



Nacogdoches

Texas Starts Here



VisitNacogdoches.com

Nacogdoches History

Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas, is named for the Caddo family of Indians who once lived in the area. Local legend tells of a Caddo chief, living near the Sabine River, who sent his young adult twin sons in opposite directions to establish their own tribes. One brother, Natchitoches, traveled three days east toward the rising sun. The other brother, Nacogdoches, traveled three days west toward the setting sun. Settled in their new communities, the two brothers remained friendly and the road between them was well traveled. The road became a trade route and the eastern end of El Camino Real. Nacogdoches remained a Caddo Indian settlement until 1716 when Spain established the mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches. In 1779, Antonio Gil Y'Barbo, a prominent Spanish trader, led a group of settlers to Nacogdoches. That same year, 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 is called today, became a gateway from the United States to the vast Texas Frontier.

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.



A City of Texas Firsts!

FIRST TWO-STORY BUILDING

Old Stone House, Circa 1779

FIRST WINE CELLAR

Sterne- Hoya Home

FIRST CEILING FANS

In a downtown drugstore 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

The Nine Flags



FRENCH (1685-1689)

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. Although the precise route is uncertain, La Salle and his men, on their ill-fated attempt to reach the Mississippi from their settlement on the Texas coast, must have come through East Texas.



SPANISH (1519-1821)

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



GUTIERREZ - MAGEE (1812-1813)

In 1812 the Old Stone Fort served as the headquarters during the first attempt to create a Texas Republic. Augustus Magee, a former lieutenant in the U.S. Army, joined forces with Bernardo Gutierrez and attempted to take Texas. Some major battles were fought with Mexican forces, but the group was defeated. Texas was declared a province of Mexico, which by this time had declared its independence from Spain.



DR. JAMES LONG (1819 - 1821)

In 1819, Dr. James Long of Natchez, Mississippi, led an expedition to claim Texas for the United States. Long made his headquarters at the Old Stone Fort, but his group was wiped out while he was on Galveston Island trying to obtain the assistance of the famous pirate and privateer, Jean Lafitte.



MEXICAN (1821 - 1836)

Mexico formally gained its independence from Spain in August of 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. Texas and Coahuila were organized as one state within the Mexican Confederation.



FREDONIA REBELLION (1826 - 1827)

The third attempt at independence from Mexico was known as the Fredonia Rebellion led by Haden Edwards. Mexico gave Edwards a contract to settle 800 families in the Nacogdoches area.



LONE STAR (1836 - 1846)

The Battle of Nacogdoches freed the areas east and north of San Antonio of all Mexican troops which allowed Texas the ultimate Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836.



CONFEDERATE STARS & BARS (1861 - 1865)

After the revolution, settlement of Texas swept through Nacogdoches to the west. Nacogdoches prospered raising cotton and tobacco, producing timber and advancing slowly while keeping its status as a cultural, educational and religious center.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Since 1846)

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.

Annual Events

JANUARY

Old-Fashioned Sugar Cane Event
Pulpwood Queens Girlfriend Weekend

FEBRUARY

Film Festival
Wine Swirl

MARCH

Azalea Trail
Nacogdoches County Championship Rodeo
Nacogdoches Music Festival



APRIL

Texas National Art Exhibition
Oldest Town in Texas Motorcycle Rally
SFA Spring Garden Gala
Vintage Market Days
Red Dirt Mud Run

MAY

Nac Brew Club Brew Fest
Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion
Multicultural Festival
Tour of Gardens



JUNE

Texas Blueberry Festival
Blueberry Bluegrass Concert



JULY

Freedom Fest

AUGUST

The Great Texas Mud Race

SEPTEMBER

Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion

OCTOBER

SFA Fabulous Fall Festival
Ghosts of Millard's Crossing
Pioneer Day



NOVEMBER

Downtown Art Walk
Fall Foliage Trails
East Texas Half Marathon
Vintage Market Days
Holiday in the Pines
Wassail Fest

DECEMBER

Nine Flags Festival & Lighted Christmas Parade
Millard's Crossing's an Old Fashioned Christmas
Tour of Homes

Visit us online for a complete list of annual events.

Things to See & Do

CHARLES BRIGHT VISITOR CENTER

Begin your visit to the Oldest Town in Texas here! The Visitor Center is home to the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as two floors dedicated to local historic artifacts and exhibits. Watch a video of the history of Nacogdoches and the surrounding area. Get visitor information including brochures, self-guided tour details, maps and gifts. 200 East Main. Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat 10-4; Sun 1-4; Holidays 10-4. 936-564-7351

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NACOGDOCHES

After getting your bearings at the Visitor Center, step onto the brick streets of downtown Nacogdoches and stroll the antique and specialty shops, art galleries, local eateries and live entertainment venues. Be sure to visit the Fire Museum, Railroad Depot and Museum and numerous historic landmarks in the downtown area. Self-Guided Walking Tour - Visit 15 points of interest in the downtown historic district. (Note: Guided walking tours are offered every Saturday in May.) Information, maps and brochures are available at the Visitor Center.



