

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL

R E G I O N

This travel guide is made possible through the Texas Historical Commission's partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, Office of the Governor – Economic Development and Tourism, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Texas Historical Commission, the state agency for historic preservation, administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program

The Texas Historical Commission is a leader in implementing and promoting heritage tourism efforts in Texas. The Texas Heritage Trails Program is the agency's award-winning tourism initiative.

For additional copies of this brochure, call 866.276.6219.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE: 512.463.6100 • FAX: 512.463.6374
www.thc.state.tx.us



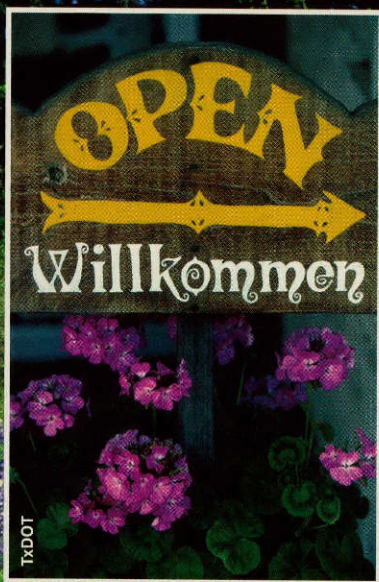
It's like a whole other country.

Funding provided through TxDOT's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program
Copyright © 2010 Texas Historical Commission. Printed in Florida. 4/10-550M
Background: TxDOT



**EXPLORING THE MYSTIQUE
OF CENTRAL TEXAS**

*Inset: Fredericksburg's German heritage is displayed throughout the town;
Background: Bluebonnets near Marble Falls*

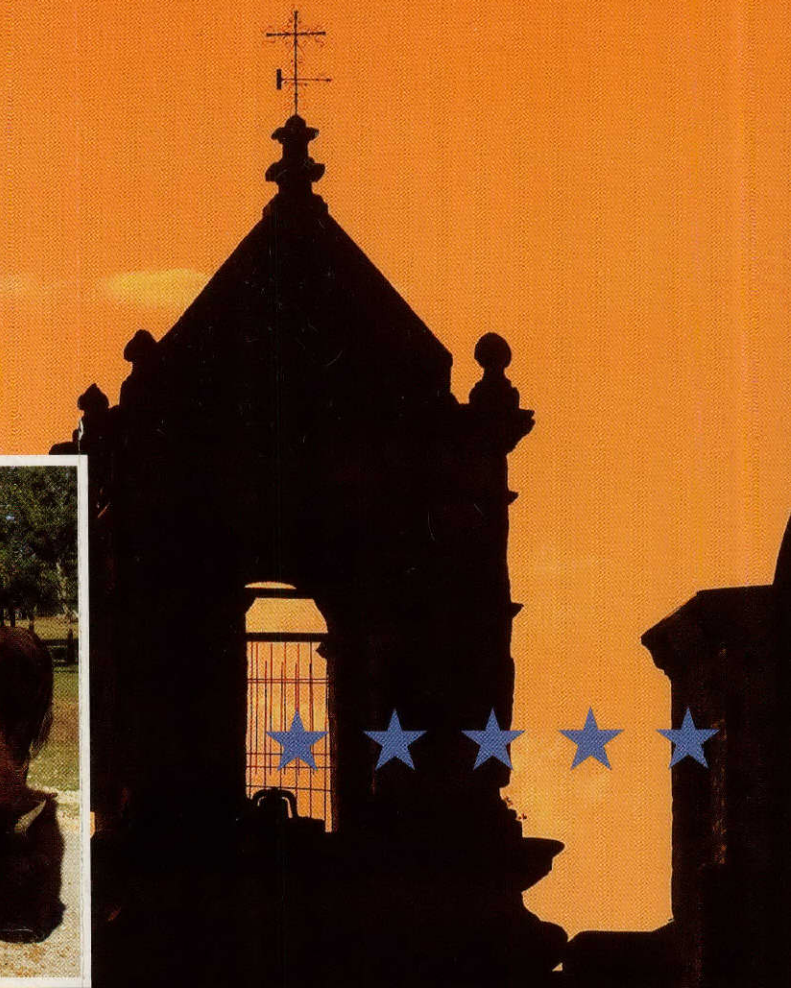
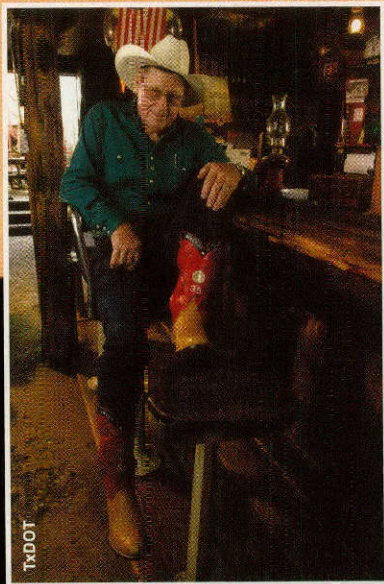
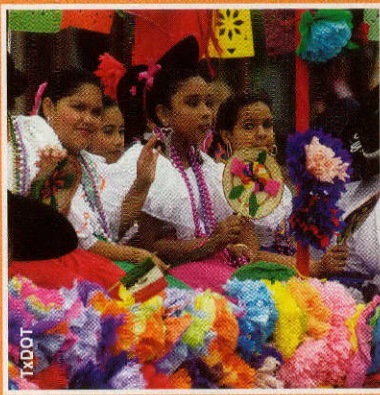


Green hills roll like waves to the horizon. Clear streams babble below rock cliffs. Wildflowers blanket valleys in a full spectrum of color. Such scenic beauty stirs the spirit in the Texas Hill Country Trail Region. The area is rich in culture and mystique, from flourishing vineyards and delectable cuisines to charming small towns with a compelling blend of diversity in heritage and history.

The region's 19 counties form the hilly eastern half of the Edwards Plateau. The curving Balcones Escarpment defines the region's eastern and southern boundaries. Granite outcroppings in the Llano Uplift mark its northern edge. The region includes two major cities, Austin and San Antonio, and dozens of captivating communities with historic downtowns.

Millions of years ago, geologic forces uplifted the plateau, followed by eons of erosion that carved out hills more than 2,000 feet in elevation. Water filtered through limestone bedrock, shaping caverns and vast aquifers feeding into the many Hill Country region rivers that create a recreational paradise.

*Scenic beauty,
Small-town
charm*



Paleoindian hunter-gatherers roamed the region during prehistoric times. Water and wildlife later attracted Tonkawa, Apache and Comanche tribes, along with other nomads who hunted bison and antelope. Eighteenth-century Spanish soldiers and missionaries established a presidio and five missions in San Antonio, which became the capital of Spanish Texas.

Native American presence deterred settlements during the era when Texas was part of New Spain and, later, Mexico. After Texas gained its independence from Mexico (1836) and established statehood (1845), Americans (largely from Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri) and German immigrants settled farms and founded villages. Native American resistance clashed with pioneer persistence, and violence occasionally erupted.



*Head for the hills to experience
dramatic nature and history*


The Civil War divided the Hill Country. German-established counties split between those that held anti-slavery sentiments and others that aligned with the Confederacy. After the war, cattlemen spurred economic recovery by driving South Texas longhorns through the region along the Western and Chisholm trails, herding millions of head of cattle to the Kansas railheads until the 1880s.

By 1900, Native American raids ended, railroads arrived and the frontier was a fading memory. Cattle ranchers also raised sheep and goats, spawning a wool and mohair industry. The burgeoning capital of Austin took on a more distinguished metropolitan design, attracting such legendary figures as the eminent European sculptor Elisabet Ney and budding journalist William Sydney Porter, who later gained worldwide fame under the pen name, O. Henry.

The Hill Country also shaped two of America's most colorful and powerful politicians. Uvalde Congressman John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner became President Franklin Roosevelt's vice president during the 1930s Depression. He guided New Deal programs through Congress, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, which built the region's first parks, including Blanco State Park, Garner State Park, Inks Lake State Park and Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery. Another New Deal supporter and rising political star was then-Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson, who went on to become president during the turbulent and pivotal 1960s.

*Far left: Cinco de Mayo, San Marcos;
Sunrise Exotic Ranch, south of Dripping Springs;
Arkey Blue at his Silver Dollar Saloon, Bandera*

