

**S**panning 35 East Texas counties, from the Oklahoma-Arkansas border to the Gulf of Mexico, the Texas Forest Trail Region was the “Gateway to Texas” for Caddo Indians, Spanish and French explorers, Anglo pioneers, European immigrants, and enslaved and freed African Americans. Shadows of early Caddo and Spanish occupation linger, and the stories of Texas’ emergence from a wilderness to a great state unfold in the region’s numerous towns, many among the state’s oldest.

Everything you expect from Texas is here: rugged landscapes, oil derricks, diverse heritage, and that proud-to-be-Texan spirit—all found throughout its many cultural traditions. But there’s more. Add four national and five state forests, abundant lakes and rivers, the incomparable Big Thicket, historic courthouse squares, notable stately homes, festivals galore, and spectacular spring and fall colors. The Texas Forest Trail Region is the perfect place for tourists to indulge their appetites for history, culture, and nature.

## *The Texas Forest Trail Region*

★ ★ ★ *Gateway to Texas* ★ ★ ★

Texas heritage is everywhere—from historic downtowns with antique shops, restored Victorian buildings, soda fountains, museums, and monuments to state historic sites, railroads, sawmill towns, and oil boomtowns. East Texans love their heritage, and if sometimes they get carried away, it’s because they’re good storytellers not averse to embellishing the already colorful facts. Legend has it East Texas is home to the invention of the hamburger, and some believe a biblically inspired flying machine took to the air in this region before the Wright brothers’ famous flight.

A source of regional pride is one of Texas’ greatest heroes, Sam Houston, who made his home in East Texas for many years. A complex man, he lived with Cherokees in Oklahoma and was governor of Tennessee before leading Texas’ fight for independence from Mexico in 1836. Houston became the first elected president of the Republic of Texas, and when Texas became a state, he served as both a U.S. senator and governor.

*Visitors to Huntsville are greeted by a larger-than-life Sam Houston.*



Among the area's earliest inhabitants were the Caddo Indians, an advanced civilization of mound builders with sophisticated trade networks. The state owes its name to Native American tribes in East Texas. When Spanish explorer Alonso de León met these tribes in 1689, they were referred to as "tejas," or friends.

Texans declared independence from Mexico in 1836, but the spirit of liberty flared earlier in East Texas. Nacogdoches was the site of three separate rebellions dating to the early 1800s. After the fall of the Alamo, settlers from all over Texas fled their homes during the Runaway Scrape. Many headed toward the Louisiana border and took refuge in East Texas towns until word came of the decisive victory at San Jacinto.

Western expansion and European immigration brought many people to and through East Texas beginning in the mid-1800s. Most Native American tribes were driven out, but relative newcomers the Alabama-Coushatta remain on a reservation near Livingston.

During the Civil War, Texas chose secession. Passions ran high in East Texas. Some towns were suppliers and mustering points for the Confederate Army, and most lost a significant number of men.

Around the 1870s, railroad expansion in East Texas and the depletion of forests in Northern states gave rise to the timber industry. Clear cutting destroyed many old-growth forests, but eventually modern forestry and conservation practices were adopted.



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When the Lucas Gusher blew in at Spindletop near Beaumont in 1901, the word Texas became synonymous with oil. In the 1930s, the discovery of oil in Gladewater and Kilgore brought fortune hunters as well as desperate families seeking relief from the Great Depression. Boomtowns sprang up overnight.

Historically, the Texas Forest Trail Region's climate, natural beauty, wildlife, and abundant water attracted settlers and visitors. Today, the development of lakes, parks, and trails; the creation of cultural and heritage attractions; and the historic revitalization of many Texas Main Street cities make the region more inviting than ever.

*Downtown Jefferson skyline*

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

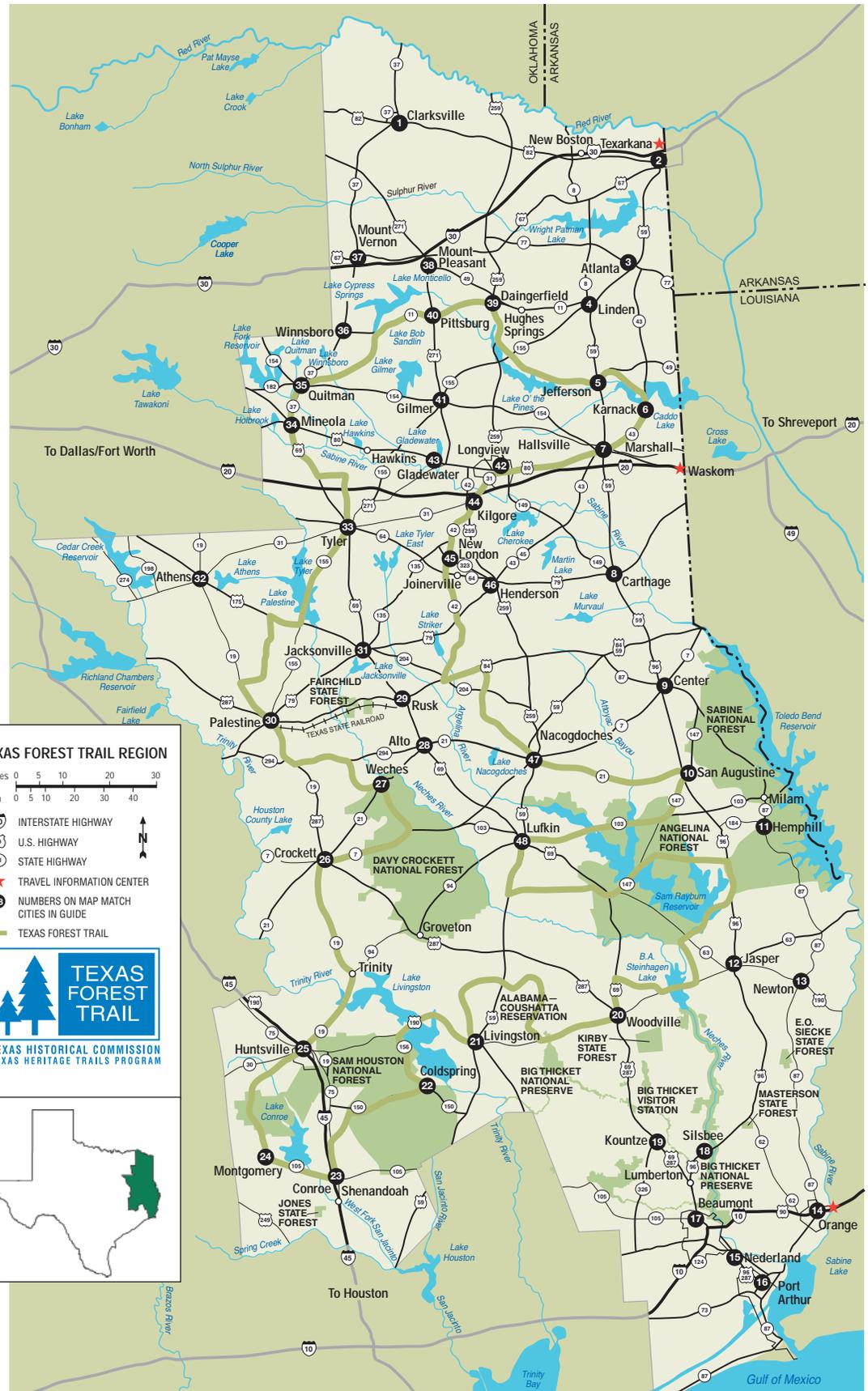
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**TEXAS FOREST TRAIL REGION**

