

VISIT LOVELY

LA GRANGE

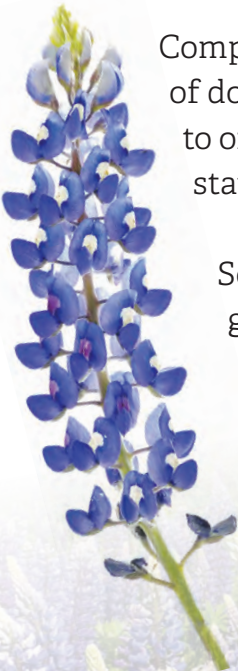
★ TEXAS ★



Welcome to La Grange!

Dear Friends,

Are you looking for a little piece of heaven right here in Texas? Well, you've come to the right place. Surrounded by the Colorado River and luscious rolling hills, La Grange offers a unique blend of old world charm and the comforts of home. Offering a diverse selection of museums, boutiques, and tasty treats, downtown La Grange has something for everyone.



Complementing the historic ambiance of downtown, our quaint city has much to offer with nearby wineries, a live music venue, state historic sites, and cultural centers.

So don't be bashful, load up the family, grab a friend, or just take a stay-cation. Once you've discovered La Grange, you'll know why we are the *Best Little Town in Texas*.

Sincerely Yours,
La Grange Visitors Bureau

LA GRANGE'S *Top 10 Things To Do*

Please return your completed form to the
La Grange Visitors Center to receive a FREE GIFT.

- Post a picture of your La Grange experience to the La Grange Main Street Facebook page.
- Shop the trendy boutiques and specialty stores on the Fayette County Courthouse Square.
- Get Sauced while eating some local barbeque.
- Stroll the period garden at the Texas Quilt Museum.
- Visit a Local Winery.
- Milk a cow at The Jersey Barnyard.
- Take in the view at Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites.
- Eat a Kolache.
- Step back in time and take a stroll through the Old La Grange City Cemetery.
- Visit the La Grange Visitors Bureau at 171 S. Main Street to drop off your completed form.

Yes, I did it all!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

EMAIL

History

Yes, we are that La Grange, home to the famed Chicken Ranch, which was the inspiration for the hit play and film, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. And let's not forget, ZZ Top's classic rock song *La Grange* is about us too.



The 1915 fair parade



The Old Jail



La Grange in 1950

Surrounded by the Colorado River and luscious rolling hills, La Grange offers a diverse selection of museums, boutiques, and tasty treats but there was a time when we weren't so well known.

In 1826, John Henry Moore built a twin blockhouse within what are now La Grange's city limits; he named it Moore's Fort. Area settlers sought shelter there from Indian attacks, and by 1831 a small community had developed around the fort.

A town was platted in 1837, and when the Congress of the Republic of Texas established Fayette County that year, La Grange became its county seat.

The ethnic composition of La Grange began to change during the 1840s and 1850s, as increasing numbers of Germans and Czechs immigrated to Fayette County. Hence our love affair with kolaches!

By 1884, the City of La Grange included four churches, three schools, an opera house, an oil factory, and a bank. Let's not forget to mention, the railroad had also arrived.

Today, La Grange has a population of almost 5,000 and has managed to keep its good ol' fashioned country charm and mystique. Most of our downtown businesses reside in historic structures

dating back to the late 1800s and our museums encompass everything from our love affair with quilts to our Czech culture and traditions.

Chicken Ranch

Although many stories and rumors exist about the Chicken Ranch, the truth is much less inflammatory. But the truth is, the Chicken Ranch was the Oldest Continually Operating Non-Floating Whorehouse in the United States when it shuttered its doors in 1973.

In 1905, Miss Jessie Williams arrived in La Grange from the Waco area and founded La Grange's most famous brothel. In 1915, Jessie and a partner, Grace Koplan, purchased eleven acres of land on Rocky Creek Road which became the brothel's permanent site.

The Chicken Ranch supposedly got its name when the Great Depression hit. Though the Ranch had plenty of clients, times grew harder and income harder to obtain. Therefore, Miss Jesse began the "poultry standard" of charging "one chicken for one screw". Soon chickens were everywhere and the establishment officially became known as the Chicken Ranch.

Probably the most famous of the Madams, Edna Milton arrived at the Chicken Ranch from Oklahoma in 1952. She started as a worker but eventually took over for Miss Jesse.

It was in 1973 that Marvin Zindler, a reporter from KTRK-TV in Houston, decided to make a real name for himself and started bringing media attention to the Ranch. He claimed his motive for exposing the Ranch was for the Texas Department of Public Safety and local police to combat organized crime and corruption at the Ranch. Governor Dolph Briscoe was forced to close the establishment due to the excessive media coverage.

A very successful musical was written about the Ranch. Edna herself had a silent role in the Broadway production which later turned into a movie, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas". Edna died in 2012 in Phoenix, AZ at the age of 84.

Two lawyers from Houston bought the building and land and moved the main house to Dallas in 1977. It opened as The Chicken Ranch restaurant in September of 1977, with Miss Edna as the hostess. The building and furniture have since been auctioned off and the remainder of the original house has been left on the property in very poor condition.



Attractions

Bugle Boy

1051 North Jefferson
979-968-9944

Experience original live music in one of America's premier Listening Rooms.

Friday-Saturday | Doors Open 7:00pm, Showtime 8:00pm



Camp Lone Star

2016 Camp Lone Star Road
(979) 247-4128

Camp Lone Star offers a summer camp program, retreat programs, and canoe rentals.



Depot Museum and M-K-T Railroad Depot

260 North Washington Street

Learn the history of the local railroads and their importance to the area.