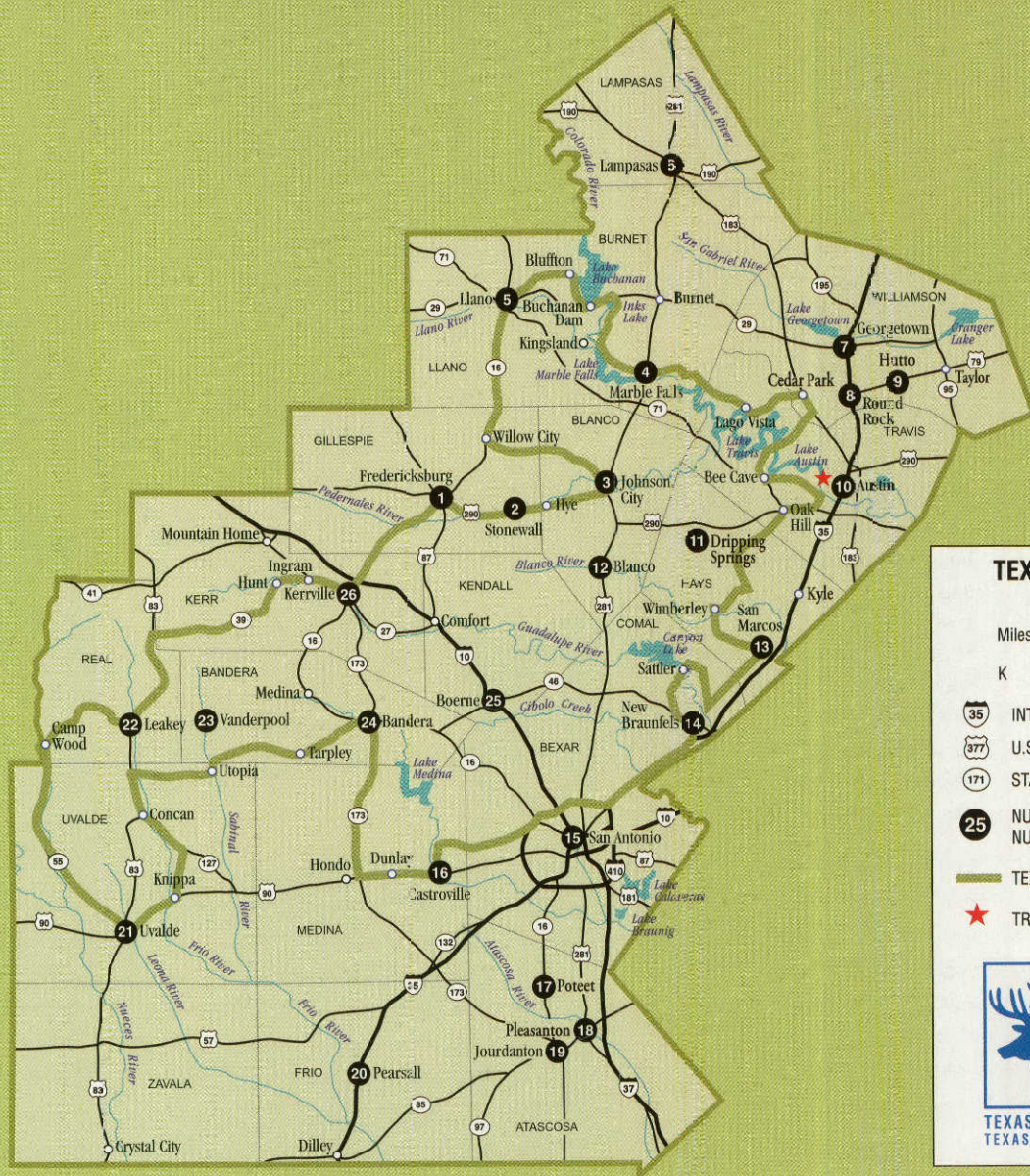
*Background: Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo,
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park*



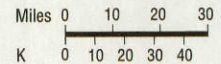
Throughout World War II, Austin and San Antonio played important roles as homes to large military installations and home front industries. Flight training airfields were also established in San Marcos, Hondo and Uvalde.

The post-war decades were good to the region, with rapid growth in Austin and San Antonio and a broadening ethnic diversity. Today, the Texas Hill Country Trail Region is one of the most popular travel destinations in Texas.

So head for the hills and discover stunning vistas and amazing caverns. Hike dramatic canyons and float lazy rivers. Explore roller coaster back roads and picturesque towns. Experience the history of the Texas Hill Country Trail Region by following in the footsteps of Native Americans and Spanish missionaries, German immigrants and Anglo pioneers, cattle drovers and powerful politicians — and stand on the stage of the real places where the real stories happened.



TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL REGION



- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- NUMBERS ON MAP MATCH NUMBERS IN ITINERARY
- TEXAS TRAVEL TRAIL
- TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

The following cities are described in this guide, and the number refers to the city's location on the map.

AUSTIN	10	DRIPPING SPRINGS	11	JOURDANTON	19	MARBLE FALLS	4	ROUND ROCK	8
BANDERA	24	FREDERICKSBURG	1	KERRVILLE	26	NEW BRAUNFELS	14	SAN ANTONIO	15
BLANCO	12	GEORGETOWN	7	LAMPASAS	6	PEARSALL	20	SAN MARCOS	13
BOERNE	25	HUTTO	9	LEAKEY	22	PLEASANTON	18	STONEWALL	2
CASTROVILLE	16	JOHNSON CITY	3	LLANO	5	POTEET	17	UVALDE	21
								VANDERPOOL	23



www.thc.state.tx.us/travel
www.txhillcountrytrail.com

AUSTIN

In 1839, the Republic of Texas selected a Colorado River site called Waterloo for its capital and renamed it after empresario Stephen F. Austin; 50 years later, the State of Texas built the current Renaissance Revival-style State Capitol. Daily tours delve into the Capitol's art and architecture and the workings of Texas government. Historical monuments dot the grounds, which also contain the oldest state structure, the 1850s General Land Office, now the Capitol Visitors

Center, featuring rotating exhibits and a pictorial history of the Capitol's restoration.

France recognized the Texas Republic and, in 1839, sent a diplomat, Alphonse Dubois, who built a fine residence and legation in 1840–41. Dr. Joseph Robertson bought the house after statehood, and it stayed in his family a century. The French Legation Museum now features the original house, plus a replicated kitchen and carriage house. Period furnishings from Dubois and the Robertsons honor an elegant era when Texas was young.

The Republic of Texas Museum rekindles the Texas Revolution through displays of rare artifacts, including textiles

Alphonse Dubois' bedroom on tour, French Legation Museum, Austin

from prominent frontier families. Dioramas made for the 1936 Texas Centennial portray events like the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto, where General Sam Houston defeated Mexican General Santa Anna. Santa Anna's dueling pistols and cut-glass jewelry box are on display, along with a dining chair captured from his Mexican castle during the 1846 U.S.-Mexico War.

Interior view of the rotunda dome, Texas State Capitol, Austin

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Scarborough Barn, Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms, Austin

Master architect Abner Cook built many fine residences, the most intact of which is the 1855 Neill-Cochran House. Constructed of exposed limestone and longleaf pine, the two-story Greek Revival-style mansion has Doric columns and a cantilevered balcony. The house once served as a school for the blind and a Civil War hospital. Its name came from later owners, Andrew Neill and Judge T.B. Cochran. Splendid Victorian furnishings decorate the house, reflecting Austin's sophistication in the late 1800s.

Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms demonstrates the rigors and joys of 19th century farm life. A walking tour includes village square stores, homes and three farms where reenactors tend crops, work animals and perform chores. The James Bell home and detached kitchen embodies a prosperous cotton grower's life.

The Frederick Jourdan cabin and outbuildings

replicate an 1870s homestead. The

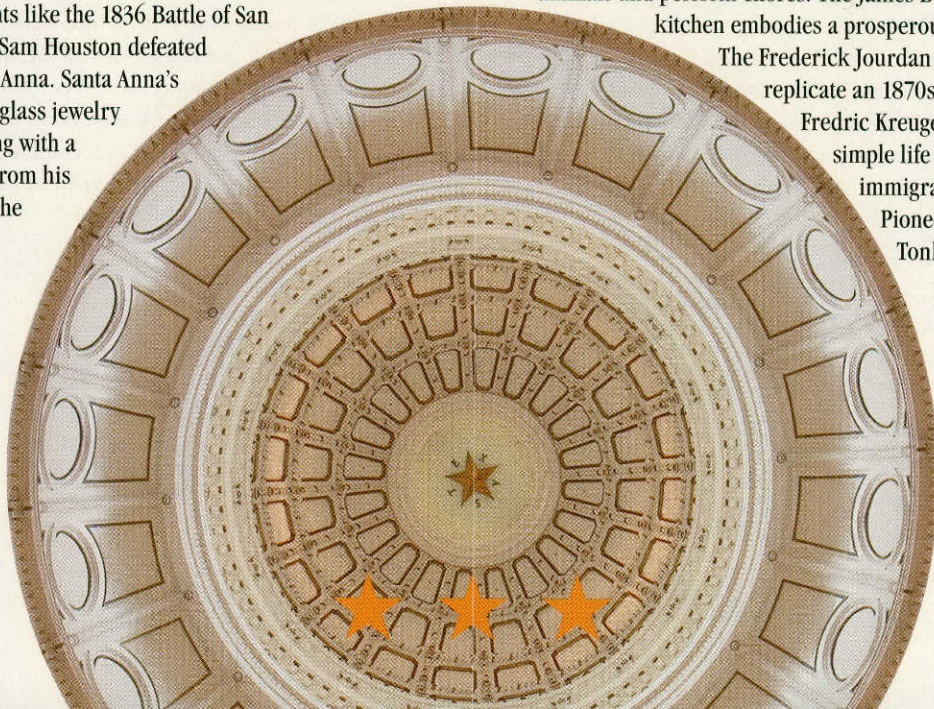
Fredric Kreuger Farm reflects the

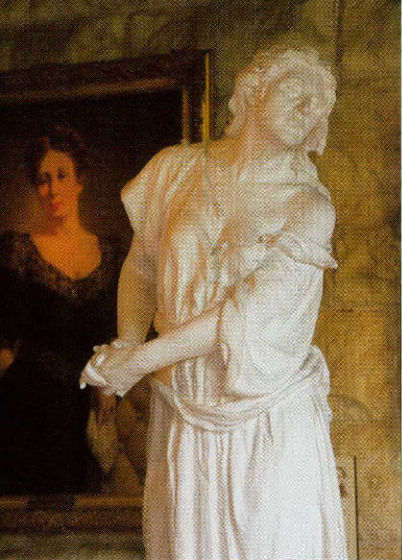
simple life of 1860s German

immigrants. Jourdan-Bachman

Pioneer Farms also features a

Tonkawa Indian campsite.





*Ella Dancy Dibrell with Lady Macbeth,
Elisabet Ney Museum, Austin*

In 1892, German sculptor Elisabet Ney built Formosa, a limestone Greek Revival-style studio. There she sculpted prominent Texans, including Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, works which are now displayed in the Texas Capitol. In 1902, she added living quarters and a tower study for her husband, scientist Dr. Edmund Montgomery. The Elisabet Ney Museum looks much as it did in 1907 when the artist and arts advocate died. Sculptures and models stand where she worked, and panels explain her sculpting process.

Austin was also home to William Sydney Porter, a General Land Office draftsman and journalist. An Austin bank job led to embezzlement charges and prison time. In prison, he wrote short stories under the pen name O. Henry, which launched a successful writing career. His Austin residence (1893–1895) is now the O. Henry Museum, a tribute to the intense life of a master storyteller. Next door is the 1860s Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hannig House Museum, home of Susanna Dickinson, who survived the Battle of the Alamo.