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- NUMBERS ON MAP MATCH CITIES IN GUIDE
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**TEXAS FOREST TRAIL**  
 TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM



## ALTO

For centuries, travelers followed El Camino Real de los Tejas, or the Royal Highway, which roughly follows Texas State Highway 21 through Alto. It was blazed by Spaniards in the 1690s with the help of Ais Indian guides who traced their ancestors' footpaths. Southwest of town, the scenic highway opens onto the spectacular Neches River Valley and the area occupied by Caddo Indians from A.D. 800 to 1300. At the interpretive center of the Texas Historical Commission's Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, learn how the Caddo worked and lived. A short walking trail leads to ceremonial mounds and a village site.

## ATHENS

Discover history and nature in this spirited town. Local celebrations include Uncle Fletch's Hamburger and Bar-B-Q Cook-off, which is now part of the East Texas Arboretum's annual fall festival. The competition is named after the café owner who, legend has it, invented the hamburger and introduced it at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Step into the past in the recreated law office, kitchen, and schoolroom at the Henderson County Historical Museum, housed in the 1896 Victorian-era Faulk and Gauntt Building. Visit the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to watch divers feed fish in huge aquariums, try a hand at casting, or view displays of antique fishing gear.

## ATLANTA

Many of Atlanta's early settlers came from Georgia, and vestiges of the Old South linger. Visitors to the Atlanta Historical Museum, located in the renovated Texas & Pacific Train Depot, will experience more than a proud Southern heritage. One prominent display honors Bessie Coleman. Born here in 1892, Coleman was the world's first licensed African American pilot. At Atlanta State Park, situated on Lake Wright Patman, archeologists have uncovered evidence of early Caddo Indians.



*A replica of a plane flown by Bessie Coleman is exhibited in the Atlanta Historical Museum.*

THC



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*Grand historic homes, such as the McFaddin-Ward House in Beaumont, can be found throughout the region.*

## BEAUMONT

Historic pride flourishes in this Texas Main Street city, especially in the Crockett Street Entertainment District, where abandoned historic buildings have become restaurants and nightclubs. The opulent 1927 Jefferson Theatre's Mediterranean-influenced interior features a white marble staircase and an organ that rises from the orchestra pit on a hydraulic lift. The 1903 Tyrrell Historical Library, a former Baptist church, houses thousands of books on Texas history, genealogical resources, and art collections. The nearby cultural district is home to the Texas Energy Museum, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, and the Edison Plaza Museum. Marking the location of the Fire Museum of Texas are the historic 1927 Beaumont Fire Department Headquarters and what is billed as "the world's largest fire hydrant."

Bordering downtown is Old Town, where more than 100 years' worth of luxurious furnishings fill the 1906 Neoclassical McFaddin-Ward House. Visitors glimpse another side of life at the turn of the 20th century while strolling through a reconstructed boomtown at the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. For an overview of all the area's attractions—and to learn about the pioneering native daughter who earned the title "the greatest woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century"—visit the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum and Visitor Center.

Located within 500-acre Tyrrell Park is the Beaumont Botanical Gardens, a 23.5-acre public garden that contains the Bert and Jack Binks Horticultural Center and the Warren Loose Conservatory. Also notable is the Tyrrell Park recreation building, a 1935 Civilian Conservation Corps project that housed about 200 German soldiers for a brief time as an overflow prisoner of war camp during World War II.

## CARTHAGE

This Texas Main Street city was the birthplace of two country music greats, Woodward Maurice “Tex” Ritter and “Gentleman” Jim Reeves. The Tex Ritter Museum and Texas Country Music Hall of Fame honors both, along with other Texas country music stars, through displays of movie posters, guitars, and memorabilia.



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Randy Mallory

Top: The Tex Ritter Museum and Texas Country Music Hall of Fame attract fans from around the world to Carthage.

Above: The magnificent 1885 Shelby County Courthouse stands at the heart of Center.

## CENTER

Center won an 1866 dispute over the location of the Shelby County seat, but Shelbyville, the acting seat, would not concede. So, in the dead of night, some Center folks stole the county records. In 1885, the county built the distinctive Shelby County Courthouse, reflecting the heritage of its architect, J.J.E. Gibson, an Irish immigrant descended from builders of cathedrals and castles. An interesting touch in this courthouse, which is now a visitors center, is a trap door behind the bench so the judge could make a hasty retreat if necessary. Visitors can learn more about the county at the Shelby County Museum, where a timeline and period rooms interpret history from the days of Caddo Indians, Spanish explorers, and pioneer settlers.

## CLARKSVILLE

The “Gateway to Pioneer Texas,” Clarksville was the first stop for many settlers crossing the Red River from Oklahoma. The Texas Main Street city features an 1884 courthouse, restored through the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, and a town square that takes visitors back through time.

## COLDSPRING

A narrow window of time is captured downtown, where most buildings were erected between 1916 and 1923. The townsite was moved there just blocks from its original location after a 1915 fire destroyed the original wooden courthouse. The San Jacinto County Museum, housed in the 1887 jail, remains on the old townsite along with other original and relocated buildings.

## CONROE

After several epidemics and two major fires early in its history, this city’s fortunes changed in 1931 when the discovery of oil lifted it from the Great Depression. Unique displays and a general store filled with activities for children bring history to life at the Heritage Museum of Montgomery County. Downtown, the 1934 Crighton Theatre, built for vaudeville productions and then converted to a movie theater, stages live local and touring shows.

Though only one square mile, nearby **Shenandoah** is a significant community that is home to the Footprints in Courage Museum, which tells the story of David “The Boy in the Bubble” Vetter among other history exhibits.



Conroe CVB

Heritage Museum of Montgomery County, Conroe



## CROCKETT

Established in 1837 as the seat of one of the oldest counties in the Republic of Texas, the town was named for the famous Tennessean scout, Davy Crockett, who is said to have camped there on his way to the Alamo. During the Civil War, Crockett was a mustering point and training center for Confederate forces. Today, visitors can enjoy the town's many historic homes and take part in events such as the Fiddlers' Festival in June.

The Crockett area is steeped in African American heritage. On a hill north of the town square, the ruins of Mary Allen Junior College, a former African American girls' school, still stand as a testament of the struggle for education and equality. The Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins statue on South Third Street memorializes the bluesman, who was born on a farm west of Crockett and played music along the avenue in the 1930s–40s when it was known as "Camp Street." Nearby **Germany** is an agricultural community named after a German family who settled in the area. It is representative of the many rural freedmen's communities scattered throughout East Texas.

