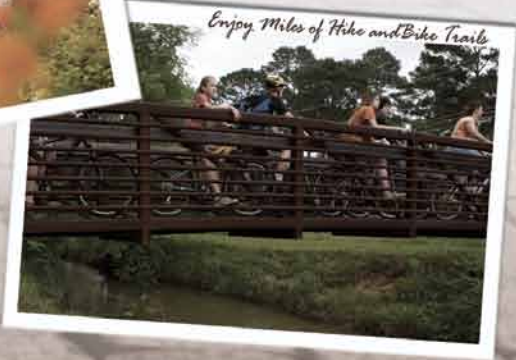
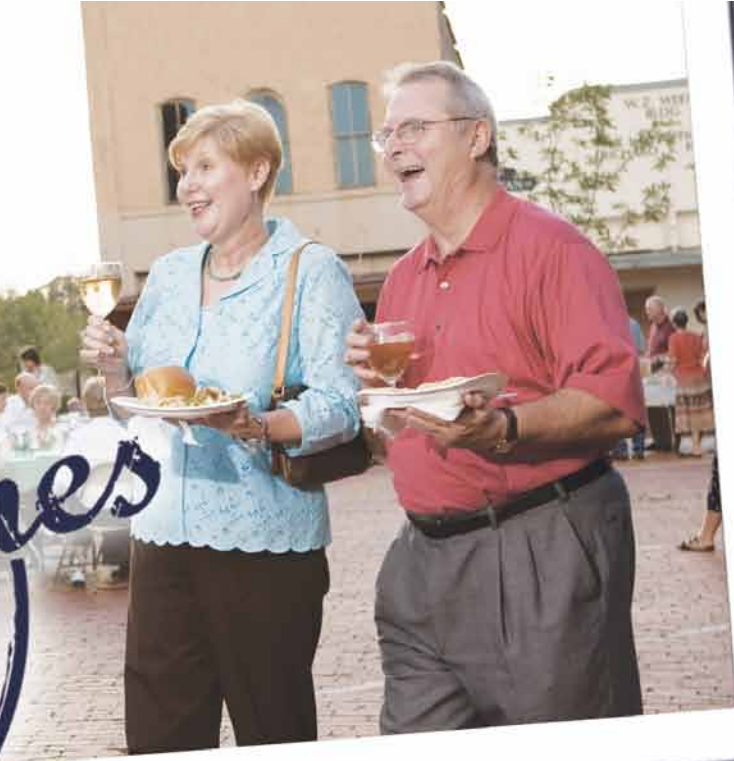


THE OLDEST
Nacogdoches
 TOWN IN TEXAS



Group Tour and Meeting Planner

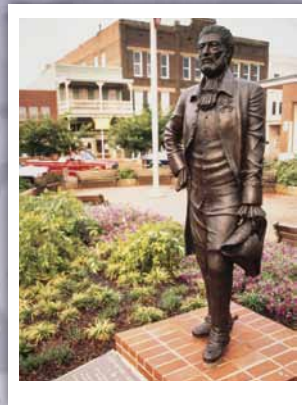
Texas Starts Here

Nacogdoches – the oldest town in Texas – is named for the Caddo family of Indians who once lived in the area. There is a legend that tells of an old Caddo chief who lived near the Sabine River and had twin sons.

When the sons grew to manhood and were ready to become leaders of their own tribes, the father sent one brother three days eastward toward the rising sun. The other brother was sent three days toward the setting sun. The twin who settled three days toward the setting sun was Nacogdoches. The other brother, Natchitoches, settled three days to the east in Louisiana. The two brothers remained friendly and the road between the two communities was well traveled. This road became a trade route and the eastern end of the El Camino Real.

Nacogdoches remained a Caddo Indian settlement until 1716 when Spain established a mission here, Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches. That was the first European activity in the area, but a mission was not a town – it was a church. The “town” of Nacogdoches got started after Spaniards decided that the French were no longer a threat and maintaining the mission was too costly. So in 1772 they ordered all settlers in the area to move to San Antonio. Some were eager to escape the wilderness, but others had to be forced from their homes by soldiers.