The 1936 Texas Centennial spawned the Texas Memorial Museum, which opened in 1939 as Austin's first state museum. The museum explores natural science through displays of artifacts selected from the five-million-specimen collection of the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. Soaring above the entry hall is the skeleton of the largest known flying creature, a 40-foot-wingspan Texas Pterosaur that lived in West Texas 65 million years ago. The Hall of Geology and Paleontology showcases other dinosaur and fossil finds. Outside are the dinosaur tracks of a 60-foot-long sauropod, discovered north of Glen Rose. The Hall of Texas Wildlife spotlights diverse native species.

The UT at Austin campus is also home of the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Library and Museum. The striking white marble building houses multimedia and artifact-rich exhibits that chronicle Johnson's life and times. Displays cover his early Hill Country years, rise to political prominence and presidency — from the Great Society to the Vietnam War. Visitors stroll through a reproduction of his Oval Office into exhibits about Lady Bird Johnson's life as first lady and listen to a life-like animatronic LBJ that tells a few of the president's favorite stories.

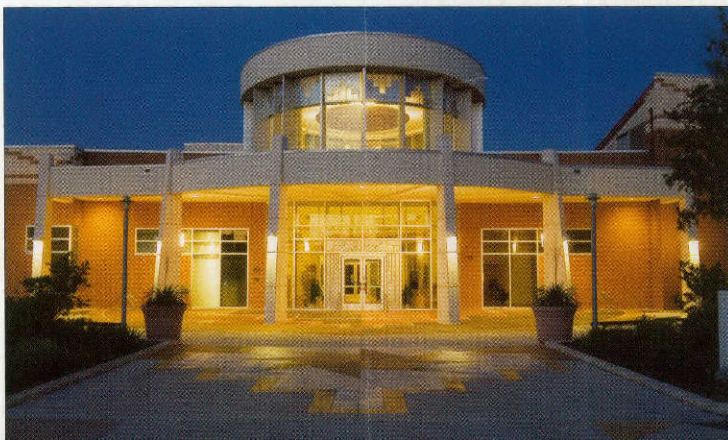
Minutes from the LBJ Library and Museum, on the southwest edge of the UT campus, is the Harry Ransom Center. The library and archive specializes in the collection of literary and cultural artifacts from the U.S. and Europe.

The center houses 36 million written manuscripts, five million photographs, more than 100,000 works of art and one million rare books, the most impressive of which is a 15th century Gutenberg Bible.

Next to the university campus is the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, named after the heritage-minded state lieutenant governor. A four-story rotunda centers on a 40-foot-diameter terrazzo floor of iconic images and a Texas Ranger's badge embedded in the surface. Films provide historical overviews of the stirring story of Texas. Permanent and short-term exhibits fill in the details. Interactive computer kiosks offer further exploration. Historic objects range from a cannon from the *Belle* (French Explorer LaSalle's ship that sank in 1686) to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) control panel. The museum also features an IMAX theater.



Onion Creek, McKinney Falls State Park, Austin



*George Washington Carver Museum
and Cultural Center, Austin*



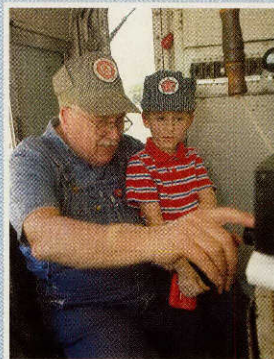
The Golden Standard, Texas Military Forces Museum, Austin

The Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry recounts the exploits of the Texas National Guard in wars from the Texas Revolution to today. A 1918 mess hall houses thousands of war relics and historic photos. Artifacts from the 36th Infantry Division include German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's hat captured in North Africa during World War II. Other exhibits cover historical gems such as the Choctaw Indian code talkers of World War I and the "Lost Battalion" of World War II fighting in Europe. Camp Mabry also displays military vehicles, artillery and aircraft.

African Americans have called Austin home since its inception. Mahala Murchison lived in the new colony in 1839 when the earlier village of Waterloo was designated the capital of the Republic of Texas. Later came horse breeder Daniel Alexander, preacher Jacob Fontaine and educator L.C. Anderson. The inspiring legacies of freed slaves are told at the George Washington Carver Museum through exhibits, art and photography, lectures and performances. A hands-on center teaches children about museum namesake George Washington Carver and other African American scientists. Multimedia exhibits examine the Juneteenth celebration and local family histories.

In the 1850s, Thomas F. McKinney established a racehorse ranch on Onion Creek. The ruins of his two-story, slave-built home and trainer's cabin remain in scenic McKinney Falls State Park near Austin. A visitors center offers exhibits on McKinney and park history.

STEAM TRAINS: RIDING THE RAILS



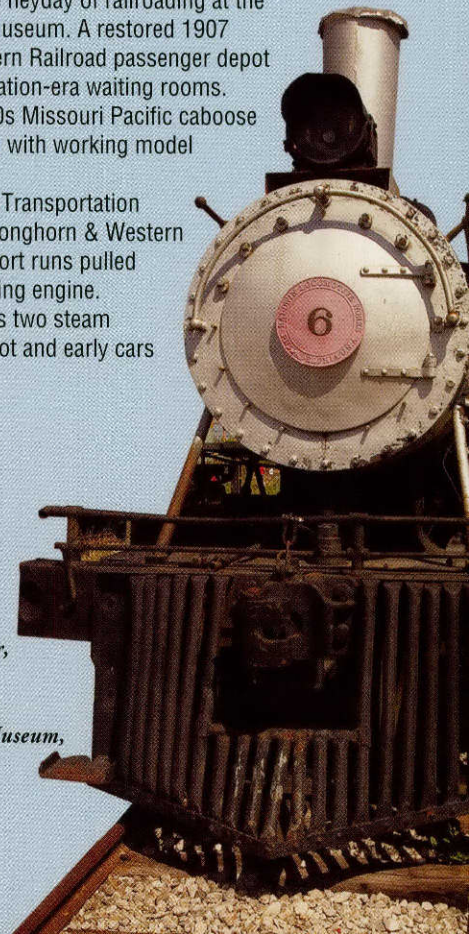
In 1882, the Austin and Northwest Railroad's line extended from Austin to Burnet. That scenic line now carries excursions of the Austin Steam Train. A 1916 Southern Pacific steam engine serves the line (undergoing restoration, the steamer resumes service in 2010). A 1960s diesel engine also carries passengers in coach, excursion and lounge cars dating to the 1920s. Rides include the Hill Country Flyer, a 66-mile roundtrip between Burnet and Cedar Park, and

the Bertram Flyer, a 47-mile roundtrip between Cedar Park and Bertram.

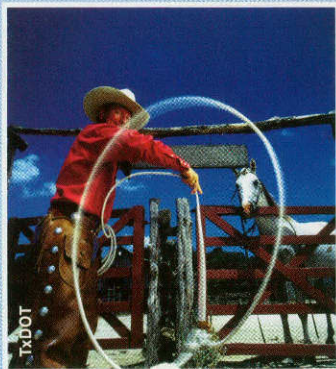
Rail fans rekindle the heyday of railroading at the New Braunfels Railroad Museum. A restored 1907 International-Great Northern Railroad passenger depot houses exhibits in segregation-era waiting rooms. Outside is a restored 1950s Missouri Pacific caboose and a baggage room filled with working model train layouts.

San Antonio's Texas Transportation Museum is home to the Longhorn & Western Railroad, which makes short runs pulled by a vintage diesel switching engine. The museum also displays two steam locomotives, a 1940s depot and early cars and carriages.

Fireman with young visitor, Texas Hill Country Flyer historic train; Steam train at Texas Transportation Museum, San Antonio



DUDE RANCHES: HOOPS AND HERITAGE



Relive the heyday of the Texas cattle drive at family-friendly dude ranches in the Texas Hill Country Trail Region.

During the late 1800s, tough cowboys drove millions of cattle from South Texas to the Bandera-Kerrville area. From there, they trekked the Western Trail north to the Kansas railheads. The arrival of barbed wire and railroads helped close the open range.

Cattlemen established Hill Country ranches that also raised goats and sheep. Merchant, banker and rancher Capt. Charles Schreiner amassed a half million acres, including the Y.O. Ranch near Kerrville. The Schreiner family still runs the Y.O., where guests sample the Old West through horseback trail rides, log cabin lodging, cowboy cooking and wildlife viewing.

In the 1920s, Bandera ranchers diversified their operations by welcoming visitors. The self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World" boasted 17 dude ranches by 1948. A dozen or so area ranches still cater to heritage tourists — including the historic Dixie Ranch (established in 1937), Twin Elm Ranch (1939) and Mayan Ranch (1950s). Dude ranches offer scenic horseback riding, barbecue cookouts, cowboy music and comfortable rustic lodging. Some hold weekly summer rodeos and rodeo events throughout the year. Ranches on the Medina River also offer tubing and canoeing.

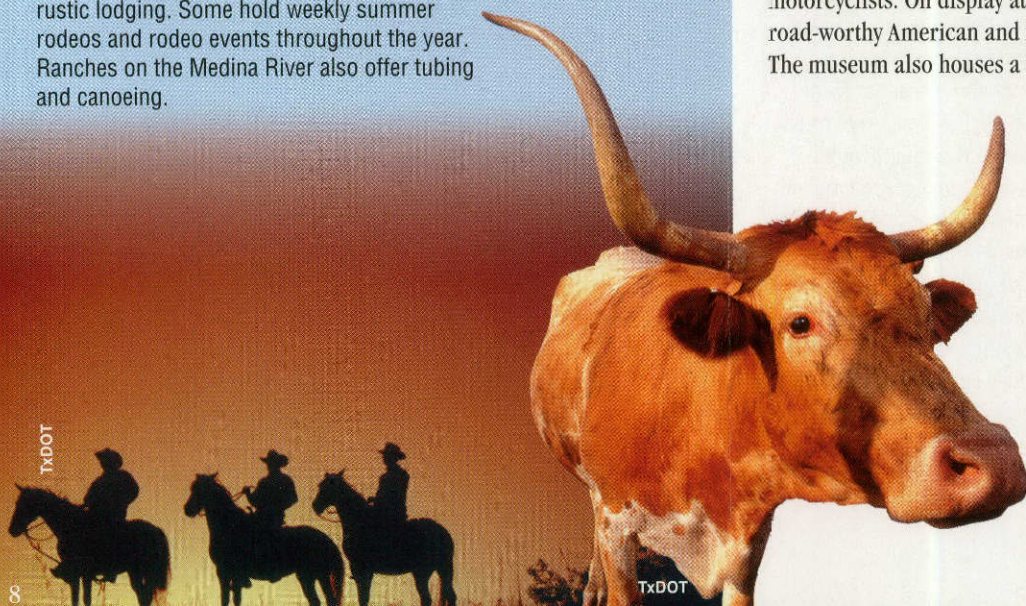


Early county officials and pioneers, Frontier Times Museum, Bandera

BANDERA

Established in 1856 as the county seat, Bandera has a rich culture of Wild West tradition complete with cowboys, ranchers, rodeos and a number of historic ranches still in operation today. The Frontier Times Museum is in a stone building constructed in 1933 by J. Marvin Hunter, publisher of an Old West magazine called *The Frontier Times*. Display cases contain an array of unusual cultural treasures — from a prehistoric basket and a rare painted Native American buffalo hide, to a homemade steam-powered tractor and a South American shrunken head. There's even an 1850s camel's hair pillow made at Camp Verde, where the U.S. Army launched camel treks. Relics are embedded in the walls — such as fossils, petrified wood, a Native American grindstone and a millstone brought to Bandera in the 1850s by Mormon settlers.

