



**East Texas
Wildflower Trails**
*Henderson
Kilgore
Mt. Enterprise
New London
Overton
Tatum*

*Guide yourself through
Historic Rusk County on
these three Wildflower
driving trails!*

April 15th - May 31st



Wildflower Driving Trails
**Rusk County's Three Driving
Trails**

Begin with Henderson the County Seat, as the center point of your Rusk County scenic tour. There are three itineraries which will provide a scenic and informative view of Rusk County and its historic past.

Driving Trail No.1

The East Texas Oilfield/Overton History Tour

Henderson is a Texas Main Street City and a 2005 National Main Street City. The downtown area is one of the most dramatic and picturesque downtowns in the East Texas area. Colorful, canvas awnings highlight the restored buildings which house the downtown merchants. Visit the various antique stores, clothing stores and unique eateries lining the National Register Historic Downtown square. History comes alive at the **Depot Museum**. Visit the nine buildings on the five acre complex located just a few blocks away from the square at 514 North High Street. A stop you will not want to miss.

Henderson also has a variety of restaurants and shopping on Highway U.S. 79/259, the main artery though town. Enjoy spending a few days in our area without having to change motels. We are the hub for East Texas. Henderson has several motels. The Heritage House B&B is located just off the square in downtown.

Henderson, Texas, lies just outside the 43-mile-long Black Giant, the East Texas Oil Field. Join us and travel from Henderson to western Rusk County, home of the Discovery Well which signaled the discovery of oil in East Texas. You will see sites of historical significance and heartbreaking tragedy.

Follow State Hwy 323 (6.8 miles) west of Henderson toward Overton. A long the way on your right you will see a modern brick country church, Pleasant Hill Baptist. Across the highway is the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, burial site of 171 students of the New London School, killed in one of the most deadly gas explosions in the oil industry's history. It is one of only a few cemeteries in which most markers have the same death date.

Continue on SH 323 (1.2 miles) until you come to County Road 4136 on your left (you will see a brown Historic Sign Marker on your right) Turn left down the winding blacktop (oil service road), and continue for 1.6 miles until you come to a white pipe fence on the right. There you will see the historical marker which marks the site of the Daisy Bradford No. 3 and the original Discovery Well which began the Great East Texas Oil Boom of the 1930's. The Daisy Bradford was the third attempt by C.M. (Dad) Joiner to bring in a producing well in this area. The well blew in on October 3, 1930. Continue Down the oil road until you get to a "T" intersection. Turn Left on CR 4105, go .3 mi. then veer to the right continuing on 4105 all the way to State Hwy. 64. Turn right on 64, you will be in Joinerville. The Stroud House B &



Showy Primrose (Buttercup), *Oenothera Speciosa*



Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja* spp.

B is on your left. Continue on Hwy. 64, just past the B & B on your right is the “Pioneer Park”, with its monument to “Joe Roughneck”. Erected in 1956 by Lone Star Steel this memorial is dedicated to the working men in the oilfield. It has an encasement to be opened in 2056. The park contains a replica of a wooden oil derrick used to drill the discovery well. Continue on Hwy 64 until you come to State Hwy 42 (a blinking traffic light). Turn right on Hwy 42 and continue on until you reach New London.

The New London Cenotaph (means empty tomb) is located in the middle of the road in New London. Here on March 18, 1937, 293 children and teachers died when the New London School exploded 10 minutes before dismissal. The Memorial Cenotaph honors all who died. The **London Museum** chronicles the town’s history and documents the tragic school explosion that brought about odor being added to our natural gas. The London Museum Tea Room also features an old time soda fountain. The museum (admission \$3.00 per person) is open year around, 9 a.m.-4p.m. Monday-Friday, and the tea room is open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, and after hours and Saturday by appointment. For appointment call 903-895-4602. From New London continue north on SH 42, to the intersection of SH 135. Follow SH 135, into Overton. Overton is Rusk County’s oldest town. Enjoy the **Peanut Butter Emporium**, shopping, antiques, restaurants and a round of golf. The Overton Community Golf Course is located off FM 850 west in the Overton Park. When you see the

Welcome to Overton sign, turn left on Commerce (SH 135 south). Continue to the intersection of SH 135 and SH 323, turn left on SH 323 and follow it to the intersection of SH 323 and SH 42.

From this point, you may turn north on SH 42 to Kilgore, the “City of Stars”. The **East Texas Oil Museum** is an attraction you will not want to miss. This museum is one of the major attractions in East Texas. The Museum has re-created a boom town, interpreting life in an oil field town. The Rangerette Showcase Museum is located on the Kilgore College campus. Or you may continue on SH 323 back to Henderson or turn onto SH 42 and continue south.

