



# *East Texas* **WILDFLOWER TRAILS**

**Henderson  
Kilgore  
Mt. Enterprise  
New London  
Overton  
Tatum**

**Self Guiding  
Driving Tour Through  
Historic Rusk County on  
These Three Wildflower  
Driving Trails!**

**April 15th - May 31st**



## ***Wildflower Driving Trails*** **Rusk County's 3 Driving Trails**

Beginning 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.

Henderson is a Texas and National Main Street City. The beautiful colorful awnings and the revitalized buildings of the downtown Historic District testifies to its official designation. The National Register Historic Downtown provides the enjoyment of shopping for unique treasures, upscale shopping and dining. The Pocket Park provides umbrella tables and chairs and a public restroom adjacent to the Rusk County Library. Heritage Square offers a resting area as well. The **Depot Museum** is just a few blocks away. Enjoy the five acre eleven buildings complex. A stop you will not want to miss. Henderson also has a variety of restaurants and shopping on highway 79/259 the main artery through town.

The **Rusk County Expo Center** is home to many equine events. Enjoy spending a few days in our hotels as we are the Heart of East Texas.

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, historical markers and heartbreaking tragedy.

## Driving Trail No.1

The East Texas Oilfield History Tour:  
New London, Overton, and Kilgore

Start your tour from downtown at the intersection of N. Main and W. Main (FM 13 W.). Follow FM 13 2.3 miles to Loop 571. Continue across the loop to a “Y curve” in the road, veer to the left. You will see the **Rusk County Expo** on your left. This facility is owned by Rusk County and was revitalized in 2016-2017. The facility includes the Tommy McDaniel Exhibit Hall and the Phillip Davis Memorial Arena. This popular facility during the year host many equine events, Ag events, meetings and the annual Antique Tractor Show. The Rusk County Airport is adjacent to the facility. Leaving the Expo, turn right and go back to the Loop. Turn right, go 2.3 miles to Hwy 79 south. Turn right and go 7.3 miles to the intersection of TX 42N. Turn right and go approximately 3 miles to **Jordan’s Plant Farm** on the right. The Jordan’s started their business in 1976. Shop for plants and home & garden decor. Many rooms are filled with gifts of year round holiday decorations which are all uniquely displayed in an old-fashioned atmosphere. Say hello to the Indian & cowboys (manikins sitting round). Jordan’s hours are Monday -Saturday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Sunday 1:00p.m. -5:00p.m. Turn right when leaving Jordan’s on 42 N. Continue to the community of Price to the 4 way blinking stop light. Continue to Turnertown. Turn right at the blinking stop light onto Hwy 64. Drive (1.7 miles) on your left you will see wooden oil derricks. This is called “**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. Continue on Hwy 64 (1.6 miles) on left to **Gaston Museum**, which revisits life in the 1930’s as it was



experienced by workers in the Great East Texas Oilfield. The season is the **first** Thursday-Saturday, starting in **February** to the last Saturday in **November**. Hours are 10:00am-4:30pm. [www.gastonmuseum.org](http://www.gastonmuseum.org) Leaving Gaston Museum, continue on Hwy 64 (0.6 miles) to CR 4131 turn left. Continue to intersection SH 323. At the stop sign, turn left, on your direct left, **Pleasant Hill Cemetery**. This is the 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) there is a brown Historic Marker with an arrow. Turn left on County Road 4136. Travel down the winding road, and continue (1.6 miles) until you come to a white pipe fence on the right. There you will see the historic marker which marks the site of the Daisy Bradford #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 of 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 till you get to a "T" intersection. At this point make a "U" turn and return back to SH 323, turn left. Continue to the intersection of Hwy 42 North. Turn right, and continue to the city of New London. As you enter **New London** you will see a very tall Cenotaph (means empty tomb) in the middle of the street. 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 Café & Soda Fountain** on left chronicles the town's history and documents of the tragic school explosion. Two weeks later congress enacted a law to add odor to our natural gas. The Museum & Fountain hours are Monday-Friday 9a.m. -4:00p.m. Café is opened Monday-Friday 11:00am-2:00p.m. On Saturday's the Museum and





Soda Fountain only is opened (March-August only) 10:00a.m. -3:00pm. Admission : Adults - \$5.00 Children \$3.00, after hours and Saturdays by appointment. [www.newlondonschool.org](http://www.newlondonschool.org) Leaving the Museum make a "U" turn onto 42 N., go, a couple of blocks to FM 1513 and turn left. Continue to 323. Turn right on 323 into **Overton**.