More than 30 miles to the west, **Vanderpool** is the perfect site for the Lone Star Motorcycle Museum. The town lies on Ranch Road 337, one of several scenic byways in the region popular with motorcyclists. On display at the museum, some 50 restored and road-worthy American and foreign motorcycles date from the 1910s. The museum also houses a café and gift shop.



BLANCO

Blanco's historic downtown centers on the 1885 Blanco County Courthouse. The Second Empire building was a courthouse for only five years, until the county seat moved to Johnson City. The structure later served as a school, bank and hospital. The restored Old Blanco County Courthouse is now a community and visitors center. Lining the halls are historic photographs donated by county residents. One photo shows women cooking barbecue for a Lyndon B. Johnson presidential campaign stop. Another has Western-garbed locals hamming it up during play rehearsal in the upstairs former courtroom. Others show existing buildings when they were new, including an 1850s one-room school, an 1870s gristmill and a 1930s theater.

BOERNE

The town was formed in the late 1840s by German immigrant "free thinkers" who distrusted religion and banned churches. Named after author Ludwig Boerne, the bucolic location proved healthful and a tourist industry sprang up. After the railroad arrived in 1887, farmers and ranchers gained distant markets for their local wool, grains and cotton. The Agricultural Heritage Museum preserves farm and ranch heritage through antique implements, tools and artifacts. Blacksmith and woodworking shops come alive during weekend demonstrations of belt-driven tools. Dozens of tractors, planters, harvesters and other implements show how early farmers worked. The museum also fields a vintage baseball team, the Boerne White Sox, that plays by 1860s rules in a statewide heritage league.



Vintage baseball team Boerne White Sox, sponsored by the Agricultural Heritage Museum, Boerne

CASTROVILLE

Castroville has rightfully been honored by the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award for cultural and historic preservation. Town namesake and French empresario Henri Castro brought Alsatian farmers to the Medina River in the 1840s. The Steinbach House demonstrates the Old World charm of pioneer fachwerk (half-timbered) construction. Donated in 2002 by the village of Wahlbach, France, the 17th-century traditional house — fully furnished in period pieces — serves as a visitors center.

A commercial complex arose in the 1850s where the San Antonio-El Paso Road crossed the Medina River. Two entrepreneurs built a rock dam and raceway for a gristmill and later, a cotton gin. Irish merchant John Vance turned an existing house and store into the Vance Hotel. Just before the Civil War, he added a larger house and a traveler's bathhouse. In 1925, Jordan T. Lawler bought the complex and converted the mill into Castroville's first electric power plant.

Today, the five-acre complex is the Landmark Inn State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property. The historic inn offers pleasant waterside grounds, bed-and-breakfast lodging and the old mill. Photographs and interpretive panels paint a picture of how merchants and travelers once lived and worked.



Bed and breakfast, Landmark Inn State Historic Site, Castroville

DRIPPING SPRINGS

In 1853, three Mississippi families settled along the Austin-Fredericksburg Road at today's Dripping Springs. A physician named Dr. Joseph M. Pound and his wife, Sarah, built a one-room log cabin where they raised nine children. A Methodist circuit rider held services in the cabin. The Pounds added a wood-frame parlor with dog trot breezeway and an office where the doctor saw patients. They also built a kitchen and dining room over a reservoir for easy water access. Now preserved as the Dr. Pound Pioneer Farmstead, the site looks much today as it did a century ago.

The home is filled with family heirlooms, including Dr. Pound's desk, medical instruments and apothecary relics. There is also a homemade 1861 flag that decorated the doctor's horse during Confederate training exercises. The wooded grounds also contain a smokehouse, barn, corral, windmill and "hot frame" cellar — a building used much like a greenhouse, but primarily to start seedlings.

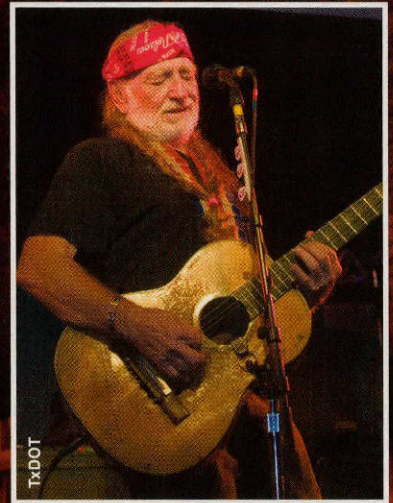
Early German-Texans built large wood-frame structures as community centers and dancehalls to carry on honored Old World music and dance.

Centered on a spacious wooden dance floor, the typical hall had a vaulted ceiling, plus ample windows and fans for ventilation. Brass bands performed “oompah” music from bandstands as dancers swirled to polkas and waltzes. Between dances, locals took time to chat and wet their whistles at benches and tables surrounding the dance floor.

That same laid-back ambiance lives on in venerable dancehalls across the Hill Country. Some halls still showcase German music and dance. Most keep couples waltzing and Texas two-steppin’ to the rhythms of country music and western swing.

Perhaps the best-known Hill Country dancehalls are Gruene Hall near New Braunfels and Luckenbach Dance Hall near Fredericksburg. Other historic halls include Twin Sisters Dancehall near Blanco, Kendalia Halle near Boerne, Anhalt Hall in Spring Branch and Floore’s Country Store in Helotes.

Cowboy dancehalls in Bandera — including Arkey Blue’s historic Silver Dollar Saloon, established in the 1930s — offer honky-tonk music and dancing.



Willie Nelson, Floore’s Country Store, Helotes

*Oompahs
and Yee-haws!*



Above: Gruene Hall, New Braunfels;
Background photo: Arkey Blue’s Silver Dollar Saloon, Bandera

FREDERICKSBURG

Founded in 1846, the town's German colony leader John Meusebach and local Comanche Indians signed a peace treaty in 1847 that was never broken. Industrious immigrants quickly built the town's first public structure, the octagonal Vereins Kirche (Society Church). It served various functions for more than 50 years as a church, school, fortress and meeting hall, before being torn down. The Depression-era Civil Works Administration helped locals construct a replica in time for the 1936 Texas Centennial. Today, the Vereins Kirche Museum offers artifacts and historical photos depicting German-Texan culture.

Heinrich Kammlah built a house, smokehouse and barn in 1849 near the Vereins Kirche. The Kammlah family gradually expanded the house into an 11-room residence and general store. The restored homestead stands at the heart of the Pioneer Museum. The four-acre historical village also includes the 1876 Fassel-Roeder House, 1880s Walton-Smith log cabin, 1904 Weber Sunday House and fire department museum. Periodic events demonstrate pioneer skills.

Early travelers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road stayed at the Nimitz Hotel, built in 1855 by German immigrant and ex-seaman Charles H. Nimitz, who gave the structure a steamboat-shaped façade. The hotel now houses Nimitz family memorabilia as part of the National Museum of the Pacific War State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property. The six-acre complex pays tribute to those who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Special exhibits chronicle the career of Charles' grandson, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, led the combined military forces of the U.S. to victory over Japan in World War II.



Daryl Whitworth

Peach blossoms, Fredericksburg; National Museum of the Pacific War, located in the historic Nimitz Hotel, Fredericksburg

The museum's new 33,000-square-foot George H.W. Bush Gallery uses high-impact multimedia presentations, elaborate exhibits and computer kiosks to retrace the causes, conduct and legacy of the war. Visitors seem in the thick of action at realistic scenes centered on one-of-a-kind artifacts: a Japanese mini-submarine captured at Pearl Harbor; an American B-25 bomber; the pilot house of a U.S. Navy cruiser; and the wreckage of a Japanese dive bomber. The Pacific Combat Zone, a three-acre exhibition, has both indoor and outdoor exhibits that feature a number of impressive artifacts. These include a restored Patrol Torpedo-Boat 309 and a duplicate of a Pacific island battleground where periodic living history programs provide an exciting educational experience that demonstrates close combat.

Granite monuments and commemorative plaques honor U.S. presidents, individuals, units and ships that served in the Pacific. The site also houses the Japanese Garden of Peace, donated by the people of Japan, and the Center for Pacific War Studies, a repository of artifacts, documents, photographs and recordings.

North of Fredericksburg, a 425-foot pink granite dome rises in the Llano Uplift. Native Americans revered and feared the rock, which sheltered Texas Ranger Jack Hays from a Comanche Indian attack in the 1840s. Today, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is a National Natural Landmark.



GERMAN HERITAGE: STRUDELS AND SUNDAY HOUSES



Dancers still polka and schnitzels still sizzle in communities founded by German immigrants.

Dreams of ample land and freedom attracted thousands of German-speaking farmers and artisans to Texas from the 1830s to 1900. They left a legacy of traditional music and dance, food and drink, architecture and religion.