If you continue south on SH 42, approximately 5 miles past the community of Price, you will come to **Jordan’s Plant Farm** on the left side of the road. Do not miss this attraction!!! The Jordan’s started their business with one greenhouse in 1976, and have expanded to become one of the finest tourist attractions and garden centers in the area with a complex of over 200 greenhouses and a feeling of home. Browse though many rooms filled with gifts and fascinating displays. Jordan’s hours are Monday thru Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

From Jordan’s, you may follow SH 42 to the intersection of U.S. 79, and turn north on U.S. 79 back to Henderson, or cross U.S. 79 and follow FM 1798 to Laneville, joining the southern arm of Driving Trail No. 3.

Driving Trail No. 2

Loop within a loop-Henderson to Tatum

From Henderson, take U.S. Hwy. 259 North to FM 782 (Chicken Feather Road). At Oak Hill, you come to an optional turning point. For a short, approximately one-hour tour, turn (right) south on FM 1716, which circles the mining operations of TXU and returns to Henderson on SH 43.

For a longer tour, continue north (straight across intersection) from Oak Hill on FM 1716, take a right on FM 782 to **C.E. Rogers & Son General Store** in the Stewart community. The store will be about four miles to the right. Opened in 1889, the store is one of the oldest and last general stores in East Texas, and retains much of its old “general store” atmosphere, along with more modern merchandise. A

100-plus-year-old cash register holds the store’s current “charge accounts”. The store is open 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and closed holidays.

Leaving Roger’s store, follow FM 782 to the “Y”, take the right-hand road (FM 1797) to the intersection of FM 1716, turn south and continue across SH 43 on CR 2183.

Follow the signs on CR 2183 to Martin Creek Lake State Park. The park offers a wide range of choices for outdoor fun and recreation. A field bird check list is available at the park headquarters. Continue on CR2183 N into Tatum. Tatum is home to the 2005 Class 3A State Champion Football Team.

While in Tatum, you might like to have a snack or enjoy a meal and do a little shopping. The Tatum Depot Museum located on Hwy 43 and Hood Street. It is open Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Also on Thursdays, the Heritage house is a great place for home cooking and good fellowship. The Heritage House is located on Crystal Farms Rd. off of Hwy 149. From Tatum, take FM 3231 South to the junction of FM 1251, where CR 3105 begins. At this junction, you may turn right (west) through Church Hill follow FM 1251 until it runs into SH 43, and follow into Henderson.

Or you may continue on CR 3105 / FM3231 until it again becomes FM 1798 when it crosses U.S. 79 North, and follow that road south to the intersection of U.S. 259 South, where you can join the southern arm of Itinerary No. 3.