## DAINGERFIELD

During the Civil War, the area's iron foundries, sawmills, and cowhide tanyards worked at full speed to supply the Confederacy. Today, much of the region's vitality centers on Daingerfield State Park, developed as a recreation area by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the late 1930s. Unusual among CCC-constructed park facilities, cast concrete tinted with local sandstone aggregate was favored over traditional stone, blocks, and wood.



*Daingerfield State Park*

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## GILMER

Red-brick streets and old-fashioned shops invite a leisurely stroll around the square of Gilmer, located on the site of a former Cherokee Indian village. Enjoy a wide-ranging collection of county memorabilia in the Historic Upshur Museum, which occupies the former 1925 post office. Exhibits include a 20th-century photographic record of the area and a history of the region's industries and agriculture. Farmers lost their market for yams, an important cash crop, when sweet potato weevils invaded in 1930, and officials imposed a five-year shipping quarantine. When the quarantine lifted in 1935, a celebration called the East Texas Yamboree was held at harvest time. Now about 100,000 people gather each October to attend the Yamboree, one of Texas' oldest continuous festivals.

## GLADEWATER

While the nation suffered during the Great Depression, Gladewater became a thriving oil boomtown. Once called the "Hub of the East Texas Oil Field," this Texas Main Street city is now known as the "Antique Capital of East Texas." A replica of Old Snavelly No. 1, the derrick for the discovery well that started the 1931 boom, stands in the middle of town.

Fifteen miles west of Gladewater, **Hawkins** boasts Jarvis Christian College, a historically black institution initiated through the efforts of Mary Alphin, the African American leader of the Negro Disciples of Christ in Texas. Learn about the college's founding through stained glass windows in the campus' Christian Church.



*Sabine County  
Courthouse seal,  
Hemphill*

Leanna Skarnulis

## HEMPHILL

Located on Toledo Bend Reservoir in the Sabine National Forest, Hemphill is considered by many to be one of the best bass fishing spots in East Texas. On the town square, men gather almost daily under the cedar tree to play dominoes. The tree and tradition go back to the early 1900s. County memorabilia and genealogy records share space with jail cells and trap-door gallows at the Sabine County Museum and Virgie Speights Memorial Library. The setting for this multi-use facility is the 1903 Romanesque Revival jail, remodeled in 1925.

## HENDERSON

Prior to the Civil War, cotton was the foundation of Henderson's early economy and was even used as legal tender. Although cotton trading is no longer abundant, this Texas Main Street city preserves much of its early charm, and the town square is a National Register Historic District. Heritage abounds at the Rusk County Depot Museum Complex, which features numerous relocated buildings. Children and adults enjoy its Children's Discovery Center, a hands-on learning facility in the former cotton warehouse of the 1901 Missouri-Pacific Depot. The museum also boasts the historic Arnold Outhouse, the only standing outhouse in Texas with a state historical marker. The Gaston Museum, outside Henderson and near **Joinerville**, focuses on life during the oil boom era. It is located near the site of the Daisy Bradford #3, which helped establish the East Texas Oil Field in 1930.



*Rusk County Depot Museum Complex, Henderson*

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## HUNTSVILLE

From its founding as a trading post in the 1830s, Huntsville quickly established itself as a prominent Texas town. In 1847, this Texas Main Street city became the site of the Texas State Penitentiary. For a fascinating look at life and death behind prison walls, visit the Texas Prison Museum, which houses the electric chair nicknamed "Old Sparky." The Sam Houston Memorial Museum features the Woodland Home, which Houston sold to pay campaign debts, and the relocated Steamboat House, where Houston's body lay in state in 1863 before being laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery. A 67-foot-tall statue of the Texas hero and a visitors center greet travelers to Huntsville.

## JACKSONVILLE

Not to be left behind, the residents of Jacksonville picked up and moved the town in 1872 when the International-Great Northern Railroad laid tracks several miles from their original townsite. View East Texas splendor at the scenic ridge Love's Lookout. A popular tourist destination during antebellum Texas, the site offers spectacular views, a visitors center, and picnic arbors. The Vanishing Texana Museum, in the Jacksonville Public Library, displays Native American artifacts, old farm implements, and photographs. Held every June, Jacksonville's annual Tomato Festival draws large crowds.



*The region boasts magnificent lakes, such as B.A. Steinhagen Lake near Jasper.*

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## JASPER

Alligators, herons, and bass attract hikers, birders, and fishermen to this community, located east of B.A. Steinhagen Lake and south of Lake Sam Rayburn. A trail in Boykin Springs Recreation Area leads to the unrestored ruins of the old **Aldridge** sawmill and ghost town. Once a thriving sawmill town, residents abandoned Aldridge in the 1920s after the native timber was depleted.

## JEFFERSON

A bustling riverport in its heyday, much of Jefferson's glamorous past is preserved for today's heritage tourist. Imagine railroad tycoon Jay Gould entertaining friends aboard his elegantly appointed 1888 private railroad car called "The Atalanta." The coach, which is open for tours, was restored after serving as a family's home during the 1930s oil boom. Visitors can tour or spend a night at the historic 1852 Excelsior House Hotel, one of Jefferson's elegant bed-and-breakfasts. The Excelsior also stands out as one of Texas' oldest continuously operating hotels. Nearby, the Jefferson Historical Museum occupies an 1888 federal building and features local memorabilia. At the intersection of Lafayette and Market streets is the bronze Sterne fountain, graced by a statue of the goddess Hebe who pours water in three levels—for horses, people, and dogs.



*Explore Jefferson by carriage.*

TPWD

**P**rior to the 1880s, the magnificent East Texas pines remained virtually untouched. Without dependable transportation, which local rivers could not provide, hauling timber was a tedious and rare endeavor. Everything changed with the railroad. Tracks sprang up and sawmills followed closely behind. Between the 1880s and late 1920s, the lumber industry exploded. Mill towns were born, lumber kings were crowned, and timber production dominated the East Texas economy. In 1907, the industry reported a record annual cut of more than 2.25 billion board feet of lumber. After World War I, the industry declined as companies exhausted their timber supplies and ceased operations. It flourished again after World War II with reforestation and with new equipment that utilized more of the tree and increased the variety of wood products.

Today, the evidence of this mighty industry is still apparent through old sawmill ruins, log trucks, museums, state parks, and national forests. The lumber industry continues to be a major economic supplier for Texas, directly contributing nearly \$20 billion to the state's economy, according to the Texas Forest Service's most recent figures.

Background: Randy Mallory

# Lumber Land



East Texas Research Center, P70b:8



East Texas Research Center, P90s:30



East Texas Research Center, P90t:210

## KARNACK

Named after an ancient city in Egypt, Karnack was the childhood home of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson, former first lady of the United States. Today, it serves as a gateway to the mystical Caddo Lake. Covering 26,000 acres, the lake is a swampy maze winding through overgrown cypress, with 42 miles of channel marked to keep boaters from getting lost. One theory is the lake formed behind a Red River logjam. Another is that it resulted from the 1811 earthquake centered on Missouri, a theory similar to a Caddo Indian legend that says the lake was formed at night by angry spirits shaking the earth.