A few old-timers still speak the German of their ancestors, and many Hill Country towns embrace their Germanic roots, including Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Boerne, Comfort, Kerrville and Castroville. Historic eateries serve traditional breads and pastries, plus culinary staples like German sausage, sauerkraut and dark beer. Food and

music take center stage at heritage festivals, such as Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg and Wurstfest in New Braunfels.

Immigrants adapted European building styles to fit Texas weather and available materials. The region abounds in fine examples of German vernacular architecture — from fachwerk (half-timbered) houses to classic limestone buildings to Gothic churches. Many of Fredericksburg's famed "Sunday Houses" (cottages used by farmers on weekend trips to town) now serve as historic bed-and-breakfasts.



Fachwerk Steinbach House, Castroville



Downtown historic architectural detail, Georgetown

GEORGETOWN

This area was called the "land of good water" by Native American groups who frequented the San Gabriel River. Anglo cotton farmers arrived in the 1840s, followed in the next decade by Swedish immigrants. Cattle drovers came up the Chisholm Trail until the mid-1880s when the first railroads reached the area. Large murals recapture Williamson County's rich cultural record at the Williamson Museum. Housed in a 1910 bank building, the museum displays iconic artifacts from antique quilts to a cattle drover's diary to a Swedish immigrant's steamer trunk. Museum guides also offer tours of the restored 1911 Williamson County Courthouse, where in 1923 Dan Moody served as a prosecutor in the first trial to convict a Ku Klux Klan member. The museum, courthouse, historic storefronts and the 1926 Palace Theater helped Georgetown earn the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award for cultural and historic preservation in 2009.

Nine miles away, **Round Rock**, established in 1851, was named for a large boulder in a low-water crossing of Brushy Creek on the Chisholm Trail. The trail is still visible today and is the inspiration for a park featuring a 22-figure bronze sculptural composition depicting life along the Chisholm Trail in the late 1880s. The downtown Palm House Museum contains two rooms of pioneer furnishings in the 1870s home of Andrew J. Palm. The home reflects the elegant simplicity of life among Swedish immigrants in Texas.

At nearby **Hutto**, the first settler was Adam Orgain, an African American slave sent in 1855 to tend his owner's cattle. Town namesake James E. Hutto arrived a year later and, by 1876, sold land to the International-Great Northern Railroad for a train station. Swedish, German and Danish immigrants plowed blackland prairie into cotton farms. Heritage-rich Hutto is now one of the state's fastest-growing communities.



Swedish heritage, Williamson County Historical Museum, Georgetown

JOHNSON CITY

A heated election led by town namesake James Polk Johnson moved the county seat here from Blanco in 1890. Decades later, intense elections would lead one of his relatives, Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ), all the way to the White House.

LBJ was 5 years old in 1913 when he moved with his parents to Johnson City. His boyhood home is now a centerpiece of the Johnson City unit of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Family and period furnishings fill the wood-frame cottage, which today looks much as it did in 1937 when LBJ launched his political career from the east porch. The homesite also has a barn, well and windmill.

The park's visitors center provides films and photo exhibits on LBJ's humble Hill Country beginnings and how his upbringing shaped his later efforts to improve living standards, civil rights and education. His roots also steadied him through the tragic 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the challenges of the Vietnam War. All the while his wife, Lady Bird Johnson, strengthened and comforted him. Exhibits detail how she made her own mark as an environmental advocate and successful businesswoman.

A short walk away is Johnson Settlement, where four historic structures testify to the grit and staying power of pioneers. The 1850s dog trot log cabin of LBJ's grandfather, cattle drover Sam Johnson, reflects the Texas frontier. Relics of the farm and ranch period include the 1880s stone barn of German immigrant John

Bruckner. There's also the windmill, wooden barn and stone water tank and cooler house of James Polk Johnson. The National Park Service offers more exhibits in the historic Withers and Spauldings General Store, where young LBJ listened to old-timers' pioneer stories.

Learn more about LBJ at the second unit of the national park, as well as the state park and historic site, about 14 miles to the west in Stonewall.



Windmill and water tank, Johnson Settlement, LBJ National Historical Park, Johnson City



President Lyndon B. Johnson exhibits, LBJ Visitor Center, Johnson City

JOURDANTON

In 1909, patent medicine magnate Charles Simmons built a railroad through Atascosa County to a water-rich area called the Artesian Belt. Jourdan Campbell helped found a town at a stop on the Artesian Belt Railroad, and Jourdanton became a livestock and cotton shipping center. Having attracted a railroad, locals successfully campaigned in 1910 to relocate the county seat from Pleasanton. Century-old Jourdanton celebrates its heritage through the restored 1912 Mission-style Atascosa County Courthouse — rehabilitated through the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program — and a replica of the county's 1856 log cabin courthouse.

Pleasanton was originally the county seat in 1858, when settlers, afraid of Native American attacks, relocated the first seat from Amphion (now a ghost town). Named after early settler John Pleasant, the town became a gathering place in the late 1800s for cowboys driving cattle to Kansas. Pleasanton celebrates its ranching heritage each summer with bull riding, music and food at the Cowboy Homecoming. The Longhorn Museum retraces the development of Atascosa County.

Nearby **Poteet** was named for Francis Poteet, who operated an 1880s post office and blacksmith shop. The discovery in 1904 of the area's artesian wells drew the Artesian Belt Railroad, along with farmers who grew strawberries on irrigated land. Each year since 1948, the town has promoted its farm heritage through the Poteet Strawberry Festival, now the state's largest annual agricultural festival, typically held in April.



KERRVILLE

Kerrville was organized in 1856 on the Guadalupe River. The river bottom cypress milled here fed the area's growing appetite for lumber. As the town prospered, so did the mercantile store of cattleman and former Texas Ranger, Charles A. Schreiner. The shrewd businessman diversified into banking, mohair marketing and railroading. He also expanded his ranching operations, buying the Y.O. Ranch in 1880.

Wealth encouraged philanthropy, and in 1917 Schreiner founded the Schreiner Institute, now Schreiner University. The university operates Schreiner's turreted 1878 downtown mansion as the Hill Country Museum. Period furnishings and exhibits recall Kerrville's boom days at the turn of the 20th century.



*"Symbol of the Pros,"
The Museum of Western Art, Kerrville*

Art illustrates the trials and triumphs of the American West at the Museum of Western Art. Formed in the 1980s by a small group of Western artists, the museum showcases Western-themed paintings and sculptures in expansive vaulted galleries. The museum itself is a work of art, designed by noted Texas architect O'Neil Ford. The hacienda-like building features a courtyard, arched brick ceilings and end-cut mesquite and Saltillo tile floors. The facility offers a library on Western art and history, in addition to an art academy that trains up-and-coming Western artists.



Hancock Springs Park, Lampasas

LAMPASAS

Artesian springs feed mineral-rich Sulphur Creek, which attracted Native Americans for centuries. The railroad arrived in 1882, and tourists flocked to the growing health resort town. The next year, Lampasas County built an ornate Second Empire-style courthouse, which still graces downtown. Hotels and saloons were established at several springs. By 1911, Hancock Springs Park had a swimming pool and bathhouse and later added the Hostess House, where locals and Fort Hood soldiers held dances during World War II. People still come for the park's soothing waters and historic buildings.

The story of Lampasas, the so-called "Saratoga of the South," unfolds at Keystone Square Museum. Named for the adjacent Keystone Hotel, the museum preserves period artifacts, such as a cypress-wood pipe used at Hanna Springs bathhouse and a card table from an early saloon. Additional items include an 1880s bank teller cage, pioneer ranch blacksmith shop, antique doll collection, 1911 death basket used for body transport in the days before ambulances and bolt-action rifle used during the 1870s Horrell-Higgins feud.

LEAKEY

Vacationers come to Leakey for cabins, tubing and hiking along the Rio Frio (Cold River). In the 1850s, Anglo settlers came for water, but also for the riverside cypress trees they made into shingles and lumber. Named for pioneer John Leakey, the town was originally the county seat of Edwards County, then later for Real County when the district organized in 1913. The economy revolved around farms irrigated with river water and hilly ranches with cattle, sheep and goats.

The Real County Historical Museum preserves pioneer ways through a replicated log-cabin parlor, kitchen and bedroom, all furnished with pieces donated by local families. A large collection shows local stone dartpoints used by prehistoric Native Americans. There is also an ornate 1880s horse-drawn hearse pulled in local parades. An adjacent former blacksmith shop houses ranch relics, including a hand-powered wool and mohair shearing machine. Outside exhibits show farm implements, a log corn crib and jail cells from the 1910s.



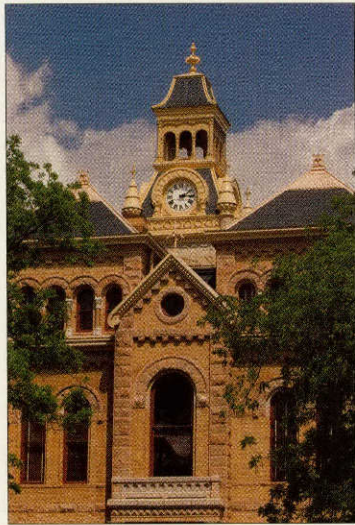
LLANO

German immigrant Louis Bruhl opened a drugstore in 1900 and later moved it to a site overlooking the Llano River. The drugstore now houses the Llano County Historical Museum. Bruhl's original marble-top soda fountain and leather stools still welcome visitors at the front door. On the counter sits the self-fitting eye-testing machine that Bruhl used until the store closed in 1957.

An agricultural exhibit has a 1919 Studebaker wagon bought using money from the sale of one bale of cotton.

A ranching display shows how local cowboys competed in polo games during the 1930s. Special exhibits honor notable locals, such as polo player Cecil Smith and sculptor Frank Teich. A pistol display contains the weapon used by Captain James R. Moss during the 1873 fight at Packsaddle Pass, the county's last Native American and settler skirmish. Historical photos include the Llano Uplift's largest quarried granite rock, a 40-ton piece used as the base of the Texas Ranger monument at the State Capitol.

The original Romanesque Revival-style courthouse, built in 1892, has been completely restored through the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The prominent tower situated on the corner of the building, rather than in the center as other similar courthouses of Texas, has been a definitive architectural feature of the roofline, adding a unique element to this dignified structure.