Antonio Gil Y'Barbo, a prominent Spanish trader, emerged as the leader of the settlers, and in the spring of 1779, he led a group back to Nacogdoches. Later that summer, Nacogdoches received designation from Spain as a pueblo, or town, thereby making it the first “town” in Texas. Y'Barbo was named Lt. Governor of the new town and established the rules and laws under which the city was governed. He laid out streets with the intersecting El Camino Real and El Calle del Norte as his central point. On the main thoroughfare he built a stone house for use in his trading business. The house, or Old Stone Fort as it's called today, became a gateway from the United States to the vast Texas frontier.



But, Nacogdoches' role in Texas history was just beginning. Over the next four decades, Nacogdoches and the Old Stone Fort became the site of three failed attempts to establish a Republic of Texas – the Magee-Gutierrez (1812), Long (1819) and Fredonia (1826) rebellions. Thus, nine flags have flown over Nacogdoches as opposed to the six that have flown over Texas.

Nacogdoches – A City of Texas' Firsts!

First Administration School – For the Women's Army Corps during WWII
 First Ceiling Fans – In a downtown drug store; fan blades turned by a mule-drawn treadmill outside
 First District Court Session – Held in the Old Stone Fort
 First Newspaper – Set to type in 1813
 First Oil Field – Located near Oil Springs in Nacogdoches County
 First Oil Well – Drilled in 1866 in Nacogdoches County
 First Pipeline – Delivered oil from well sites to storage tanks
 First Steel Storage Tanks – Oil Springs in Nacogdoches County
 First Two-Story Building – Old Stone House, Circa 1779
 First Wine Cellar – Sterne-Hoya Home
 First Woman Inducted into Texas Institute of Letters – Karle Wilson Baker

Things To Do & See

Antiques & Shopping

From quaint specialty stores to antique shopping, art galleries and flea markets, Nacogdoches has it all. Call (888) OLDEST-TOWN for a free shopping guide.

Audio Driving Tour

Listen to the story of the Oldest Town in Texas as written by Texas Historian Dr. Archie McDonald. This tour guides visitors to various points of interest. Available at the Visitors' Center, 200 East Main Street.



Diedrich Rulfs Architectural Driving Tour

An immigrant from Germany, Diedrich Rulfs reshaped the architectural landscape of Nacogdoches. From the 1880s until the 1920s, Rulfs designed more than 50 homes, churches and buildings in Nacogdoches. Today a number of the buildings are Texas Historical Landmarks or National Register Landmarks. This tour will guide you to some of Rulfs most notable works. Maps are available at the Visitors' Center, 200 East Main Street.

Hands-On Activities

There are a number of hands-on activities available for your group, including stained glass demonstrations and make-your-own container garden workshops. Just let us know your group's interest and we'll be happy to work with your group to find the right fit.

Historic Town Center

The Nacogdoches Visitors' Center, operated by the Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, is located in the heart of historic downtown. Built in 1917, the Historic Town Center offers exhibits of early Nacogdoches and literature on the town. Watch the video on Nacogdoches and learn about the history and legends of Texas' oldest town. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-5; Sat. 10-4; Sun. 1-4. Ph: (936) 564-7351; (888) OLDEST-TOWN.

Lake Nacogdoches

Located on Loco Bayou, 10 miles west of Nacogdoches off FM 225, this 2,200 acre lake offers a great place to catch largemouth bass, crappie and sunfish.

Lanana Creek Trail

Originally an Indian footpath, this 2.5 mile trail weaves through thickets of paw-paw, dogwood and scarlet blooming buckeye. The trail begins at Liberty Hall on East Main Street.

Millard's Crossing

The museum comprises a broad sampling of 19th century East Texas architecture from simple log cabins to Victorian homes. Located on U.S. Highway 59 North. Tours: Mon.-Sat. 9-4; Sun. 1-4. Admission. Ph: (936) 564-6631.

From antiquing to nature walks, Nacogdoches has something to offer everyone.

Things To Do & See

Things To Do & See

Nacogdoches Fire Museum

The Fire Museum was built in 1996 in the former fire department shop on South Fredonia Street at the back of the Central Fire Station. The museum contains Nacogdoches' first fire engine and a number of pictures and other fire department memorabilia. Located at 214 East Pillar Street. Open by appointment. Free. Ph: (936) 559-2541.