*Lady Bird Johnson was born and raised in Karnack.*

LBU Library

## KILGORE

In the early 1930s, two gushers miles apart signaled the discovery of the biggest oil field of its time. Overnight, the tiny farming community of Kilgore swelled to 10,000 people eager to strike it rich. Today, a park filled with replicated derricks marks the spot once known as “the world’s richest acre.” The excitement and harsh realities of that period are realized at the East Texas Oil Museum, where visitors can walk the streets of Boomtown USA. In the realistic, full-sized street scene, workers toil to free vehicles mired in the mud, while visitors, like yesteryear boomtown residents, can enjoy an ice cream soda, go to the theater, listen to a jukebox, or browse the shops. A Texas Main Street city, Kilgore has a glamorous side that is on display at the Rangerette Showcase, which honors the world-famous Kilgore College precision drill and dance team. Visitors will get a kick out of seeing memorabilia dating back to the team’s founding in 1940.

## KOUNTZE

“The Big Light in the Big Thicket=” is an entry to the vast, dense woods that were once hideouts for murderers, thieves, and Civil War draft dodgers. Today, the Big Thicket is a major biological crossroads where swamps, barrens, and piney woods collide. The 97,000-acre Big Thicket National Preserve serves as a living laboratory for the study of diverse ecological systems. Visitors to this natural setting can view fascinating exhibits and explore hiking trails at the preserve’s visitors center, located seven miles north of town on U.S. 69. Grab your binoculars for the annual Birding in the Big Thicket in April.

## LINDEN

Home to blues legend Aaron “T-Bone” Walker, ragtime composer Scott Joplin, and rock ’n’ roll star and preservationist Don Henley, the Linden area is the place to hear live music in East Texas. Head to Music City Texas Theater, and listen to nationally known bands of all genres in an intimate setting. This quiet Piney Woods community also boasts the Cass County Courthouse, restored as part of the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program and considered the oldest working courthouse in Texas. The Pleasant Hill School north of town is a National Register of Historic Places property that stands as a reminder of East Texas’ segregated past. A former Rosenwald school, the property was built with funds provided by the community and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which offered matching monies to help build more than 5,000 African American schools across the South during the early 20th century. In the Department of Agriculture and Post Office Building downtown, the 1939 mural “The Last Crop” (aka “Cotton Pickers”) is a stunning depiction of this era, showing African American tenant farmers picking cotton.

## LIVINGSTON

A suspicious 1902 fire, purportedly set over local liquor prohibition, forced residents to rebuild this Texas Main Street city. An old log-hauling locomotive and the 1933 Jonas Davis Log Cabin mark the location of the Polk County Memorial Museum and Heritage Park. East of town, in the heart of the Big Thicket, is the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation. The tribe settled in East Texas around 1780, and Sam Houston had the land declared a reservation as a reward for the tribe’s courage in remaining neutral during Texas’ war for independence.



TXDO

**P**opulating the East Texas Piney Woods for more than 1,200 years, the Caddo shaped and influenced modern East Texas. They created extensive interregional trade routes and were known for their rich variety of durable and artistic ceramic goods, which are considered among the finest aboriginal pottery manufactured in North America. At dozens of sites throughout northeastern Texas, the Caddo built earthen mounds that were used as temple structures for civic and religious functions and burials of social and political elite. Delve deeper into this fascinating history at the Texas Historical Commission's Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto. For more information, see [www.visitcaddomounds.com](http://www.visitcaddomounds.com).

*Caddo ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★*  
*Contributions*

*Left: Visit the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation the first weekend in June to watch a Native American dance competition during the Annual Powwow.*

*Background, Billy Thomas, Caddo Nation, 1913, Mathers Museum, Indiana University.*



insets: [texasbeyonhistory.net](http://texasbeyonhistory.net)



Artist: Reeda Peel

## LONGVIEW

During World War II, Longview gained national prominence as the gathering point for the Big Inch pipeline, designed to protect crude oil for the war effort from sabotage on its way to Pennsylvania. That story is one of many described on wall panels in Heritage Plaza, where visitors can learn about this Texas Main Street city's first century, from 1870 to 1970. An agricultural scene is depicted in Thomas M. Stell Jr.'s 1946 mural, "Rural East Texas," in the downtown post office. At the Gregg County Historical Museum, exhibits range from Caddo Indian artifacts to a Dalton Gang bank robbery to the history of Texas architecture.

## LUFKIN

When the railroad arrived in 1881, this town in the heart of the Piney Woods became a thriving timber center. Legend has it the railroad originally was to go through Homer but shifted to Lufkin after Homer's constable threw the surveying crew in jail for rowdiness. The Texas Forestry Museum tells the story of



TxDOT  
*Texas Forestry Museum*

the establishment and expansion of the East Texas timber industry. Visitors enjoy outdoor exhibits, an indoor interpretive center, and the Urban Wildscape Trail's native landscapes. The Museum of East Texas features art and history exhibits. Before you head out, stroll through the revitalized downtown of this Texas Main Street city.



*The Harrison County Courthouse in Marshall shines in December.*

Marshall CVB

## MARSHALL

In the early 1900s, trainloads of westward-bound immigrants stopped briefly at the Texas and Pacific (T&P) Depot, located in today's Ginocchio Historic District. To accommodate feeding several hundred customers each day, the staff at the beautiful Ginocchio Hotel set up tables in its lobby and ballroom. The historic T&P Depot, built in 1912 to replace an older depot, is both an active Amtrak station and railroad museum. A few blocks to the south is the magnificent 1901 Harrison County Courthouse, which was restored through the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Home of the Harrison County Historical Museum, the courthouse should not be missed, especially during the famous Wonderland of Lights throughout the last five weeks of every year.

Explore the lives of four generations of one family at the THC's Starr Family Home State Historic Site. The site's centerpiece is Maplecroft, an 1870 Italianate house with early-19th-century furnishings. A surprise for many visitors to this Texas Main Street city, the Michelson Museum of Art displays the life work of Russian-American impressionist Leo Michelson (1887–1978). Wiley College, founded in 1873, was the first school west of the Mississippi River certified by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The campus was relocated to its current site in 1878.



## MINEOLA

The birthplace of philanthropist and art patron Ima Hogg, this Texas Main Street city was founded in 1873. The Select Theater, believed to be the longest continuously operating theater in Texas, features both movies and live productions. Mineola's 1950s depot is still used by Amtrak passengers and is reminiscent of this city's railroad town beginnings.

## MONTGOMERY

A bustling town in the mid-1800s, Montgomery boasts many historic commercial buildings and gracious homes. The N.H. Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum showcases period furnishings and memorabilia in a pioneer home. Its original owner was a lawyer who built the first section in 1851 from logs received as payment for legal fees. The museum also houses a replica of the original sketch of the Lone Star Flag and Republic of Texas seal, which were adopted as the state flag and seal in 1839 and were drawn by native son, Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart.

