleton State University, which features the Clyde H. Wells Fine

KEVIN STILL/AMAR/XTODD



J. CREEKS SMITH/TXDOT

Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple

Arts Center and Gallery as well as the TSU Planetarium. Recognized in Norman Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America."

Events include the Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame parade, induction and PRCA Rodeo in the spring; Firecracker 100 Bike Race, DairyFest and Concert in the Park series in the summer; Annual Antiques Show & Sale and the Texas Ag Expo in the fall.

For more information, contact the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce at 254/965-5313 or visit www.stephenvilletexas.org.

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 fee.

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 multiuse 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 fee. 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 fee.

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

silos, center tells the story of the dairy industry. Exhibits recall early-day milk production and manufacturing, including 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, plus 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).

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 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 fee.

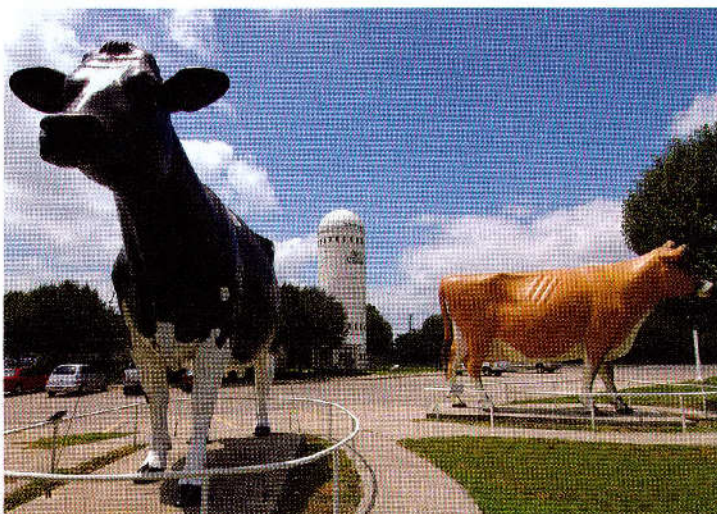
TEMPLE

Pop. 54,514 Alt. 736 Map N-17/CC-10

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.

While city is known for excellent healthcare and variety of sporting and special events, diehard shoppers will find opportunities for bargains and treasures from works of art to antiques and more. Accommodations and dining opportunities abound as well.

Temple Symphony Orchestra and Temple Civic Theatre perform throughout the year. For Symphony information, visit www.templeorchestra.org; call 254/778-4751 or visit www.artstemple.com for theatre info.



KEVIN'S STILLWATER/COT

Southwest Dairy Center in Sulphur Springs

Events include the Central Texas Airshow, Bloomin' Temple Festival, and Jazz Festival in the spring; Hot Summer Sounds concert in the park series in the summer; and the Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Association shows in Apr. and Oct.

For additional information on accommodations, dining facilities, events and shopping, contact the City of Temple, Office of Tourism, Two North Main St. Call 254/298-5720, or visit www.ci.temple.tx.us.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CENTER—Hosts three separate professionally produced musical and theatre entertainment series, as well as international symphony and orchestra performances with The Central Texas Orchestral Society. New gallery exhibitions and openings occur every month and numerous events are held in our banquet facilities, landscaped courtyard, meeting rooms, 487-seat auditorium and equipment rentals. Galleries open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Box office opens 30 minutes prior to start of event. At 3011 North Third St (exit 303-B off I-35). For pricing/event information, call 254/773-9926 or visit www.cacARTS.org.

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 a variety of Czech items, like coins, Bible, antique musical instruments, clocks, colorful Old-World costumes, and extensive library with historic documents dating back to the 1700s. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays. At 520 N. Main. 800/727-7578 or 254/773-1575.

GROVE COUNTRY LIFE MUSEUM, THE—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 Cockerbur 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 fee.

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. 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 254/298-5900.

RAILROAD AND HERITAGE MUSEUM—Housed in restored 1910 Santa Fe Depot with a working Amtrak station, museum depicts railroad history and local heritage. Exhibits include railroad equipment, model trains, telegraph room and listening stations for train communications, with observation windows looking out over BNSF main line. Locomotives, cabooses and passenger cars are displayed outside. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. noon - 4 p.m. At 315 W. Ave. B. 254/298-5172. Admission fee.

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.

TERRELL

Pop. 16,914 Alt. 530 Map J-19

GENERAL—First settlers arrived in 1848; town organized about 1873 when railroad built on donated land in return for depot built on designated portion of land. Currently a regional industrial-distribution center with more than 40 industries, including five Fortune 500 companies. Home of Southwestern Christian College and Trinity Valley Junior College, accredited junior colleges. There are more than 20 historical markers and many historic homes, churches and buildings.

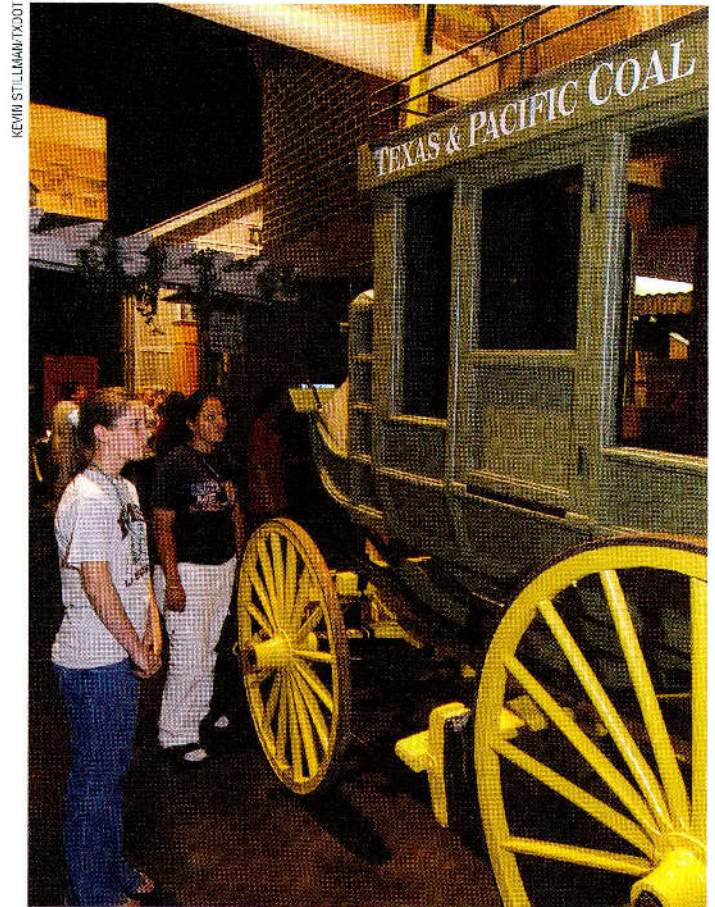
For more information, call 877/TERRELL (837-7355) or 972/563-5703. Visit www.terrelltexas.com.

LAKES—Cedar Creek, Tawakoni, and Ray Hubbard. See LAKES listing.

MIDLAND RAIL CAR—The private railroad car and memorabilia of Col. E.H.R. Green, president of the Texas Midland Railroad and son of Hetty Green, the "Witch of Wall Street." Located in Bel Gill park on West Moore Street.

NO. 1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM—This facility commemorates joint effort between the British and U.S. governments in training more than 2,200 British and American pilots here during World War II. Exhibits introduce visitors to the men and women who worked and trained at the school, and what daily life was like. Open Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., other times by appointment. 972/524-1714.

R.A. TERRELL HOMEPLACE—Located on the Southwestern Christian College campus, the home was one of the first in town and is one of 20 surviving



W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas in Thurber

Round Houses in the nation. A designated Texas Historic Landmark. 200 Bowser Cir. 972/524-3341.

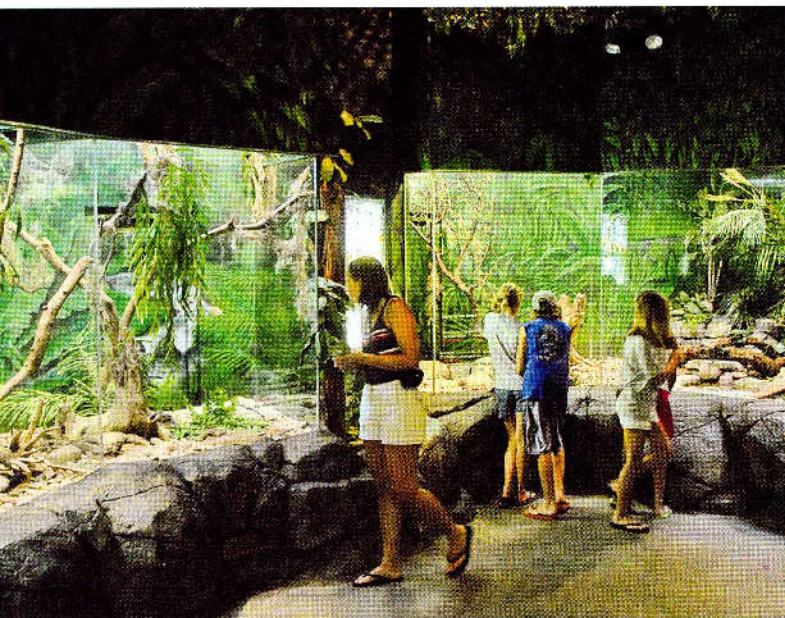
TERRELL HERITAGE MUSEUM—Historical items of local history. In Carnegie Building, built in 1904 and served as public library until 1984. Exhibits include a 1912 Esty pipe organ, and an original Frank Reaugh painting. Open Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1:30 - 4 p.m. 207 N. Frances St. For information, call 972/524-6082 or visit www.terrellheritagesociety.org.

THURBER

Pop. 8 (est.) Alt. 1,100 Map K-15

GENERAL—Looking over the handful of buildings left standing in Thurber today, you'd have a hard time believing it was once a thriving company town at the turn of the century and the most important mine site in Texas for 30 years. At one time a town of more than 10,000 residents representing 20 nationalities, Thurber was the largest town between Fort Worth and El Paso. It was believed to have been the first city with totally unionized industries. Electricity, provided in 1895, made it one of the first towns in world with complete electric service. The discovery of oil brought about the decline of Thurber. The last coal mine closed in 1921, and the 10,000 or more inhabitants of Thurber began to move away. By 1936, the town had been abandoned, and many of the buildings were dismantled. It had quickly become a ghost town. Today, only about six original buildings still stand in Thurber, including the old Mercantile building, original water treatment plant, and the 128-foot-tall smokestack from the second electric power plant built in 1909. Now with a population of just 8, Thurber stands as a testament to the power of economics and technology to build and destroy communities.

W.K. GORDON CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF TEXAS—Museum, opened in 2002, celebrates the unique history of Thurber, which went from boom town to ghost town in almost a blink of an eye. Visitors can see exhibits, artifacts, and more that detail how the mining, brick, and oil industries shaped the town's rise and ultimate fall. Museum named for William Knox Gordon Sr., best known behind the discovery of the Ranger Oil Field. Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 - 4 p.m. From I-20, take Exit 367 (Thurber/Mingus) and museum is on south side of interstate. 254/968-1886



STAN A. WILLIAMS/STOCK

Cameron Park Zoo in Waco

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 No. 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 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 opened 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.

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. 903/482-6066. www.vanalstyne.net.

WACO

Pop. 113,726 Alt. 427 Map M-18/MM-10

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-nine stained-glass windows depicting Browning themes in 18th-century Italian Renaissance-style building. Contains bronze sculptures and numerous Renaissance paintings. Open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. Closed Sun. 254/710-3566. www.browninglibrary.org.

ART CENTER WACO—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. 254/752-4371. No admission fee. www.artcenterwaco.org.

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, lions, antelopes, as well as other species. Also home to a Herpetarium. Two restaurants: Plaza Café and African Treetops Village. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 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 fee. www.cameronparkzoo.com.

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. Dr. Charles Alderton, 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 Dr. Alderton'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. - 5 p.m., Sun. noon - 5 p.m. (open extended hours in summer). Last ticket sold at 4:15 p.m. At 300 S. 5th St. For information, 254/757-1024. Admission fee. www.drpeppermuseum.com.

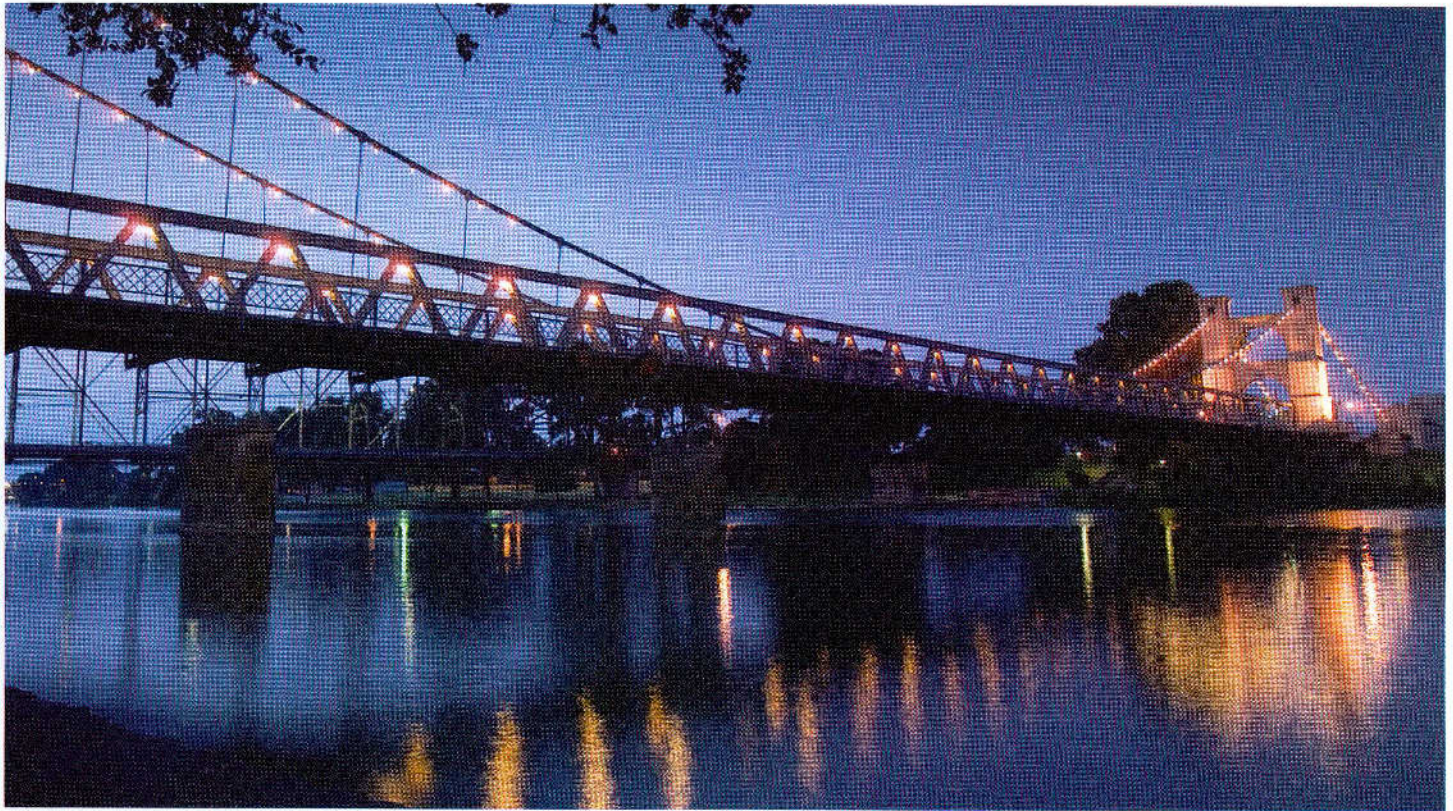


J. GRIFFS SMITH/STOCK

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum at Fort Fisher in Waco



J. BRIEFES SMITH/STUDIO



Waco's Old Suspension Bridge

EARLE-HARRISON HOUSE & PAPE GARDENS—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 East Texas cypress 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. Gardens open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sat. 1:30 - 5 p.m. At 1901 North 5th St. 254/753-2032. Admission fee. www.earleharrison.com.