Nacogdoches Railroad Depot

The Nacogdoches Railroad Depot operated as a passenger and freight station from April 3, 1911 until Southern Pacific terminated passenger service through Nacogdoches in 1954. The Railroad Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the most recognizable buildings in Nacogdoches. While it is not currently open to the public, large group tours may be arranged by contacting the City of Nacogdoches, Historic Sites Department. Free. Ph. (936) 560-5426.

Oak Grove Cemetery

Four signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence are buried here, including Thomas J. Rusk. Located on North Lanana Street.

Old Nacogdoches University Building

Built in 1859, it is the only original building of a university chartered by the Republic of Texas still standing. Located at 515 North Mound. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 1-4; Sat. 10-4; Sun. 1-4. Free. Ph: (936) 569-7292.

Piney Woods Country Club

This hilly, 18-hole course is best known for its outstanding greens. Locals say the greens are "the best in the State of Texas." The small greens vary in undulation and their speeds are determined by the seasonal weather conditions. Most of the fairways are tree lined, and all of them are bordered by a standard cut of rough. Piney Woods Country Club can accommodate tournaments of any size and will include lunch. The country club also offers a full service restaurant and will work with your group to provide competitive pricing on your golf tournament. Ph: (936) 569-9821.

Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

Texas' largest azalea garden features more than 7,000 azaleas spread over 8 forested acres. The garden is located south of the SFA Johnson Coliseum on University Drive.

SFA Interpretive Trail

Two trails spanning 3 miles take visitors into some of the most dynamic, and scenic areas of the National Forest. Some 150 species of birds and 80 species of butterflies may be seen. From SH 7 West turn left on FM 2782.



SFA Mast Arboretum

The first arboretum at a university in Texas, this on-campus garden spills over 19 acres and lies on a portion of the Lanana Creek Trail.

SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center

A 40-acre garden located north of the campus on North Raguet Street. The Tucker House serves as the central feature of the property, which is surrounded by native forest, walking trails, and gardens that celebrate the wonderful diversity of native plants in the region.



Self-Guided Walking Tours

Visit 15 points of interest in the downtown historic district. Brochures are available at the Visitors' Center, 200 East Main Street.

Sterne-Hoya House Museum & Library

Built circa 1830 by Adolphus Sterne, a prominent leader in the fight for Texas Independence. Located at 211 South Lanana Street. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10-4. Free. Ph: (936) 560-5426.

Stone Fort Museum

A 1936 replica of Antonio Gil Y'Barbo's stone house. The museum interprets East Texas and Nacogdoches history. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 9-5; Sun. 1-5. Free. Ph: (936) 468-2408.

Theater, Art & Music

Nacogdoches boasts an active fine arts community with frequent performances and exhibitions. Call (888) OLDEST-TOWN or go to www.VisitNacogdoches.org for a complete list of upcoming events.

Woodland Hills Golf Course

Woodland Hills Golf Course provides 18 holes of rolling hills and dramatic elevation changes that give golfers a true journey through the Piney Woods of East Texas. But Woodland Hills is much more than just a golf course. Woodland Hills can accommodate a wide range of players, from a foursome to a 288-player tournament. After your round, relax with a hot dog and a cold beverage in the post-round grille. For your tournament, enjoy a buffet in the picnic area while the staff of golf professionals handles your tournament scoring. Tournaments are priced to be the best of any course. Ph: (936) 564-2762.

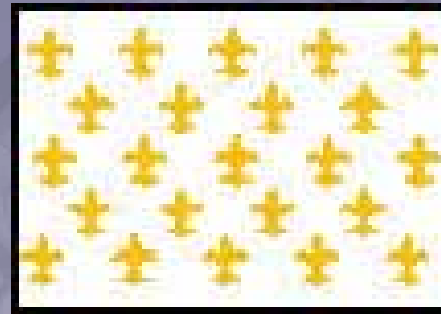
Hike, explore and play!

Spend the day at one of Nacogdoches' many parks. Facilities include fishing docks, boat ramps, playgrounds, disc golf, volleyball courts, trails and picnic areas.

