

Beaumont

A great way to experience Beaumont's history and heritage is a day tour featuring some of the area's historic attractions and museums!

10:00 a.m. Arrive at the **Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum** and re-live the excitement of that fateful day the Lucas Gusher blew and changed the face of the petroleum age forever! Your group will feel the thunder from the depths of the earth as that black gold spews 100s of feet in the air!
Fee: \$2.00 per person Optional Gusher: \$100 per group

Option: **McFaddin Ward House Museum Tour** The McFaddin-Ward House was built in 1905-06 in the striking and distinctive Beaux-Arts Colonial style. The structure and its furnishings reflect the lifestyle of the prominent family who lived in the house for seventy-five years.
Fee: \$3.00 each for groups of 20 or more, Reservations Required.

10:45 am Depart Spindletop for Beaumont's Museum and Entertainment District.

11:00 am Arrive at the **Texas Energy Museum** for an interactive self guided tour of the process of converting crude oil into energy and everyday household products!
Group tour fee is: \$1.00 per person.

11:30 am Lunch may be arranged at a variety of unique restaurants, bistros and cafeterias with a wide array of menus and group pricing!

12:15 pm Tour the **Art Museum of Southeast Texas** featuring local artists!
Admission: FREE

1:30 pm Tour the **Fire Museum of Texas!** A tribute to our firefighters of today and days gone by! Featuring vintage fire trucks and firefighting equipment.

2:15 pm Arrive at the **St. Anthony Roman Catholic Cathedral Basilica**, dating back to 1853 and designated a Minor Basilica in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI. Be inspired by its many art treasures; including a soaring dome depicting the glory of heaven, and Carrara marble alter.

2:45 pm Depart for **the Babe Zaharias Museum**. Mildred "Babe" Zaharias was the world's greatest athlete! She excelled in numerous sports including golf, tennis, track & field! The exhibit features her history, awards and Olympic Gold Medals! **Admission: FREE**

Brenham

Blue Bell, Bluebonnets and the Birthplace of Texas

- 10:00 am Tour **Blue Bell Creameries**,* eat the “best ice cream in the country” and Visit the Country Store.
- 11:00 am Tour **Ellison’s Greenhouses**, home of the Texas-sized poinsettia™
- 11:30 am Arrive in **historic Downtown Brenham** and enjoy lunch at several group friendly restaurants and shop.
- 1:30 pm Option 1: Depart for the **Antique Rose Emporium** in Independence. Visit the gardens, original Baylor University at **Old Baylor Park** on Windmill Hill and tour the **Texas Baptist Historical Center**.*
- Option 2: Leave for the **Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm*** on Hwy. 105. Enjoy the horses and Art Barn gift shop with items made on-site by the nuns.
- Option 3: Tour **Windy Winery*** between Brenham and Independence. Tour **Pleasant Hill Winery*** outside of Brenham.
- 3:00 pm Option 1: From Independence, drive to Burton on FM 290. Tour the **Burton Cotton Gin & Museum** (the Official Cotton Gin Museum of Texas).* Travel back to when Cotton Was King!
- Option 2: From the Monastery, travel to Old Washington. Visit **Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site**,* the “Birthplace of Texas.” Tour Independence Hall, Star of the Republic Museum and Barrington Living History Farm.

Fees: Admission fees vary*

Step-on guide available

Brenham/Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau

314 South Austin Street – Brenham, TX 77833

1-888-BREHAM (273-6426)

info@BrenhamTexas.com

www.BrenhamTexas.com

Columbus

Located on Interstate 10 within the Austin, Houston, and San Antonio triangle. Known for lush, natural beauty and distinctive Texas Independence-era history. A small town surrounded by beautiful countryside filled with wildflowers and exotic animal ranches. Just getting here is a pleasure.

Opera House, Courthouse & Confederate Museum

Check in at the Visitors Center, first floor of the 1886 Stafford Opera House.

The largest, flat-floored opera house in the state, the Stafford Building has an attractive, fully restored copper roof and lovely painted curtains that, although not original, were designed to resemble the curtains that hung on the stage during the theater's heyday from 1886-1890.

Across the street you'll find the 1890 Colorado County Courthouse. This fully-restored structure features a dazzling, Tiffany-style stained glass dome and a unique Seth Thomas clock. Also on the courthouse square is another striking building which resembles a castle turret. Once the city's water tower, the building now houses the Confederate Memorial Museum, holding an array of historical artifacts.

Art Gallery, Wildlife Museum & Shopping

Within walking distance from the courthouse square sits the Live Oak Art Center. The gallery is housed in the Brunson Building, a former saloon, and has been featured in Texas Monthly as one of the best small galleries in the state. Next door to the gallery sits the Preston Kyle Wildlife Museum, a collection of exotics that contains Africa's "Big 5." Also nearby is the Turner-Chapman gallery, which features fine art from the area's award-winning regional artists, many of whom are known nationally.