HISTORIC HOMES—Four gracious Southern mansions: Fort House (503 S. 4th St.), East Terrace (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 Holidays-on-the-Brazos Celebration. 254/753-5166. Fee. www.historicwaco.org.

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE TRADITIONAL CRAFTS VILLAGE—Located on a 500-acre working farm. Walk through the craft village and workshops where craftsmen create handmade furniture, pottery and ironwork. Tour Heritage Farm, a self-sufficient homestead. Visit the gift shop, a 200-year-old restored timber-frame barn, showcasing items and food, all made on location. Stay and enjoy lunch, fresh-baked bread, desserts and homemade ice cream. No admission fee. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Group tours welcome. For information and directions, call 254/829-0417. www.homesteadheritage.com.

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. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. noon - 5 p.m. Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center, Baylor Univ. Campus. 254/710-1867.

MAYBORN MUSEUM COMPLEX—New complex, opened in 2004, welcomes visitors to engage, explore and enjoy. Natural history exhibits feature both traditional and walk-in dioramas, including a Texas limestone cave, a Texas forest, and the Waco Mammoth Experience where visitors can walk on a glass floor over casts of skeletal remains of two of the 24 mammoths found just miles from museum. Exploration stations on paleontology, archeology, natural history and geology further enhance the experience. Sixteen-themed rooms in Jeanes Discovery Center offer hands-on learning on topics from People of the World to Health and Sound to Veterbrates. Also included in complex are SBC Theater,

Anding Traveling Exhibit Gallery, Baylor Univ. exhibit, museum store and cafe. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.), Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.; closed New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. At 1300 S. University Parks Drive. 254/710-1110. Admission fee. www.maybornmuseum.com.

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. www.wacosymphony.com. The *Hippodrome Theatre* is a renaissance of a classic, Spanish Colonial style building built in 1914. For schedule, call 254/752-9797. www.wacohippodrome.com. The *Waco Civic Theatre* is a community theater featuring seven shows each season. For information, call 254/776-1591. www.wacocivictheater.com. *Waco Lyric Opera*, call 254/756-7373. www.lyricoperaofwaco.org.

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. Last ticket sold at 4:30 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 254/750-8631. Admission fee. www.texasranger.org

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 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. 254/756-1633. Admission fee. www.tshof.org.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—Details about Waco attractions and events, free maps, directions, literature, accommodations and dining information. Provided daily by Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau 800/WACO-FUN (800/922-6386) or 254/750-8696. University Parks Dr. off I-35 (Exit 335B). 24-hr. recorded phone message of events, 254/750-1693. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Sat., Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.wacocvb.com.

WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE—Built in 1870 and still in use as pedes-

trian 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.

WALLIS

Pop. 1,011 Alt. 295 Map Q-20

GENERAL—Located at southern end of Austin County, started as railroad town in 1880. William Guyler donated 100 acres of land to entice the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroads to come here from Galveston. Depot was established and named for railroad director and engineer Joseph Edmond Wallis. By 1890, Czech settlers arrived from Fayette County and settled two miles of current city location.

Wallis Methodist Church and Wallis City Cemetery have been designated with Texas State Historical Markers. City also features antique, gift and collectible shops and bed & breakfasts.

For more information, call 979/478-6684 or 979/478-6193.

GUARDIAN ANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH—Original church built in 1982 but destroyed by 1900 storm. In 1912, San Antonio architect Leo Dielmann designed a Gothic-style sanctuary and Wallis builder Jan Bujnoch, with help from volunteer parishioners, built the new sanctuary. Construction began in 1913 and completed two years later. It is now listed on National Register of Historic Places. Self-guided tours daily, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. At 5610 Demel St. 979/478-6532.

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 888/BRENHAM. www.brenhamtexas.com.

STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM—In the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, the museum is dedicated to presenting the history of the Texas Republic through state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, publications, and media presentations. The newly renovated 10,000 square foot 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.



Visitor Center at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie

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. Closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Call 936/878-2461 for special programs and group rates. Administered by Blinn College.

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE—The 293-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.

The park also includes *Barrington Living History Farm*, a working farm of the 1850's centered around the home of Anson Jones who was the last President of the Republic of Texas. Open Wed. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Park facilities include a conference center, an education center, an outdoor amphitheater, a picnic area, a restaurant facility with catering available, 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 held annually on the weekend nearest Mar. 2. Entrance on F.M. 1155. Fee for tour. www.birthplaceoftexas.com.

WAXAHACHIE

Pop. 26,000 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 Waxahachie 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. www.waxahachiechamber.com.

Born in Atlanta, Bessie Coleman grew up here. She became the first black person in the world to become a licensed pilot in June 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 longtime 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

J. GIERING SMITH/TXDOT



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 Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. At 201 S. College St. 972/937-0681. www.rootsweb.com/~txecm.

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 RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL—Springtime Renaissance festival features arts, crafts, foods, and medieval-style fun—wizards, jugglers, jesters, and puppet shows. Also witness full combat jousting, falconry exhibits, children's activities, rides, games and 10 stages of live entertainment. Costumes of royalty and rascals, poets and peasants. In rural setting. Open Apr. - May, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. On F.M. 66, 1.6 mi. west of I-35E. For more information call 972/938-3247 or visit www.scarboroughrenfest.com. Admission fee.

WAXAHACHIE CREEK HIKE & BIKE TRAIL—Visitors can enjoy a picnic along the banks of a creek, then walk or ride bikes along the trail all the way into town. Trail is five miles long.

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 www.chandorgardens.com. Admission fee.

FIRST MONDAY—Evolved 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 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 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! Festival is celebrated annually the Sat. before Mother's Day. Gedenke! is a German word that means "remember." Festival includes live entertainment, arts & crafts, fun run, classic truck and car show, BBQ & Chili cook-off, pie baking contest, parade, kiddie entertainment and more.

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. School across the street is the only two-story wood structure school still in use in Texas. Library is housed in old train depot and is on State Historical Register. Caboose, adjacent to depot, used as library office.

For more information, call the Weimar Area Chamber of Commerce at 979/725-9511 or visit www.weimartx.org.

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.



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT

Chandor Gardens in Weatherford



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. Exhibits include 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. 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.

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.

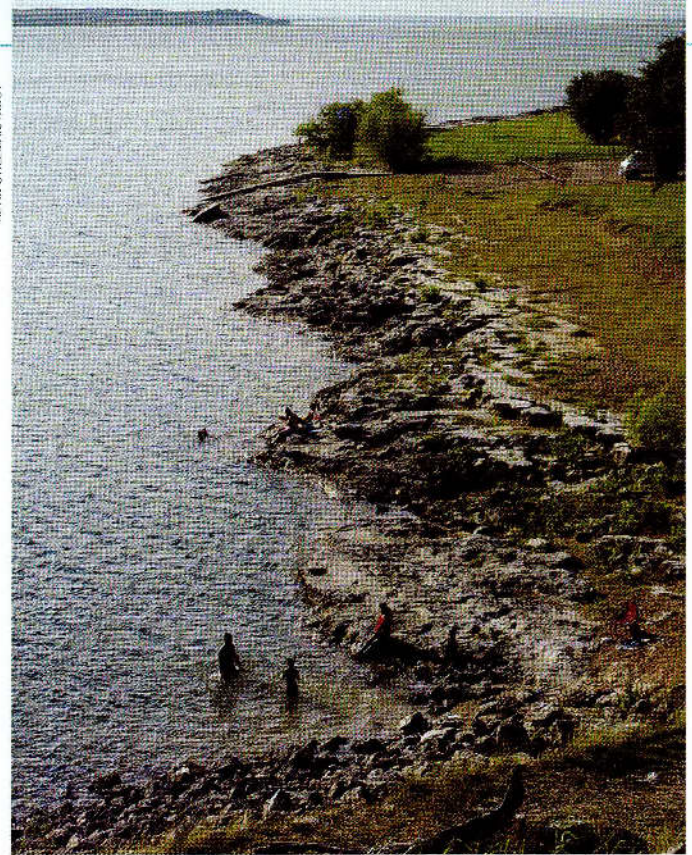
CROSS TIMBERS HIKING TRAIL—The trail begins at Juniper Point recreation area built by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1969. The trail is 14 miles long and is well marked; mile posts have been erected along the way as reference points. Adjacent to Lake Texoma 12 miles north of city.

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 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. 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

KEVIN STILL/ISTOCK



Lake Whitney near Whitney

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.

WHITEWRIGHT

Pop. 1,740

Alt. 760

Map H-98

GENERAL—Established in 1878, features historic downtown that includes shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. For more information, visit the Whitewright Chamber of Commerce at 125 Grand St., call 903/364-2000 or visit www.whitewrightcc.com.

WHITEWRIGHT HISTORICAL MUSEUM & NATURE PARK—Housed in authentic turn-of-the-century home, focuses on how local ancestors lived, worked and played; filled with period furniture, memorabilia, photos, and an old schoolroom. Nearby nature park provides stroll through gardens, complete with resident ducks on pond. Open Tues. - Fri 1 - 3 p.m., other times by appointment. At 202 South Bend 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. Also features famous Lake Whitney Motor-Cross Track, which attracts thousands of participants and spectators from all over the country to national races held each Mar.

For information on accommodations, dining facilities and events, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 254/694-2540. www.lakewhitneychamber.com.

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.

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 fee. 800/792-1112.

LAKES—Aquilla, Whitney. See LAKES listing.



WILLS POINT

Pop. 3,496 Alt. 518 Map J-20

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. For more information, contact the Wills Point Chamber of Commerce at 903/873-3111 or visit www.willspoint.org.

BRUCE PARK—Right in the heart of downtown, this small park features the preserved home of William Wills, a cabin built in 1848. Other period items include an old wagon and farm implements. On Second St., just off U.S. 80.

DEPOT MUSEUM—In old T&P depot; features memorabilia for city and Van Zandt County. Vintage clothing, agricultural artifacts, uniforms from previous wars, quilt collection, pictorial gallery and railroad memorabilia, all collected and maintained by the Wills Point Historical Society. Open Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. U.S. 80 & 5th St.

LAKE—Tawakoni. See LAKES listing.

LAKE TAWAKONI STATE PARK—376 acres is great spot for birders, with more than 100 species of birds. Outstanding fishing opportunities for catfish, bass and crappie. Located on the southeast side of the lake, park also has facilities for camping, five miles of wooded hiking trails, swimming, and fishing. From U.S. 80, take F.M. 47 or F.M. 751 north to Lake Tawakoni and Wind Point Park. Admission fee. 903/560-7123.

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 Railroads in 1887, townsite established. Today, city derives its economy from 12 leather goods manufacturers. The Land of Leather Days Festival, held on the last week-end of February, salutes the leather industry and features a CASI Chili Cook Off; leather factory tours; carnival; arts and crafts outdoor mall; food booth; country/Western dances; 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, with a BBQ cook-off, rodeo, Miss Yoakum Pageant, arts and crafts booths, and country/Western dances, usually first week of June.

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.

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



STARR A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Yoakum Heritage Museum

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.

VISITORS INFORMATION—Call the Yoakum Area Chamber of Commerce at 361/293-2309 or visit 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 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.

Today, city features a historic shopping district, great butterfly and bird watching, and outstanding wild game hunting opportunities. First Saturday Traders Market brings together vendors the first Sat. of the month from Mar. to Dec., and the annual western days celebration features cook-offs, parades, rodeo, live music, carnival and more the third weekend in Oct.

For information on attractions, lodging, dining, events, tours and more, call the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce at 361/564-2661. E-mail: yorktowncofc@gvcc.net.

COLETO CREEK PARK—Located in center of town, 25-acre park offers birding, fishing in Coletto Creek, scenic hike and bike trails, picnic facilities, playground, tennis and basketball courts and pavilion.

HISTORICAL HOME TOURS—City features many historic structures, some dating to mid- and late-1800s. Self-guided tours available of these structures and several historic homes built in the early 1900s. For more information, contact the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce at 361/564-2661.

LAKES—Coletto Creek Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

YORKTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM—In two historic buildings, both on National Register of Historic Places, museum features many historical exhibits of the area including a hand-operated elevator, a 1900s-era fire wagon, the first area “lawman’s” pistol, Indian arrowheads and an antique doll collection. Gift shop available. Open Thurs. - Sun. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; first Sat. of month 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At W. Main & Eckhardt sts. 361/564-2661.