The Nine Flags

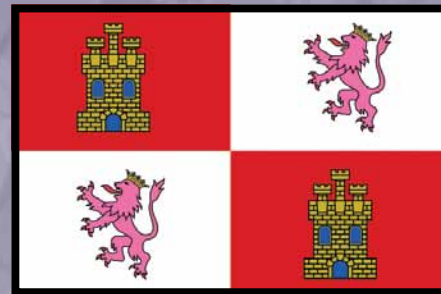
France

The French never actually settled in East Texas, but French intrusions into the area eventually forced the Spanish to establish permanent settlements in East Texas. Operating out of a French post near Natchitoches, Louisiana, St. Denis made two major trips (1714 and 1717) through East Texas.



Spain

After several unsuccessful attempts during the early 1700s, in 1721 the Spanish were finally successful in establishing a series of six missions and two presidios in East Texas. One of these missions, Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches was located in the vicinity of present day Nacogdoches.



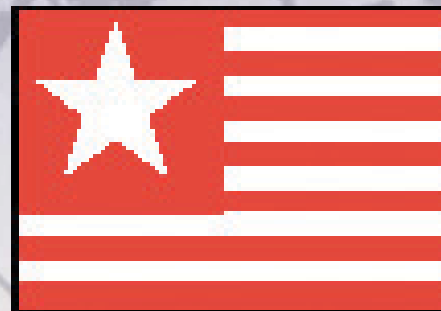
Magee-Gutierrez

The first attempt to establish a Republic of Texas took place in 1812 with the Magee-Gutierrez Expedition. In that year, the forces of Bernardo Gutierrez and Augustus Magee proclaimed their republic in Nacogdoches and swept East Texas of Spanish forces. They took a stand in San Antonio. There Magee died, and the new republic collapsed.



Dr. James Long

Dr. James Long of Natchez, Mississippi, led the next revolutionary wave in Texas. Reaching Nacogdoches in 1819, he occupied the Old Stone Fort, declared Texas an independent republic and set up a provisionary government. He then attempted to invade the rest of the State, but the Spanish army forced him to flee across the Sabine River.



Mexico

Mexico formally gained its independence from Spain in August 1821. The Mexican years date from 1821 to 1836; during this period Nacogdoches grew in size and character. Immigration from the southern U.S. caused a shift to Anglo culture in Nacogdoches.



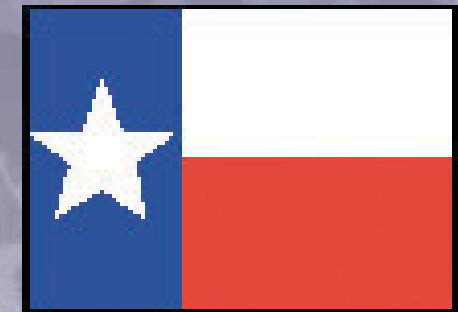
Fredonia Rebellion

The third attempt at independence was known as the Fredonia Rebellion led by Haden Edwards in 1826. Mexico gave Edwards a contract to settle 800 families in the Nacogdoches area. When he arrived in Nacogdoches, he found that the land was already settled by Indians and Mexican descendants who had been there several generations. Edwards gathered his men in the Stone Fort and declared themselves Fredonians (freedom seekers). The rebellion failed and Edwards' men scattered.



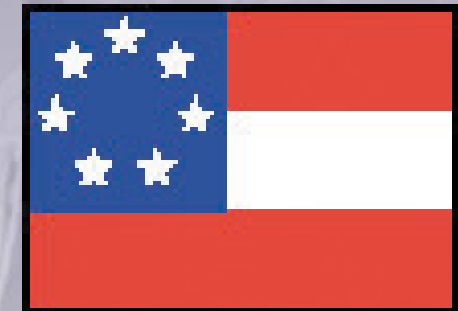
Lone Star

The Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 freed the areas east and north of San Antonio of all Mexican troops. This made way for the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. Even after Nacogdoches won its battle, the residents continued to fight for Texas freedom.