The Museums of Texas History, Santa Claus Museum, Doll Exhibit

The 1836 Alley Log Cabin has the distinction of being one of the first and few remaining structures built during Texas' War for Independence just after the "Runaway Scrape." Also in this complex sits the Dilue Rose, as well as the Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum, which contains over 2,000 representations of the jolly elf. Across the street you'll find the Nesbitt Memorial Library, which is rapidly becoming known for its vast collection of genealogical archives and an interesting doll collection.

The Parks & Trees of Columbus

Centuries-old Live Oaks line the streets and beautiful Magnolia trees surround the courthouse square. Some of the trees are of particular significance, such as the Columbus Live Oak on Walnut Street, which is listed in the Registry of Big Trees as the 2nd largest live oak in the state.

Fees: Museums- \$2 per person/ Step on Guide- \$25 per hour

Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau

425 Spring Street, Columbus, TX 78934

(979)732-8385

ccvb@sbcglobal.net · www.columbustexas.org

Cuero

History, Heritage, and Hospitality

10 AM - 10:45 AM – Arrive at the Cuero Heritage Museum, 124 E. Church St. View the various permanent exhibits and other rotating exhibits in the Historic Federal Building, which is also home to the Cuero Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture. Handicapped accessibility is available at the rear entrance of the building.

11 – 11:30 AM - Visit the DeWitt County Historical Museum, 312 E. Broadway, and view the living history exhibit, the dog trot, and log cabin.

11:45 AM- - 1 PM - Enjoy lunch at one of our unique restaurants. It is best for your group to pre-order its selection so the tour can be kept on schedule. Box lunches are also available for your group upon request

1:15 - 2:30 PM - Pick up your tour guide at the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 124 E. Church St., and they will assist you on a tour of Cuero's historic residential areas. See homes that had originally been built in the Port of Indianola then moved to Cuero after two devastating hurricanes in the 1800's.

2:45 - 3:15 PM - Tour one of these beautiful churches: Grace Episcopal Church, St. Michael's Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, First United Methodist, First Baptist Church, or Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

3:30 - 5:00 PM - Browse through the antique shops in Cuero and other fine gift stores, stop at a local nursery, or enjoy gourmet coffee and refreshments in our historic business district.

Fees:

Step on Guides \$5 per person, (bus groups only)

Museums: no charge; donation greatly appreciated

For arrangements call the:

Cuero Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

124 E. Church St. * Cuero, Texas 77954

(361) 275-2112 * www.cuero.org

Flatonia

A Historic Country Getaway...

Flatonia is conveniently located halfway between Houston and San Antonio off I-10, (exit 661) and between Austin and Victoria on State Hwy 95.

We are very proud of our charming little town, its Czech and German heritage...come visit us and see why. Once you get here, you won't want to leave!!! Beautiful landscapes, ranches and countryside surround our town.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church (Praha) - A church on the well-known Painted Churches Tour, this parish was established in 1855. Built in the Gothic style, the church was completed in 1895. The walls and ceiling are painted with ivies, flowers and symbols. Amazingly, none of the paintings has ever been retouched.

Annual Prazska Pout - The church is also the site of the annual Prazska Pout held every Aug. 15. The annual homecoming for all those from Praha, located near Flatonia. The festival is packed with fun, food, bands, live auction, country store and family games. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the fun!

Historic Praha Cemetery- Site of the well-known Annual Veterans Day services always held on the Sunday before Veteran's Day. Re-Enactment of the Pearl Harbor Attack with a ceremonious fly-over dropping flowers from the plane's window to the ground below.

Flatonia Rail Park – In Downtown Flatonia is the growing Rail Park. Visit the old Southern Pacific Tower No. 3. It was the last manually operated switch tower in Texas, closing in Sept. 1996. See the inside by appointment through the Flatonia Rail Park at 979.743.5366 or at www.sidetracktommy.com. There is also a Photo Pavilion West of town that is open to the public as a very safe environment, for all to view or take photographs of trains, or just relax.

E.A. Arnim Archives & Museum - The E.A. Arnim Archives and Museum, located at 101 W. North Main, came to life in 1988 when Flatonia State Bank donated a downtown building, Ann Arnim donated the lifetime collection of her late husband, Judge E.A. (Sam) Arnim, followed by the local citizens offering items reflecting the histories of their families and the city. Downstairs is a showcase of antiques, artifacts and documents that represent the local history. Upstairs is the **Veteran's Museum** displaying military items brought back from World Wars I and II by Flatonia veterans. A secondary building, "The Barn," houses musical items and instruments, a collection of music from The Velvets and a kitchen stocked with labor intensive items used to prepare food in days-gone-by. The larger room houses several vehicles, including a covered wagon. For more information call 361.865.3445.

Flatonia Livestock Commission - Built in 1948, The Commission holds a live cattle auction every Monday (except holidays). Come on in and listen to the silver-tongued auctioneer and watch the ranchers bid on cattle.