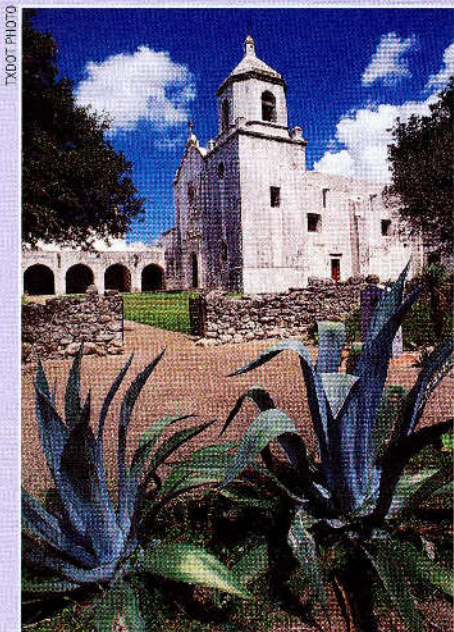
STARR A. WILLIAMS/TXDOT

Whitewright Historical Museum

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS



J. GRIFFIN SMITH/ISTOCK



TYDOT PHOTO



KENIEK STILL/ISTOCK

Clockwise from top: The Alamo in San Antonio, Washington's Birthday Celebration in Laredo, Mission Espiritu Santo in Goliad

AN INVITING CLIMATE, combined with friendly people, make up a large part of the spectacular South Texas Plains region. While this part of Texas might feature some flat terrain broken only by mesquite and brush, there's definitely nothing "plain" about this region. Rich in history and culture, the sights, sounds, tastes and experiences are sure to entice and intrigue you while you're here.

This region – incorporating the southeast corner of the tropical Rio Grande Valley, the rugged beauty of the westernmost tip near Eagle Pass, and northwestern wonder that is San Antonio - is packed with adventures.

History buffs can travel across parts of Texas that conquistadores once traversed on their explorations, and visit locations where Franciscan monks set up missions to Christianize and educate the natives. Texas is said to have the second finest examples of Spanish mission architecture in the United States, some of which can be found in the mission district of San Antonio and Mission Espiritu Santo in Goliad.

In the eastern part of the region, the communities of Goliad and Fannin pay tribute via museums and historic sites to the sacrifices made by those who fought for the Lone Star State's independence from Mexico. In the middle of the region, museums in Falfurrius, Alice and George West detail life for early settlers in this part of Texas.

For nature lovers, the semi-tropical Rio Grande Valley also is one of the best

birdwatching spots in North America, with nearly 500 bird species and more than 300 kinds of butterflies that call this area home. Located where major bird migratory routes converge, this region houses the World Birding Center, a network of nine sites with headquarters at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park near Mission.

In Three Rivers, Choke Canyon State Park features ample fishing and boating opportunities on the massive 26,000-acre Choke Canyon Reservoir, while those who like to enjoy nature can hike, camp, picnic or just relax.

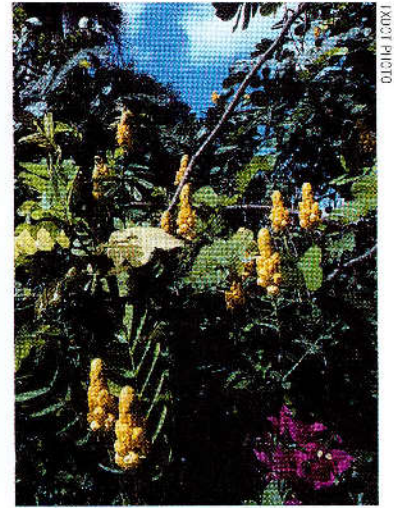
The Rio Grande Valley also is quite popular with winter visitors due to the area's balmy weather. Conditions are inviting for those who want to escape the sleet, snow, ice and cold of more northern climes. These Winter Texans move into the Valley for extended stays, often returning year after year. The inviting climate and wonderfully mild winter weather means visitors can look forward to golf, tennis, fishing and other outdoor activities year-round.

While there is plenty of entertainment on this side of the border, neighboring cities in Mexico offer enchantment and intrigue for visitors' young and old alike. The beauty and hospitality of the Mexican culture is evident throughout the region in the border cities of Eagle Pass, Laredo, Roma, Rio Grande City and McAllen.

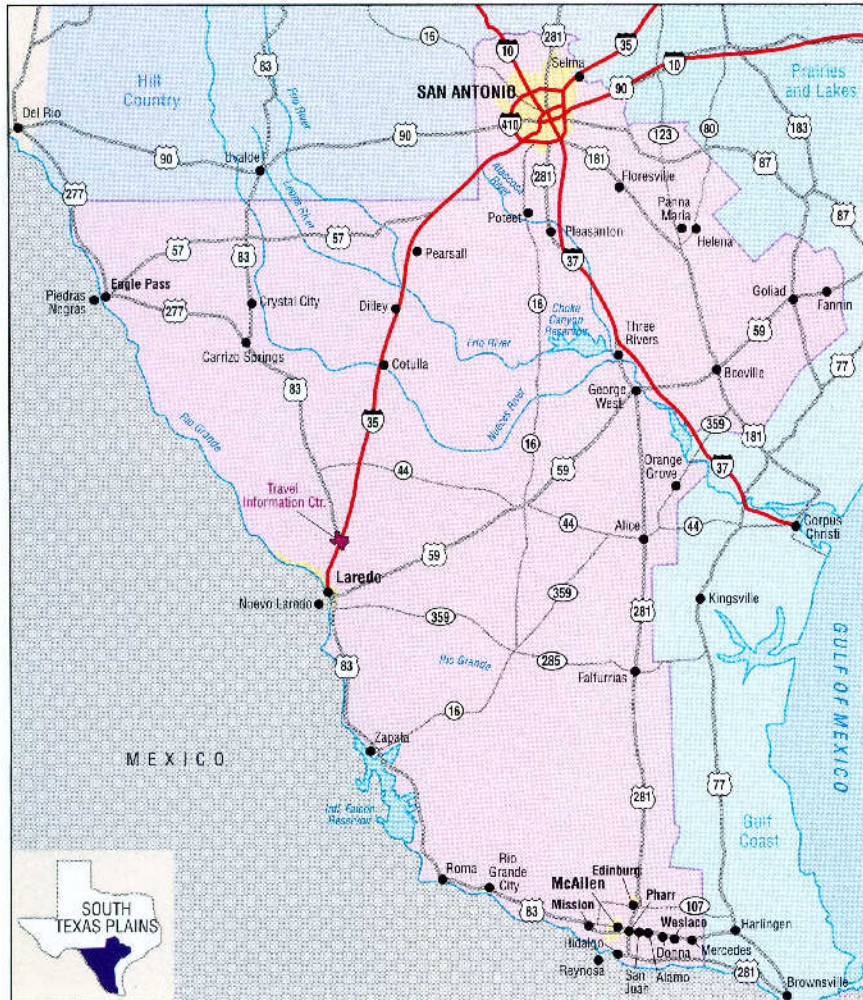
Last, but certainly not least, is the gem of the region—San Antonio. The area's largest city and one of the biggest cities in the state, San Antonio is home to destinations that are known the world over—the Alamo and the River Walk. Other family attractions include SeaWorld San Antonio, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio Zoo, Guinness World Records Museum and Ripley's Haunted Adventure, and the San Antonio Children's Museum; but there's so much more to experience. The city proudly showcases some amazing artwork, in places like the McNay Art Museum, Mexican Cultural Institute and the San Antonio Museum of Art, and provides some outdoor adventures at Natural Bridge Caverns, Brackenridge Park and the Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch.

But, this information just barely scratches the surface when it comes to describing all there is to see and do here, so be sure to carefully review the following pages for more detailed information on the cities and attractions in the area to help you plan your next excursion.

So, hola amigos, and welcome to the wonderful South Texas Plains!



Flora of the Rio Grande Valley area





MICHAEL AMADOR/ISTOCK

Cemetery at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo

ALAMO

Pop. 14,760 Alt. 99 Map Y-16/DD-17

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—2,088 acres of thick, brushy growth, typical of Valley before agricultural development. Preserves and protects abundant wildlife and plant species. More than 400 species of birds can be seen throughout the year, many found nowhere else in the country. Interpretive wildlife tram rides operate late Nov. - late Apr. (fcc). 19 miles of self-guided nature walks; one for wheelchairs. Bicycling allowed on seven-mile paved route. Rio Grande canoe trips available by reservation through the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor; www.corridorfriends.com. Visitor center and bookstore open daily 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). Entrance .25 miles east of U.S. 281/F.M. 907 intersection, 7.5 miles south of Alamo. For more information, call 956/784-7500 or visit www.fws.gov.

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.

Annual extravaganzas include the Fiesta Bandana, celebrating the first settlement of the town when it was known as Bandana, held in early May, the Hispanic Heritage Festival in Sept., and the Jim Wells County Fair in Oct.

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.

TEJANO R.O.O.T.S. HALL OF FAME—Museum captures the lifestyles of Tejano music and salutes pioneers of the genre. Exhibits include biographies, artifacts, musical instruments, photos, stage costumes and more. Alice was named the birthplace of Tejano music by the Texas Legislature in 2001. At 213 N. Wright St. Open Wed. - Sun. noon - 5 p.m., but call ahead for group tours. 361/664-8000. www.tejanorootshalloffame.com.

BEEVILLE

Pop. 13,129 Alt. 214 Map T-17

GENERAL—On Poesta Creek, originally named Maryville for Mary Hefferman, only survivor of a family killed in 1853. Became seat of Bee County, 1860, and renamed "Beeville-on-the-Poesta." Home of Coastal Bend College, Chase Field Criminal Justice Complex, and various manufacturing industries.

Hunters take deer, wild turkey, quail, dove, hogs, and javelina in the area when in season. In the spring, bird watchers can spot a variety of species of birds at Veterans Memorial Park while enjoying wildflowers that cover the area with brilliant color. Municipal golf course also available.

For information on area events, accommodations, and attractions, contact the Bee County Chamber of Commerce/CVB at 361/358-3267.

BEEVILLE ART MUSEUM—Housed in historic Esther Barnhart House, originally home of the Hodges family, early Beeville settlers. Changing exhibits of Texas artists and Texas collections. No admission fee. Open Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; closed Sun. Call 361/358-8615 or e-mail BeevilleArtMuseum@Beeville.Net for information on current exhibits.

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.

CARRIZO SPRINGS

Pop. 6,500 Alt. 600 Map T-13

GENERAL—Dimmit County seat, located in southwestern Texas. The famous *El Camino Real de los Tejas* that once connected Mexico with Spanish controlled towns in Texas passes near Carrizo Springs. Town name is derived from the abundant *Carrizo* cane that once proliferated around freely flowing springs.

County is home to more Texas Rangers' graves than any other place in state, and 17 known Rangers are buried in city's Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Deer hunters prize the Carrizo Springs area, which is noted for growing more trophy bucks per square mile than any other region in the state. Carrizo Spring Golf Course is a public championship nine-hole course, open daily. Call 830/876-2596 for more info. Annual events include Fiesta Nopalitos in the spring and Brush Country Days in the autumn.



J. GR. HUS SMITH/ISTOCK

Beeville Art Museum

For more information, contact the Dimmit County Chamber of Commerce, open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 830/876-5205 or visit www.dimmitcountytx.com.

CHAPARRAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA—Owned and operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The area consists of 15,200 acres of “Brush Country” that is typical of the Rio Grande Plains Ecological Area in South Texas. Chaparral offers “Driving Trails” as well as “Nature Trails” and bird watching along with mammals, amphibians and reptiles to discover. Primitive camping facilities available. Located southeast of town on U. S. 83 and F.M. 133 in Artesia Wells. Open April - Aug. (closed Sept. - Mar. for hunting season). Before planning a trip, call 830/676-3413 or write P. O. Box 115, Artesia Wells, TX 78001.

DIXONDALE FARMS—U.S. largest and oldest producer of onion plants since 1913. Seasonal fresh produce can be purchased by mail order or walk-in. Visitors can tour the farm or packinghouse. Tour groups by appointment only. Open. Dec. - Jul., Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sept. - Nov., Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed Aug. Call 830/876-2430 for catalog or visit www.dixondalefarms.com.

HISTORIC TOURS—Sites along tour include courthouse, built in 1884 and renovated in 2005, jailhouse (also built in 1884) one block west of courthouse that's still in use today, Blue Nest Aviation Exhibit and Restaurant at the Dimmit County Airport. Walking or driving tour brochures and maps of Dimmit County are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM—Museum exhibits the Wade House Indian artifact collection and City and County memorabilia. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 200 No. 9th St. 830/876-5788.

COTULLA

Pop. 3,614 Alt. 442 Map T-14

GENERAL—(Co-tool-la) 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 townsite 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. On S. Stewart St. near courthouse.

LAKE—Choke Canyon. See LAKES listing.

CRYSTAL CITY

Pop. 7,190 Alt. 581 Map T-13

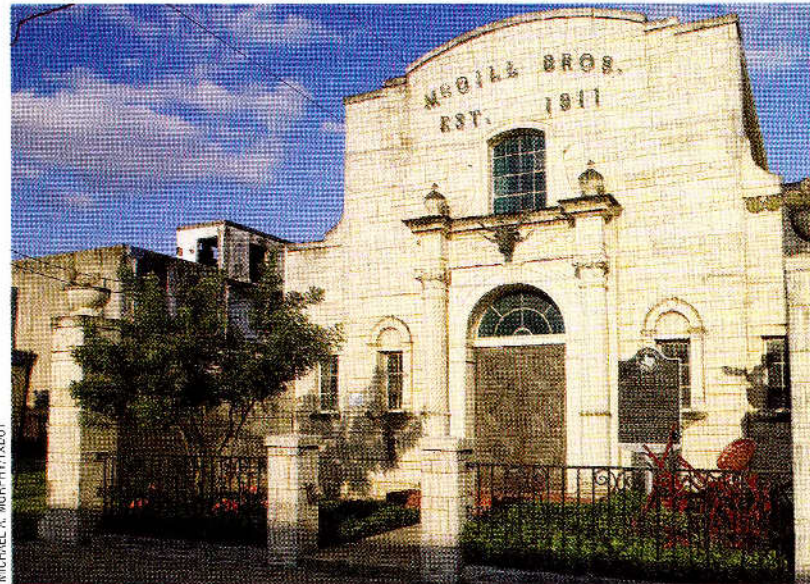
GENERAL—Seat of Zavala County, primary center for packing, processing and shipping vegetables from a Del Monte Foods plant and independent farmer co-ops. Most famous for its spinach crop, the Winter Garden area also produces large quantities of onions, carrots, tomatoes, peppers, watermelons and cantaloupes. The cattle industry features both local ranches and available grazing land leases for out of area and out of state ranching enterprises.