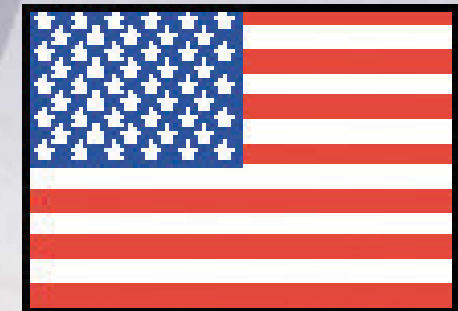
Confederate Stars & Bars

In February 1861, Texas withdrew from the Union and was accepted as a state by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America.



United States of America

On October 13, 1845, Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a United States annexation proposal. In December, President James K. Polk signed the Joint Resolution for the Admission of the State of Texas into the Union making Texas the 28th State.



For more than a decade,

the Nine Flags Christmas Festival has paid homage to the rich and spirited history of the oldest town in Texas. Since its inception in 1997, the Nine Flags Christmas Festival has become one of the premier holiday celebrations in the state and has been recognized by the Texas Legislature for its community education and historic restoration efforts.

Hub & Spoke Tours

Alto

Located 32 miles from Nacogdoches on Highway 21 West

The Caddoan Mounds State Historical Park is a 93.8-acre park west of Nacogdoches. Around 800 A.D., the early Caddoan Indians selected a site above the Neches River for a village and ceremonial center. The park offers exhibits and interpretive trails through reconstructed Caddo dwellings and ceremonial areas, including two temple mounds, a burial mound, and a village area. The park is located 6 miles southwest of Alto on State Highway 21. For more information call (936) 858-3218.



Photo courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

Carthage

55 miles from Nacogdoches on Highway 59 North

Experience the excitement and splendor of the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum. The Tex Ritter Museum, located within the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, is located two blocks from downtown Carthage. The Tex Ritter portion of the museum is dedicated to the life and times of Tex Ritter and entertains thousands of visitors each year. The Country Music Hall of Fame displays pictures and memorabilia from many inductees such as Gene Autry, Jim Reeves, Tex Ritter, Willie Nelson, Dale Evans, Neal McCoy, The Gatlin Brothers, Jimmy Dean, Johnny Lee and Tanya Tucker. The museum is located at 310 West Panola Street. For more information call (903) 694-9561.

Kilgore

57 miles from Nacogdoches on Highway 259

The East Texas Oil Museum at Kilgore College is a fascinating museum that houses an authentic re-creation of oil discovery and production in the early 1930s from the largest oil field inside U.S. boundaries. Here are the people, their towns, their personal habits, their tools and their pastimes, all colorfully depicted in dioramas, movies, sound presentations and actual antiques donated by East Texas citizens. It's a real gusher. The museum is located at Highway 259 at Ross Street. For more information call (903) 983-8295.

Lufkin

19 miles from Nacogdoches on Highway 59 South

The Texas Forestry Museum is a one-of-a-kind museum in Texas that has displays and relics telling the story of the forest products industry. The grounds include a logging train, railway depot, and fire lookout tower. The museum is located at 1905 Atkinson Drive. For more information call (936) 632-9535.

Rusk

37 miles from Nacogdoches

Ride the rails of the Texas State Railroad. The Texas State Railroad is known as one of the nation's largest and most unique steam-train operations. It is also one of the only steam railroads in the United States that runs two steam trains simultaneously each day of operation. The train passes through the piney woods and hardwood creek bottoms of East Texas. Round trip takes a total of four hours. Passengers may board at either Palestine or Rusk. For more information call (903) 683-2561.



©Texas Department of Transportation

San Augustine

35 miles from Nacogdoches on Highway 21 East

The Mission Dolores Visitor Center and Museum houses an interactive and interpretive display relating to Mission Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de los Ais, among the earliest missions established in Texas by Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus. For some 56 years, Mission Dolores served the Ais Indians, a division of the Caddo who occupied the East Texas area when the Spanish first arrived. The mission was first established in 1717 along Ayish Bayou. Located on high ground to the east of Ayish Bayou, it straddles a modern transportation corridor (El Camino Real, also known as Highway 21) that has been in existence for over 300 years. Mission Dolores is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The visitor center and museum is located at 701 South Broadway. For more information call (936) 275-3815.



Sample Itinerary #1

10:00 A.M.