Fleabane Daisy, *Erigeron pilaclephicus*

Driving Trail No. 3

Southern East Tour

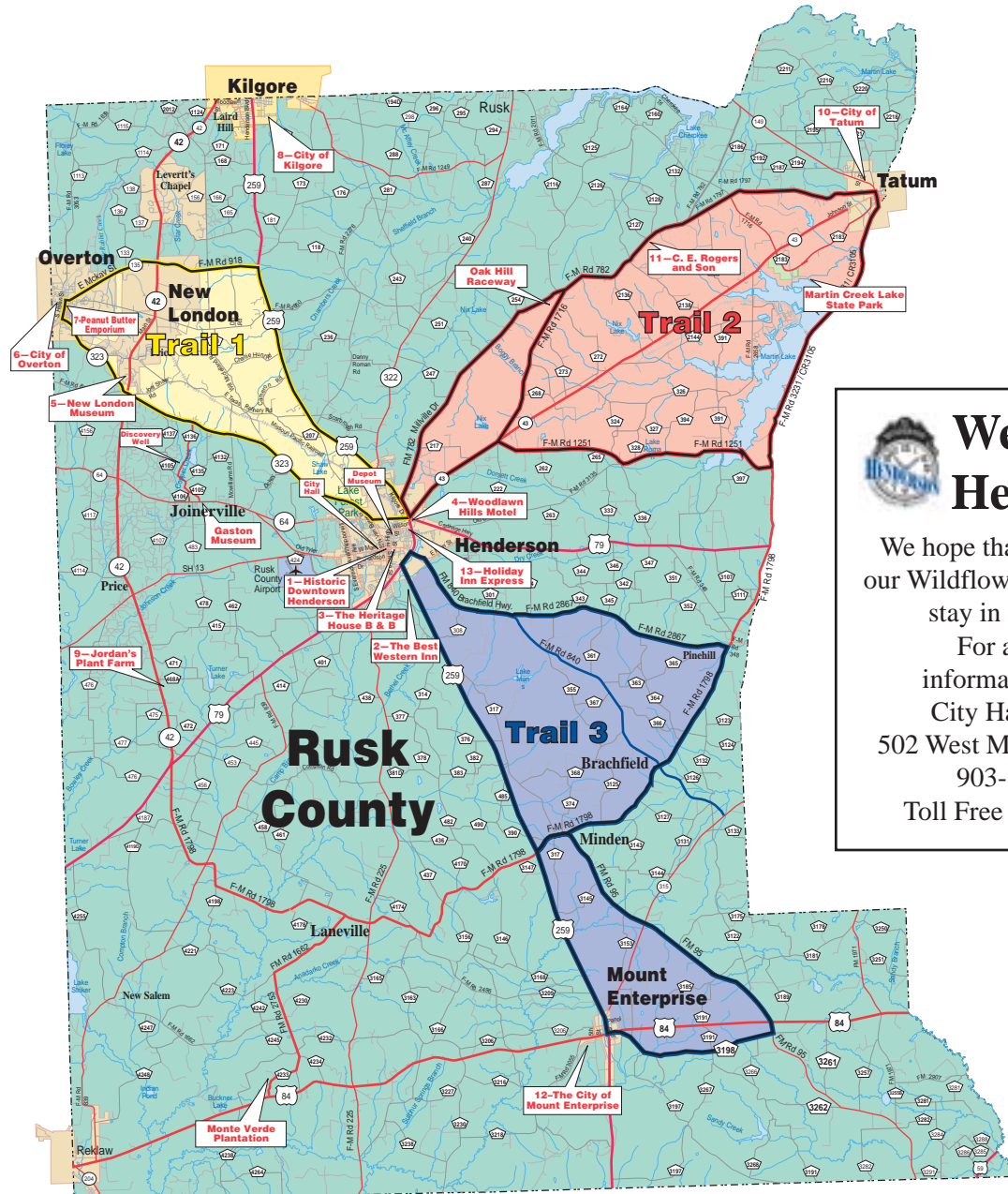
From Henderson, follow 259/79 South to the intersection of East Main Street turn left. Continue on East Main to the "Y" which is the intersection of FM 840, known as the Brachfield Highway. Continue on FM 840 to 2867. Then continue on 2867 to the Pine Hill Community. Turn south (right) on CR 1798 toward Brachfield. At one time, Brachfield was a thriving community with several stores and a cotton gin. The old gin still stands, and can be seen from the highway. Continue on FM 1798 to the community of Minden. Follow FM 1798 to its intersection with U.S. 259, turn south (left) and follow U.S. 259 into Mt. Enterprise.

Places to eat in Mt. Enterprise include Rancho Grande, First Food Bakery, Four Corners Mart, Pizza Pro and the Hilltop Restaurant (breakfast and lunch hours only). Check out the Library and the antique mall on Hwy. 84 West and Sisters Antiques on U. S. 259 North. The Primitive Acres Guest Ranch is located off Hwy 84 east to CR 3191 to CR 3267.

From Mt. Enterprise, take U.S. 84 east to the edge of town, turn right and follow CR 3198. At Concord, turn left (north) onto FM 95, cross U.S. Hwy. 84, and continue north on FM 95. Continue on FM 95 back to Minden. Turn left onto FM 1798 and follow to U.S. 259. At this time you have **3 options: Option No.1:** You may turn right and go back to Henderson. **Option No. 2:** Connect with Driving Tour No. 2. To connect with Driving Tour No. 2, circle back on FM 1798 through Brachfield, Pine Hill and cross U.S. 79. This road becomes CR 3231. This road ends in Tatum. **Option No. 3:** Visit the **Monte Verde Plantation**. This is the most scenic part of Rusk County. The plantation is now privately owned and is not open to the public. One of the largest and most successful of the East Texas cotton plantations. The home was built in 1855 by Julien Devereux, a Texas Legislator. The Plantation had 10,721 acres and 80 slaves. The plantation is located on a hill with a breathtaking view in all directions. The home received a Medallion Marker on October 6, 1962. To view the plantation, stay on Hwy 1798 and cross U.S. 259 heading west. Continue on 1798 through Laneville to Hwy 1662. Turn left on Hwy 1662, proceed until you get

to the intersection of Hwy 1662 & Hwy 2753. Take Hwy 2753 to the Glen Fawn Cemetery. Turn right on CR 4233. The Plantation will be 1 mile on your right and you will see the gate with the Monte Verde name on it. After viewing, continue to the end of CR422 which will end at the intersection of Hwy 84. Turn right on Hwy 84 and continue to Hwy 204. Turn right

and follow to Hwy 839. This will take you through New Salem. Continue on Hwy 839 to the intersection of Hwy 1798, turn left. Hwy 1798 will take you to U.S. 79. At this time you may turn to go to Henderson or continue across the highway which Hwy 1798 turns into Hwy 42. Continue on Hwy 42 for 3 miles to **Jordan's Plant Farm** which will be on your right.