The annual Spinach Festival is held during the second weekend of November. The festival features a spinach cook-off, parade, live Tejano music, carnival, car show, a variety of food and beverage booths, a 5K run and related activities.

Available hunting game include white-tailed doe and buck, wild hog, turkey, white-winged dove, javelina and rattlesnake. Fishing on the Nueces, Leona and Frio rivers, Espantosa Lake and plentiful creeks include alligator gar, bass, catfish and perch. Many hunting and fishing lodges located just minutes from town.

POPEYE STATUE—Whimsical salute to area spinach crop depicts the cartoon sailor man; a favorite spot for snapshots with children; downtown city square.

WORLD WAR II FAMILY INTERNMENT CAMP—Located within city limits, two Texas state historical markers identify the camp and swimming pool of the Alien Family Internment Camp that operated from 1942 through 1947. German, Italian and Japanese families were interned at the camp. An annual former internees reunion was initiated in 2002. For additional information, contact the Zavala County Historical Commission, P. O. Box 616, Crystal City, Texas 78839.



MICHAEL A. MURPHY/STREET

The South Texas Museum in Alice

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 in the Frio River is also popular.

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 an abundance of 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 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.



Exciting and Fun Places ...
...on the Texas/Mexico Border


The Beautiful Plaza de Culturas




Eagle Pass

Where Yee-Hah Meets Olé

An Original Mexican Market Square



Romantic Night Life
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 First-Class Accommodations
 ~
 Sister-City Piedras Negras... Most Comparable to Mexico's Interior
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 Fine Restaurants
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 ~
 Two International Bridges



Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce • PO Box 1188 • Eagle Pass, TX 78852

For Free Vacation Info: 1-888-355-3224
www.eaglepasstexas.com

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 Tourist Information Bureau at 956/464-3314 or visit www.ci.donna.lib.tx.us/wetlands.htm.

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.

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 Potosí 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 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. Annual events include the International Friendship Festival, in late March or early Apr., which includes a carnival, parade, baseball and golf tournaments and more. For detailed visitor information, contact the Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce at 888/355-3224 or visit www.eaglepasstexas.com.

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 Tues. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. Donations accepted. 830/758-1445.

GUERRERO, MEXICO—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 with state-of-the-art equipment. Also features restaurant, sports bar and scheduled live entertainment. Off E.M. 1021 (El Indio Highway) at Rosita Valley Rd. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For information, call 888/255-8259 or visit www.kickapooluckyeaglecasino.com.

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, MEXICO—A comfortable walking distance from downtown Eagle Pass, across the Rio Grande, is the busy Mexican city of Piedras Negras; population about 173,000. 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 every Oct. to celebrate the origin of the internationally savored nacho snack in this city.

EDINBURG

Pop. 48,465 Alt. 91 Map Y-16/CC-17

GENERAL—First named Chapin for townsite promoter; renamed Edinburg in 1911. Hidalgo County seat and western gateway to Lower Rio Grande Valley; 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 fee. 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 800/800-7214.

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 956/687-5702.

STAN A. WILLIAMS/TKOCCI



San Juan Plaza in Eagle Pass



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg

LAKE—El Sal del Rey. See LAKES listing.
MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY—Founded as the Hidalgo County Historical Museum in 1967, exhibits cover the history of South Texas and Northeastern Mexico from prehistoric times up to 1900. All new permanent exhibits have been installed in the \$2.5 million new wing, starting with a sea dinosaur and a 14-foot skeleton of an ice-age mammoth. The museum also features exhibits on Coahuiltecan Indians, the Spanish exploration and colonization, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Steamboat-Era and more. Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 121 E. McIntyre. 956/383-6911. Admission fee.

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. No admission fee except during full-performance rodeos.

FALFURRIAS

Pop. 5,295 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. 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—Falfurrians 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., E.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 Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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 the Battle of Colto 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, 1883. Today, growing community offers two city parks, swimming pool, dirt bike track, golf course, and hike-and-bike trail. Annual events include Peanut Festival, held second weekend in Oct., and Market Days in May.

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/E.M. 536 intersection (Plum & 10th sts.).

CYCLE RANCH MOTOCROSS PARK—This 108-acre park draws bikers from all over the world for competition in events such as the Western 4-Stroke Nationals. Includes main track that’s 1.7 miles long and 30 feet wide, and it features peewee and junior tracks for beginners. Open Thurs. noon - 5:30 p.m., Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Camping available Fri. - Sat. Admission and camping fees. At 2066 C.R. 405. 210/635-9199.

DEWEES REMSCHEL HOUSE—Historic mansion, including period furnishings, and houses history of ranch, which played significant role in development of ranching in Wilson County. Open first weekend in May, first weekend in Dec., and third weekends in June & Dec. 830/393-3385.

RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS—In 1731, Mission San Francisco de la Espada was re-established on San Antonio River from East Texas. In addition to land necessary for mission’s compound, each mission was also granted land for farming and ranching. Espada’s grazing lands became known as Rancho de las Cabras (“the Goat Ranch”). Ruins of ranch compound located at junction of Picoas Creek and San Antonio River, just southwest of city. Administered as part of San Antonio Missions National Historical Parks. Tours the first Sat. of each month. 210/932-1001.

VISITOR INFORMATION—Stop by the Floresville Chamber of Commerce’s Tourist and Visitors Center at 910 Tenth St., open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - noon. 830/393-0074. www.floresvillechamber.org.

WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE—Historic downtown is situation around stately courthouse, designed by famed architect Alfred Giles and built in 1884. Open Mon. - Fri. 830/393-7303.

WILSON COUNTY JAILHOUSE MUSEUM—Built in 1887, located on courthouse square in historic downtown. Housed prisoners and the sheriff and his family until mid-1970s. Open first & third Sat. and first Mon. of each month. 830/216-2225.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Fannin Battleground State Historic Site



J. GRIFFS SMITH/TXDOT

Presidio La Bahía in Goliad

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. Designated as the Storytelling Capital of Texas by the State Legislature, and annual Storytelling Festival held the first weekend in Nov.

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 400 N. Nueces (U.S. 281), or call 361/449-2033. Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - noon, www.georgewest.org.

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.

Goliad was named a Main Street City in 1984 and has been a National Main

Street City since 1999. The third-oldest municipality in the state, the Courthouse Square Historic District was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Goliad County Courthouse was recently restored to original 1894 appearance. Visitors are encouraged to take Downtown Walking Tour.

Dining and shopping opportunities abound, and Chamber of Commerce sponsors Market Days, held every second Sat. from Mar. - Dec., which features more than 170 vendors.

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. Newly built children's park, "Fort Fun," is located next to the city park.

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 fee.

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. It was 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 settlements in new areas. To protect mission endeavors, a *presidio* (fort) was usually built nearby and manned by Spanish military forces.

Such was Presidio Santa María 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 they 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. Annual re-enactment is held weekend nearest Mar. 27. 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 fee. www.presidiolabahia.org.

VISITOR CENTER—For information on accommodations, restaurants, and events, stop by the chamber of commerce office Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 231 S. Market St., or call 800/848-8674 or 361/645-3563. Visit www.goliadec.org.

ZARAGOZA BIRTHPLACE 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 Benito Juárez. In 1862, he commanded an outnumbered and poorly equipped Mexican army in defense of the Central Mexico city of Puebla against elite French force. Zaragoza's small army fought back, inflicted heavy losses and forced the French to withdraw to the 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 it is celebrated here and in several Texas cities. Site is two miles south off U.S. 183 at Presidio La Bahia.

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 role as county seat, and its citizens drifted away. Today old courthouse and 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/DD-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 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 fee.

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.

REYNOSA, 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 handicraft items in the Zona Rosa, and in midtown's traditional Mexican market. 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.

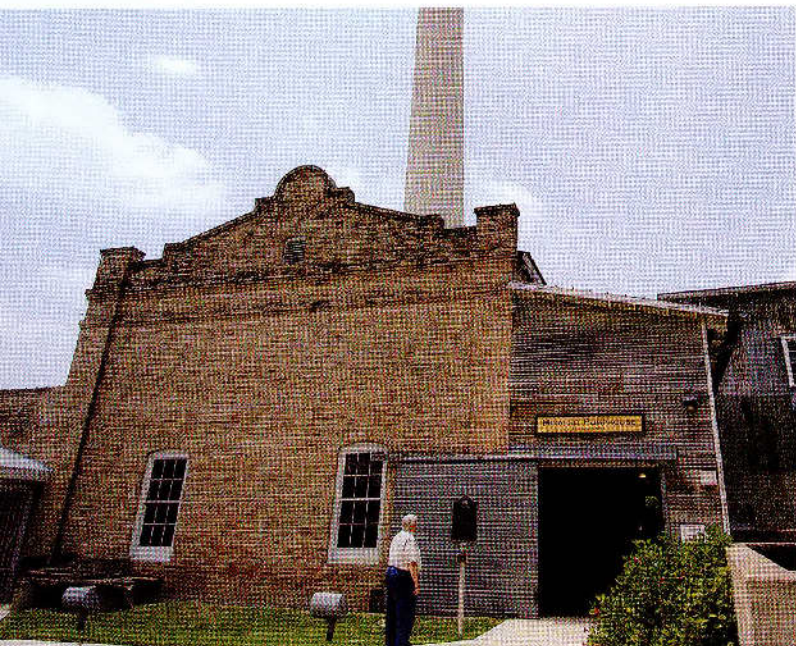
LAREDO

Pop. 176,576 Alt. 438 Map V-14/MM-20

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; 16-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.



Hidalgo Pumphouse Heritage & Discovery Center



SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

For more information on dining, lodging, and area events, contact the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/361-3360 or visit 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 attacks and was base for border patrol. Laredo Community College now on grounds. The old guardhouse, 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. 800/792-1112.

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 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 fee.

Now home to a new state-of-the-art planetarium, one of only 50 in the world. This planetarium offers an immersion viewing experience. All sights and sounds

are created digitally with breathtaking 3-D images covering a full dome screen and surround sound enveloping viewers. Housed within a 3-story glass pyramid. Special sky shows and telescope nights offer a hands-on look at the South Texas night sky. 5201 University Blvd. 956/326-2001. www.tamui.edu/coas/planetarium.
LAREDO CENTER FOR THE ARTS—Houses galleries that present changing exhibits of work by local, national, and international artists. Open Tues, Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. At 500 San Agustín. 956/725-1715.

NUEVO LAREDO, MEXICO—Founded 1848, "New Laredo" across border is a bustling city. Fine hotels, motels, and restaurants cater to large flow of visitors throughout year. Tourist and market areas are located within comfortable walking distance from downtown Laredo. Shoppers find profusion of gift shops specializing in jewelry, crystal, onyx, and 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 fee. For information, call the Webb County Heritage Foundation at 956/727-3480.

SAN AGUSTÍN CATHEDRAL—Originally built in 1767; present struc-



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KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center in Laredo

ture, 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—In South Texas at mile marker 18 on I-35, one of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Department of Transportation 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 *Texas 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. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day the center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To speak to a professional travel counselor for travel information and trip planning assistance, call 800/452-9292 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. central time, daily. Travelers may also call for 24-hour automated road condition information and seasonal reports on locations of scenic spring wildflowers and fall foliage. 15551 I-35 North at U.S. 83. 956/417-4728. www.txdot.gov

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION MUSEUM—Displays of sparkling gowns, photos and other memorabilia tell 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. 120,000 Alt. 122 Map Y-16/CC-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 great destination for birders and other nature-oriented visitors. Many Midwesterners and Canadians spend entire winters 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, vegetable, 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 the best birding location in the entire county. 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-necked stilts. Flocks of red-crowned parrots and green parakeets are frequently seen and heard throughout the city, including the unique setting at McAllen's World Birding Center site, Quinta Mazatlan. Best time to find them is dusk.

Several citrus groves and fruit and vegetable groves offer tours. The McAllen Information Center can provide the information and location. Shoppers find La Placita a great place to shop in renovated historical 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.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART & SCIENCE—Offers a wide variety of education and entertainment options for every member of the family. Featuring five galleries with innovative paintings and sculptures, model ships, and classic art collections. The Discovery Pavilion is a hands on area where children can learn as they play. View Space is a new science exhibit featuring images from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, which are updated automatically as NASA receives them. Rio Scape is an outdoor playground that teaches children the journey of the Rio Grande River, and educational labs with daily activities make the experience even more fun and educational. Open Tues., Wed., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 5 p.m. 956/682 1564. www.imasonline.org.

MC2A CREATIVE INCUBATOR—Renovated elementary school in downtown features gallery of work done by local artists. Also local artists can be seen creating works of art in attached studios. At 1101 S. 16th St. 956/687-ARTS

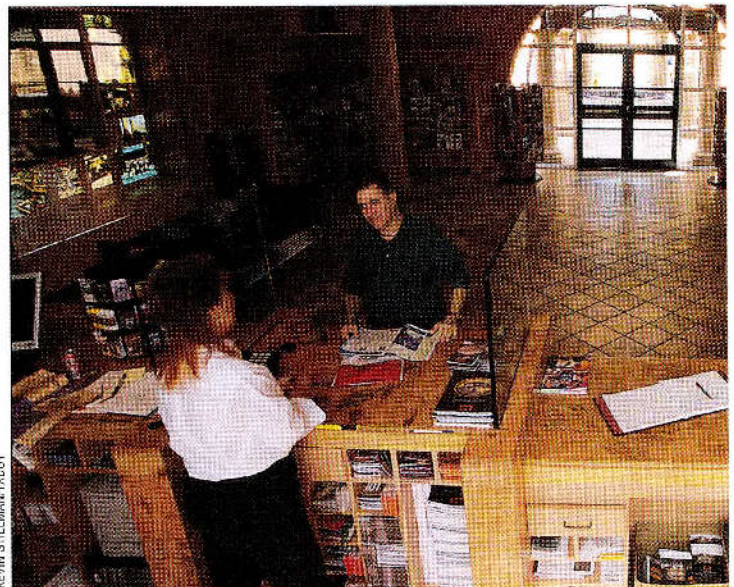
QUINTA MAZATLAN—A 1930s country estate in heart of McAllen is city's World Birding Center location. This historic Spanish Revival adobe hacienda is surrounded by lush tropical landscaping and native woodland. Quiet trails wind through more than 15 acres of birding habitat. Located at 600 Sunset Ave. 956/688-3333.