Flatonia Golf Course - A nine-hole public course with majestic oak trees lining the fairways. It features four water hazards, with three of them coming into play on one hole. It is considered the prettiest and most challenging nine-hole course in the area and gets rave reviews by area newspaper sports editors. If you enjoy a course that calls for every club in your bag, come on by, tee it up and have a blast. The golf course is located on Hwy 90 East. Call (361) 865-2922 for fees and information.

Antique Shops - Come spend a day shopping in quaint historical buildings, with a variety of styles and period as well as gift items.

Bed & Breakfast Inns & Historic Hotel - Flatonia has several Bed & Breakfasts which are located in and out of town and set in unique and serene settings. For more information on our B & B's visit www.flatoniachamber.com.

Flatonia Chamber of Commerce
208 E. North Main * PO Box 610 * Flatonia TX 78941
Phone: 361. 865.3920 * Fax: 361.865.2451
flatoniacoqc@sbcglobal.net * www.flatoniachamber.com

Gonzales, Gonzales County

Birthplace of Texas Freedom

- 9:15 AM** Arrive at Old Jail Museum, Gonzales Visitor Center. Tour 1887 structure. Restrooms available.
- 10:15--11:15AM** Tour Gonzales Pioneer Village Living History Center, featuring 19th-century buildings and homes. Fee - \$5 per person
- 11:30--12:45PM** Enjoy lunch at one of the local eateries. \$8 and up.
- 1:00 – 2:30PM** Meet step-on guide at Old Jail Museum for driving tour of town. Includes 1885 Old Gonzales College among the 84 historic buildings and homes.
- 2:45 – 3:30PM** Tour Gonzales Memorial, erected by State of Texas in 1936 and dedicated to the memory of the ‘Immortal 32’ who rode from Gonzales to fight and die at the Alamo. ‘Come & Take It’ Cannon on display.
- Or** Tour one of the turn-of-the-century homes with magnificent staircases, intricate woodwork, elegant furnishings, or the 1895 Gonzales County Courthouse, designed by J. Riely Gordon and fully restored in 2000, or the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, built in 1881, the oldest building still in use as originally intended. The altar, lectern and pulpit are made of Gonzales County walnut.
- Or** Explore the downtown area, which includes antiques and collectibles on display in a three-story historic home, a variety of quaint shops and one of the largest displays of architectural antiques in the state headquartered on St. Francis Street.
- 3:35PM** Check in at lodging or depart
- Fees:** Step-on guide - \$2 per person
Home Tour - \$4 per person
Museums - \$1 per person requested donation

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

414 St. Lawrence Street

Gonzales, Texas 78629

888-672-1095

www.gonzalestexas.com

Hallettsville

- 10:00—10:45AM** Coffee break at Kountry Bakery (items may be ordered for purchase to be picked up at the end of the tour)
- 11:00 - 12:00PM** Visit the Lavaca Historical Museum (2 blocks from the town square)
- 12:00 - 1:00PM** See the historic area photo collection and genealogy department of the French Simpson Memorial Library, then enjoy lunch.
- 1:00 – 2:00PM** Lunch options: \$6.00/up
Bel-Air Restaurant
Weiting’s Steakhouse
Smokehouse
Jalisco Café
- 2:00 – 3:00PM** Venture out into the community of St. Mary’s to tour the St. Mary’s Catholic Church (painted church).
- 3:00 - 3:30PM** Stop by the Vietnam Veterans Monument to pay tribute.
- 3:30PM** Kountry Bakery refreshment stop to pick up ordered items.
- 7:30PM** Catch a movie at the historic Cole Theater

*Tours will be self-guided until the completion of the renovated Lavaca County Courthouse in late 2010.

Special events throughout the year include: Domino Championships in January and March, the Big Buck Contest in January, the Wild Boar Hunting EXPO in February, the Sausage and Polka Fest in March, Fiddler’s Frolic in April, and Kolache Fest in September. The Festival of Lights will resume in 2011.

Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
1614 N. Texana, P.O. Box 313, Hallettsville, TX 77964
361-798-2662 • visit@hallettsville.com
www.hallettsville.com

La Grange

(between Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston)

10:00- 10:30AM Discover the “kolache” at a local bakery. Arrive at Old Jail (1883) and Visitors Center and tour (housed members of the Bonnie & Clyde gang)

Check out the available tours: Walking or driving, Heritage House of Worship Tour, True Texas Historical Tour

Visit: City Cemetery, Faison Home (Texas Independence era), County Courthouse (first J. Reily Gordon Courthouse/site of where the movie “Michael” was filmed with John Travolta), Muster Oak Tree, La Grange Depot, Fayette Public Library/Fayette Museum & Archives, Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center, Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, Monument Hill State Park, Rosemary’s Winery & Vineyard

11:30-12:30PM Lunch at local eatery—ask for brochure

1:00-3:00PM Choose from several fun places to visit: Faison Home, County Courthouse, Muster Oak Tree, La Grange Depot, Fayette Public Library /Fayette Museum & Archives, Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center, Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, Monument Hill State Park and Kreische Brewery, KatySweet Confectionary, Heritage House of Worship Tour, Rosemary’s Winery & Vineyard

More Fun, Sports, and Getting Around—canoe rental, fishing, golfing, bowling, rifle range

March – May Wildflower tour (self-guided)
Fly-Ins: Fayette Regional Air Center – 1st Saturday of each month
Music: Fayette Co. Country Music Opry – 3rd Monday monthly

Fees: Call for rates and to set up a guided tour.