## Continued Driving Trail No.1

You will be at a "T" intersection. Turn right onto SH 135. Go down to the blinking light Commerce St./FM850. Turn left go to Meadowbrook St. turn left. This will take you to the golf course, Overton Lake, pavilion and the RV Park, a nice resting area. Circle the area and it will take you back to FM 850 to the middle of town. There you will find dining, shopping and the (Dairy Queen on FM135 for snack). Overton produces a fantastic July 4th Fireworks Show. When leaving Overton continue on FM 850 East to the intersection of Hwy 42N., continue to **Kilgore the "City of Stars."** Turn right off of 42 N. at (Woodlawn St) and continue to the traffic light intersection of 259. Turn left and go just a few blocks to the **East Texas Oil Museum** on the left. This museum is one of the major attractions in East Texas. The museum has re-created a boom town, interpreting life in an oilfield town. **The Rangerette Showcase Museum** is just down the street located on the Kilgore College Campus. The World's Richest Acre Park (30) oil derricks are located downtown on the corner of Commerce and N. Main. This is the perfect place to rest and step back in time. Downtown Kilgore has shopping and dining pleasures to suit everyone's style and taste. Leaving Kilgore, take US 259 south to Henderson, there you may connect to Driving Trail No.2 FM 782 (Oak Hill) is off of 259 south just (1.6miles) from Loop 571/259 when entering Henderson.

## Driving Trail No. 2

Loop within a loop-Henderson-Tatum

From Henderson take 259 North to FM 782 (0.6miles) from the major intersection of 5 highways. Turn right onto FM 782. Continue on FM 782 through the communities of Oak Hill and Stewart. Continue to the intersection of FM 782 & FM 1716. Turn right, go to the intersection of Hwy 43. Look across the highway and you will see CR 2183. Turn down that road and it will take you to **Harmony Hill Cemetery** one of Rusk County's ghost towns, where only a pre-Civil War cemetery remains. Harmony Hill was designated a National Historic site in 1976 and has a marker on its gates. Just down the road is the entrance to **Martin Creek Lake State Park**. The park offers a wide range of choices for outdoor fun, recreation, fishing and camping. A field bird check list is available at the park headquarters. Leaving the park go back to Hwy 43N, turn right and follow it into the **City Of Tatum**. There are several

eateries, the Public Library and shopping. Leaving Tatum on Hwy 43 South, you will see the baseball complex on the left side of the road and the Eagle's Nest. This is a great place to enjoy the walking trails, rest, or just take in the view. Also, there is a large children's play area. Leaving Eagle's Nest turn left onto Hwy 43 S. to FM 3231, turn left. This road retraces the paths of early Indians and Settlers. Martin Creek Lake now covers the land that once belonged to the Caddo Indians. Go 3.5 miles to **Martin Cemetery** on right. A Historic Marker tells about the Daniel Martin Family and the land that Martin Creek Lake State Park now resides. Leaving the cemetery turn right on FM 3231, continue around the lake and you will come to the intersection of FM 1251. Turn right to Church Hill. Follow FM 1251 to Hwy 43, turn left into Henderson.

## Driving Trail No 3.

### Southern East Tour

From Henderson, follow 259/79 South to the intersection of East Main Street and East FM 840. Turn east onto East Main Street. Continue (0.4mi) to FM 840 (Brachfield Highway) turn right. Continue on FM 840 to FM 2867. Then continue on FM 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. Continue on FM 1798 to the community of Minden. Follow FM 1798 to its intersection with U.S 259, turn south (left) and follow into Mt. Enterprise. **Welcome to Mt. Enterprise**, one of the oldest towns in Rusk County. The travel center is located at the major intersection of US 259 and Highway 84. At the travel center you will find a wall filled with a large display of historic pictures of early days in Mt. Enterprise. Also located at this intersection, the third Friday –Sunday weather permitting, enjoy the Old Mill Flea Market. On Rusk Street enjoy shopping the vintage treasures of yesterday in several of the antique stores. Mt. Enterprise also has dining opportunities and Whataburger is located in the travel center. Leaving 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 on FM 1798 and follow to U.S.259. **At this time you have 3 options: Option # 1.Visit the Monte Verdi Plantation**, the most scenic part of Rusk County. The plantation is now privately owned by the Koch family and is available for tours and special events throughout the year. View website for more information at [www.monteverdiplantation.com](http://www.monteverdiplantation.com) The plantation was 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 you will see the gate with the Monte Verdi name on it. After viewing, continue to the end of CR 4233 which will end at the intersection of Hwy 84. Turn right on Hwy 84 and continue to Hwy 204. Turn right and follow to FM 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 right to go to Henderson, or continue across the highway which turns into Hwy 42. Continue on Hwy 42 for 3 miles to Jordan's Plant Farm which will be on your right. Leaving Jordan's turn left, and go to the blinking stop light in Price. Turn right on FM 13 go 5.7 miles to visit the **Rusk County Expo Center** on your right. This building is hosts for equine events. The Rusk County Airport is also located there. Leaving the Expo turn right and continue straight into downtown Henderson. **Option # 2. Connect with Driving Tour #2.** Circle back on FM 1798 through Brachfield, Pine Hill and cross U.S. 79. This road becomes CR 3105 go to the intersection of FM 1251, turn left. Go to the intersection of FM 3231, turn right this road goes by the lake and ends on Hwy 43. Turn right to go to Tatum. See Driving Trails # 2 for Tatum Information. Leaving Tatum go back on SH 43 south to Henderson.