## MOUNT PLEASANT

A century ago, red mineral springs lured visitors. Today, the prime attraction of this Texas Main Street city is excellent fishing at nearby lakes Bob Sandlin, Monticello, and Welsh. Within Lake Bob Sandlin State Park is the Fort Sherman cemetery and archeological evidence of Caddo Indians who occupied the area from 200 B.C. to A.D. 1700.



Franklin County Historical Association

## MOUNT VERNON

This Texas Main Street city boasts a gracious plaza, restored town square, partially restored 1912 Classical Revival courthouse, and more than 65 historic homes, all of which helped earn it a First Lady's Texas Treasures Award in 2009. The recently restored 1880s Thruston House serves as the Bankhead Highway Visitors Center, which features exhibits on Mount Vernon native Henry Clay Thruston. At 7 feet 7 1/2 inches tall, Thruston is said to have been the tallest soldier to fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War. The Franklin County Historical Museum, housed in a 1940 structure built by the Work Projects Administration, boasts natural history collections and dynamic exhibits.

*Mount Vernon native Henry Clay Thruston, standing 7 feet 7 1/2 inches tall, is said to have been the tallest Confederate soldier in the Civil War.*

## NACOGDOCHES

This Texas Main Street city and 2010 First Lady's Texas Treasures Award winner was the site of three failed attempts to establish a republic prior to the 1832 Battle of Nacogdoches, an early conflict in the war for independence. Four signers of Texas' Declaration of Independence, including Thomas J. Rusk, are buried in the historic Oak Grove Cemetery. The Old Nacogdoches University Building, chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845 and built in 1859, houses a museum in the only original, still-standing building of a university chartered by the Republic of Texas.

The story of pre-19th century Nacogdoches County is shared through artifacts and exhibits at the Stone Fort Museum, a 1936 replica of the home of Don Antonio Gil Y Barbo, founder of present-day Nacogdoches. The Sterne-Hoya House Museum and Library, built by Adolphus Sterne around 1830, is a house museum that was restored to reflect the lives of its earliest occupants. The Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens relates stories of family and industry in Nacogdoches from 1840–1860. The 1830s wood-frame house is the city's second-oldest structure located on its original site. At Millard's Crossing Historic Village, a cluster of relocated 19th-century buildings including a schoolhouse, church, and boardinghouse, conjures up images of a bygone era. The Zion Hill National Register Historic District represents one of the oldest and most intact early-20th-century African American neighborhoods in Texas. The wood-frame, two-room shotgun houses reflect a standard housing type found throughout African American communities across the South.



Historic Sites Department, City of Nacogdoches

*The Sterne-Hoya House Museum and Library in Nacogdoches was built by Adolphus Sterne around 1830.*



*Windmill Museum, Tex Ritter Park, Nederland*

log cabin showcasing the heritage of Nederland's Dutch and Acadian settlers.

### NEDERLAND

Promoters gave the town its Dutch name in 1897 to attract settlers from Holland to the area's railroad jobs and rich farmland. The opportunities also lured Acadians from South Louisiana. Known for his Western movies and songs, Woodward "Tex" Ritter attended high school in Nederland. His namesake park houses the Windmill Museum and La Maison Acadienne Museum, which exhibits replicas of a windmill and

### NEW LONDON

"The Day a Generation Died" was the phrase used to describe the horrific impact of the 1937 school explosion that killed 311 local students and teachers. Within weeks after the tragedy, sparked by an undetected natural gas leak, survivors testified before the state legislature and succeeded in getting a law passed requiring odor be added to natural gas. The New London Museum tells the poignant story in photographs, oral histories, and memorabilia that includes a sympathy telegram from Adolph Hitler. The museum lies behind the drugstore where survivors met for reunions. Between the museum and the rebuilt school is a landmark cenotaph, or empty tomb, bearing the names of victims.



*A cenotaph is dedicated to those killed in the 1937 school explosion in New London.*

### NEWTON

Nature lovers will enjoy the longleaf pines, rock bluffs, and spring blooms of honeysuckle at Wild Azalea Canyons. Visitors can see the influence of pioneer families and sawmill towns at the Newton County Historical Center and Museum, which houses memorabilia dating to 1846. Nearby, the restored Powell Hotel, open for tours but not for overnight lodging, has an unpretentious charm recalling its 1914 conversion to a hotel from its original purpose as the W.H. Ford Male and Female College. Across the street is the historic Newton County Courthouse, which was gutted by a fire in 2000. The 1902 Second Empire building was restored through the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

### ORANGE

Because of its isolated location on the Louisiana border, Orange was a stopping place for outlaws and renegades crossing the Sabine River into Texas. Today, visitors can discover the town's colorful past at history museums or enjoy cultural attractions such as the Lutchter Theater and Stark Museum of Art. The Heritage House Museum looks at upper-middle-class family life from the turn of the 20th century to the 1940s. See the striking difference between the middle class and the fabulously wealthy by visiting the 1894 W.H. Stark House, a three-story Victorian-era mansion with authentic furniture and room settings. Located on 252 acres along Adams Bayou, Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center offers visitors the chance to explore and learn about local ecosystems and gardens without leaving the city center.

*1894 W.H. Stark House, Orange*





Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum

*Ezekiel Airship, Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum, Pittsburg*

## PALESTINE

Historic homes, magnolias, and dogwoods impart a gracious Southern sensibility to this Texas Main Street city. In addition to the annual Dogwood Trails Festival, visitors find more than 1,300 historic homes and buildings, many within two National Register Historic Districts that can be viewed on a driving tour. The conductor sounds the “all aboard” for the steam train at the Texas State Railroad depot. Boarding for round trip excursions takes place at depots in Palestine and **Rusk**.

## PITTSBURG

Experience rural life, railroad heritage, and one man’s fanciful idea of a flying machine in this Texas Main Street city. The Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center offers exhibits in its Depot Museum, a former Cotton Belt Railroad Depot. It showcases a working telegraph office, history of the poultry industry, and the story of the Center Point Training School, established after the Civil War to educate African American children from Texas and other states. The site also houses a full-sized replica of the Ezekiel Airship, a curious flying machine inspired by a biblical verse and built before the Wright Brothers’ historic flight. The original airship was destroyed in a train accident. At the nearby Farmstead Museum, history comes alive in a blacksmith shop, smokehouse, general store, and a fully restored 100-year-old farmhouse.

# EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS

Designated a National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas is a system of trails running from Mexico to Louisiana dating to the 1690s. The trails originally served as a lifeline for missions transporting freight supplies and military protection. Later they were used for exploration, colonization, trading, ranching, and battle, ultimately becoming the state’s original highway. Visit these East Texas towns dotted along this historic trail, or learn more at [www.nps.gov/elte](http://www.nps.gov/elte).

- Alto
- Crockett
- Milam
- Nacogdoches
- San Augustine



*El Camino Real de los Tejas*  
National Historic Trail

## PORT ARTHUR

This town began as an inland port for shipping Midwestern grain, but with the Spindletop oil discovery in 1901, it became a leading center for refining and shipping oil. Experience the area's industrial history and stories of Paleo-Indians and Spanish explorers at the Museum of the Gulf Coast. The museum's Music Hall pays tribute to local musical greats, such as J.P. Richardson Jr. (the Big Bopper) and Janis Joplin, and houses a replica of Joplin's psychedelic-painted Porsche. Thirteen miles south of town is the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site. A statue honors Lt. Dick Dowling, who led a small Confederate force in preventing a Union fleet of gunboats from invading this Texas port during the Civil War.