1890s Llano County Courthouse



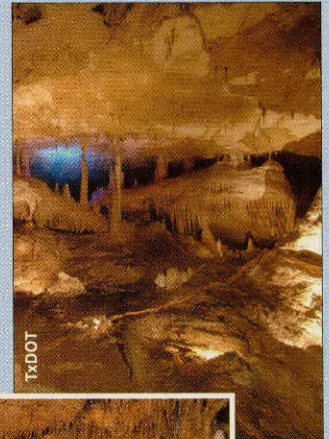
1914 dress and horse-drawn hearse, Real County Historical Museum, Leakey

CAVERNS: GEOLOGICAL WONDERLANDS

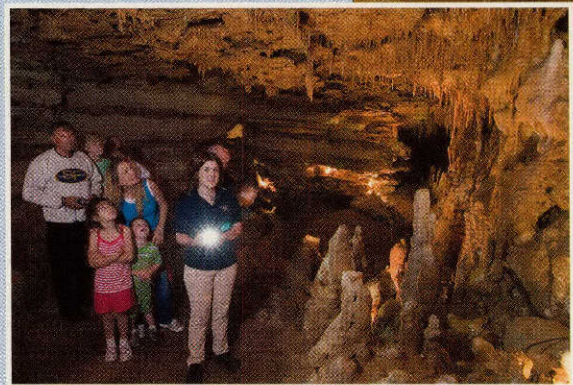
For millions of years, water seeped through limestone bedrock to carve thousands of Hill Country caverns. Guided walking tours of several major caves reveal some of America's most spectacular subterranean sights. Miles of lighted passageways wind past pools, waterfalls and fanciful formations resembling bacon, soda straws and fish tails. Spectacular stalactites, stalagmites, columns and flowstones fill cathedral-like rooms.

The humid, 65–70 degree environment still harbors unusual cave-adapted creatures where prehistoric sloths, mastodons and mammoths once lived. Native Americans sought cave shelter, as did 19th-century outlaws. Caverns contained everything from Civil War-era gunpowder and Prohibition-era moonshine to a dancehall and restaurant.

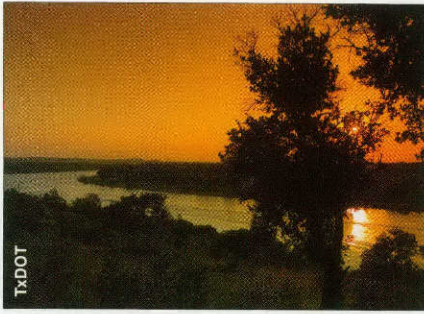
Opened in 1903, Wonder Cave in San Marcos was the region's first show cave and a rare "dry cave" formed by an earthquake. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps developed the Burnet-area Longhorn Cavern, now a state park. Other caverns opened in the 1930s continue to take tourists below ground, including Cascade Caverns and Cave Without a Name, both near Boerne. Two well-known show caves, Inner Space Cavern in Georgetown and Natural Bridge Caverns near New Braunfels, were discovered in the 1960s.



TxDOT



Inner Space Cavern guided tour, Georgetown



Lake Marble Falls, one of the chain of Highland Lakes along the Colorado River

MARBLE FALLS

Early-19th-century travelers marveled at the Colorado River cascading 20 feet over ledges they believed to be marble (actually granite and limestone). In the 1880s, a blind Civil War hero, Adam Rankin Johnson, founded a town he

named for the natural landmark. Johnson saw promise in the river's water power and in the pink-colored rock from nearby Granite Mountain. While a hydro-electric dam flooded the falls in 1951, it also created water-based recreational opportunities.

The story of Marble Falls' founding and growth is preserved at the Falls on the Colorado Museum. Displays chronicle how locals donated pink granite to build the State Capitol in the 1880s. In return, they received a narrow-gauge railroad that hauled 15,700 carloads of stone to Austin. The museum also details how, in 1917, Orphelia "Birdie" Crosby Harwood became the nation's first female mayor in the U.S. chosen by an all-male local electorate.

NEW BRAUNFELS

In 1845, nobleman Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels established a German colony where the Austin-San Antonio Road forded the Comal River. On a hill overlooking the village, he laid the cornerstone to a fort and colony headquarters called Sophienburg (Sophie's Castle) after his fiancée. On that site, the Sophienburg Museum chronicles the challenges and successes of New Braunfels' pioneers. Historic photos, maps and documents adorn relic-rich exhibits. The museum also houses a repository of documents on German immigration to Texas.

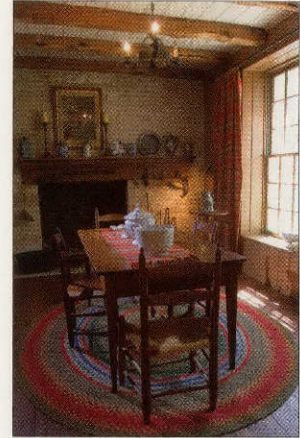
Dating from 1849 to 1861, 16 relocated structures recreate a pioneer village at Conservation Plaza. This showplace of German-Texan architecture includes residences of varying half-timbered construction styles. The 1855 home of master cabinet maker Johann M. Jahn contains his signature black walnut furniture. Nearby is Jahn's shop and pedal-powered tools. Other buildings include an 1865 adobe store, 1858 music studio and 1850 pressed-metal saloon. The 1881 San Geronimo school contains a hand-painted working antique pipe organ. Across the street, the 1870s limestone Church Hill School sits on its original site.



Master cabinet maker Johann Jahn's 1855 home, New Braunfels

Early New Braunfels was home to an astounding 41 Biedermeier-trained furniture makers, a style of meticulous wood craftsmanship. The Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in Heritage Village showcases their artisanship with finely crafted furniture from the 1840s–1880s. Housed in the 1858 Breustedt-Dillen House, key pieces include a Jahn draw table with an all-wood mechanism and a walnut wardrobe by Franz Stautzenberger. The museum is in Heritage Village, located next to Conservation Plaza. Heritage Village features an equipped cabinet shop, a furnished 1840s log cabin, and a limestone and log kitchen. The site hosts living history demonstrations during the museum's annual FolkFest and throughout the year for school groups.

Heritage tourists step back in time on strolls through downtown New Braunfels, where the 150-year-old Henne Hardware Store and Naegelin's Bakery are located, both of which are among the oldest such businesses in the state.



Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, New Braunfels

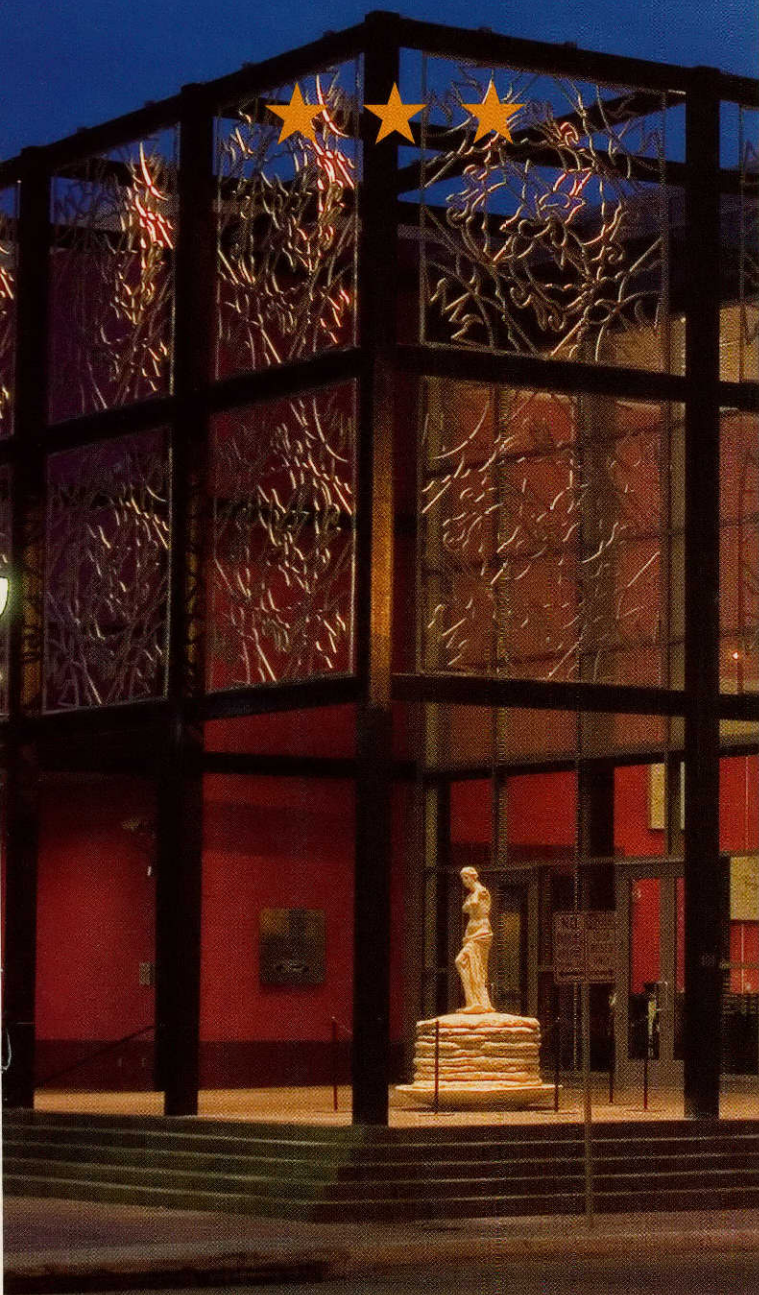
PEARSALL

The International-Great Northern Railroad laid lines to a landmark water well in 1882. There the company platted a town named for Thomas W. Pearsall, railroad vice president. The new railroad town drew businesses and homes away from Frio City, the seat of Frio County. Within two years, Pearsall was the new county seat, and Frio City became known as Frio Town (now a ghost town).

