

TEXAS HIGHWAYS--SAN AUGUSTINE "WHERE..."--MALLORY

San Augustine is located in East Texas on Texas 21 (El Camino Real) halfway between Nacogdoches and the Louisiana border, approximately three hours from Houston and four hours from Dallas.

Start your visit at the Civic and Tourism Center, 611 W. Columbia (same as Texas 21), housed in a log building on Ayish Bayou. Out front, look for the Court of Nine Flags (six flags of Texas, the Fredonia Rebellion flag, the city flag, and one rotating historical flag). Pick up a driving map of the "Cradle History's Trail." Follow the signs past 20 historic sites, homes, and churches on a leisurely one to two hour tour.

Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4, enjoy a guided tour of the historic 1839 Ezekiel Cullen House (205 South Congress), a classic Greek Revival structure operated by the local Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Noted builder Augustus Phelps designed the Cullen House. The tour goes by two other Phelps homes--the Matthew Cartwright House (912 Main) and the Colonel Stephen William Blount House (502 E. Columbia), both private residences.

The tour also passes four of the state's oldest continuously operating Protestant churches: the 1838 First Methodist Church (Liberty at Market Streets); the 1848 Christ Episcopal Church (201 South Ayish); the 1838 Memorial Presbyterian Church (205 East Livingston) and the 1845 Jerusalem C.M.E. Church (Livingston at Goldenway Streets). To reach the equally historic McMahan's Methodist Chapel (organized 1838), take scenic Texas 21 east approximately nine miles to County Road 35, turn right, and drive two more miles to the church.

Drive by the oldest church in town, St. Augustine Catholic Church (Harrison at Market Streets), with roots dating to Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Aies.

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To reach the old Spanish mission site, go south on Broadway Street, which becomes Texas 147, and watch for the marker before you come to Front Street.

On the north side of the courthouse square, look for the statue of San Augustine native J. Pinckney Henderson, the state's first governor.

Go west on Texas 21 just past the city limits (watch for the #9 historical marker on the right) to gabled William Garrett Plantation House, built in 1860 by slaves, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Movie crews filmed part of the 1987 movie "After the Rain" at the house, located directly on a red dirt portion of the El Camino Real. Continue further west on Texas 21 approximately 12 miles to the 1826 Milton Garrett House, a rare pre-Republic log cabin.

San Augustine offers three bed and breakfast lodgings.

The 1902 Capt. E.D. Downs Victorian home (301 E. Main) features five bedrooms, including a popular downstairs suite. The B&B's specialty is a big country breakfast. Rates are \$40 single and \$65 couple. Wheelchair accessible downstairs. Call Dorothy Fussell at 409/275-5305 or 275-5305.

The Wade House (128 E. Columbia) offers five guest rooms ranging from \$40 to \$80. Wheelchair accessible, the B&B offers a continental breakfast. For reservations call owners Nelsyn or Julia Wade at 409/275-5489 or 275-2553.

The Greer Goetz Elangeni House (200 Planters) rents for \$85 per night. Call owner Curt Goetz at 409/275-5433 or fax 409/275-9447.

San Augustine's main historical festival is the annual spring homes tour held the last Saturday of April (April 29, 1995), headquartered at the Cullen House. For details, call local DRT President Verline Stewart, 409/275-3477 or write Cullen House, 205 S. Congress, San Augustine 75972.

Other festivals include Pinefest (arts and crafts, homes tour, food, and wagon rides), the third Saturday of May (May 20, 1995), held in conjunction with the Wild West Rodeo the same weekend. The annual Sassafras Festival (barbecue and gumbo cook-

offs, balloon race, kids carnival, and entertainment) is set for the last Saturday of October (October 29, 1994).

For information on attractions and events, write San Augustine Chamber of Commerce, 611 W. Columbia, San Augustine 75972 or call 409/275-3610.

For information and maps on the Angelina National Forest, write Angelina District, Box 756, Lufkin 75902, or call 409/634-7709. For the upper Sabine National Forest write Tenaha District, 101 S. Bolivar, San Augustine 75972 or call 409/275-2632. For the lower Sabine National Forest write Yellowpine District, Box F, Hemphill 75948, or call 409/787-3870.

For details on Toledo Bend write Sabine River Authority, Toledo Bend Division, Rt. 1, Box 270, Burkeville 75932, or call 409/565-2273. For Sam Rayburn Reservoir write Rt. 3, Box 486, Jasper 75951, or call 409/384-5716.

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