REYNOSA, MEXICO—Reynosa is a charming Mexican city about 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, and in midtown's traditional Mexican market. 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 *Autopista*, an excellent highway from Reynosa straight into the heart of the city. The McAllen Chamber of Commerce has an office located in Cintermex that can supply visitors with detailed information about the city.

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 building. Information on attractions, accommodations, dining, events, as well as information on the Mexican border towns of Reynosa and Monterrey, is available. Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 877/MCALLEN (622-5536) or visit www.mcallenchamber.com. At 1200 Ash Ave.



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

Texas Travel Information Center in Laredo



STILLMAN/ISTOCK

International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen

THE ZONE—Fun-filled park for kids of all ages, features miniature golf, bumper cars, bumper boats, go-karts, video arcade and restaurant. Open Mon. - Thurs. noon - 9 p.m., Fri. - Sat. noon - midnight, Sun. noon - 10 p.m. On 2600 Expressway 83 (256). 956/664-ZONE or www.thezoneactionpark.com.

MERCEDES

Pop. 13,649 Alt. 61 Map Z-17

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—Vintage farm equipment is displayed outside 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. 52,912 Alt. 134 Map Y-16/CC-15

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. Mission has since become an agricultural center for all citrus and celebrates this industry with the annual Texas Citrus Fiesta in Jan. Birding opportunities are found around the city, where rare birds can be spotted, as it is a key destination for migratory birds as well as native species.

Mission Hike and Bike Trail is a five-mile trail located on S. Conway and ends at the World Birding Center, featuring abundant native plants and wildlife, paved trails and two bridges.

Other events include the Texas Butterfly Festival in Oct. For more information, contact the Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce at 800/580-2700 or visit 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. Excellent spot for butterfly and bird watching. About three miles south, near La Lomita Chapel. 956/585-5311.

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 picnicking, rest rooms, bird-watching and nature study. New nature trails, boardwalks and a Hawk Preservation Tower. Located off U.S. 83, exit F.M. 2062 and head south. For information, call 956/585-1107. Admission fee.

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. Surrounding park provides picnic facilities, cooking grills, rest rooms, brick walkways, and historical site signs. Three miles south of U.S. 83 on F.M. 1016.

LOS EBANOS FERRY—Only existing hand-operated ferry of its kind. Carries three cars and limited number of passengers at a time, and you can help pull. 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 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).

TOM LANDRY MURAL—Created to honor Mission native and legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys. Landry, born and raised in Mission, led the Cowboys from rag-tag team in inaugural 1960 season to two Super Bowl titles and “America’s Team” status. Mural depicts and spans his life, career and legend. Landry’s handprints and footprints are preserved in the sidewalk below the mural. In downtown Mission at corner of North Conway and 101 E. Tom Landry Ave.

WORLD BIRDING CENTER HEADQUARTERS—Located within Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, site meant to educate the public about the unique wildlife within the region and promote environmental conservation. It’s also headquarters to nine World Birding Center stations located across the Rio Grande Valley. For more information, call 956/584-9156 or visit www.worldbirdingcenter.org.

ORANGE GROVE

Pop. 1,288 Alt. 190 Map U-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.



J. GERRIS/SHUTTERSTOCK

La Lomita Chapel in Mission

PANNA MARIA

Pop. 96 (est.) Alt. 175 Map S-16

GENERAL—On the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest permanent 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 150 years 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 convent no longer used by the nuns. Visitors' Center hours Mon. & 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) depict life of Polish pioneers. The second floor was originally a convent for the teaching nuns. A project is under way to raise funds to restore the entire building. Museum may be visited by request at the visitors' center.

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 (more than 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.

The Visitor Center, operated by the Pearsall Chamber of Commerce, has information on events, accommodations, restaurants, maps and more, and is open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located at 317 S. Oak St. 830/334-9414. www.pearsalltexas.com.

OLD FRIO COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM—Features items used by Frio County early settlers. Open Tues. - Sat. Located at the corner of Pecan and Medina sts.

PHARR

Pop. 46,660 Alt. 107 Map Z-16/DD-17

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.

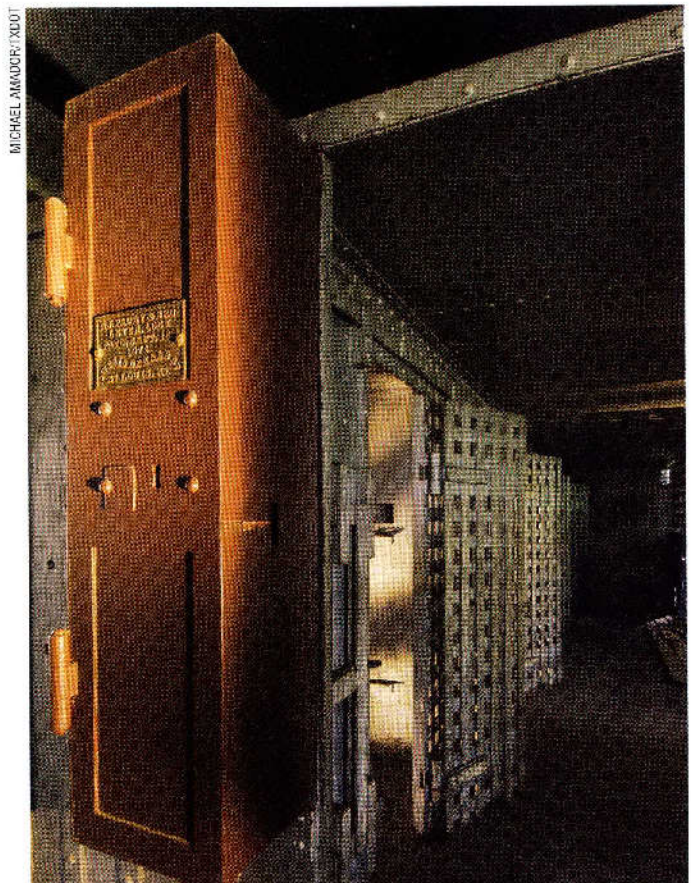
St. Jude's Catholic Church's beautiful gardens offer a peaceful setting for quiet meditations. Gardens always open; 505 S. Ironwood. Memorial Park honors area veterans lost or missing in combat during wartime; at corner of Egly and Canna sts.

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 or visit www.visitpharr.com.

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.



MICHAEL AMADOR/IXDOT

Old Frio County Jail Museum in Pearsall



Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Rio Grande City

LOOK UP/WILLIAM Y. HELG

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 enemies 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 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 GROTTTO—Contains statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and peasant girl whose visions led to establishment of originals—replica of venerable shrine in Lourdes, France. 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 an interior Mexican town. 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.

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.

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

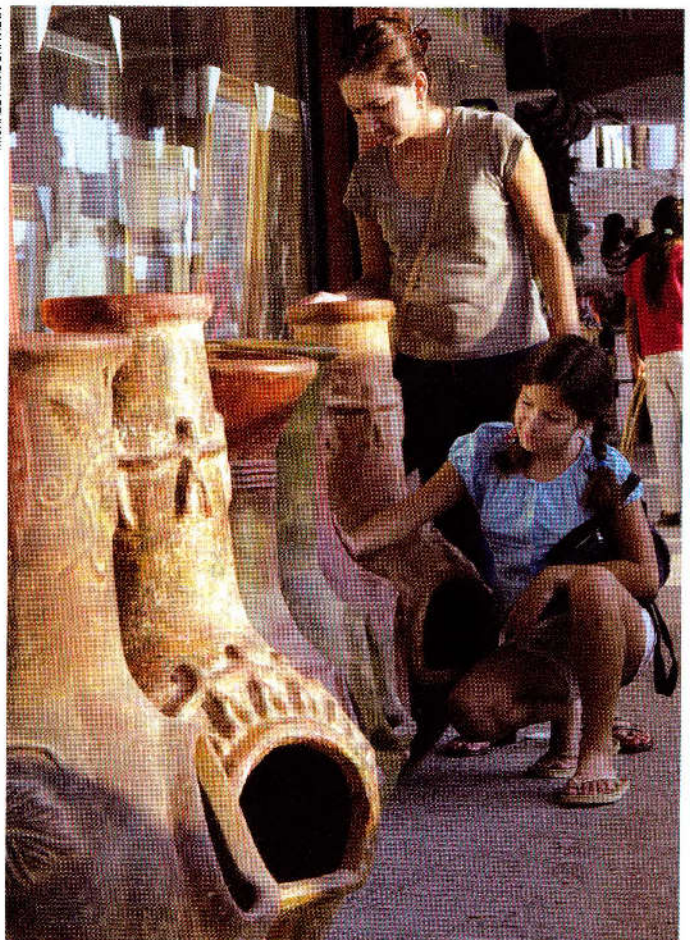
Alt. 238

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

MICHAEL AMADOR/TXDOT



Shopping in Mexico



KEVIN STILLMAN/TXDOT

View of the Rio Grande river from Roma

FALCON STATE 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 fee. 800/792-1112.

LAKE—Falcon Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

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/HH-6

GENERAL—In 1718, at an Indian village along 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 (Bayher), 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.

Institutions of higher learning include the 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. Philip's College, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and the Univ. of Texas at San Antonio.

Some 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., the Starving Artists Show held at La Villita and along the River Walk each Easter, and the San Antonio New World Wine and Food Festival each fall.

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, parades, "Night in Old San Antonio" festival and more.

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.

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 the Palmer Course at La Cantera, La Cantera Golf Course near Six Flags Fiesta Texas and the Quarry Golf Course, 444 E. Basse Rd. For more golfing information, call the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau at 210/207-6748 or 800/ALAMO-07.

THE ALAMO—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 highly-photographed chapel and the Long Barrack are all that remain of the original fort. The museum contains relics and mementos from the Republic of Texas and offers narrations on the fall of the Alamo.

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 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 adopt-

ed 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 football, concerts, and other events. It's home for the annual Alamo Bowl college football game each Dec. Tours conducted every Thursday and Friday. (No tours if event is scheduled.) 100 Montana St. For information, call 800/884-3663. You can also visit www.alamodome.com. Admission fee.

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 www.drtl.org, or call 210/225-1071 for more information.

AT&T CENTER—Beautiful 18,500-seat facility that's home to the NBA's San Antonio Spurs and the San Antonio SilverStars of the WNBA. Also hosts hockey games, rodeos, concerts, special events and more. Located at Houston and Coliseum rds. Directly east of Freeman Coliseum. Visit www.nba.com/spurs for more information.

AZTEC ON THE RIVER—Historic motion picture palace, the only such exotic-themed palace, has been renovated and re-opened in grand style in 2006. Visitors are invited to tour the historic structure and view its sculptures, furnishings, massive columns and murals depicted in vibrant colors. The focal point in the Grand Lobby is a massive two-story iron chandelier, which was created and installed in 1829 and recently restored by the original designer's grandson. Also, in the lobby, a free multi-million dollar special effects show happens every 90 minutes. A second free special effects show is on the River Walk level and features the theater's original mechanical room coming to life with mystery and intrigue. Guests that purchase tickets to the theater will be guided into the 483-seat auditorium and treated to a montage of black-and-white film clips accompanied by a restored Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ. The theater also offers a variety of large format films on its iWERKS Extreme Screen. Located at corner of E. Commerce and N. St. Mary's sts. and accessible from Riverwalk. Open daily, but call ahead or visit Web site for showtimes. No admission fee for lobby attractions; admission fee to theater. For more information, call 877/43-AZTEC or visit www.aztecontheriver.com.

BOTANICAL GARDEN—33 acres of display gardens, fountains, and natural areas (major walkways wheelchair accessible). Included is the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, a 90,000-square-foot complex of below-ground houses 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 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Christmas and New Year's Day. 555 Funston at N. New Braunfels (just north of Fort Sam Houston). For information, call 210/207-3255 or visit at www.sabot.org. Admission fee.

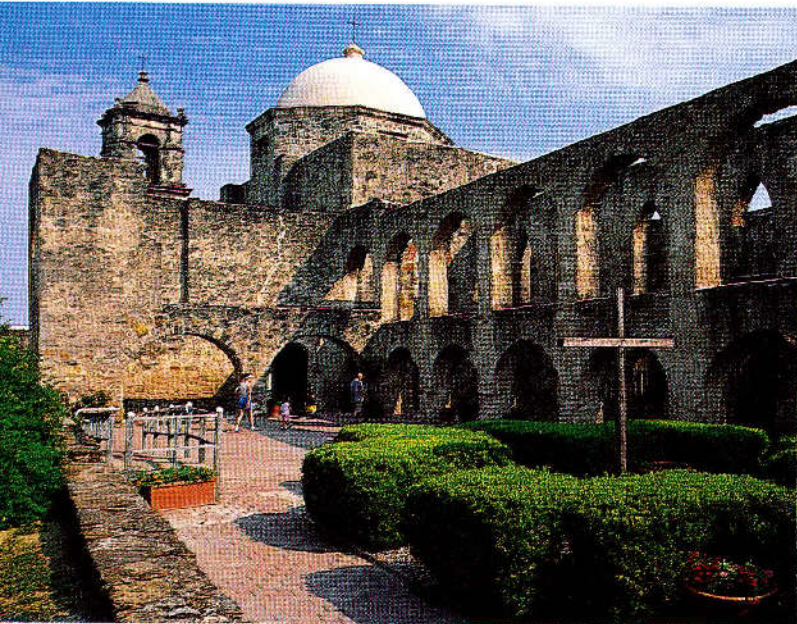
BRACKENRIDGE PARK—Includes rustic stone bridges and winding walks, gleaming pools, and Japanese Tea Garden. On occasion the Sunken Gardens Theater presents entertainment. Also, the *Brackenridge Eagle* miniature train takes visitors on a 3.5-mile ride around the park. Numerous picnic spots. Adjacent to San Antonio Zoo, Witte Museum, Brackenridge Golf Course and Pioneer Hall Museum.

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 a bar more than a century old and offers table service and authentic Old-West entertainment, including gunfighters. Also check out the Buckhorn Game Room 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 www.buckhornmuseum.com. Admission fee.

CARVER COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER—Center traces its historic roots back about 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 fee.