La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce

171 S. Main, La Grange, Texas 78945

800-524-7264 · chamber@lagrangetx.org

www.lagrangetx.org

Luling

Start your tour at the Luling Chamber of Commerce, 421 E. Davis, which is also home to the Central Texas Oil Patch Museum.

Central Texas Oil Patch Museum, 830-875-1922

Housed in the historic Walker Brothers Mercantile, the museum showcases Luling's rich oil history and the life of the eccentric wildcatter who made the discovery in 1922. Exhibits, photos and a 15-min. film shown in the Oil Tank Theatre. Docents available.*

Pumpjack Zoo Tour

A self-guided driving tour of the moveable art attached to oil well pumping units along Luling's major arteries. Map of locations available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Zedler Mill Park and Cotton Gin

Hwy 80 South at Laurel St. Experience life in old Luling at this turn of the 20th century mill and gin on the banks of the San Marcos River. A great place for a picnic. Self-guided tour with cell phone audio assistance, or docent-guided tour.*

Luling Foundation Farm, 523 S. Mulberry, 830-875-2438

A 1,123 acre demonstration farm features annual and topic-specific field days, rainwater harvesting, row crops, pecan orchards, wildlife food plots, cattle operations. Tours available.*

Luling Icehouse Pottery, 1115 E. Davis, 830-875-6282

Located in the town's old icehouse (circa 1927), North Carolina potters Charley and Holly Pritchard create works featured in Texas Highways and other notable publications. Demonstrations to groups by appointment.*

Farmers' Markets, Slade Saddle Shop, unique gift and antique shops, Tiny Texas Houses are other attractions available in Luling. Or see a seed-spitting demonstration at the **World Famous Watermelon Spitway**.*

Food choices from Famous B-B-Q to Healthy Comfort food are available at a good selection of group-friendly restaurants in Luling.

*Step-on guides, docented tours and demonstrations must be arranged in advance through the Chamber of Commerce office or by contacting the desired organization.

Luling Chamber of Commerce – 830-875-3214, Ext. 1
421 E. Davis, Luling TX 78648
e-mail: lulingcc@austin.rr.com

Marion

Marion was originally a camp for [railroad](#) workers; a townsite was laid out with the arrival of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway in 1877. It was named after Marion Dove, whose grandfather, Joshua W. Young, owned a plantation that the passed through in 1877. German settlers moved to Marion and the town was off to a running start by the mid 1880s, with 250 people and most essential businesses, including two cotton gins, church, school and four general stores. Marion, Texas is on FM 78, about 10 miles west of [Seguin](#) and 30 minutes north of San Antonio. Marion was founded in 1877 by Thomas W. Pierce, of Boston in honor of his daughter, Miss Marion Pierce. Pierce was president of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railroad, and Marion was a major railway stop to get [Texas](#) ready for exports being brought in from ports in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1878 it was the largest and busiest depot in [Texas](#).

The town grew to a population of 1,099 at the year 2000 with a diversity of businesses including restaurants, manufacturing, state accredited grade schools, and even the oldest hardware store in Texas. Marion also welcomes cyclists with beautiful landscapes and great exercises.

City Landmarks and Attractions

Veteran's Memorial Park in downtown Marion
Helping Hand Hardware Store (oldest hardware store in Guadalupe County)
Penhorn's Meat Market
Schultz Nursery with a new Subway Restaurant
Old Marion State Bank Building
Ta's Coffee (formally a nineteenth Century hat shop)
Casa de Cisas Restaurant
Lorina's Flowers & Gifts

Marion Greater Chamber of Commerce
307 S. Center St.
P.O. Box 307
Marion, TX 78124
(210) 392-7171

Round Top

Simply Magic!

