MUST-SEE

Texas Historical Sites

Independence Title

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Moody Mansion

Galveston, TX

1895 - Present

Must-See Texas Historical Sites

The San Antonio Missions nps.gov/saan

A chain of five missions established along the San Antonio River in the 18th century became the largest concentration of Catholic missions in North America. Today, you can visit San Francisco de la Espada, Concepción, San Juan Capstrano, San Jose, and of course, the Alamo!

The Sam Houston House tshaonline.org

This modest dwelling in Huntsville belies the home's rich history. Woodland, as it's known, was once the residence of Sam Houston. Houston served as President of the Republic of Texas and later, Governor. This home was Houston's when he was United States Senator from 1847-1859. The house is part of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.

The King Ranch king-ranch.com

Founded in 1853, the King Ranch is the largest ranch in the state of Texas. If you make it down south, the ranch hosts tours daily. The King Ranch is responsible for the breeding of the famous Santa Gertrudis cattle, as well as thoroughbred quarter horses. It's considered by many Texans to be the birthplace of American ranching.

Washington-on-the-Brazos wheretexasbecametexas.org

Washington-on-the-Brazos is considered to be the birthplace of Texas. It was here that delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence after the Texas Revolution. This little town is where Texas became a republic. It's now a State Historic Site with a museum you can visit.

Gonzales Memorial Museum gonzales.texas.gov

Texans may not know much about the small town of Gonzales, but if you've got a "Come and Take It" t-shirt or bumper sticker, then you should visit. Texans fought one of the first battles of the Texas Revolution here. The story goes that the Mexican government tried to confiscate the town's small cannon that was kept as a defense against attacks from Native American tribes. You can imagine how Texans would have reacted to that. Visitors can see the actual cannon on display at the Gonzales Memorial Museum.

Moody Mansion moodymansion.org

One of the few structures to survive the devastating Galveston Hurricane of 1900, Moody Mansion was owned by the prominent Moody family until 1986 after which it became a museum. Built in 1895, the home has weathered every major hurricane to hit the Texas Gulf Coast.

National Museum of the Pacific War pacificwarmuseum.org

Famous Texan Admiral Chester Nimitz was an important man who controlled the United States naval fleet in the Pacific theatre of World War II. The Admiral Nimitz Foundation created the National Museum of the Pacific War in his honor. You can find the museum in Nimitz' hometown of Fredericksburg. It stands in recognition of Admiral Nimitz and the many men and women who lost their lives in that conflict.

San Jacinto Monument sanjacinto-museum.org

The San Jacinto Monument is more than just a Texan attempt to outdo Washington (the monolith is 15 feet taller than its D.C. counterpart.) It sits on the historic San Jacinto battleground and marks the spot of the last battle of the war for Texas independence. This is where Sam Houston captured the Mexican General Santa Anna.

West Texas Prehistoric Rock Art nps.gov/amis

Texas history doesn't start when it obtained statehood in 1845. It didn't even start when priests built the first Spanish mission in 1682. There were people in Texas much earlier than that, and they left their marks, literally, in caves in West Texas. You can see some prehistoric cave drawings in Hueco Tanks State Park and Seminole Canyon State Park. If you can't make it out that far though, you can see projected images of the ancient drawings at the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

Whiteside Museum wmnh.org

Another great aspect of Texan prehistory, you can view dimetrodon skeletons at the Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour, Texas. Texas is home to one of the largest and most paleontologically significant collections of Precambrian reptiles in the world, and the digs around Seymour are ongoing. At the Whiteside Museum you can see the progress of skeletons that are still in the process of being cleaned.

Presidio La Bahia presidiolabahia.org

Presidio La Bahia is the site of the Goliad Massacre, which took place shortly after the Alamo fell. Rather than causing the Texan army to lose faith, Goliad, along with the Alamo became the rallying cry that carried the Texans on to victory against the Mexican army. The mission is open daily (except for major holidays.)

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