DIAMOND W LONGHORN RANCH—Popular chuck-wagon supper and cowboy show features chuckwagon display, cowboy memorabilia, an old general store, roping, and old-fashioned cowboy, with live Longhorn steers, stage



SHARLA WILLIAMS/STOCK

San José, the "Queen of Missions"

show. Open 6:30 - 9 p.m. Reservations required. 18725 Bandera Rd. near Helotes on Texas 16. For information and reservations, call 210/695-4888. www.wildwestsanantonio.com. E-mail: trailboss@bigplanet.com.

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 and follow signs to park. Donations accepted. For information, call 210/698-1057.

GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER—Dedicated to preserve, promote, and develop the arts and culture of the Chicano/Latino/Native American peoples. Six programs include music, dance, literature, media arts, theater 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 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. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Restaurant hours Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 205 E. Guenther St. 210/227-1061. www.guentherhouse.com

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS MUSEUM & RIPLEY'S

HAUNTED ADVENTURE—San Antonio's two attractions are both in one location—directly across from the Alamo. Guinness World Records Museum is a state-of-the-art, interactive experience that brings the world famous book to life. Enjoy a combination of artifacts, exhibits, touch-screen computers, and interactive trivia games spread throughout 10,000 square feet and 14 themed galleries—fun for the entire family. Experience your worst nightmare at Ripley's Haunted Adventure, a multi-million dollar haunted house featuring live actors, animatronics, and bone-chilling special effects. Combination discount tickets available as are group rates. Both attractions are open daily except Christmas Day. Call for prices and hours.

Open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Memorial Day through Labor Day open Sun. -Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - Mid-night. At 329 Alamo Plaza. Call 210/226-2828 or visit www.sa-guinness-haunted.com. Admission fee.

IMAX—“Alamo...The Price of Freedom,” is a 45-minute docudrama film that re-creates the 13-day siege and fall of the Alamo. Immense screen and stereo sound system places visitors in the middle of the action as the battle unfolds, as 189 defenders fought and died for the cause of Texas liberty. Other IMAX films showing as well. Open daily 9 a.m. 10 p.m. in Rivercenter Mall, 803 E. Commerce St., across from rear entrance to the Alamo. For schedule of films, call 210/247-4629. Visit www.IMAX-SA.com.

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. 210/227-8786.

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. Bounded by S. Alamo and Nueva sts.

Arneson 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.

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. Mrs. McNay left her art collection, her Spanish Colonial Revival-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, and O’Keeffe. 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 or visit www.McNayArt.org.

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” theaters ever built. Completely restored, and entered on the National Register of Historic Places, the theater 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. 210/226-5700.

MARKET SQUARE—A two-block long festival market that includes El Mercado, a typical market from the interior of Mexico selling piñatas, jewelry, clothing, leather goods, cascarones and pottery. Have some enchiladas and margaritas, explore the shops, listen to music, visit an art gallery and people-watch. 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.

MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE—Library and display of Mexican art and crafts. Open Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun. noon - 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 in the Alamo complex and moved to its present location in 1876, this installation has long been one of the Army's most important installations. 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 Army in San Antonio from 1845, when the post occupied the historic Alamo, up to the present. Exhibits depict 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.

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.

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.

U.S. Army Medical Department Museum—Museum depicts the history of military medicine since 1775. 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, call 210/221-6358.

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 Informa-



tion 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. Church acoustics are equated with the Mormon Tabernacle. 807 Mission Rd.

Mission San Francisco de la Espada—Also established 1731, favorite of many students 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. 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." 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. 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.

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS— One of the world's premier caverns, take 75-minute tour through a half-mile of the largest show cave in Texas. For the more daring spelunker, the Adventure Tour offers a physically demanding excursion into an undeveloped cavern (reservations are required for the Adventure Tour). Also, visit the Natural Bridge Mining Company and pan

for gemstones. A gift shop, snack bar and picnic grounds also available.

Take exit 175 on I-35; eight miles west on Natural Bridge Caverns Rd. (F.M. 3009). Open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; extended hours Memorial Day through Labor Day (please call or visit web site for schedule). Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day; tours every half-hour. For more information, call 210/651-6101 or visit www.naturalbridgecaverns.com. Admission fee.

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 (F.M. 3009). For additional information, call 830/438-7400 or check out www.nbwildliferanchtx.com. Admission fee.

OLD SPANISH TRAIL—During the 1920s, Gunter Hotel was headquarters for buildings of southern U.S. transcontinental Auto Highway commemorated by the 0-Mile stone marker on City Hall lawn. OST, also known as *El Camino de los Tejas*, is famous highway that was critical to development of Texas many centuries ago, that began in Florida and continued to California. OST recently designated a National Historic Trail by the National Park Service. Decorative stone bench recognizing OST located at 3400 Fredericksburg Rd. Call 210/735-3503 or visit www.oldspanishtrailcentennial.com for more information.

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 fee.



THE HILL COUNTRY. WHERE REAL MEN ARE STILL MEASURED BY HOW WELL THEY CAN SHOOT.

Discover the beauty of our Arthur Hills designed 27-hole championship golf course. Immerse yourself in our four-acre water playground. Relax in our world-class spa. It's all part of our Hill Country hospitality. Minutes from the airport, moments from San Antonio attractions. Feel the Hyatt Touch.™ Call 800 55 HYATT or visit hillcountry.hyatt.com.





Sidewalk cafes, boutiques and hotels line the River Walk in San Antonio

RIVER WALK—One level below the downtown streets, the popular Paseo del Rio (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 ANGEL FOLK ART—Offers one of the largest of American and Mexican folk art collections in the state, including works from artists like the Aguilar Familia, Isaac Smith, Medrano and Enrique Verde. Open daily 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Located in historic King Williams District. 110 Blue Star. 210/226-6688. www.sanangelfolkart.com.

SAN ANTONIO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM—This bilingual hands-on museum is 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 more than 80 interactive exhibits. Additionally, the museum hosts a number of ever-changing traveling exhibits as well. Open every day; Sep. - Memorial Day, Mon. 9 a.m. - noon; Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 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 fee.

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, European and American paintings, contemporary art, Oceanic art, decorative art, and near Eastern and Islamic art. Housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery that was built in 1884. 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, Christmas Day, Easter and Fiesta Friday. 200 W. Jones Ave. between Broadway and St. Mary's St. For information, 210/978-8100, or visit www.samuseum.org. Admission fee, except free Tues. 3 - 9 p.m.

SAN ANTONIO ZOO—More than 3,500 animals of 750 different species found in one of the premier zoos in North America. This American Zoo and Aquarium Association-accredited zoo, established in 1914, is first zoo outside of Africa to produce a white rhino calf. A miniature train winds through Brackenridge Park for an 18-minute ride. Cost for the train ride is \$1.75 for kids

ages 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 in Brackenridge Park. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and kids ages 3-11 (ages 2 and under free), \$7 for military.

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL—Construction began on the cathedral shortly after Canary Island colonists, granted land and title by Spain's King Phillip V, settled here 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. Gen. Santa Anna raised the red flag of "no quarter" from the cathedral during the siege of the Alamo; a new dome replaced one that collapsed in 1872. Site of historic papal visit in 1987. 115 Main Plaza between West Market & West Commerce sts. downtown.

SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO—The world's largest marine life adventure and family entertainment park, features popular shows like "Believe," starring world-famous Shamu. High divers, aerialists and swimmers also perform with whales and dolphins. The Lost Lagoon Water Park features a wave pool, water slides and a kid-sized activity area. Other rides include the "Steel Eel" and the "The Great White."

Hammerhead sharks and tropical fish cruise the depths of Sharks/The Coral Reef, while perky penguins frolic in Penguin Encounter. Visit the world-renowned Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale horses, feed and touch Atlantic bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Cove, and learn about endangered Hawaiian monk seals at the Seal and Sea Lion Community.

Open weekends and some weekdays in spring; daily during summer; weekends in fall through Thanksgiving weekend. For schedule and information, call 210/523-3611 or 800/700-7786, or visit www.seaworld.com. At Ray Ellison Dr. and Westover Hills Blvd. off Texas 151, 16 miles northwest of downtown. Admission fee.

SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS—Set in a limestone quarry, the 200-acre park highlights Texas culture and music. Attractions include such rides as "Superman Krypton Coaster," and "Boomerang," a super coaster that throws riders for a loop and then all over again backwards! The park also has two water attractions: Lone Star Lagoon and the five-story Texas Treehouse.

Top-notch live show productions are featured along with top-name concerts in spring and summer months. Fiesta Bay Boardwalk is a '50s-'60s-era boardwalk that features a 90-ft. Ferris wheel and more.

For information, call 800/IS FIESTA (473-4378). Open weekends in spring

LOCCO/PHOTOGRAPHY



and daily in summer months. The park celebrates Fright Fest during Oct. with specially themed shows and entertainment. Closed Nov. - Feb. Off Loop 1604 and I-10. www.sixflags.com.

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 and more. Take I-10 west to Medical Dr.; west on Medical Dr.

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL OF ART AND CRAFT—A community-based professional-level art school, visitors can see contemporary art exhibitions and hear lectures by visiting artists. 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 visitor center museum is open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Ursuline Sales Gallery is open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Restaurant hours for lunch are Mon. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 210/224-1848. 300 Augusta St. at Navarro St., across from Central Library. www.swschool.org.

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. 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 fee.

SPLASHTOWN-SAN ANTONIO—20 landscaped acres of cool water thrills, including Kid's Cove, a children's area with scaled-down rides and slides for the younger set. More than 50 rides include the Siesta Del Rio and the Lone Star Luge, that sends visitors twisting and sliding the length of two football fields. The park also has concession stands, sand volleyball courts, and basketball courts. Open weekends mid-Apr. - late May, daily through mid-Aug., and weekends until mid-Sept. I-35 at Coliseum Rd. Admission fee. 210/227-1100, or visit www.splashtownsa.com.

STEVES HOMESTEAD, THE—Located on the San Antonio River in the King William Historic District, was built in 1876 by Edward Steves, who immigrated to Texas in 1848 and later founded the Steves Lumber Company. Victorian-era mansion also features Carriage House with antique carriages on display, the Gardener's Quarters (now a visitor center) and beautiful landscaping. Operated by the San Antonio Conservation Society. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. 509 King William St. 210/225-5924.

VIA 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—Complex is destination for great entertainment, food, live music and shopping, set in the historic backdrop of the 1902 Southern Pacific train station. Includes four music stages and five dance floors, as well as an array of specialty restaurants. At 1174 E. Commerce St. For information, call 210/222-9481 or visit www.sunset-station.com.

TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL MUSEUM—Museum honors Texas state troopers of yesterday and today. The Hall of Fame tells the stories of officers who were killed 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 fee.

TOWER OF THE AMERICAS—Recently restored and renovated 750-foot tower offers breathtaking view of city from the observation deck, as well as a Texas-themed 4-D multi-sensory theater. Glass-walled elevators ascend over 500 feet to the restaurant and observation level. It was the theme structure for HemisFair in 1968, and symbolizes the progress made by the confluence of civilizations in the Western Hemisphere. Observation deck open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; 4-D Theatre open Sun. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Restaurant open daily. Admission fee and parking fee. At 600 HemisFair Plaza Way. 210/223-3101. www.toweroftheamericas.com

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES AT SAN ANTONIO—Here history is not concerned with dry events, but with the people who accomplished them—people who created the robust kaleidoscope that is Texas today. Don't miss the multimedia show four times daily in the Institute's central dome. Open Tues. - Sun., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. HemisFair Park. For information, call 210/458-2300. www.texancultures.utsa.edu. Admission fee.

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.

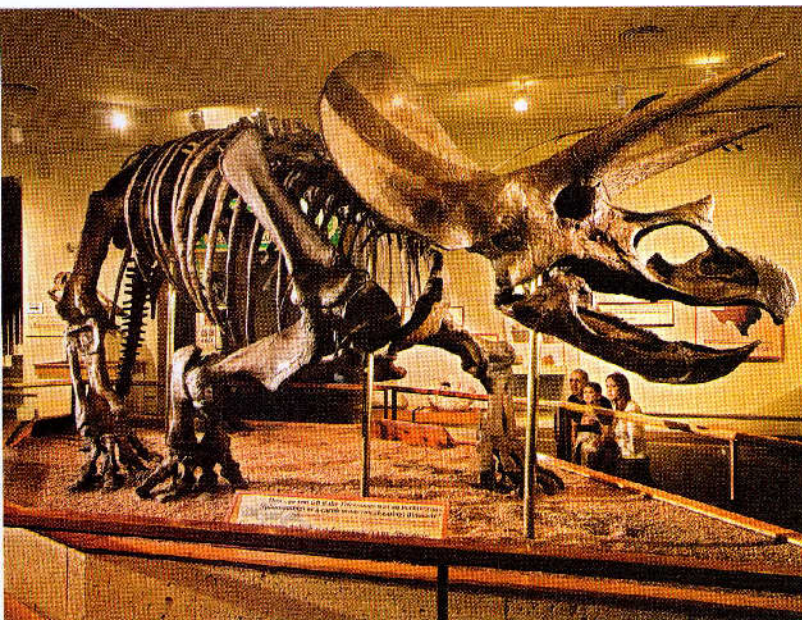
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER—The San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a full-service visitor information center that provides an extensive inventory of helpful brochures and other promotional materials concerning events and sites in and around the city. Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, and at noon on day of Battle of Flowers Parade during Fiesta San Antonio in April. 317 Alamo Plaza. 210/207-6700 or 800/ALAMO-07. Visit www.sanantoniovisit.com.

WILD ANIMAL ORPHANAGE—One of the oldest sanctuaries for unwanted wild and exotic animals in the U.S. and accredited by the American Sanctuary Association. Big cats, bears and monkeys have found homes here along with several other species. Open Wed. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., with last tour beginning at 4:30 p.m. Group tours available by calling in advance. Located between Fiesta Texas and Sea World at 9626 Leslie Rd. For more information, call 210/688-9038 or visit www.wildanimalorphanage.org. Donations requested.

WITTE MUSEUM—San Antonio's premier museum, founded in 1926, featuring unique history, science and cultural exhibits. Visitors can view live theater, national traveling exhibits, dinosaur reproductions, a 2,000-year-old mummy, EcoLab with live animals, Dog Trot and Hill Country log cabins and historical homes on the banks of the San Antonio River.