Historic Town Center/Visitors' Center

The Historic Town Center/Visitors' Center, located on the square, was built in 1917 as the city's post office. Here you can view exhibits of early Nacogdoches, watch the video on Nacogdoches and pick up additional literature on the town.



10:45 A.M.

Sterne-Hoya House Museum & Library

Adolphus Sterne built this house in 1830. Sam Houston, Thomas J. Rusk, David Crockett, and other United States and Mexican notables were visitors to the home. The Baptism of Sam Houston was one of the most celebrated events that took place in the house.

11:45 A.M.

Durst-Taylor Historic House & Gardens

Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens is an 1830s wood-frame house interpreted to the 1840 to 1860 time period when the Blackburn family lived there. The house is the second-oldest structure still standing on its original site in Nacogdoches. Visitors will start their tour at the Visitors' Center and then will be guided through the house and grounds. The grounds include a blacksmith shop, smokehouse, and historic gardens.



12:30 P.M.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at the restaurant of your choice. From barbecue to soup and salad, we have a variety of wonderful and unique restaurants from which to choose.

1:30 P.M.

Downtown Shopping

Stroll the brick streets downtown and shop the antique shops and art galleries.

2:30 P.M.

Old Nacogdoches University Building

The Nacogdoches University was founded under a charter granted by the Republic of Texas in 1845. The present two-story building of modified Grecian architecture was erected as a permanent home of the university in 1859. This is the only non-sectarian university established during the Republic of Texas that is still in existence.

3:15 P.M.

SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center

A 40-acre garden located north of the campus on North Raguet Street. The Tucker House serves as the central feature of the property, which is surrounded by native forest, walking trails, and gardens that celebrate the wonderful diversity of native plants in the region.

4:15 P.M.

Free time/Hotel Check-In

5:30 P.M.

Llano Grande Plantation Tour and Dinner

The Tol Barret House is located on a 600-acre working Tree Farm, nestled deep in the Piney Woods of East Texas. When you visit the home, you'll enjoy the peaceful and serene surroundings. The Tol Barret House, c.1840, is on the National Register of Historic Places in addition to being a Texas State Landmark. The home has been restored "by hand" with a great deal of love and attention to detail. Its charming interior and beautiful surroundings have been featured in a number of national magazines. The tour will conclude with dinner at the Tol Barret House. Call Ann Phillips at (936) 569-1249 for menu options and prices.



7:00 P.M.

Tour Concluded



"On behalf of the Prime Time group,

I would like to express our appreciation for all the work you and many others did to help make our trip a very pleasant experience. We were overwhelmed by everything you provided for us, from setting up the schedule to having guides to meet us. I would also like to say that all of the tour guides were friendly and very helpful. I would certainly recommend Nacogdoches to any group that was looking for an interesting place to visit." – First Baptist Church, Franklin, Texas

Sample Itinerary #2

10:00 A.M.

Walking Tour of Historic Downtown & Downtown Shopping

Walk in the footsteps of Texas legends and learn the history behind the oldest town in Texas. Stroll the brick streets of downtown Nacogdoches and stop in at one of the many art galleries or antique shops.

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at the restaurant of your choice. From barbecue to soup and salad, we have a variety of wonderful and unique restaurants from which to choose.

1:30 P.M.

SFA Mast Arboretum

The first arboretum at a university in Texas began in 1985. This on-campus garden spills over 19 acres. Enjoy the wide diversity of plant life, including rare trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, herbaceous perennials, a children's garden and Texas' largest azalea garden.



2:30 P.M.

Old Stone Fort

The Stone Fort Museum is housed in a 1936 replica of Don Antonio Gil Y'Barbo's stone house. Y'Barbo, the founder of Nacogdoches, built the stone house in 1779. During its history, the house served variously as a public building, grocery store, candy store, saloon and a temporary fortification during the Magee-Gutierrez, Dr. James Long and Fredonia Rebellion filibusters.



3:00 P.M.

Free time/Hotel Check-In

4:00 P.M.