Welcome to Henderson!

We hope that you will enjoy our Wildflower Trails and your stay in Henderson.

For additional information visit the City Hall Annex at 502 West Main Street or call 903-657-6551
Toll Free 866-650-5529



Welcome to Historic Downtown Henderson

(National Register Historic District)

- Experience the charm of the quaint restored buildings
- Heritage Square Garden
- Antique Shops, Eateries, Upscale Shopping, Gifts, Civic Theatre
- Custom design Jewelry and Floral.
- Historic Courthouse & Library
- The Depot Museum is just a few blocks away.



A Texas
Main Street City

1

WOODLAWN HILLS MOTEL

4

Managers: Steve & Kay

~Complimentary Breakfast & Ice ~ Pool, Phone, Fax Service ~
~ High Speed Internet ~

Reservations Only: 1-800-833-0256
Phone/Fax: (903) 657-2511

1204 Hwy. 79 N.
Henderson, TX 75652



PEANUT BUTTER EMPORIUM

Gourmet Peanut Butters-Milled Fresh Daily,
Pies, Cookies, Fudge, Candies, Gift Baskets,
Soups, Salads, Sandwiches, Wraps, Potatoes &
Hand Dipped Blue Bell Ice Cream

~ Mon.-Fri. 11 am to 8 pm, Sat. 11 am to 5 pm ~

134 E. Henderson Street, Overton, TX • 903-834-3990

www.peanutbutteremporium.net

7



Best Western Inn of Henderson

- Free Continental Breakfast
- Large & Small Banquet/ Meeting Facilities
- Jacuzzi & Business Suites
- High Speed Internet

Join us for a restful night's sleep!

1500 Highway 259 South
Henderson, Texas 75654
903-657-9561

2



Everyone is Welcome in... New London

Designated Blue Bird City

*Historic sites of the worst school
disaster, March 18, 1937 at the
London Museum and Tea
Room!*

903-895-4602 • 903-895-4466

5



WELCOMES YOU!

*Enjoy the Wildflower Trails and let history come alive at
the following attractions: East Texas Oil Museum,
Rangerette Museum and Worlds Richest Acre Park!*

For Information Call the Kilgore Chamber
of Commerce 1-866-984-0400 (Toll Free)

8



Heritage House of Henderson Bed and Breakfast

310 East Main Street • Henderson, Texas • 903-657-4797
www.heritagehouseofhenderson.com

3



Welcome to the City of Overton

*Enjoy the shopping and restaurants in
our city or play a round of golf!*

For more information call
The City of Overton
903-834-3171

6



Jordan's Plant Farm

*Jordan's Gift Shop & Garden Center has 17 rooms of unique shopping
with old west charm and down home country attitude.*

Mon. - Sat., 8:00 am to 5:00 pm • Sunday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
7523 State Highway 42 S. • Henderson, Texas 75654
903-854-3114 • 1-800-635-1147 • www.jordansplantfarm.com

9

Follow the Trails to Tatum!

Enjoy your stay in Tatum. Visit the Depot Museum, Eagle Nest Park and Martin Creek Lake State Park.



For more information call:

City of Tatum at Tatum Economic Development

10 903-947-2260

903-947-6403

C. E. Rogers & Son

Oldest Business in Rusk County since 1889.

Welcome to the Wildflower Trails!

Stop by and take a break at our old fashioned country store. Home grown beef & Pork. Browse around and enjoy the country store atmosphere.

13300 FM 782 North (Stewart Community)
Henderson, Texas 75652
903-836-2166

11



Welcome to the City of Mt. Enterprise

While enjoying the Wildflowers, take a rest in Mt. Enterprise...

Antiques, Restaurants,
Shopping & Library

For more information call:
903-822-3269

12



905 Hwy. 79 N. • Henderson, Texas 75652
Ph. 903-657-8789 • Fax 903-657-1077

Toll Free 877-655-8789

www.hiexpress.com/hendersontx
E-mail: hihenderson1@yahoo.com

Free High Speed Internet • Free Breakfast
Jacuzzi Rooms

13

For more information contact:



City of Henderson

Tourism Department

502 West Main Street
Henderson, Texas 75652-3099

Telephone: 903-657-6551

Fax: 903-655-1513

Toll Free: 866-650-5529

www.hendersontx.us • tourism@hendersontx.us