- 10:00 AM** Arrive at the Round Top Square (handicap restroom facilities available)
Stop in at the Round Top Mercantile for fresh homemade kolaches/bread
pack a “custom-order” deli lunch to enjoy activities non-stop.
- 10:30-12PM** Options to visit:
Walking tour of square—979-249-4042 or info@roundtop.org
Henkel Square Museum Village with apothecary recently spotlighted in
Texas Highways Magazine—Th-Sun—12-5; 979-249-3308 tpaf@cvtv.net
Bethlehem Lutheran Church—oldest active Lutheran Church in State (1866), native
cedar pipe organ (979-249-3686)
Round Top Family Library—Originally an historical church, now houses the Bybee
Texas Heritage Collection, decorative arts & more! Tues-Sun 1:30 – 5:30 [979-249-2700](tel:979-249-2700)—info@ilovetoread.org
- Lunch Take a break and enjoy the atmosphere—try a local restaurant, eat on the
square or on the Festival Hill 217 acre grounds!
- 1:00 pm - **International Festival Hill**--Learn about Classical Music—Tour/Hike/Bike the 217
acres- world-renown festival hall—Edythe Bates Chapel--grounds always opened—tours
call 979-249-3129 or info@festivalhill.org
Winedale Historical Center—19th century buildings for American History (early
German) M-F 8-5 979-278-3530.
Sterling McCall Old Car Museum—80+ cars in the Sterling McCall collection
depicting the evolution of the industry—, Sat & Sun 10 – 5; 979-249-5089
www.oldcarcountry.com
Visit one of the many unusual shops that entice shoppers from around the world at the
Bybee Square (artisans square).

Special events throughout the year include: #1 largest Antique Festivals in the nation, Big Joe Polka Fest, art classes and forums at the Bybee Square, Round Top Christmas, International Guitar Festival at Festival Hill (as well as monthly events), Shakespeare at Winedale (monthly educational forums held also). Days/hours of business with shops/restaurants available at www.roundtop.org. Stay at a renowned bed & breakfast (pictures on website). If you plan a shopping excursion, please contact us two weeks prior so all of our businesses will be available for your shopping needs!

Restaurants in Round Top to Lunch at:

Scotty & Friends – (979)249-5512 Th-Sun
The Stone Cellar – 979-249-3390 W-Sun
Klump’s – (979)249-5696 M- Sun
Oak’s – (979)249-5909 Th-Sun
Royer’s – (979) 249-3661 Th-Sun

Round Top Area Chamber of Commerce

P O Box 216, Round Top Texas 78954
(979)249-4042 • fax 979-249-2085

www.roundtop.org • info@roundtop.org

Schulenburg

“Home to the Painted Churches”

9:30 AM Arrive at the Chamber of Commerce office, 618 N. Main in historic downtown. Shop in the gift shop and pick up your guide.

10:00 AM **Tour One – Painted Churches**

Head out into the rolling hills of southeast Fayette county to view the beautifully painted historic churches of **Ammansville, Dubina, High Hill** and **Praha**. These churches have some of the most beautiful painted artwork and stained glass you will ever see. They are amazing.

Tour Two – Eat As You Go Tour

You will visit **Potter Country Store** where our pecans are always orchard fresh as they take pride in what they make and sell. View one or two painted churches. Travel to **City Meat Market** to taste and purchase homemade sausage, wieners and jerky and then right across the street is the **Kountry Bakery**. Come back to downtown Schulenburg to tour the historical **Navidad Heritage Museum** and then the **Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum**. Stanzel’s is a world- class museum with interactive exhibits and over 30 static displays that capture the thrill, excitement and history of model aircraft. Call for availability due to Museum hours.

Lunch will be in Schulenburg, time varies according to your schedule and tour.

2:00 PM Most tours will conclude by this time. Drop off guide at Chamber and shop the historic downtown area.

Schulenburg has great food, lodging and specialty shops so extend your stay with us and enjoy some Schulenburg hospitality.

Fees:

Tour \$10 per person

Step-on Guide \$40 minimum per tour group

Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce

618 North Main, Schulenburg, Texas 78956

(866)504-5294

www.schulenburgchamber.org

www.schulenburgchurches.org

Sealy

A slice of Texas history where the dream that became Texas began.

Just 48 miles west of Houston off I-10, exit 720.

Just minutes away from San Antonio or Austin.

9:00 AM Arrive in Sealy

9 – 11 AM **Colonial Capital of Texas, San Felipe**
Colonial Capital of Texas from 1821 – 1836.
San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, historical markers, statue of Stephen F. Austin, “Father of Texas”, Museums, and historic homes. Fee: \$2 per person

11 - 12 PM **Haynes Mattress Factory**
Explore the location where the world famous “Sealy Mattress” was developed and patented in 1881.
The facility is fully intact and a small museum and gift shop is adjacent. Fee: \$ 2 per person

12:15 - 1:30 **Enjoy delicious southern cuisine at Sealy’s Local Restaurants**
Tony’s Family Restaurant, (Buffet & full menu)
Hinze’s BBQ, rated one of the 10 best in the state
Annie’s Café & Deli, worth the trip just to smell

1:45 - 2:30 **Strolling through the Historic Downtown District**
Take a few minutes to browse the district with a great selection of antique shops, boutiques, gift and book stores.