In 1884, the county built a jail that remained in use until the 1960s. The historic two-story rock building now houses the Frio Pioneer Jail Museum. Downstairs, the five-room sheriff's residence contains artifacts and historic photos. Some relics, such as a 1910 opera house playbill and a 1914 dance card, recall social occasions. Other artifacts, including a "pear burner" used during drought to singe needles off prickly pear cacti, symbolize tough times. Upstairs are four jail cells for men and two for women, one of which stored illegal liquor during

Prohibition. The museum hosts an annual Pioneer Day at the old jail and the relocated Frio Town school.

¡Viva la Cultura!



Spain and Mexico controlled Texas for centuries, and the cultural imprint of that time remains vibrant, especially in San Antonio.

The town was founded in 1718 as San Antonio de Béxar Presidio. The officers' residence became known as the Spanish Governor's Palace and is now a National Historic Landmark and Texas' only remaining aristocratic Spanish house. The presidio protected San Antonio de Valero, site of the famous Battle of the Alamo and now the state's most-visited attraction. Four other missions remain active Catholic churches and heritage tourism destinations on the National Park Service's mission trail.

Early legislator José Antonio Navarro served under Mexico, the Republic of Texas and the State of Texas. He was the first Hispanic to chronicle Texas history. A statue honoring him stands outside the Casa Navarro State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property. The site comprises three 1850s adobe and limestone structures, including Navarro's restored home, detached kitchen and store. Exhibits detail his life and times. The home and traditional courtyard reflect the simple but refined life of a leading figure in early San Antonio.

Permanent and traveling exhibits spotlight Hispanic art and culture at San Antonio's Museo Alameda (a Smithsonian Institution affiliate) and at Austin's Mexic-Arte Museum.

*The official Texas State Latino Museum,
Museo Alameda, San Antonio*



The well at the Alamo, San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO

Home of the Alamo and the Riverwalk, San Antonio is a cultural touchstone and one of America's top destinations. The city's history — and that of the state — is colorfully presented at the Institute of Texan Cultures, created for the 1968 HemisFair

international exposition. Exhibits, multimedia shows and living history events celebrate 21 diverse ethnic groups.

The Steves Homestead Museum presents the lavish lifestyle of German-Texan lumberman Edward Steves. His 1876 Victorian mansion embodies ornate exterior details and fine Eastlake furnishings. The site also maintains a period garden, carriage house and servants' quarters.



Casa Navarro State Historic Site, San Antonio

Beginning in 1881, Albert Friedrich displayed horns and antlers in his saloon. His collection, now the world's largest, fills walls at the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum. Above the working saloon, the eclectic site also displays myriad specimens of native and exotic animals. San Antonio is also home to the Hall of Texas History Wax Museum and a Texas Ranger Museum, a tribute to the state's legendary lawmen.

Opened in 1926, the Witte Museum interprets the history, culture and natural science of the region. Elaborate dioramas and exhibits explore native species, dinosaur life and the canyon rock art of pre-historic and historic Native Americans. The site also preserves a Spanish colonial home, Mexican-era residence and 1915 studio of artist Julian Onderdonk.

The city's first permanent U.S. military installation, Fort Sam Houston, is a National Historic Landmark and home of the Fort Sam Houston Museum. Housed in a 1905 mess hall, the museum's artifacts and photos survey fort history from its 1870s inception to the present. Fort Sam Houston also encompasses the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum. As the nation's only Army medical museum, the 40,000-square-foot facility traces military medical advances and their impact on national healthcare.

Pioneer aviator Katherine Stinson and her family opened a flying school at San Antonio's first airport in 1915. Still an airport, Stinson Field is home of the Texas Air Museum.

Memorabilia and restored and replica aircraft pay tribute to the flying Stinsons, along with military aviation during World Wars I and II.



*Above: Fiesta exhibit, Witte Museum, San Antonio;
Left: 1876 Philadelphia World's Fair Warrior,
Steves Homestead Museum, San Antonio*



Six flags of Texas, Spanish Governor's Palace, San Antonio

SAN MARCOS

Tonkawa Indians frequented a spring-fed river that Spanish explorers later named San Marcos de Neve. The San Marcos River still flows through this quaint college town, home of Texas State University-San Marcos, which began in 1903 as a state teachers college.

In 1928, the college granted a teaching certificate to Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ), who worked for a year at a poor Mexican-American school in Cotulla. That experience loomed large during the 1960s when, as president, LBJ signed civil rights, anti-poverty and education laws. The LBJ Museum of San Marcos focuses on LBJ's college years and the impact of that time on his life. Located in a former movie theater, the museum tells the story through period news clippings, photographs, memorabilia and oral histories.

LBJ's alma mater houses The Wittliff Collections, founded by Texas screenwriter and photographer Bill Wittliff and his wife, Sally. The collection maintains the Southwestern Writers Collection (papers and memorabilia) and photos from the Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection. The collection includes the entire production record of the CBS miniseries "Lonesome Dove," for which Wittliff was screenwriter.

San Marcos Army Air Field was a World War II navigator training school. The field's sole surviving war hangar is now home to the Central Texas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. Visitors view flying vintage aircraft — including a B-25 Mitchell bomber and a P-39 Airacobra pursuit plane. The hangar also has replicas of a Japanese torpedo bomber and a Zero fighter, both flown in the movie "Tora, Tora, Tora." The Centex Wing Museum highlights military aviation memorabilia, especially World War II. One exhibit displays part of the B-25 seat back of Lt. Col.

Jimmie Doolittle, the legendary pilot who led America's first attack on the Japanese mainland. Also displayed are the uniform and parachute ring of Doolittle's navigator, Hank Potter.

Right: Campaign poster, The LBJ Museum of San Marcos; Below: P-47 Thunderbolt and Pacific Theater of Operations displays; Central Texas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, San Marcos



STONEWALL

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park continues the LBJ story 14 miles west of Johnson City at the Stonewall unit. A drive along the Pedernales River passes LBJ's reconstructed birthplace, his grandparents' farmhouse, the Junction School where he learned to read and the family cemetery where he and wife Lady Bird are buried.

The focal point of the Stonewall site is the LBJ Ranch. An 1890s stone cottage forms the nucleus of the ranch's main house, which LBJ expanded into a showplace. The president brought so many dignitaries to the ranch that it became known as the Texas White House. A guided tour takes visitors beneath the centuries-old oak where LBJ regaled world leaders. Now open to the public, visitors can go inside the part of the house that was considered LBJ's Texas White House office. A self-guided driving tour skirts by pastures of LBJ-lineage Hereford cattle. Exhibits in the 1950s show barn explain ranch operations.

Across the Pedernales River lies the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. The visitors center features multimedia shows and exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the area. One film follows LBJ on a ranch tour in the 1950s. Another film pinpoints Lady Bird's upbringing and her considerable accomplishments. The park also features three frontier-era log cabins.

Step into an authentic farm of the early 1900s at the park's Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead. Period-dressed interpreters carry out typical daily chores of an early German-Texan farm family, raising chickens, cows, horses, hogs and sheep. A large vegetable garden grows food for a daily meal, prepared on a wood-burning stove or preserved and stored for later use. Other chores range from blacksmithing and butchering to house cleaning and soap making. Johann and Christine Sauer built the homestead's original timber and rock cabin in 1869. The Beckmann family purchased the farm in 1900 and, with the proceeds of a good cotton crop in 1915, added a barn and Victorian home. The original smokehouse, windmill and water tank complete the living history farmstead.

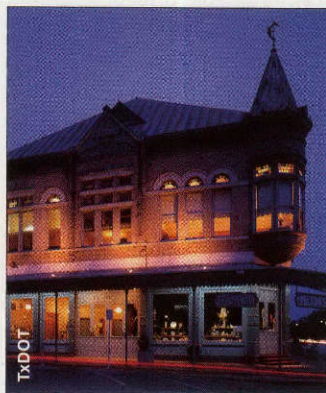


Briscoe Opera House, built in 1891

UVALDE

Rancher Reading Black founded a town that in 1856 became the seat of a new county. Both town and county were named Uvalde after 18th-century Spanish governor Juan de Ugalde. The railroad arrived in 1881, and the town became a cattle shipping point.

In 1891, Uvalde gained an elegant Victorian structure that is now the Janey Slaughter Briscoe Opera House. Named after the late wife of native son and former governor, Dolph Briscoe, the two-story edifice has arched windows, a copper roof and a corner turret topped by a replica dragon weathervane. The original weathervane resides in the site's visitors center, along with photos of local notables and relics from frontier Fort Inge. The restored upstairs auditorium hosts live theater and musical performances.



Briscoe Opera House today, Uvalde

Then-Congressman John Nance Garner bought the opera house in 1916, and his family later donated it to the city. Garner was a colorful and effective politician who became vice president under President Franklin Roosevelt. Garner's Uvalde home is now the John Nance Garner Museum, which recounts his larger-than-life career through photos, cartoons, art and artifacts. A showy exhibit contains the formal attire that he and his

wife wore to the 1933 inaugural banquet. Other exhibits feature his beloved fishing gear and a winning poker hand that President Harry Truman presented to Garner on his 95th birthday.

Named in honor of the vice president, Garner Field opened in 1941 as a World War II primary pilot training school. The field's Hangar #1 now houses the Aviation Museum at Garner Field, which preserves military and civil aviation history. Restored and flying World War II aircraft include a Fairchild PT-19 cadet training plane and an L-4 Piper target spotting plane. Artifacts range from the 1944 *USS Uvalde's* ship compass to the fur-lined uniform of a civilian who taught military cadets how to fly.

