

Pedometer Challenge – Tour of Texas

Walking Route and Historical Influence of Each City

Start:

Amarillo

- Often called “The Yellow Rose of Texas” because its name means yellow in Spanish. Home to the famous Cadillac Ranch and The Big Texan Steak Ranch, which offers a free 72 oz steak dinner if you can eat it in under an hour

Lubbock

- Nicknamed “Hub City” because it is surrounded by five major Texas highways which give the appearance of a hub of a wagon wheel. Home to the rock legend Buddy Holly and Texas Tech University.

Monahans

- Monahans Sandhills State Park consists of 3,840 acres of sand dunes, some up to 70 feet high. Although man was present in the area as far back as 12,000 years ago it wasn't until about 400 years ago that a group of Spanish explorers reported the sandhills.

El Paso

- Located on the Western edge of Texas, El Paso is closer to Los Angeles, California than it is to Port Arthur, Texas which is on the Gulf Coast of Texas. El Paso is the only major city in Texas on Mountain Standard Time (the rest of the state is on Central Standard Time). Conrad Hilton, owner of Hilton hotels, opened his first high-rise hotel in El Paso in 1930.

Pecos

- The world's first rodeo was held in Pecos on July 4, 1883.

Abilene

- Was established in 1881 by cattlemen as a stock shipping point on the Texas and Pacific Railway and was named after Abilene, Kansas. The city is home to three major private Christian universities in Texas: Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene Christian University and McMurray University. Hardin-Simmons and Abilene Christian are known for their various high-ranking sports teams.

Fort Worth

- Fort Worth is the 17th largest city in the US and the 5th largest city in Texas. Nicknamed “Cowtown” because of its history as a trading and cattle center. Home to Billy Bob's Texas, one of the best know dance halls in the state.

Dallas

- The Dallas/Ft. Worth airport is larger than New York City's Manhattan Island. The Dallas Arts District is the largest urban arts district in the United States. The 52-foot “Big Tex” statue that greets visitors at the annual State Fair of Texas is the tallest cowboy in Texas. The State Fair has been held in the same location since 1886.

Waco

- Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. The Dublin Dr Pepper, made 85 miles west of Waco, still uses pure imperial cane sugar in its product. There is no period after the Dr in Dr Pepper.

Austin

- The capital city of Austin is located on the Colorado River in South-Central Texas. The capitol building is made from Texas pink granite. It served as the capital of the Republic of Texas in 1840-1842. Austin is considered the live music capital of the world.

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College Station

- Home to the main campus of Texas A&M University, the 7th largest university in the U.S., and the oldest public university in Texas. Named in 2006 by Money Magazine the most educated city in Texas and the 11th most educated city in the U.S.

Houston

- The Houston Comets are the only team in the country to win four back-to-back WNBA championships. 1997-2000 Cynthia Cooper remains the only player to win the WNBA Championship MVP.

Galveston

- The worst natural disaster in United States history was caused by a hurricane that hit Galveston in 1900. Over 8,000 deaths were recorded.

San Antonio

- The Alamo is located in San Antonio. It is where Texas defenders fell to Mexican General Santa Anna and the phrase Remember the Alamo originated. The Alamo is considered the cradle of Texas liberty and the state's most popular historic site.

Corpus Christi

- The Corpus Christi area has over 113 miles of Gulf Coast beaches. Former President George Bush, Sr. received his Naval Aviators wings at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi is home to the official state aquarium of Texas.

Laredo

- Laredo is the only city in Texas that has the distinction of flying seven flags, instead of 6, the seventh flag is the Flag of The Republic of the Rio Grande. Laredo is one of the oldest border crossing points along the US-Mexico border and it's the nation's largest inland port of entry.

Fredericksburg

- Old-time German residents often refer to Fredericksburg as Fritztown. The town is also home to Texas German, a dialect spoken by the first generation of German settlers who refused to learn English.

San Angelo

- The city was originally named San Angela, but in 1883 the U.S. Postal Service insisted that it be changed to San Angelo because the original name was considered grammatically incorrect.

Wichita Falls

- Home to the world's littlest skyscraper, the McMahon Building, that stands only 40 feet tall.

Tyler

- The Tyler Municipal Rose Garden is the world's largest rose garden. It contains 38,000 rose bushes representing 500 varieties of roses set in a 22-acre garden

Beaumont

- Home to Spindletop, the first major oil field and one of the largest in American history.