## QUITMAN

Governor Jim Hogg City Park, honoring Texas' first native-born governor, James S. Hogg, has three museums. On special occasions, visitors can watch the Stinson House Quilters work in the 1869 house that belonged to Sallie Hogg's parents. The Honeymoon Cottage, the early home of Gov. Jim and Sallie Hogg, features original furnishings, while the Ima Hogg Museum, named for the Hoggs' only daughter, houses Northeast Texas and family memorabilia.



Above: *The Honeymoon Cottage in Quitman, the early home of Gov. Jim and Sallie Hogg, features original furnishings.*

Right: *Ais Indian statue at the Mission Dolores Visitor Center, San Augustine*



THC

*A statue honors Civil War hero Lt. Dick Dowling at Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site near Port Arthur.*

## RUSK

Rich iron ore deposits were the basis of this historic town's early economy. Restored Victorian commercial buildings on the downtown square and the ghost town of **New Birmingham**, an ill-fated iron boomtown, are reminiscent of that past. A 560-foot bridge, located in Footbridge Park, was built in 1889 to enable people living east of the valley to cross the rising waters of One Eye Creek to get to town. Authentic steam engines, replica depots, and magnificent scenery draw tourists and Hollywood

filmmakers to the Texas State Railroad. Puffs of steam, a rhythmic rocking motion, and the sound of wheels on tracks accompany the 25-mile train ride through scenic piney woods between Rusk and **Palestine**. Historically, the railroad belonged to the Texas Prison System. Prisoners laid the tracks in 1893 to haul iron ore and wood from convict work camps to smelting furnaces at the East Texas State Penitentiary in Rusk. Just outside town is Jim Hogg Historic Site, a day-use city park that features a replica of the log cabin birthplace of the Texas governor who served from 1891–95.

## SAN AUGUSTINE

Historic homes and churches dot this quaint town rich in Texas history. An Eastern gateway for settlers from Southern states—and an earlier stop along the historic route, El Camino Real de los Tejas—San Augustine became one of the first Anglo communities when Texas was part of Mexico. The Mission Dolores Visitor Center commemorates the site of an early Spanish mission, founded in 1716. Exhibits describe life among the missionaries and Ais Indians, and territorial struggles between Spain and France. The Ezekiel Cullen House, built in 1839, was the home of a prominent judge in the Republic of Texas. Nearby is the 1927 San Augustine County Courthouse, which was restored through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.



TXDOT

**O**n January 10, 1901, the discovery well at Spindletop, near Beaumont, blew in with a 100-foot gusher. Oil flowed unchecked for nine days, producing more than 100,000 barrels per day and awakening an oil boom unlike anything the country had ever seen.

Twenty-nine years later, there were other significant discovery wells near present-day Joinerville. Over the course of the next two years, drillers brought in wells in four other locations, all originating from the same massive pool of oil. Stretching 45 miles in length and spreading beneath more than 140,000 surface acres, the East Texas Oilfield was the largest known in the world at the time.

These events forever changed the face of Texas' economy, culture, and identity. East Texas continues to be a top producer of oil and gas, and remnants of this heritage can be seen throughout the Texas Forest Trail Region.

*Full of drive and determination, wildcatters, roughnecks, and roustabouts changed the world with the discovery of oil in Texas.*



Texas Energy Museum, Beaumont



Texas Energy Museum, Beaumont

# ★ ★ Black Gold ★ ★ Rush!

Background: TxDOT

## SILSBEE

Located at the edge of the Big Thicket National Preserve, Silsbee was originally developed with the railroad but later thrived through oil, timber, and agricultural resources. Learn about the town's railroad development at the Ice House Museum and Cultural Center. Located in a 1926 icehouse, exhibits illustrate life before refrigeration.

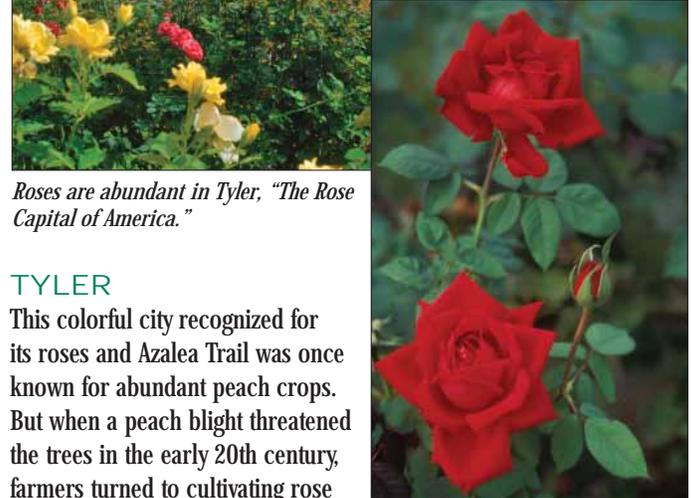
## TEXARKANA

A vibrant mural honoring Scott Joplin, Pulitzer Prize-winning "King of Ragtime Composers" and past resident of Texarkana, marks the heart of this Texas and Arkansas Main Street city's lively cultural district. Inside the Discovery Place Children's Museum, fun and learning go hand-in-hand amid such interactive exhibits as a 12-foot musical wall, a post office, and an old-fashioned kitchen. A brick building nearly as old as the city itself houses the renovated Museum of Regional History. Permanent exhibits include the Native American Gallery, Scott Joplin Gallery, and period rooms. The Regional Arts Center, which hosts national touring and juried shows, occupies a former U.S. district courthouse, built in 1909. The grand, ornate structure boasts a 26-foot vaulted ceiling, copper cage elevator, and abundant marble. Nearby, the beautifully restored Perot Theater, built in

1924 as the Saenger Theater, offers exhilarating live performances in a historic setting. Just outside the cultural district is the unique Draughon-Moore Ace of Clubs House. Legend has it a lucky card drawn in a poker game inspired its cloverleaf shape. Inside, its rooms provide a glimpse of Texarkana high society between 1880 and 1940.



*Draughon-Moore Ace of Clubs House, Texarkana*



*Roses are abundant in Tyler, "The Rose Capital of America."*

## TYLER

This colorful city recognized for its roses and Azalea Trail was once known for abundant peach crops. But when a peach blight threatened the trees in the early 20th century, farmers turned to cultivating rose bushes. Eventually this Texas Main Street city became "The Rose Capital of America" and the site of the Texas Rose Festival each October since 1933. At the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and Museum, more than 450 varieties of rose bushes, including antique varieties, bloom in the garden. The museum showcases glamorous gowns worn by Texas Rose Festival Queens, as well as the history of the rose industry. Another outstanding homegrown attraction grew from a backyard menagerie to become the first-rate Caldwell Zoo. Relax with a cool lemonade on a shaded porch and watch elephants, zebras, and lions roam the realistic East African-style savannah, where natural barriers separate predators and prey. Downtown, children will enjoy the Discovery Science Place where hands-on, crawl-through, and climb-over activities make learning fun.