The four-level H-E-B Science Treehouse, on the museum grounds, houses hands-on science exhibits and activities for all ages. Visitors can launch a tennis ball two stories high, play music with laser beams, watch weather demonstrations and monitor the Witte Weather Station. A two-level treehouse, with panoramic view of wildlife in adjacent Brackenridge Park, is connected to the main Science Treehouse building.

Open Mon., Wed. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. noon - 5 p.m. 3801 Broadway. For information, call 210/357-1900. Admission fee, except free Tues. 3 - 9 p.m. www.wittemuseum.org.



LOOKING UP AT THE WITTE MUSEUM

Witte Museum in San Antonio

SAN JUAN

Pop. 26,229 Alt. 102 Map Y-16/CC-17

GENERAL—In irrigated valley of Rio Grande on Missouri Pacific Railroad; organized 1909, name derived from Spanish name given to 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.

Bed and breakfast accommodations offered in historic buildings.

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-round for simulcasting (televised racing) from tracks around the country. For schedules and information, call 210/651-7000. Exit 174-A off I-35. Admission fee.

VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATER—Located near Retama Park, this 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 due to site location near confluence of Atascosa, Nueces, and Frio rivers. Commercial center for ranching, hunting and fishing, and oil and gas production.

Annual events include the Choke Canyon Birding Festival the first weekend in Feb., and the Three Rivers Salsa Festival the first Sat. in April.

For more information, visit the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce's Visitors Center, located in City Hall, at 105 N. Harborth On U.S. 281 Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Or, call the Chamber at 888/600-3115 or 361/786-4330. www.threeriverstx.org.

CHOKO 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. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

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.

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.

ESTERO LLANO GRANDE STATE PARK—This 176-acre refuge has a varied landscape of shallow lake, woodlands and thorn forest. Located at 3301 S. International Blvd. (F.M. 1015). Hours: May - Oct. Wed. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thurs. till 7 p.m.); Nov. - Apr. Tues. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 956/565-3919 or visit www.worldbirdingcenter.org. Admission fee.

FRONTERA AUDUBON—A 12-acre nature preserve featuring mature native woodlands, trails, wetlands and butterfly gardens. Some target birds include groove-billed ani, long-billed thrasher, olive sparrow and green jay. More than 70 kinds of butterflies have been documented on the property. Visitor's center open Sun. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Located at 1101 South Texas Blvd. (F.M. 88). Admission fee. 956/968-3275 or visit www.fronteraaudubon.org.

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 handcrafted items. Toll bridge crossing. See MEXICO: Entrance and Exit Regulations.

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 BUSINESS-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. 301 W. Railroad St. 888/968-2102 or 956/968-2102. www.weslaco.com.

WESLACO MUSEUM—Artifacts accent daily lives of region's Hispanic and Anglo settlers; a colorful cultural blend. Open Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Donations accepted. 515 S. Kansas Ave.

ZAPATA

Pop. 9,961 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.) There are other sites found throughout county. Town was named in honor of Antonio Zapata, Mexican army officer and fierce fighter. When the Falcon Reservoir flooded the historic old town on the banks of Rio Grande, new Zapata was built on U.S. 83. Zapata is home to Falcon Lake, which covers 87,000 acres, and it is the site of ranching, oil and natural gas production.

Zapata joins Texas under six flags, but also boasts a seventh flag, the Republic of the Rio Grande, that flew over the area from Mar. - Apr. 1840.

Inquire locally about the nature conservatory, which rescues and rehabilitates birds and animals.

Zapata has excellent birdwatching opportunities. The white-collared seedeater has made its home near City Park for years. In addition, the scaled quail, red-billed pigeon, Cassin's & black-throated sparrows, black-tailed gnat-catcher & varied bunting can be seen here. Many other species of birds associated with Lower Rio Grande Valley have been spotted here as well. Excellent hunting and fishing are abundant also.

For information on events, accommodations, and other area attractions, call the Zapata County Chamber of Commerce at or 800/292-LAKE (5253) or 956/765-4871, or visit www.zapatausa.com. E-mail: zapatachamber@bluemoon.cc.

COL. ANTONIO ZAPATA MUSEUM—Houses artifacts such as arrowheads, antique furniture and clothing. Focus of museum often changes with loaned exhibits from area families. Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. On South U.S. 83. For information, call 956/765-3062. No admission fee.

FALCON STATE 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, seasonal snack bar, and 3,500-foot air strip. About 30 miles south via U.S. 83, F.M. 2098, Park Road 46. Admission fee. 800/792-1112.

LAKE—Falcon Reservoir. See LAKES listing.

LA PAZ COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM—Located in a hand-cut sandstone building constructed in 1898 as a 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.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Bed & Breakfast Texas Style

701 Honeysuckle Lane
College Station, TX 77845
979/696-9222
www.bnbteasstyle.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

LBJ Heartland Network

HC 13, Box 4
Fredericksburg, TX 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 Coastal Bend Regional Tourism Council

www.txcoastalbend.org
e-mail: info@txcoastalbend.org

Texas Department of Agriculture, Wine Marketing Assistance Program

P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711
512/475-3303
www.GOTEXANWINE.org

Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism

PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
512/936-0101
www.traveltexas.com

Texas Hill Country River Region

PO Box 288
Concan, TX 78838
800/210-0380
www.thcrr.com

Texas Historic Hotel Association

501 West Main
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830/997-3980

Texas Hotel & Lodging Association

1701 West Ave.
Austin, TX 78701
800/856-4328
www.texaslodging.com

Texas Travel Industry Association

812 San Antonio Street, Suite 401
Austin, TX 78701
512/476-4472
www.ttia.org

Tri-County Tourism Association

PO Box 606
Camp Wood, TX 78833

CAMPING INFORMATION

Texas Association of Campground Owners

6425 So. I-35, Suite 105-110
Austin, TX 78744
800/657-6555
www.gocampingamerica.com/texas

Texas KOA Kampgrounds 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
800/792-1112
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau

1101 N. 1st
P.O. Box 2281, 79604-2281
Phone: 915/676-2556
Toll-free: 800/727-7704
www.abilene.com/visitors

Town of Addison

P.O. Box 9010, 75001-9010
Phone: 972/450-6202
Toll-free: 800/ADDISON
www.addisontexas.net

Alvin Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 2028, 77512
Phone: 281/585-3359
Toll-free: 800/331-4063
www.alvintexas.org

Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council

1000 Polk St.
P.O. Drawer 9480, 79105
Phone: 806/374-1497
Toll-free: 800/692-1338
www.visitamarillotx.com

Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce

130 W. Goodnight Ave., 78336-2508
Phone: 361/758-2750
Toll-free: 800/633-3028
www.aransaspass.org

Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau

1905 East Randol Mill Road, 76011-8214
Phone: 817/461-3888
Toll-free: 800/433-5374
www.arlington.org

Athens Visitor Initiative Program

124 N. Palestine Street, 75751-2004
Phone: 903/677-0775
Toll-free: 888/294-AVIP
www.athenstx.org

Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau

209 E. 6th St., 78701
Phone: 512/474-5171
Toll-free: 866/GO-AUSTIN
www.austintexas.org

Bandera County Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 171, 78003-0171
Phone: 830/796-3045
Toll-free: 800/364-3833
www.banderacowboycapital.com

Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau

20701 I-45, Suite 40, Webster, TX 77598
Phone: 281/338-0333
Toll-free: 800/844-LAKE (5253)
www.visitbayareahouston.com

Bay City Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 768, 77404-0768
Phone: 409/245-8333
Toll-free: 800/806-8333
www.baycity.org

Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 3827, 77704-03827
Phone: 409/880-3749
Toll-free: 800/392-4401
www.beaumontcvb.com

Belton Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 659, 76513-0659
Phone: 254/939-3551
www.beltontxchamber.com

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

215 West Third Street
P.O. Box 1391, 79721-1391
Phone: 915/263-7641
www.bigspringchamber.com

Boerne Convention & Community Center

P.O. Box 1677, 78006-6677
Phone: 830/249-2811
Toll-free: 888/842-8080
www.visitboerne.org

Brady/McCulloch County Chamber of Commerce

Convention & Visitors Bureau
101 E. First St., 76825
Phone: 325/597-3491
Toll-free: 888/577-5657
www.bradytx.com

Brazosport Convention & Visitors Council

420 Hwy. 332 W., 77531-5615
Phone: 979/265-2505
Toll-free: 888/477-2505
www.tourtexas.com/brazosport

Brenham/Washington County Chamber of Commerce & CVB

314 S. Austin Street, 77833
Phone: 979/836-3695
www.brenhamtexas.com

Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 4697, 78523
Phone: 956/546-3721
Toll-free: 800/626-2639
www.brownsville.org

Brownwood Convention & Visitors Bureau

Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 880, 76804
Phone: 325/646-9535
www.brownwoodchamber.org

Bryan-College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau

715 University Dr. E., 77840
Phone: 979/260-9898
Toll-free: 800/777-8292
www.bryan-collegestation.org

Canton Chamber of Commerce

315 First Monday Lane, 75103
Phone: 903/567-2991
www.cantontx.com

Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1435, 78133
Phone: 830/964-2223
Toll-free: 800/528-2104
www.canyonlakechamber.com

Cedar Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 805, 78630-0805
Phone: 512/260-7800
www.cedarparktx.us

Cleburne Chamber of Commerce

1151 W. Henderson St., 76033
Phone: 817/645-2455
Toll-free: 888/5-CLEBURNE
www.cleburnechamber.net

Clifton Chamber of Commerce

115 N. Avenue D, 76634
Phone: 254/675-3720
Toll-free: 800/344-3720
www.clifontexas.org

Clute Visitors Bureau

1014-B Lazy Lane, 77531
Phone: 979/265-2508
Toll-free: 800/GO-CLUTE
www.goclute.com
www.tourtexas.com/southernbrazoria

Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau

425 Spring St.
P.O. Box 98, 78934
Phone: 979/732-5135
Toll-free: 877/444-7339
www.columbus-texas.org

Lake Conroe Convention & Visitor Bureau

P.O. Box 2347, 77305
Phone: 936/539-2502
Toll free: 877/4-CONROE
www.lakeconroectx.org

Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
204 E. Robertson Ave., 76522
Phone: 254/547-7571
www.copperascove.com

Corpus Christi Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
1201 N. Shoreline Blvd., 78401
Phone: 361/881-1888
Toll-free: 800/766-2322
www.corpuschristicvb.org

Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau
325 North St. Paul St., Suite 700, 75270
Phone: 214/571-1301
Toll-free: 800/232-5527
www.dallascvb.com

Decatur Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 474, 76234
Phone: 940/627-3107
www.decatortx.com

Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
1915 Veterans Blvd., 78840
Phone: 830/775-3551
Toll-free: 800/889-8149
www.drchamber.com

Denison Chamber of Commerce/CVB
PO Box 325, 75021
Phone: 903/465-1551
www.denisontexas.com

Denton Convention & Visitor Bureau
P.O. Box 1719, 76202-1719
Phone: 940/382-7895
Toll-free: 888/381-1818
www.discoverdenton.com

City of Duncanville
P.O. Box 380280, 75138-0280
Phone: 972/780-5086

Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1188, 78853-1188
Phone: 830/773-3224
Toll-free: 888/355-3224
www.eaglepasstexas.com

Eden Economic Development Office
P.O. Box 915, 76837
Phone: 325/869-2211 or 325/869-5074
Toll-free: 877/869-2211

Edinburg Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 85, 78540-0085
Phone: 956/383-4974
Toll-free: 800/800-7214

El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau
1 Civic Center Plaza, 79901
Phone: 915/534-0695
Toll-free: 800/351-6024
www.elpasocvb.com

Ennis Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1237, 75120
Phone: 972/878-4748
Toll-free: 888/366-4748
www.visitennis.org

City of Farmers Branch, Tourism Division
P.O. Box 819010, 75234
Phone: 972/919-2512
Toll-free: 800/272-6249
www.ci.farmers-branch.tx.us

Fort Bend Convention & Visitors Services
445 Commerce Green Blvd.
Sugar Land, 77478
Phone: 281/491-0800
www.visitfortbend.com

Fort Stockton Tourism Division
P.O. Box 1000, 79735
Phone: 432/336-8525
Toll-free: 800/334-8525
www.fortstockton.org

Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau
415 Throckmorton, 76102
Phone: 817/336-8791
Toll-free: 800/433-5747
www.fortworth.com

Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
302 East Austin, 78624
Phone: 830/997-6523
Toll-free: 888/997-3600
www.fredericksburg-texas.com

Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 518, 76241
Phone: 940/665-2831
Toll-free: 888/585-4468
www.gainsvilletexas.org

Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
2504 Church St., 77550
Phone: 409/763-6564
Toll-free: 888/GAL-ISLE
www.galvestontourism.com

Garland Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 469002, 75046-9002
Phone: 972/205-2749
Toll-free: 888/879-0264
www.ci.garland.tx.us

Georgetown Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 409
103 W. 7th, 78627-0409
Phone: 512/930-3545
Toll-free: 800/436-8696
www.visitgeorgetown.org

Glen Rose Convention & Visitors Bureau
1047C County Road 333
P.O. Box 233, 76043
Phone: 254/897-3081
Toll-free: 888/346-6282
www.glenrosetexas.net

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
PO Box 134, 78629-0134
Phone: 830/672-6532
www.gonzalestexas.com

Graham Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1449, 76450
Phone: 940/549-0401
Toll-free: 866/549-0401
www.grahamtexas.net/cvb

Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau
100 N. Crockett, 76048
Phone: 817/573-5548
Toll-free: 800/950-2212
www.granburytx.com

Grand Prairie Convention & Visitors Bureau / Tourist Information Center
2170 North Beltline Road, 75050
Phone: 972/263-9588
Toll-free: 800/288-8386
www.gptexas.com

Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau
One Liberty Park Plaza, 76051
Phone: 817/410-3185
Toll-free: 800/457-6338
www.grapevinetexasusa.com

Greenville Chamber of Commerce/ Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1055, 75403
Phone: 903/455-1510
www.greenville-chamber.org

Harlingen Chamber Convention & Visitors Bureau
311 E. Tyler, 78550-9121
Phone: 956/423-5440
Toll free: 800/531-7346
www.harlingen.com

Henderson Area Chamber of Commerce
201 North Main Street, 75652
Phone: 903/657-5528
www.hendersontx.com

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce/ Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 358, 76645
Phone: 254/582-2481
www.hillsborochamber.org

Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau
901 Bagby, Suite 100, 77002
Phone: 713/437-5200
Toll-free: 800/4-HOUSTON
www.visithoustontexas.com

Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau
1327 11th St.
P.O. Box 1230, 77342-0538
Phone: 936/295-8113
Toll-free: 800/289-0389
www.huntsvilletexas.com

Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau
6301 Riverside, Bldg. 1, 75039
Phone: 972/252-7476
Toll-free: 800/247-8464
www.irvingtexas.com

City of Jefferson
102 N. Polk St., 75657-2214
Phone: 903/665-3742
Toll-free: 888/GO-RELAX
www.jefferson-texas.com

City of Johnson City
P.O. Box 485, 78636-0485
Phone: 830/868-7684
www.lbjcountry.com

Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau
2108 Sidney Baker, 78028
Phone: 830/792-3535
www.kerrvilletexas.cc

Kilgore Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1582, 75663-1582
Phone: 903/984-5022
www.kilgorechamber.com

Killeen Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1329, 76540-1329
Phone: 254/501-3888
Toll-free: 800/869-8265
www.killeen-cvb.com

Kingsville Convention & Visitors Bureau
1501 N. Hwy. 77, 78363
Phone: 361/592-8516
Toll-free: 800/333-5032
www.kingsvilletexas.com

La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce
171 S. Main St., 78945
Phone: 409/968-5756
Toll-free: 800/LAGRANG
www.lagrangetx.com

Lampasas Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 627, 76550-0627
Phone: 512/556-5172
www.lampasaschamber.org

Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau
501 San Agustin, 78040
Phone: 956/795-2200
Toll-free: 800/361-3360
www.viva-laredo.com

Lewisville Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau
551 N. Valley Parkway, 75067
Phone: 972/436-9571
Toll-free: 800/657-9571
www.visitlewisville.com

Longview Convention & Visitors Bureau
410 N. Center Street, 75601
Phone: 903/753-3281
www.longviewtx.com

Lubbock Convention & Visitors Bureau
1301 Broadway, Suite 200, 79401
Phone: 806/747-5232
Toll-free: 800/692-4035
visitulubbock.org

Lufkin Convention & Visitors Bureau
1615 S. Chestnut
P.O. Box 1606, 75901
Phone: 936/634-6305
Toll-free: 800/409-5659
www.lufkintexas.org

Marshall Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 520, 75671
Phone: 903/935-7868
Toll-free: 800/953-7868
www.marshalltxchamber.com

McAllen Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 790, 78505-0790
Phone: 956/682-2871
Toll-free: 877/MCALLEEN
www.mcallenchamber.com



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		•	•				•					

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument—Quarries where pre-Columbian Indians dug agatized dolomite to make projectile points, knives, scrapers, and other tools. Guided tours offered by appointment only.

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 more than 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 more than 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
Office of Information
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Phone: 202/208-4747
Web site: www.nps.gov

NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION AREAS	DESIGNATED FEE AREA	PICNICKING	CAMPING	SWIMMING	BOATING	SKIING	SHELTER	CONCESSIONAIRES	SANITARY FACILITIES	HIKING TRAILS	DRINKING WATER	INTERPRETIVE TRAILS
ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST (Ranger office in Lufkin)												
Bouton Lake		•	•		☆				•	•	•	
Boykin Springs		•	•	•	☆		•		•	•	•	
Caney Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Harvey Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sandy Creek		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Townsend		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST (Ranger offices in Crockett)												
Big Slough Canoe Trail					•							
4-C's Hiking Trail										•		
Kickapoo			•						•	•	•	•
Neches Bluff			•						•	•	•	•
Ratchiff Lake		•	•	•	•	☆	•	•	•	•	•	•
SABINE NATIONAL FOREST (Ranger offices in Hemphill)												
Indian Mounds		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Lakeview		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Ragtown		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Red Hills Lake		•	•	•	•	☆	•		•	•	•	•
Willow Oak		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST (Rangers offices in New Waverly)												
Cagle		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Double Lake		•	•	•	•	☆	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kelley Pond				•					•			
Lone Star Hiking Trail										•		
Scott's Ridge		•			•							
Stubblefield Lake		•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•

☆ Electricity, water and sewer hookups on some sites at Double Lake.

☆ Electrical hookups on selected sites at Ratchiff and Red Hills Lake.

☆ No Motors Allowed

Referred to collectively as the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, the Angelina, Sabine, Davy Crockett, and Sam Houston national forests are in the heavily forested "Piney Woods" of East Texas, and the Caddo and Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) national grasslands are in north and northeast Texas. The forests and grasslands are comprised of 63,675,658 acres of federally owned land scattered throughout 15 counties. The U.S. Forest Service manages the National Forests and Grasslands following standards, guidelines, and objectives in the land management plan. Recreation, timber, water, forage, wildlife and wilderness resources are part of the coordinated, balanced plan. Primitive camping is allowed in all areas except where posted. Some areas have loops with electricity; however water or sewer hookups are provided only in the Double Lake Recreation Area in the Sam Houston National Forest. 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 designated 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 153,179 acres in Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties, with nine recreational areas (including trails).

Davy Crockett National Forest—160,653 acres in Houston and Trinity Counties, containing six recreational areas.

Sabine National Forest—Includes 160,656 acres in Jasper, Sabine, San Augustine, Newton and Shelby Counties with nine recreational areas.

Sam Houston National Forest—162,984 acres in Montgomery, San Jacinto and Walker Counties with seven recreational areas.

For information on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas:

Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service
Homer Garrison Federal Bldg
701 N First St
Lufkin TX 75901

Phone: 936/639-8501

McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 618, 75070-0618
Phone: 214/544-1407
Toll-free: 888/649-8499
Fax: 972/542-0926
www.mckinneycvb.org

Mesquite Chamber of Commerce/ Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 850115, 75185-0115
Phone: 972/285-0211
Toll-free: 800/541-2355
www.mesquitechamber.com

Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau
109 N. Main, 79701
Phone: 432/683-3381
Toll-free: 800/624-6435
www.visitmidlandtx.com

Mission Chamber of Commerce
220 E. 9th, 78572-4157
Phone: 956/585-2727
Toll-free: 800/580-2700
www.missionchamber.com

Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1237, 75456-1237
Phone: 903/572-8567
www.mtleasant-tx.com

Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau
200 E. Main, 75961
Phone: 936/564-7351
Toll-free: 888/564-7351
www.visitnacogdoches.org

Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 311417, 78131-1417
Phone: 830/625-2385
Toll-free: 800-572-2626
www.nbcham.org

City of North Richland Hills
7301 N.E. Loop 820, 76180
Phone: 817/427-6090
www.ci.north-richland-hills.tx.us

Odessa Convention & Visitors Bureau
700 N. Grant, Suite 200
P.O. Box 3626, 79760
Phone: 432/333-7871
Toll-free: 800/780-HOST
www.odessacvb.com

Orange Convention & Visitors Bureau
1012 Green Ave., 77630
Phone: 409/883-3536
Toll-free: 800/528-4906
www.orangetexas.org

Palestine Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 2828, 75802
Phone: 903/723-3014
Toll-free: 800/659-3484
www.visitpalestine.com

Paris/Lamar County Chamber of Commerce
1125 Bonham St., 75460
Phone: 903/784-2501
Toll-free: 800/PARISTX
www.paristexas.com

Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB
P.O. Box 27, 79772
Phone: 432/445-2406
www.pecostx.com

Plainview Chamber of Commerce
710 W. 5th St., 79072
Phone: 806/296-7431
Toll-free: 800/658-2685
www.plainviewtx.com

City of Plano/Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 860358, 75086-0358
Phone: 972/422-0296
www.ci.plano.tx.us

Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Port Aransas Convention & Visitors Bureau
403 W. Cotter, 78373
Phone: 956/943-2262
Toll-free: 800/527-6102
www.portaransas.org

Port Arthur Convention & Visitors Bureau
421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd, 78578
Phone: 409/985-7822
Toll-free: 800/235-7822
www.portarthurtexas.com

Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce
2300 Hwy. 35, 77979
Phone: 361/552-2959
Toll-free: 800/556-7678
www.portisabel.org

Port Lavaca/Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce
2300 Hwy. 35, 77979
Phone: 361/552-2959
Toll-free: 800/556-7678
www.portlavacainfo.com

Richardson Convention & Visitors Bureau
411 W. Arapaho Rd., Ste. 105, 75080
Phone: 972/744-4034
Toll-free: 888/690-787
www.richardsontexas.net

Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce
404 Broadway, 78382-2765
Phone: 361/729-6445
Toll-free: 800/826-6441
www.rockport-fulton.org

Rosenberg Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 32, 77471-0032
Phone: 832/595-3524
Toll-free: 866/367-8236
www.rosenbergtourism.com

Round Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau
116 E. Main, 78664
Phone: 512/218-7023
Toll-free: 800/747-3479
www.SportsCapitalofTexas.com

Village of Salado
P.O. Box 219, 76571-0055
Phone: 254/947-8634
www.salado.com

San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau
500 Rio Concho Dr., 76904
Phone: 325/653-1206
Toll-free: 800/375-1206
www.sanangelo.org

San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 2277, 78298
Phone: 210/207-6700
Toll-free: 800/ALAMO-07
www.sanantoniovisit.com

San Marcos Convention & Visitors Bureau
202 N. CM Allen Parkway
P.O. Box 2310, 78667-2310
Phone: 512/393-5900
Toll-free: 888/200-5620
www.toursanmarcos.com

Sealy Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 586, 77474-0586
Phone: 979/885-3222
www.sealycvb.org

Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 710, 78156
Phone: 830/379-6382
Toll-free: 800/580-7322
www.visitseguin.com

Shenandoah Convention & Visitors Bureau
29811 IH-45 N., 77381
Phone: 281/292-5953
Toll-free: 800/207-9463
www.shenandoahtxcvb.com

Sherman Convention & Visitors Council
P.O. Box 1029, 75091-1029
Phone: 903/893-1184
Toll-free: 888/893-1188
www.shermantexas.com

Sonora Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1172, 76950
Phone: 915/387-2880
www.sonoratx-chamber.com

South Padre Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
7355 Padre Blvd., 78597
Phone: 956/761-3005
Toll-free: 800/767-2373
www.sopadre.com

Stephenville Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 306, 76401-0306
Phone: 254/965-5313
Toll-free: 800/658-6490
www.stephenvilletexas.org

Sulphur Springs Tourism & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 347, 75483
Phone: 903/885-6515
Toll-free: 888/300-6623
www.tourtexas.com/sulphursprings
www.sulphursprings-tx.com

Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce & Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1148, 79556
Phone: 915/235-5488
Toll-free: 800/658-6757
www.sweetwatertexas.org

Office of Tourism, City of Temple
Municipal Building, 2 N. Main, 76501
Phone: 254/298-5720
Toll-free: 800/479-0338
www.ci.temple.tx.us

Terrell Chamber of Commerce/CVB
1314 W. Moore (Box 97), 75160
Phone: 972/563-5703
Toll-free: 877/TERRELL
www.terrelltexas.com

Texarkana Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1468, 75504
Phone: 903/792-7191
www.texarkana.org

Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 390, 75710-0390
Phone: 903/592-1661
Toll-free: 800/235-5712
www.tylertexas.com

Uvalde Convention & Visitors Bureau
300 E. Main Ave., 78801
Phone: 830/278-4115
www.uvaldecvb.org

Van Horn Convention Center & Visitors Bureau
1801 W. Broadway
P.O. Box 488, 79855
Phone: 432/283-2682

Vernon Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1538, 76385
Phone: 940/552-2564
Toll-free: 800/687-3137
www.vernontx.com

Victoria Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 2488, 77902
Phone: 361/582-4285
Toll-free: 800/926-5774
www.victoriatexasinfo.com

Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 2570, 76702-2570
Phone: 254/750-5810
Toll-free: 800/922-6386
www.wacocvb.com

Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau
102 YMCA Dr., 75165
Phone: 972/937-2390
www.waxahachiechamber.com

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 310, 76086
Phone: 817/596-3801
Toll-free: 888/594-3801
www.weatherford-chamber.com

Wichita Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau
1000 5th St.
P.O. Box 630, 76307-0630
Phone: 940/716-5500
Toll-free: 800/799-6732
www.wichitafalls.org

Wills Point Chamber of Commerce
307 N. 4th St.
Phone: 903/873-3111
Fax: 903/873-2199
www.willspoint.org



LAKE OF TEXAS

AN ABUNDANCE OF LAKES AND RIVERS, coupled with hundreds of miles of coastal shoreline, offer ample opportunities for anglers to test their skills at fresh- or saltwater fishing year round.

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—968-acre constant-level lake set amid low hills and the famous "Lost Pines" of Bastrop County. Managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority. Two lakeside parks, South Shore Park and North Shore Park, offer recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing. Parks also have RV campsites, mini-cabins, day-use picnic areas, pavilions, boat ramps, courtesy docks, picnic tables, fire rings and grills. North Shore access via Texas 95 north, F.M. 1441 East. South Shore access via local road north from Texas 21 East. For information and park fees, call 800/776-5272, ext. 3366, or visit www.lcra.org/parks.

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 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. 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.

CHOKO 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.

COLETO 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 www.coletocreekpark.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 Gonzales 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 redears. 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, LAKE—2,400-acre constant level lake is among state’s most popular for bass fishing; managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority. Two parks, Oak Thicket Park and Park Prairie Park, provide camping and lake access. Oak Thicket is developed park with RV campsites, shelters, cabins, boat ramp and courtesy dock. Park Prairie offers tent camping, limited facilities and boat ramp. Both parks located east of La Grange on Texas 159. For information and park fees, call 800/776-5272, ext. 3366, or visit www.lcra.org/parks.

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, Winnsboro 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. 60; 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 acres. 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 where 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 picnic 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 identifies 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 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 boaters 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, Grafrod 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, Eurcka, Powell, Kerens, Cayuga, and Fairfield.

S

SABINE LAKE—Common mouth of Sabine and Neches Rivers; main body of lake is about 19 miles long. Fishing from two mile-long levees for saltwater speckled trout, redfish, 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, Broadus, 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, smallmouth 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.

ties, 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 about 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 Granado.

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 more than 80 boat ramps, some of the best fishing in nation. Reservoir maps and information on facilities available at project headquarters, south end of the dam on U.S. 91. A few miles north of Denison via U.S. 91; 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 flood control and water supply reservoir managed by the 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 information on public parks, call 800/776-5272, ext. 3366, or visit www.lcra.org/parks.

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.



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