2:45 - 4:30 **The Bluegrass of Texas**
We have many beautiful horse farms in the area, Paso Fino, Miniature Horses, Arabian, Peruvian, Gypsy Vanners, Polo and Clydesdales, just to name a few. All available for tours and shows.

Fees: Group rates vary from FREE to \$7.50 per person.

Sealy Convention and Visitors Bureau

P. O. BOX 586, Sealy, TX 77474

979-885-3222 * 877-558-7245 sealycoc@industryinet.com

www.visitsealy.com

Seguin

Fees: Step-on Guide: \$60 – Payable to Guide

Tour Fee: \$4 per person payable to Seguin Conservation Society

- 10:00 AM** Meet tour guide at Seguin Tourist Information Center, 116 N. Camp Street (Restrooms Available)
- 10:15 AM** Tour our Seguin Conservation Society Heritage Village
- Los Nogales Museum**
Puzzle over who built this house for a German pioneer back in 1849. At the time, hundreds of slaves lived in this county. The adobe bricks are like those widely used in West Africa – and in Mexico, too.
- Texas' Oldest Standing Protestant Church**
Regard this frontier structure, now over a century and a half in age, that was finished in time to host the 1849 Conference of Texas Methodists. Early circuit riders, preached Port Lavaca-Victoria-Gonzales-Seguin.
(Other congregations replaced their original buildings or lost them to the elements.)
- Calaboose**
Reflect on a wheeled jailhouse used to carry prisoners to work on roads or in fields chopping weeds and picking cotton.
- Campbell-Hoermann Log Cabin**
Imagine living in this 1849 house with its classic dog trot. It was still occupied by members of the same family more than a hundred years later.
- Dietz Doll House**
Savor a 1919 gingerbread confection spun by a German-born master cabinetmaker. His daughter, Alice, came from New York City on an orphan train.
- 11:30 AM** Lunch Options include private dining at area B&B. Public dining at the Seguin Silver Center or area restaurant.
- 12:45 PM** Continue driving tour – Starcke Park by the dam, other sites of historical significance, Federated Womens' Club House, historic downtown, Juan Seguin Statue, Juan Seguin Burial Site, etc.
- 1:30 PM** Unload bus and tour Sebastopol State Historic Site
Seguin was called "The Mother of Concrete Cities" for experimenting with concrete to build almost 100 houses and public buildings. (Only about 20 of these relics still stand.) Before the Civil War, a team of slaves erected this remarkable structure. Today Sebastopol is one of the finest surviving 19th-century concrete buildings in the U.S. Exhibits show the pioneer technology used in its construction.
- 2:30 PM** Pape's Pecan Nutcracker Museum
Admire one of the world's largest collections of nutcrackers! More than 8,000 examples from Germany, Austria, Italy, and India. Hand carved antiques, specimens of silver and bronze, Humpty Dumpty and Bugs Bunny. Pick up parcels of the nutritious and delicious local nuts and other gift and souvenir items.
- 3:15 PM** Depart Seguin

Seguin Convention & Visitors Bureau

800-580-7322

cvb@seguinchamber.com

www.visitseguin.com

Additional tours available including the popular "True Women" Book Tour.

Shiner

“Cleanest Little City in Texas”

Situated at the junction of Hwy 90A and Hwy 95 in Lavaca County. The Methodist Church crosses and the Catholic Church steeple greet visitors from the east. From the west travelers can view the new Shiner ISD building. North or south travelers are treated to a skyline of church steeples, and glimpses of the historic downtown area.

Arrive at the Chamber of Commerce in the historic Ehlers Cigar Factory, 817 Avenue E. Visitor's Guides available. Chamber City Tours, arranged in advance, can include the following:

- Spoetzl Brewery, the oldest independent brewery in Texas, 603 Brewery, www.shiner.com.
- The Wolters Museum located at 306 S. Ave. I, 361-594-3774, housed in the 1915 Wolter's home. The Farm Implement Shed, 1870's Herder House, Old General Store, and Shiner Jail are located on the beautifully landscaped property.
- Kaspar Wire Works, producer of newspaper racks, truck grill guards and accessories and a wide range of specialty products.
- SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, 424 S. Ludmila St., 361-594-3836, listed in National Register of Historical Places
- Boedeker Plastic, largest selection of engineering stock shape plastic, www.boedeker.com
- Driving tour and lunch at one of Shiner's local restaurants

Step-on guide: \$2.00 per person

The Green-Dixon Park, 2086 CR 351, features picnicking, baseball fields, tennis courts, walking trails, RV hook-ups and the Veteran's Memorial. Site of Half Moon Holidays 1st weekend in July.

Welhausen Park occupies a downtown city block and has quaint gazebo and playground equipment. Site of "Christmas in the Park" 1st Thurs. in Dec.