Texas College, a historically African American university, is the oldest of three higher education institutions in Tyler. The college was established under the auspices of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 1894. A traditional center for learning, the 1904 Carnegie Library now houses the Smith County Historical Museum, which has noteworthy Work Projects Administration wall murals and exhibits that include a pioneer Chinese family's memorabilia. At the 1859 Goodman-LeGrand House and Museum, visitors can imagine living in a pre-Civil War Texas mansion. Located outside town is the site of Camp Ford, one of the largest prisoner-of-war camps during the Civil War, featuring nature trails and informational displays.

## WECHES

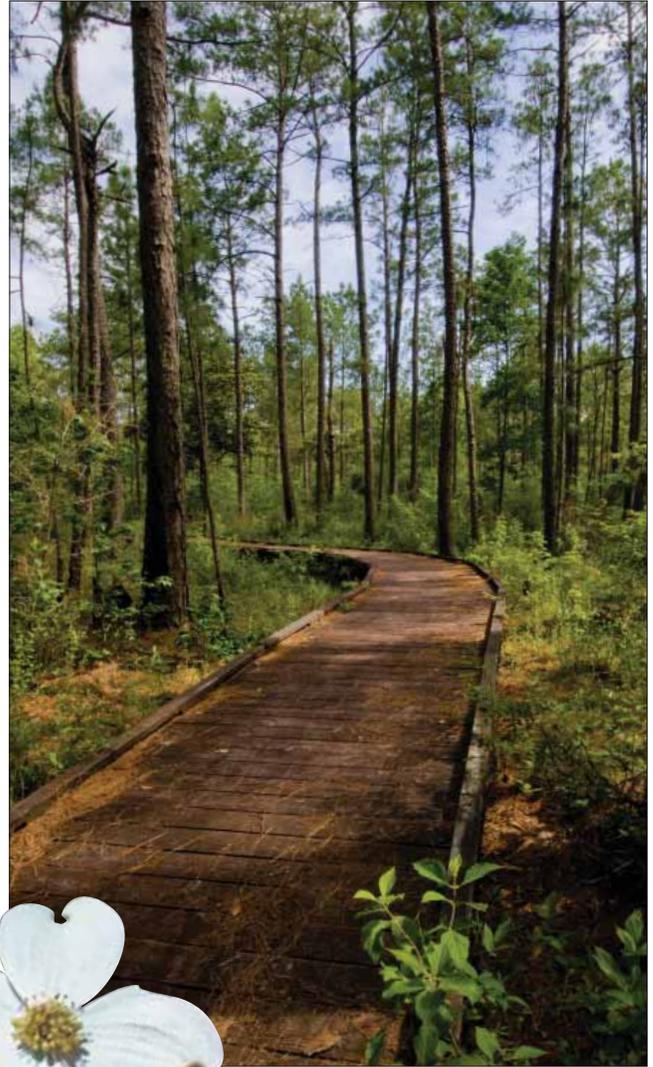
This town is the entry to Mission Tejas State Park, a site honoring the first Spanish mission in the Texas wilderness around 1690. A 1930s-era interpretation of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas stands in the park, which is located in the Davy Crockett National Forest. Visitors can also see the restored 1828 Rice Family Log Home, where travelers along the section of El Camino Real de los Tejas known as the Old San Antonio Road sometimes stopped during the pioneer era.

## WINNSBORO

A noon stop for daily passenger trains in the early 1900s, this Texas Main Street city acquired a reputation for its food and hospitality. Visitors especially enjoy the historic town during the Autumn Trails Festival. Held every weekend in October, it features driving tours through colorful forests of oak, maple, sycamore, and pine trees and a famous trail ride that draws thousands of riders and horses.

## WOODVILLE

One of many East Texas towns that celebrate spring's floral wonders, Woodville traces the origin of its Dogwood Festival to a 1938 barbecue held to lobby state officials for construction of a highway from Huntsville to the Louisiana border. Taken with the dogwood's beauty, James E. Wheat (who would become the first president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, which became the Texas Historical Commission) suggested an annual observance, and the festival emerged several years before the highway. Mementos and memorabilia are exhibited in the Allan Shivers Library and Museum, dedicated to the Texas governor who spent his childhood in Woodville. Just outside town is the Heritage Village Museum, which grew from a 1950s tourist attraction and now features more than 30 relocated and replicated pioneer structures.



TxDOT



TxDOT

*Biodiversity is a hallmark of the Big Thicket; plan on spending several days to explore the many facets of this incredible woodland.*

*Around every curve, another surprise awaits the traveler. On the journey, sunlight filters through lush green woods and spills through towns filled with the historic sights and sounds of East Texas.*

# COMMUNITIES IN THE TEXAS FOREST TRAIL REGION

For more information on the sites in this brochure, refer to the *Texas State Travel Guide*, 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 them in advance. To obtain a free *Texas State Travel Guide*, call 800.8888.TEX, or visit [www.TravelTex.com](http://www.TravelTex.com).

**Alto**  
Caddo Mounds State Historic Site  
936.858.3218  
[www.visitcaddomounds.com](http://www.visitcaddomounds.com)

**Athens**  
Welcome Center  
903.677.0775  
[www.athenstx.org](http://www.athenstx.org)

**Atlanta**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.796.3296  
[www.atlantatexas.org](http://www.atlantatexas.org)

**Beaumont**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
800.392.4401  
[www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com)

**Carthage**  
Panola County Chamber of Commerce  
903.693.6634  
[www.carthagetexas.com](http://www.carthagetexas.com)

**Center**  
Shelby County Chamber of Commerce  
936.598.3682  
[www.shelbycountychamber.com](http://www.shelbycountychamber.com)

**Clarksville**  
Red River County Chamber of Commerce  
903.427.2645  
[www.red-river.net](http://www.red-river.net)

**Coldspring**  
Chamber of Commerce  
936.653.2184  
[www.coldspringtexas.org](http://www.coldspringtexas.org)

**Conroe**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
877.426.6763  
[www.conroecvb.net](http://www.conroecvb.net)

**Crockett**  
Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce  
936.544.2359  
[www.crockettareachamber.org](http://www.crockettareachamber.org)

**Daingerfield**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.645.2646  
[www.daingerfieldtx.net](http://www.daingerfieldtx.net)

**Gilmer**  
Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce  
903.843.2413  
[www.gilmerareachamber.com](http://www.gilmerareachamber.com)

**Gladewater**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.845.5501  
[www.gladewaterchamber.com](http://www.gladewaterchamber.com)

**Hawkins**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.769.4482  
[www.hawkinschamberofcommerce.com](http://www.hawkinschamberofcommerce.com)

**Hemphill**  
Sabine County Chamber of Commerce  
409.787.2732  
[www.sabinecountytexas.com](http://www.sabinecountytexas.com)