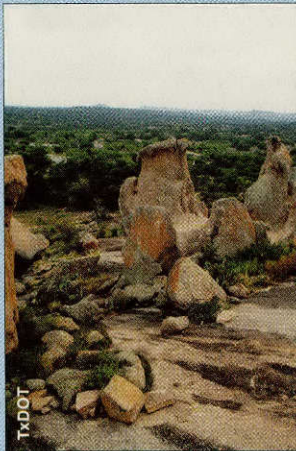
*Rich culture, delectable cuisines and compelling diversity enhance
the Texas Hill Country Trail Region.*

REGIONAL STATE PARKS

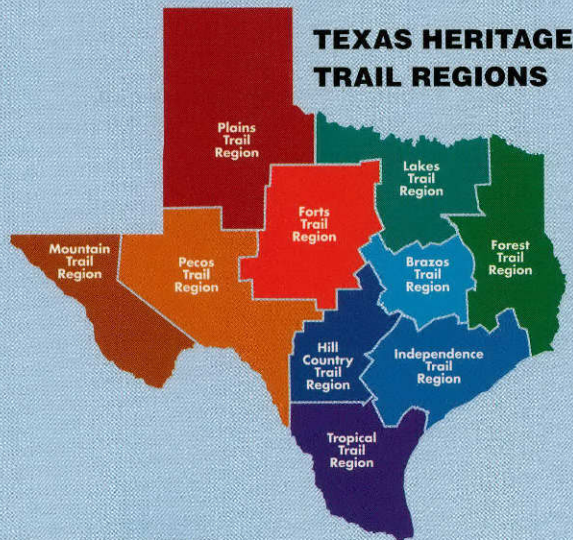
Travelers to the Texas Hill Country Trail Region can visit the area's beautiful parks and historic sites owned and operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

For more information, please call 800.792.1112, or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

- Blanco State Park, Blanco
- Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Fredericksburg
- Garner State Park, Concan
- Government Canyon State Natural Area, San Antonio
- Guadalupe River State Park, Spring Branch
- Hill Country State Natural Area, Bandera
- Honey Creek State Natural Area, Spring Branch
- Inks Lake State Park, Burnet
- Longhorn Cavern State Park, Burnet
- Lost Maples State Natural Area, Vanderpool
- Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site, Stonewall
- McKinney Falls State Park, Austin
- Pedernales Falls State Park, Johnson City
- Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm (in Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site), Stonewall



Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Fredericksburg



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HISTORIC SITES

Heritage tourists can learn more about the rich Central Texas history and experience real places and stories at one of the Texas Historical Commission's historic sites located in the Texas Hill Country Trail Region.

For more information, please call 512.463.7948, or visit www.texashistoricsites.com

- Casa Navarro State Historic Site, San Antonio
- Landmark Inn State Historic Site, Castroville
- National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg

TEXAS MAIN STREET CITIES

Visitors can stroll the sidewalks and peruse shops in one of the region's Texas Main Street cities. Partnering with the Texas Historical Commission, each community works to revitalize its historic commercial area, often the heart of a town.

- Georgetown: 512.930.2027, www.mainstreetgeorgetown.com
- Kerrville: 830.792.8395, www.kerrville.org
- Llano: 325.247.4158, ext. 209, www.llanomainstreet.com
- New Braunfels: 830.221.4090, www.nbtexas.org
- San Marcos: 512.393.8430, www.sanmarcostx.gov
- Taylor: 512.352.5448, www.ci.taylor.tx.us

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Texas Historical Commission offers free travel guides on the people and places that tell the real stories of Texas. To request copies, call 866.276.6219 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

www.thc.state.tx.us

COMMUNITIES IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL REGION

For more information about the sites in this brochure, visit www.txhillcountrytrail.com, or contact the sources listed below for site locations and hours, as well as details about events and other local attractions. Many information centers are closed weekends; please contact in advance. To obtain a free *Texas State Travel Guide*, call 800.8888.TEX, or visit www.TravelTex.com.

■ AUSTIN

Convention and Visitors Bureau
866.462.8784
www.austintexas.org

■ BANDERA

Bandera County Convention and Visitors Bureau
800.364.3833
www.banderacowboycapital.com

■ BLANCO

Chamber of Commerce
830.833.5101
www.blancochamber.com

■ BOERNE

Convention and Visitors Bureau
888.842.8080
www.visitboerne.org

■ BURNET

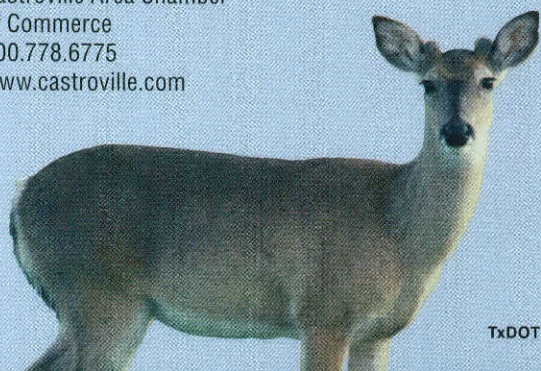
Chamber of Commerce
512.756.4297
www.burnetchamber.org

■ CANYON LAKE

Chamber of Commerce
800.528.2104
www.canyonlakechamber.com

■ CASTROVILLE

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce
800.778.6775
www.castroville.com



■ CEDAR PARK

Convention and Visitors Bureau
512.260.7800
www.cedarparkfun.com

■ DRIPPING SPRINGS

Greater Dripping Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
512.858.4740
www.drippingspringstx.org

■ FREDERICKSBURG

Convention and Visitors Bureau
830.997.6523
www.fredtexlodging.com

■ GEORGETOWN

Convention and Visitors Bureau
512.930.3545
www.visitgeorgetown.com

■ HUTTO

Chamber of Commerce
512.759.4400
www.hutto.org

■ INGRAM

West Kerr County Chamber of Commerce
830.367.4322
www.wkcc.com

■ JOHNSON CITY

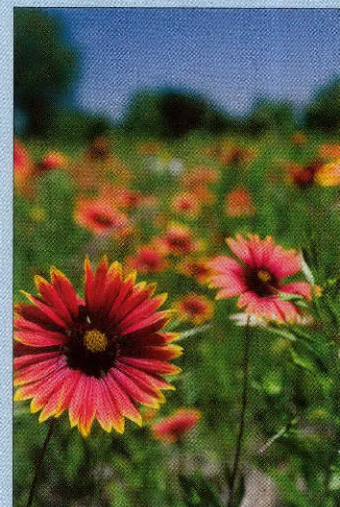
Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center
830.868.7684
www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com

■ JOURDANTON

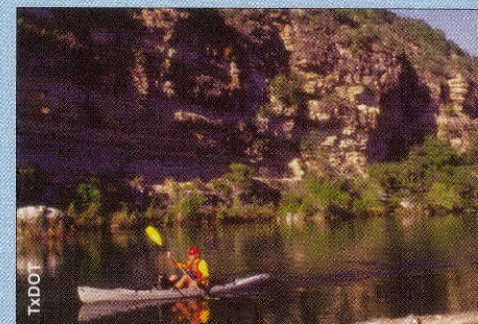
Chamber of Commerce
830.769.2866
www.jourdanton.net

■ KERRVILLE

Convention and Visitors Bureau
800.221.7958
www.kerrvilletexascvb.com



LBJ State Park and Historic Site, Stonewall



Hill Country waterways provide ample recreation opportunities.

■ KYLE

Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
512.268.4220
www.kylechamber.org

■ LAMPASAS

Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce
512.556.5172
www.lampasaschamber.org

■ LEAKEY

Frio Canyon Chamber of Commerce
830.232.5222
www.friocanyonchamber.com

■ LLANO

Chamber of Commerce
325.247.5354
www.llanochamber.org

■ MARBLE FALLS

Marble Falls/Lake LBJ
Chamber of Commerce
800.759.8178
www.marblefalls.org

■ NEW BRAUNFELS

Visitor Center
800.572.2626
www.nbcham.org

■ PEARSALL

Chamber of Commerce
830.334.9414
www.pearsalltexas.com

■ PLEASANTON

Chamber of Commerce
830.569.2163
www.pleasantoncofc.com

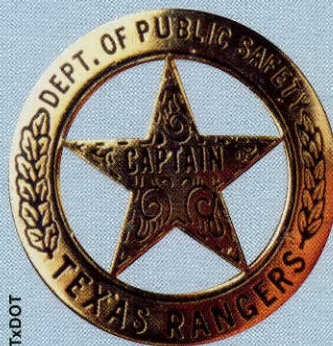
■ POTEET

Strawberry Festival
830.742.8144
www.strawberry
festival.com

■ ROUND ROCK

Convention and
Visitors Bureau
512.218.7094
www.sportscapital
oftexas.com

*Vineyards are scattered throughout
the Texas Hill Country Trail Region.*



TxDOT

Texas Ranger badge

■ SAN ANTONIO

Convention and
Visitors Bureau
800.447.3372
www.visitsan
antonio.com

■ SAN MARCOS

Convention and
Visitor Bureau
512.393.5900
www.toursan
marcos.com

■ STONEWALL

Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau
830.997.6523
www.fredtexlodging.com

■ TAYLOR

Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center
512.352.6364
www.taylorchamber.org

■ UVALDE

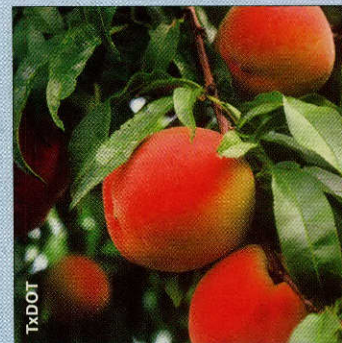
Convention and Visitors Bureau
800.588.2533
www.visituvalde.com

■ VANDERPOOL

Bandera County Convention and Visitors Bureau
800.364.3833
www.banderacowboycapital.com

■ WIMBERLEY

Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center
512.847.2201
www.wimberley.org



Texas peaches

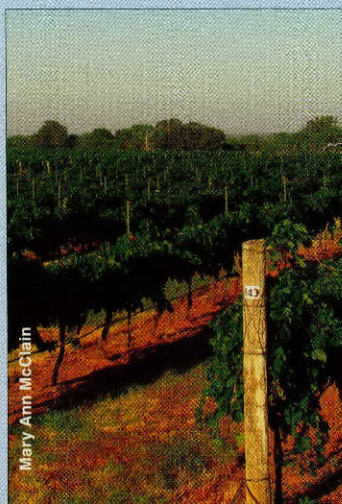


TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

www.thc.state.tx.us/travel
www.txhillcountrytrail.com

The Texas Historical Commission promotes the highest national standards for historic preservation and does not endorse the relocation of historic structures without thorough documentation of the building on its original site. The professional processes required for such action are intended to record and preserve historic properties for the full enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

All photos by Randy Mallory unless otherwise credited



Mary Ann McClain