Shiner Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 221, 817 N. Ave. E

Shiner, TX 77984-0221
Ph: 361-594-4180, Fax; 361-594-4181
www.shinertx.com

Smithville

Any day is a great day to be in Smithville, the “Heart of the Megalopolis,” the first TFC-certified “Film Friendly” community, and the home of the movies “Hope Floats”(1998) and the 2010 release “Tree of Life.”. Smithville retains its historic turn-of-the-century appearance while moving forward in growth and development.

- 10:00 AM** Arrive at the Jim Long Park and Railroad Museum. Enjoy a moment to just relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the working railroad with a view of the Main Street from the Gazebo. Take a photo with the 2006 Guinness Book of World Records Largest Gingerbread Man.
- 10:30 AM** All aboard the Ann Powell Express train for a tour of the historic district and the “Hope Floats” and “Tree of Life” sights.
- 11:30 AM** Lunch and shopping on Main Street to include several choices for lunch and stores that include fine antiques, clothing, collectibles, gifts and more.
- 1:30 PM** Tour the historic Katy House Bed and Breakfast with railroad memorabilia and dessert or the Smithville Heritage House for a step back in time and chance to relax and watch the flowing Colorado River.
- 2:30 PM** Enjoy the beautiful Lost Pines area of Buescher State Park with a ride through the park or, if time permits, a chance to enjoy the comfortable walking trails for birding and exercise.

Fees: No charge for the city tour. Buescher State Park entrance fees may apply.

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce

100 N.W. 1st @ Main Street

P.O. Box 716

Smithville, Texas 78957

www.smithvilletx.org

512-237-2313

Stockdale

Located southeast of San Antonio at the crossroads of U.S. hwy. 87 and State hwy. 123, the area is known for it's prolific watermelon growing and celebrated every third week in June.

The town is named after Gov. F.S. Stockdale, the last governor of Confederate Texas in 1865. He pioneered refrigerated shipping of Texas beef in 1870 to help restore the state economy. He aided moves to end reconstruction and helped draw up the 1876 State Constitution. Gov. Stockdale died at his home in Cuero, Texas, Feb. 4, 1890.

Start by taking pictures at the giant watermelons when you turn off Hwy. 87 onto Bus. 87, our Main Street, you can't miss them.

HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN – Stop at 803 W. Main and see the early 1900 Rodriguez house and in the backyard, our Stockdale Community Garden.

CITY HALL – Catty corner from the Rodriguez house is our City Hall and Community Center. Come in and pick up a city brochure that has a map of these attractions.

JAIL – Behind City Hall is the original city jail. Eight foot square and locked forever; the key got lost years ago.

MUSEUM – Our little frame museum building was the office of Dr. Ella Ware, first woman to practice medicine as a graduate of the Texas Medical College in Galveston. Tour by appointment, 830-996-3809.

KING/LORENZ HOUSE – Built in 1878, the King home was recognized by the Texas Historical Commission in 1984 and is located at 303 S. Seventh St.

ALLCAT CLAIMS SERVICE – This Company restored an entire block of historical buildings on Main Street in 2006.

CITY PARK – Next to our Fire House and Stockdale Creek on Hwy. 123, this is one of the finest small town city parks in Texas complete with a rodeo arena. The park is the site of the annual “Smokin’ Spring Bar-B-Que” in March and the annual “Watermelon Jubilee”, third weekend in June.

SEWER PLANT BIRDING PLATFORM [coming soon] – That’s right, a year round, public viewing of water fowl that visit our sewer ponds. Extensive varieties of birds are to be seen during migration. Key available at City Hall. CR 401 south of Hwy. 87.

JACKSON NATURE PARK – Located 1.5 miles south of Hwy. 87 on CR 401, 50 acres of walking trails and picnic opportunities. Open during the day only.

Texas Independence Trail Region

“Where HISTORY is made every day!”

Remember The Alamo! Remember Goliad! Remember the Texas Independence Trail Region on your next trip through south central and southeast Texas.

Beautiful scenery, historic homes and buildings, and heritage attractions like you’ve never seen await you in the counties that share the stories of Texas’ struggle for independence from Mexico in 1836. You’ve heard of the Alamo and her tragic heroes, but the Independence Trail Region has so much more to offer. Along with the Independence sites and events, the region features dynamic heritage attractions that share stories of Texas you’ve never imagined. Fabulous food, some of the state’s best museums, stunning state park sites, miles of coastal beaches and more invite you.

The best way to plan your visit to the Texas Independence Trail Region and its many heritage and cultural offerings is to get a copy of the region’s full-color promotional brochure. Brochures are available for free at prominent heritage sites and visitor centers throughout the region. You can get a copy by calling (877) 55-TRAIL, or visit our website at www.texasindependencetrail.org.