**Option # 3. You may return to Henderson on US 259 North.**





*For more information contact:*

## **City of Henderson Tourism Department**

1500 Lake Forest Parkway  
Henderson, Texas 75652-3099

Toll Free: 866-650-5529

[www.visithendersontx.com](http://www.visithendersontx.com)  
[tourism@hendersontx.us](mailto:tourism@hendersontx.us)



## Welcome to Historic Downtown Henderson

(National Register Historic District)

Experience the charm of the restored buildings

- Alley on Main with umbrella tables and public restrooms
- Antique shops, eateries, upscale shopping and boutiques
- Henderson Civic Theater
- Historic Courthouse and Library
- Depot Museum just a few blocks away
- Heritage Syrup Festival always 2nd Saturday in November
- Visit us at [www.visithendersontx.com](http://www.visithendersontx.com)

*A Texas & National Main Street City*

1



### Rusk County Youth Expo Center

The 100,000 sq. ft. center was newly renovated in 2017. The Tommy McDaniel Exhibit Center and The Phillip Davis Memorial Arena is an event center which includes: Ag events, Meetings, Annual Antique Tractor Show and other events.

*Enjoy your tour of Historic Rusk County where you will find history come to life. Many photo opportunities will ensure memories of your trip to our county.*

**(903) 722-9101**

2



## Welcome to the City of New London

Historic sites of the worst school disaster, March 18, 1937.

Retracing history and tragedy that day through items recovered is featured at the London Museum Cafe and Soda Fountain

**903-895-4466**

3

### London Museum Cafe & Soda Fountain

10690 Main Street (Hwy 42) • New London, Texas

**903-895-4602**

*Learn why natural gas has an odor*

**Cafe Hours**  
Monday thru Friday  
11:00 to 2:00

**Museum & Fountain Hours**  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 to 4:00

**Saturday**  
(March - August only)  
10:00am - 3:00pm

[www.newlondonschool.org](http://www.newlondonschool.org)  
[facebook.com/newlondonmuseum](https://facebook.com/newlondonmuseum)

3



### Depot Museum

Children's Discovery Center

511 N. High St. Henderson, TX 75652  
903.657.1303 | [www.depotmuseum.com](http://www.depotmuseum.com)

4



1—Historic Downtown Henderson

2—Rusk County Expo Center

3—City of New London & London Museum

4—Depot Museum

5—City of Mt. Enterprise

6—City of Overton

7—Jordan's Plant Farm

8—City of Tatum

9—City of Kilgore

10—BAYMONT INN & SUITES

11—Holiday Inn Express

12—Cross RV Park



## Welcome to the City of Mt. Enterprise

**We are glad you are here!**  
Shop vintage treasures and dine.

For more information call:  
**903-822-3269**

5



## 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

1200 S. Commerce St.  
Overton, Texas 75684

6



### JORDAN'S PLANT FARM

Jordan's Garden Center & Gift Shop is a one of a kind shopping experience. Shop for inspiring home and garden décor, plants for all seasons, containers, gifts, and holiday decorations

7323 St. Hwy 42 South Henderson, TX 75654 | (903) 854-2316  
[www.jordansplantfarm.com](http://www.jordansplantfarm.com)

7

## Follow the Trails to Tatum!

**Dining, Walking Trails at Eagle's Nest and Martin Creek Lake State Park**

For more information call:

City of Tatum at **903-947-2260**  
Tatum Economic Development **903-947-6403**

8



### BAYMONT INN & SUITES

**Sundowners Bar & Grill**  
**Free Breakfast**

410 US Highway 79 South  
Henderson, TX 75654

10



### Holiday Inn Express

**Free Breakfast**

300 North Kilgore Drive, Henderson, TX 75652  
[www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/country/henderson/hdx/hoteldetail](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/country/henderson/hdx/hoteldetail)

11



### CROSS RV PARK

202 Briarwood  
Henderson, Texas 75654  
[cross7777@suddenlink.net](mailto:cross7777@suddenlink.net)  
[www.crossrvpark.net](http://www.crossrvpark.net)  
**903-854-2997**

Pull-thru shaded spots with full hook-ups

30 & 50 amps

Showers • Laundry

WiFi • DIRECTV

Surveillance Cameras

Daily • Weekly, Monthly Rates

12



## WHERE DISCOVERIES Are Made

Synergy Park

**Visit Kilgore TEXAS**  
VisitKilgore.com

9