TRAILS OF NACOGDOCHES

Walk, hike, bike or just sit back and take in the natural beauty. Numerous trails offer activities to suit most any enthusiast. Most trails are along the creeks on the east and west side of downtown or on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus. Trail maps are available at the Visitor Center. Note: Some trails were created with the intermediate rider in mind and feature steep climbs, jumps and more challenging, twisting routes. All trails are dog-friendly but your canine friend must be on a leash.

Lanana Creek Trail - Originally an Indian footpath, this 5.89 mile trail weaves through thickets of paw-paw, dogwood and scarlet blooming buckeye. The trail begins at Liberty Hall on E. Main St.

Banita Creek Trail - This 1.9 mile trail is Nacogdoches' newest addition and winds through a pristine setting of shagbark hickory, Florida maples and tree sparkleberry and even includes waterfalls. The trail is located at the western end of Rusk St. Photo op: "Ab's chair", an 8 foot, 300 pound sculpture by local artist Jeffie Brewer.

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



GARDEN CAPITAL OF TEXAS

Discover why Nacogdoches has been designated by the Texas Legislature as the Garden Capital of Texas. From the largest azalea garden in the state to fall foliage and flowering trails that appear at almost every turn, Nacogdoches offers year-round beauty to the casual observer and the most serious gardner alike. The Garden Capital of Texas brochure is available at the Visitor Center and offers a complete list of gardens.

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 Dr.

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.

Pineywoods Native Plant Center - This 40-acre garden on the SFA campus is a unique mixture of uplands, mesic mid-slopes and wet creek bottoms. The Tucker House serves as the central feature of the property, which is surrounded by two miles of accessible trails through native forest and diverse gardens. Located at 2900 Raguet St.

Gayla Mize Garden - Take a stroll through this tranquil forest garden which includes Chinese fringe trees, deciduous hollies, azaleas, redbuds, dogwoods and camellias. East of University Dr. between Starr Ave. and College St.



CAMP TONKAWA SPRINGS

A natural spring fed pond that has fascinated visitors for over a century. A dip in the springs is a great way to beat the summer heat. Located at 4675 CR 153, Garrison. Admission. Ph. 936-564-8888

Things to See & Do

DURST-TAYLOR HOUSE & GARDENS

Built circa 1830s this wood-frame house is 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. Located at 304 North St. Hours Tues. - Sat. 10-4. Free. Ph. 936-560-4443



FREDONIA BREWERY

Brewing up traditional American style beers, with the flexibility to brew any type of beer, the Fredonia Brewery is located in downtown Nacogdoches at 138 N. Mound St. Open Saturdays. Ph. 936-305-5125

FARMER'S MARKET

The Market sells local organic produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, honey and locally produced crafts. Located at the old "hitch lot" at 107 W. Pearl St. Open seasonally Wednesdays and year round on Saturdays. Ph. 936-213-0640

LOCAL LAKES

Lake Nacogdoches and Lake Naconiche provide year round recreation opportunities. Lake Nacogdoches is approximately 15 miles west of downtown on FM 225. Lake Naconiche is approximately 12 miles north of downtown just off US Hwy 59. Area lakes include Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir.

MILLARD'S CROSSING HISTORIC VILLAGE

The historic village comprises a broad sampling of 19th century East Texas architecture from simple log cabins to Victorian homes. Located at 6020 North St. Guided and self-guided tours available. Hours Mon.-Sat. 9-4; Sun 1-4. Admission. Ph. 936-564-6631

NORTH FOREST PUTTING COURSE

Miniature golf course open seasonally through mid October. Located at 3503 North St. Hours Mon.-Sun. 2-10. Admission. Ph. 936-564-6525

NACA VALLEY VINEYARD

Enjoy wine tastings, a vineyard tour and views of the wine making process, all in a quiet country setting. Located approximately nine miles east of Nacogdoches at 9897 FM 1878. Tasting room is open Saturdays 10-8 and by appointment for individuals and small groups. Ph. 936-615-6432

OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Four signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence are buried here, including Thomas J. Rusk. Located on N. Lanana St. Brochures available at the Visitor Center.



OLD NACOGDOCHES UNIVERSITY BUILDING

It is the only original building of a university chartered by the Republic of Texas still standing and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located at 515 N. Mound St. Hours Tues.-Fri. 1-4; Sat. 10-4. Free. Ph. 936-569-7292

SPLASH KINGDOM WATERPARK

The family waterpark is open daily Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Located at 401 N. University Dr. Hours Sun.-Thurs. 11-6; Fri.-Sat. 11-7. Admission. Ph. 936-305-5009

STERNE-HOYA HOUSE MUSEUM

Built circa 1830 by Adolphus Sterne, a prominent leader in the fight for Texas Independence. Located at 211 S. Lanana St. 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. Located on the SFA campus at the corner of Griffith and Clark Blvds. 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. Live music venues downtown and near the University offer concerts and activities throughout the week. Visit us online for a complete list of upcoming events.