The brochure offers a wealth of information about what to see and do, as well as contact information for local visitor’s centers should you want to base your excursions out of one of our charming communities like Brenham, Seguin, Victoria, Lake Jackson, La Grange, Bastrop, Lockhart, Gonzales, Goliad, or more. Along with the off-the-beaten path byways that comprise the region, we also offer the culture and sophistication of three of Texas’ most enticing cities – San Antonio, Houston, and Galveston. The Independence Trail region has all this and easy access to the state capitol of Austin.

Come and enjoy the spirit of Texas in a place like no other. Come and share the Texas Independence Trail Region!

Texas Independence Trail Region

P.O. Drawer 460, Richmond, TX 77406-0460
info@TexasIndependenceTrail.com • 877-55-TRAIL
www.texasindependencetrail.org

Weimar (Colorado County)

Located on I-10 about 70 miles west of Houston.

- 10:30 AM** START AT CITY HALL, 106 E. Main - Welcome & Restrooms – cross street to Heritage Society Museum of Weimar – 125 E. Main, exhibits tracing the city’s history. There’s a Main Street exhibit, an early country kitchen exhibit, a Military Room, a Pharmacy exhibit (view a tile soda fountain), a Firefighter’s exhibit & other exhibits dedicated to commercial businesses & families from this area. There is also a room dedicated to Baseball enthusiasts.
- 11:45 AM** LUNCH – choose from options available from Chamber.
- 12:30 PM** Scenic drive to New Bielau Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 5 miles south on FM 155. It’s a primitive country church founded in 1886 with a Historical Marker & many old oak trees; you might even see Buffalo & Longhorn Steer grazing in a nearby pasture.
- 12:45 PM** Driving tour of Jackson Square with Gazebo, Old Train Depot (now town library) & Caboose (now library office). Take US 90 West about two miles and look right to see Weimar’s own medieval castle.
- 1:00 PM** St. Michael Catholic Church, 410 N. Center, Inside viewing of the Gothic designed church with a Historical Marker; Outside viewing only of St. Michael’s School (only two story wood structure school still in use in the State of Texas).
- 1:30 PM** Downtown Shopping: (2 block area E. Post Office & E. Main St.) The Collection- candles & unique gifts; Kasper’s Meat Market - fresh meats, processed hams, bacon, Weimar sausage, & jerky; Flowers by Judy’s – flowers & gift items; The Screen Door – special gift shop; M-G Farm Services - variety of merchandise; Weimar Antique Mall – almost a dozen vendors show treasures from the past & True Value Hardware “the store with almost everything”. There are other shops including a bakery.
- 2:30 PM** Depart via old Hwy 90 East. About 7 miles on left there is Comanche Crossing where you possibly might view exotic animals before returning to I-10 at Hatterman Lane.

Fees: No charge. Step on tour guide - \$35 & guide’s lunch.

During the Spring wildflowers are plentiful. During July & part of August the city’s crape myrtles are in full bloom.

Weimar Area Chamber of Commerce

109 E. Main, P. O. Box 90, Weimar, TX 78962

979-725-9511

weimarcc@cvctx.com • www.weimartx.org

Yoakum

10:00 AM	Arrive at Yoakum Area Chamber of Commerce Rest Stop and pick up Yoakum map and information
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break at H & H Bakery and Café
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Visit the Yoakum Heritage Museum
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Visit and Tour Tandy Brand Accessories
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Enjoy Lunch at the Green Door Café Shop the newly renovated Historic Downtown Yoakum
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Visit Carl & Mary Welhausen Library Chisholm Trail Memorial
3:30 PM	Depart Yoakum, Texas
Fees:	
Step On Guide	\$2 per person

Yoakum Area Chamber of Commerce

105 Huck Street

Yoakum, Texas 77995

361-293-2309

info@yoakumareachamber.com

www.yoakumareachamber.com

Yorktown

"A Texas Treasure ... Rich in Heritage, History & Hospitality"

- 9:00 AM** Arrive at the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce office for a warm "Welcome" and coffee and donuts.
- 9:30 - 10:15 AM** Enjoy a driving tour of the Historic homes of Yorktown
- 10:15 - 11:15 AM** Tour the Holy Cross Catholic Church built in 1916 to learn the history of some of our European settlers.
- 11:15-12:00 PM** Meet "The Hairy Potters" and tour their historic home and pottery studio located at 21 Old Yorktown Road.
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM** Lunch options include reservations at a local eatery or a catered meal at a unique location.
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM** Tour the Yorktown Historical Museum located at 144 West Main. The museum building was built in 1876 and used as a general store.
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM** Enjoy Yorktown's historic downtown shops, City Park and Public Library.
- 3:30 PM** Depart from parking lot across from the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce.

Fees: \$5.00 per person plus Lunch. *

* The cost for Lunch is dependent upon arrangements.

Yorktown Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

141 South Riedel St. • P. O. BOX 488

Yorktown, TX 78164

361-564-2661 (Phone) 361-564-2518 (Fax)

4yorktowntx@sbcglobal.net • www.yorktowntx.com