Millard's Crossing Historic Village

A charming, reconstructed historic village comprised of a broad sampling of 19th century architecture from simple log cabins to Victorian homes. Including a unique collection of antique tools and gadgets as well as 19th century basics such as wood stoves, butter churns, sad irons, ice boxes, iron kettles and pie safes. Admission. Award winner: Texas Travel Industry Association awarded Susie Lower Best Attractions Museum Guide in 2003.

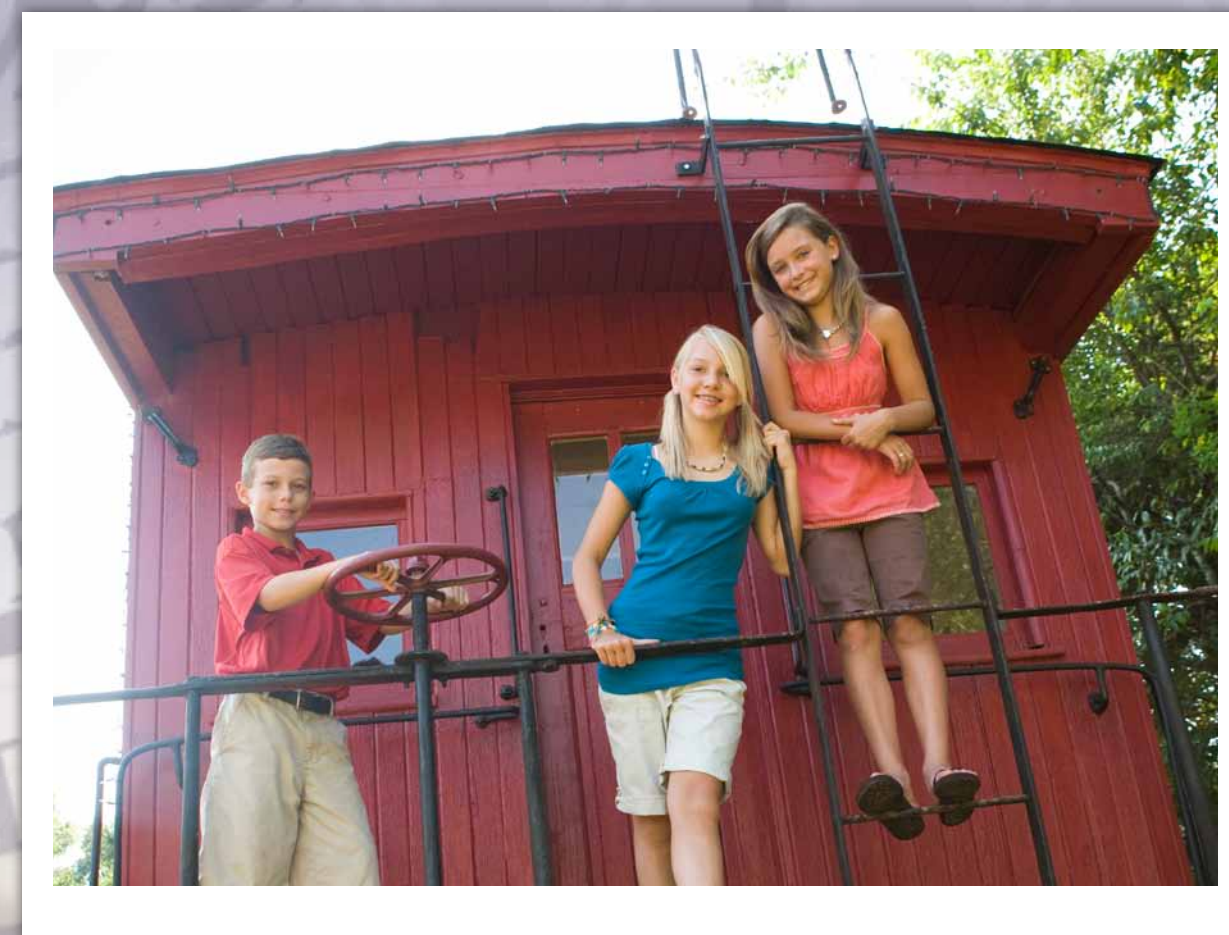
5:30 P.M.

An Evening at Millard's Crossing Historic Village

This 19th century East Texas village is a jewel! Stay after the tour for a dinner theatre or enjoy live music by the barbershop quartet. Call Susie Lower at (936) 564-6631 for information on prices and special events.