WOODLAND HILLS GOLF COURSE

18 hole golf course open to the public year round. Foot golf available. Located 6 miles south of downtown off S. US Hwy 59 at 359 County Road 5021. Ph. 936-564-2762

ZIP NAC

Professionally trained guides will send you zipping through tall timber in an exhilarating tour of the forest canopy. Ideal for first-time zippers and those more experienced. Located just off Hwy 7 East at 199 Brother John Rd. Day and night tours available Tuesday - Sunday by appointment. Admission. Ph. 936-645-5094

Where to Stay

Rate **Food Service** **Pool** **Pets** **Meeting Spc.**

Hotels

Comfort Suites 3429 South St. 936.560.9900 / 877.424.6423	\$\$	★	★		★
Fredonia Hotel (Opening 2017) 200 N. Fredonia St. 936.564.1234	\$\$\$	★	★	★	★
Hampton Inn & Suites 3625 South St. 936.560.9901 / 800.HAMPTON	\$\$\$	★	★		★
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 3807 South St. 936.564.0100 / 800.HOLIDAY	\$\$\$	★	★	★	★
Quality Inn & Suites 3400 South St. 936.564.2800	\$	★	★	★	★
Super 8 3909 South St. 936.560.2888	\$\$	★	★	★	★

Motels

America's Best Value Inn 6909 North St. 936.564.4899	\$	★			★
Best Western Inn of Nacogdoches 3428 South St. 936.560.4900 / 800.528.1234	\$\$	★	★	★	
Best Western Northpark 4809 N.W. Stallings Dr. 936.560.1906 / 866.560.1906	\$\$	★	★	★	
Continental Inn & Suites 2728 North St. 936.560.5555	\$\$	★			
Days Inn 2724 North St. 936.715.0005 / 800.329.7466	\$	★	★	★	
EconoLodge Nacogdoches 2020 N.W. Loop 224 936.569.0880 / 800.553.2666	\$	★			
Motel 6 3215 South St. 936.560.5453 / 800.899.9841	\$		★	★	
Victoria Inn & Suites 3612 North St. 936.560.6038 / 800.935.0676	\$	★	★	★	

B&B's / Other Unique Lodging

Rate **Children** **Food Service** **Event Spc.** **Pets** **Water Activity**

Hardeman House 316 N. Church St. 936.205.5280	\$\$\$	★	★	★		
Eagle Nest Hidden Lake Resort 19299 US Hwy 59 North 936.520.0838 / 936.204.3591	\$\$\$	★	★	★		★
Estate House 507 FM 226 936.645.0955	\$\$\$		★	★		★
Fair Breeze Cottage 4741 County Road 724 936.615.1150	\$\$\$	★	★	★	★	★
Llano Grande Plantation 433 Phillips Rd. 936.569.1249	\$\$\$	★	★			★
Mockingbird Suites (Opening 2017) 418 N. Mound St. 936.552.6406	\$\$\$	★		★		
Pine Creek Country Inn 341 Pine Creek Rd. 936.560.6282	\$\$\$	★	★	★	★	★
Pineywoods Hideaway 537 County Rd. 200 936.205.9376	\$\$\$	★	★			
Stag Leap Country Cabins* 2219 FM 2782 936.560.0766	\$\$\$	★	★			★
Summit Hill (Extended Stay Only) 1111 County Road 504 936.554.4245 / 936.554.0306	\$\$	★				★
The Brick House Inn 522 Virginia Avenue 936.564.7428	\$\$\$		★			
The Jones House 141 N. Church St. 936.559.1487	\$\$\$			★		
Zip Inn 206 Brother John Rd. 936.645.5094	\$\$\$	★		★		★

*Offers special extended stay rates

\$-Under \$60, \$\$-\$60-\$100, \$\$\$-Over \$100



Nacogdoches

Texas Starts Here

LOCATION AND DRIVE MAP



Driving Proximity

Austin	4hrs
Dallas	3hrs
Fort Worth	3hrs
Houston	2hrs
Lafayette, LA	4hrs
Natchitoches, LA	2hrs
Natchez, MS	4hrs
San Antonio	5hrs
Shreveport, LA	2hrs
Tyler	1+hrs

Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau

200 East Main St.
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

info@visitnacogdoches.org

Follow us @VisitNac

Hours

Monday - Friday 9-5

Saturday 10-4

Sunday 1-4

888-564-7351

VisitNacogdoches.com