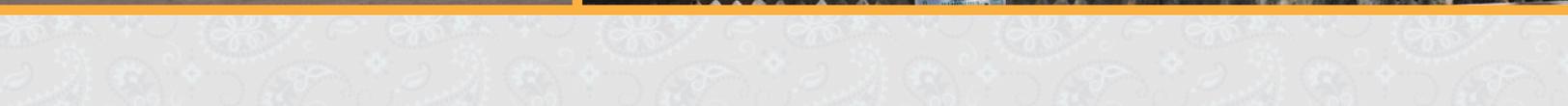
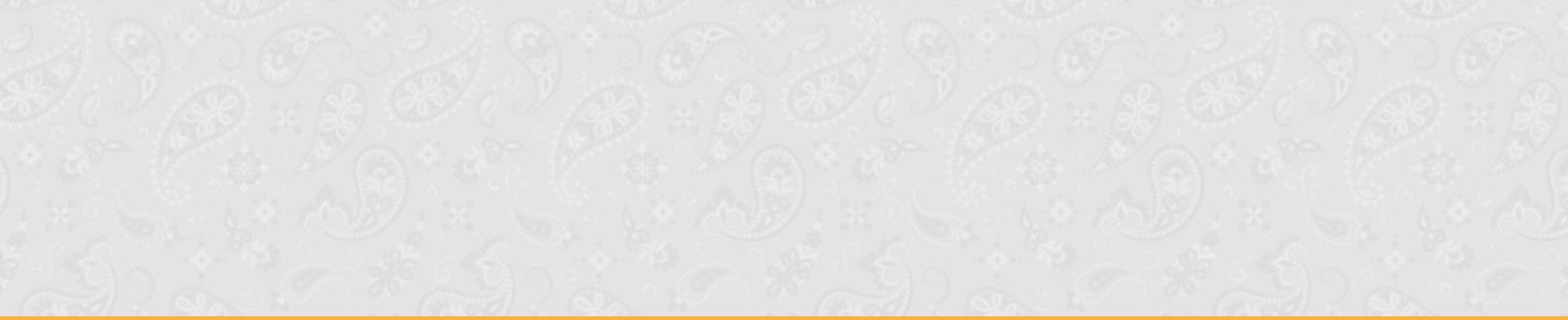


THE MOST UNIQUE

SMALL TOWNS IN TEXAS



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Most Unique Small Towns

Bandera

The town was the start of the Great Western Cattle Trail and claims to be the “Cowboy Capital of the World.” In addition to several museums and nature sites, Bandera features lots of opportunities for visitors to glimpse the cowboy life, including visiting local ranches and going horseback riding.

Canyon

The “Gateway to the Grand Canyon of Texas,” Canyon is located on the edge of the famous Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle. The town offers visitors plenty of things to see and do like museums, zip lines, horseback riding and golfing.

Dripping Springs

Known as the “Gateway to the Hill Country” Dripping Springs is a short 25 minutes from Austin. Enjoy boutique shops, wineries, breweries, distilleries and fine dining. Dripping Springs is also home to the Hamilton Pool Preserve, a stunning swimming hole created when an underground river collapsed in on itself thousands of years ago.

Dublin

Its Irish counterpart might be home to Guinness, but Dublin is where Dr Pepper was born. The popular soda company has since left this central Texas town, but you can still swing by a museum devoted to the carbonated drink.

Fredericksburg

One of the most popular small towns in Texas, Fredericksburg offers visitors quaint shopping and fine dining in a relaxing Hill Country atmosphere. The town is also home to several annual events and offers a great starting point for those wishing to visit the numerous Hill Country wineries just a short drive away.

Granbury

A town that loves to honor the past, Granbury is a great spot for history lovers. The town boasts a dozen historical sites and museums—including both a county jail and courthouse museum. The town also has markets, vineyards, shopping and more.

Jefferson

Home to Caddo Lake and nearby Lake O’ the Pines, Jefferson is located near the Texas/Louisiana border and is widely known as the “Bed and Breakfast Capital of East Texas.” Travelers here can enjoy cozy lodgings, beautiful outdoor activities, boutique shops and more.

Lockhart

Houston and Austin can quibble all they want about who has the best barbecue, but the clear winner is Lockhart. The Texas State Legislature passed a resolution in 2003 officially giving Lockhart the title of the Barbecue Capital of Texas.

Luckenbach

Made famous by a Willie Nelson tune, the tiny Hill Country town continues to symbolize all that is Texas to many—including country music and cowboy boots.

Marble Falls

Every year from mid-March to mid-April, bluebonnets sprout up across Texas, and few places offer such breathtaking bluebonnet fields as Marble Falls. Even if you aren’t able to see the bluebonnets in bloom, be sure to swing by the historic Bluebonnet Café.

Marfa

It’s more than just a place. It’s a state of mind. Where you’ll find tortillas and teepees, Warhol and beer gardens. Where wide-open spaces evoke meditation and mountains invite morning hikes. It’s live music, star gazing, film festivals, art galleries, mystery lights and small bites. Go see the Marfa Lights, tour Marfa art galleries, and hike the many state and national parks in the Big Bend region.

Nacogdoches

The oldest town in Texas was originally a Spanish settlement. Over the years, the town has blended Southern hospitality with its Spanish heritage to make it a uniquely “east Texas town,” where people are friendly, and the pace is slow.

Port Aransas

Located on Mustang Island just outside of Corpus Christi, Port Aransas has only about 4,000 residents but visitors come from all over throughout the year to fish in its waterways, spot dolphins, and splash in the Gulf.

Port Isabel

Originally known as “Point Isabel” this seaside town and its famous lighthouse date back to the early 1800s. Today Port Isabel—which is located just across the bay from South Padre Island—is home to a variety of museums, restaurants and curio shops, making it a perfect spot for a relaxing beach vacation.

Rockport

Best known as a mecca for Texas artists, Rockport is also home to the Maritime Museum, prime saltwater fishing, and tons of outdoor activities. The area is popular for being a great place for bird-watching and vibrant natural landscapes.

Salado

Whether you want a romantic getaway or a quiet weekend alone, Salado is the perfect spot. Offering fine bed and breakfast inns, quaint shops, dynamic water gardens and carriage tours, Salado is sure to put your mind at ease.

Shiner

Shiner is home to just a couple thousand people, a Subway restaurant, and—most famously—the Spoetzal Brewery where Shiner beer is brewed. Tours are offered throughout the week, where visitors can see how every last drop of their popular brews gets made.

Terlingua

This real-life ghost town is getting something of a second wind, thanks to the inflow of visitors eager to see the ramshackle remnants of abandoned homes and Wild West-style cemeteries.

West

West’s claim to fame is the Czech Stop, a combo bakery and gas station on I-35 that boasts the best kolaches in Texas.

Wimberley

Wimberley is a quaint little village in the Texas Hill Country, situated within an hour’s drive to either Austin or San Antonio. Browse through one of the town’s art galleries, go bird watching in the nature preserve or shake a tail feather at one of the dance halls!

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