7:00 P.M.

Tour Concluded



Location

Nacogdoches is just a short jump from:

Houston – 130 miles

Dallas/Fort Worth – 180 miles

Austin – 210 miles

San Antonio – 275 miles

Shreveport/Bossier – 95 miles

Normal High and Low Temperatures:

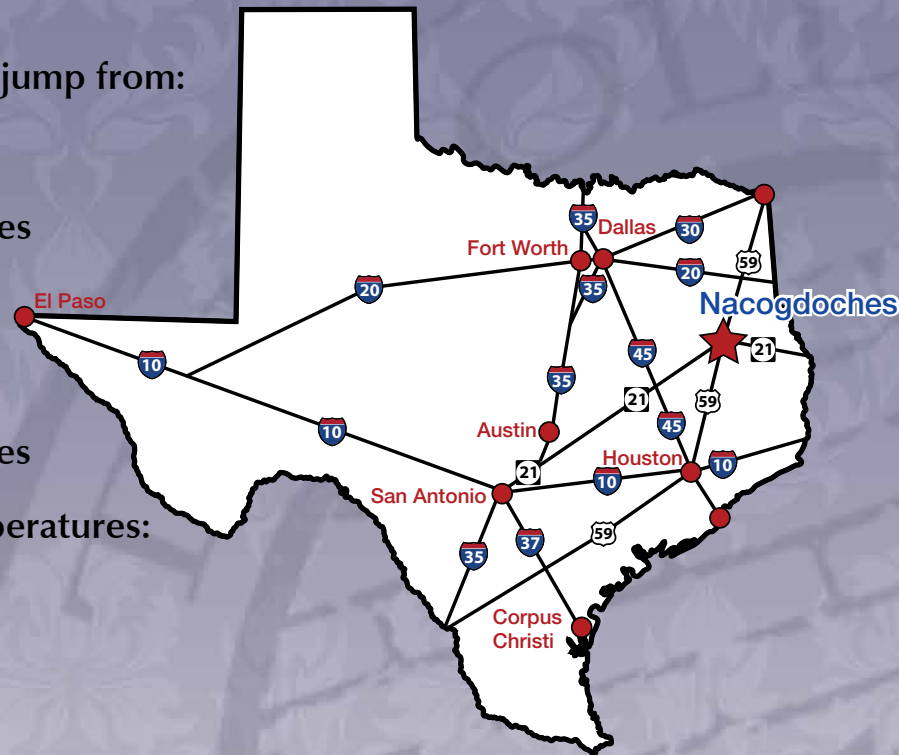
Spring – 80/56

Summer – 96/73

Fall/Winter – 63/40

Hotel Occupancy Tax: 13%

Sales Tax: 8.25%



Welcome to Nacogdoches!

Start your visit to Nacogdoches at the Convention & Visitors Bureau located in the heart of historic downtown at 200 East Main Street (one block off US 59 Business). Our staff will help you plan your itinerary and answer any questions you may have.

Monday – Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Saturday – 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Sunday – 1 to 4 P.M.

(888) OLDEST-TOWN

(936) 564-7351

www.VisitNacogdoches.org

Info@VisitNacogdoches.org

Annual Events

Call us at (888) OLDEST-TOWN for more information on the following activities:

March

Azalea Trail

Nacogdoches County Championship Rodeo

April

Texas National Art Exhibition

East Texas Cajun Cook-Off

SFA Spring Garden Gala

May

Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion

Multicultural Festival

June

Heritage Festival & Taste of Nacogdoches

Texas Blueberry Festival

July

Freedom Fest

September

Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion

October

SFA Homecoming

SFA Fabulous Fall Festival

Pineywoods Fair

Scare on the Square

November

Downtown Art Walk

Fall Foliage Trail

Holiday in the Pines

Nine Flags Christmas Festival

Wassail Fest

December

Nine Flags Christmas Festival & Lighted Parade

Christmas Tour of Homes



A year-round destination

for arts and entertainment, recreation and shopping, and some special events that bring visitors back again and again! For more info, check our most recent calendar of events at www.VisitNacogdoches.org.