**Henderson**  
Henderson Tourism  
866.650.5529  
[www.hendersontx.us](http://www.hendersontx.us)

**Huntsville**  
Sam Houston Statue and Visitors Center  
800.289.0389  
[www.huntsvilletexas.com](http://www.huntsvilletexas.com)

**Jacksonville**  
Chamber of Commerce  
800.376.2217  
[www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)

**Jasper**  
Chamber of Commerce  
409.384.2762  
[www.jaspercoc.org](http://www.jaspercoc.org)

**Jefferson**  
Marion County Chamber of Commerce  
903.665.2672  
[www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com)

**Karnack**  
Caddo Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism  
[www.caddolake.org](http://www.caddolake.org)  
\*also see Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Kilgore**  
Chamber of Commerce  
866.984.0400  
[www.kilgorechamber.com](http://www.kilgorechamber.com)

*Piney Woods*



TxDOT

*View exotic birds and other animals at the historic Caldwell Zoo in Tyler.*



*Zinc monument at Old Powder Mill Cemetery, Marshall's oldest African American burial ground in continuous use.*



THC

**Kountze**  
Chamber of Commerce  
866.456.8689  
www.kountzechamber.org

**Linden**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.756.3106  
www.lindentexas.org

**Livingston**  
Livingston-Polk County Chamber  
of Commerce  
936.327.4929  
www.polkachamber.com

**Longview**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
903.753.3281  
www.longviewtx.com

**Lufkin**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
800.409.5659  
www.visitlufkin.com

**Lumberton**  
Chamber of Commerce  
409.755.0554  
www.lumbertoncoc.com

**Marshall**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
903.935.7868  
www.visitmarshalltexas.org

**Mineola**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.569.2087  
www.mineolachamber.org

**Montgomery**  
City of Montgomery Tourism  
936.597.6434  
www.historicmontgomerytexas.com

**Mount Pleasant**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.572.8576  
www.mtpleasanttx.com

**Mount Vernon**  
Franklin County Chamber  
of Commerce  
903.537.4365  
www.visitmtvernontx.com

**Nacogdoches**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
888.653.3788  
www.visitnacogdoches.org

**Nederland**  
Chamber of Commerce  
409.722.0279  
www.nederlandtx.com

**New London**  
New London Museum  
903.895.4602  
www.newlondonschool.org

**Newton**  
Newton County Chamber  
of Commerce  
409.379.5527  
www.newton-texas.com

**Orange**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
800.528.4906  
www.orangetexas.org

**Palestine**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
903.723.3014  
www.visitpalestine.com

**Pittsburg**  
City of Pittsburg  
903.856.3621  
www.pittsburgtexas.com

**Port Arthur**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
409.985.7822  
www.visitportarthurtx.com

**Quitman**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.763.4411  
www.quitman.com

**Rusk**  
Chamber of Commerce  
800.933.2381  
www.ruskchamber.com

**San Augustine**  
San Augustine County Chamber  
of Commerce  
936.275.3610  
www.sanaugustinetx.com

**Shenandoah**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
281.292.5953  
www.shenandoahtxcvb.com

**Silsbee**  
Chamber of Commerce  
409.385.5562  
www.silsbeechamber.com

**Texarkana**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.792.7191  
www.texarkana.org

**Trinity**  
Chamber of Commerce  
936.594.3856  
www.trinitychamber.org

**Tyler**  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
800.235.5712  
www.visittyler.com

**Weches**  
Mission Tejas State Park  
936.687.2394  
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

**Winnboro**  
Chamber of Commerce  
903.342.3666  
www.winnboro.com



Beaumont Enterprise



Kilgore College

Rangerette, Kilgore College

*Experience a kaleidoscope  
of cultural traditions throughout  
the heritage region.*

**Woodville**  
Tyler Co. Chamber  
of Commerce  
409.283.2632  
www.tylercountychamber.com

*All you expect from Texas is  
here: rugged landscapes, oil  
derricks, diverse heritage, and  
that proud-to-be-Texan spirit.*



www.texasimetravel.com  
www.texasforesttrail.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.



## REGIONAL STATE PARKS

Travelers to the Texas Forest 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](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

- Atlanta State Park, Atlanta
- Caddo Lake State Park, Karnack
- Daingerfield State Park, Daingerfield
- Huntsville State Park, Huntsville
- Lake Bob Sandlin State Park, Pittsburg
- Lake Livingston State Park, Livingston
- Martin Creek Lake State Park, Longview
- Martin Dies Jr. State Park, Jasper
- Mission Tejas State Park, Weches
- Sea Rim State Park, Sabine Pass
- Tyler State Park, Tyler
- Village Creek State Park, Lumberton



TPWD

*Birding enthusiasts flock to East Texas to view hundreds of different species.*



TPWD

*Effigy pipe replica, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site*

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HISTORIC SITES

Heritage tourists can learn more about the rich East Texas history and experience real places and stories at one of the Texas Historical Commission's historic sites located in the Texas Forest Trail Region. For more information, please call 512.463.7948, or visit [www.texashistoricsites.com](http://www.texashistoricsites.com).

- Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Alto
- Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site, Sabine Pass
- Starr Family Home State Historic Site, Marshall

## REGIONAL FORESTS

The Texas Forest Trail Region boasts the only national forests in Texas—four in total. Moreover, it features the only national preserve in the state, as well as five state forests. Take the scenic route through these natural wonders, or stop by for camping, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. For more information, contact the U.S. Forest Service (936.639.8501 or [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)), National Park Service (409.951.6700 or [www.nps.gov/bith](http://www.nps.gov/bith)), or Texas Forest Service ([www.txforestservation.tamu.edu](http://www.txforestservation.tamu.edu)).

### NATIONAL FORESTS AND PRESERVE

- Angelina National Forest
- Big Thicket National Preserve
- Davy Crockett National Forest
- Sabine National Forest
- Sam Houston National Forest

### STATE FORESTS

- E.O. Sieck State Forest
- Fairchild State Forest
- J.H. Kirby Memorial State Forest
- Masterson State Forest
- W.G. Jones State Forest



TXDOT

*Caddo Lake State Park*

## 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.

- Beaumont
- Carthage
- Clarksville
- Gladewater
- Henderson
- Huntsville
- Kilgore
- Livingston
- Longview
- Lufkin
- Marshall
- Mineola
- Mount Pleasant
- Mount Vernon
- Nacogdoches
- Palestine
- Pittsburg
- Texarkana
- Tyler
- Winnsboro



Beaumont: Enterprise/Eckert



*Cajun culture thrives in Beaumont.*

*Four generations of the Starr family lived at Maplecroft, Starr Family Home State Historic Site, Marshall.*

## TEXAS HERITAGE TRAIL REGIONS



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.texasmetravel.com](http://www.texasmetravel.com).



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

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 512.475.4872  
[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)



*I t's like a whole other country.*

Funding provided through TxDOT's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program  
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*Inset: Harrison County Courthouse, Marshall  
Inset photo credit: THC  
Background photo credit: Randy Mallory*

# TEXAS FOREST TRAIL

R E G I O N



## EXPLORING THE HERITAGE OF EAST TEXAS