Saturday 9am-2pm (except holidays)



Trying to choose an activity? Ask for advice at the Visitors Bureau or use the icon categories to help decide.



fee



outdoor activity



Texas history



no fee



child-friendly



museum/
historical building



music



library/information



wine tasting

Fayette County Courthouse

151 North Washington Street
(979) 968-6469

Completed in 1891, this three-story building is a prime example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm



Fayette Public Library Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives

855 South Jefferson Street
(979) 968-3765 / (979) 968-6418

Museum, archives, a computer lab, and full library along with an outside playground.

Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-1pm
Sunday 1pm-5pm



Frisch Auf! Golf Course

575 Country Club Drive
(979) 968-3965

Frisch Auf! Golf Course is open to the public.

Open Daily 7:30am-8pm



The Historic Faison Home

822 South Jefferson Street
(979) 968-5756

The N.W. Faison House, one of the oldest in Fayette County, boasts original furnishings of the wealthy Faison family, whose members occupied the home for nearly 90 years. Relatively unaltered since its construction in the mid-19th century, it was the home of one of the earliest settlers of the area, Nathaniel W. Faison (1817-1870), a military hero, land baron, and benefactor of the African American community after emancipation.

Second Saturday of each month from 1pm-4pm



The Jersey Barnyard

3117 Hwy. 159
(979) 249-3017

Tour the family-owned and operated Jersey dairy farm. Go on a hayride, milk a cow, have some ice cream, and just enjoy the countryside.

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 9am-6pm | Sunday 1-6pm



Kruschel Park

480 West Colorado
979-968-5600

Swimming pool (*fee applies*), walking trail, two little league baseball fields, playground, picnic tables, and volleyball court.

Open Daily, Dawn-Dusk



Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites

414 State Loop 92
(979) 968-5658

The park houses a stone monument commemorating heroes of the Texas War for Independence that are buried on the park grounds along with the ruins of the third largest brewery in the State at the peak of its popularity.

Open Daily 8am-5pm



Old Fayette County Jail

171 South Main Street
(979) 968-3017

Old Jail turned Visitors Bureau! We have information on local attractions, public restrooms, Old Jail Museum, and gift shop.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 12-5pm



Did You Know?

Two members of the world's most infamous criminal gang, Bonnie & Clyde, had a short stint in the Old Fayette County Jail located in La Grange. Ray Hamilton and Gene O'Dare, robbed the Carmine State Bank in the early 1930s. They used back roads to elude capture and were able to make it all the way to Bay City, Michigan. They were arrested and taken into custody on December 6, 1932. Shortly thereafter, the Fayette County Grand Jury convened and returned indictments against both men.

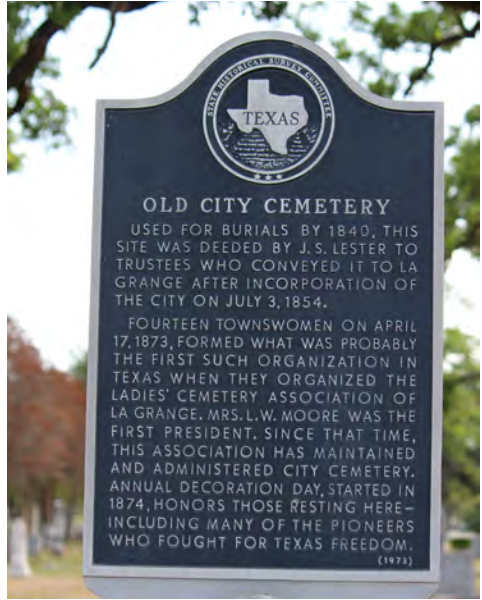


Old La Grange City Cemetery

Business Highway 71

The cemetery was first used for burial in the 1840s and is the final resting place of Fayette County's earliest settlers and Texas War heroes.

Open Daily 8am-5pm



Rohan Meadery

6002 FM 2981
(979) 249-5652

Rohan Meadery specializes in the re-creation of honeywines or meads, mankind's oldest beverage, using the finest Texas honeys available.
Wednesday-Sunday 12noon-6pm



Rosemary's Vineyard

5521 Highway 71 East
(979) 249-2109

Enjoy a wide variety of both white and red wines.
Open Daily 12noon-6pm



Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center

250 West Fairgrounds Road
(888) 785-4500 / (979) 968-9399

The cultural center houses a museum, genealogy library, banquet hall, amphitheater and pavilion. Restored historic Czech family homes and buildings along with the Czech Music Museum of Texas can also be found on the property.

Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm



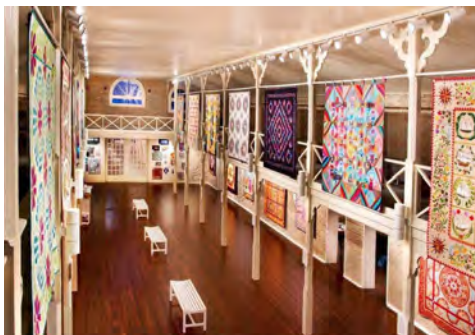
Texas Quilt Museum

140 West Colorado Street
(979) 968-3104

With changing exhibits in three spacious, high ceilinged galleries, the museum also features a period “town” garden alongside a beautiful outside mural.

Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 12pm-4pm



Year-Round Farmers Market

151 N Washington Street

Shop Local, Buy Local in La Grange. The La Grange Farmers Market has vegetables, fruits, jellies & jams, homemade bread, and handmade crafts.

Saturday 8am-12noon



Hotels & Motels

Best Western (La Grange Inn)

600 E. State Hwy 71 Bypass
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-6800
www.bestwestern.com

Cottonwood Inn

1494 W. State Hwy 71
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-3175
www.lagrangecottonwoodinn.com

Executive Inn & Suites

1708 W State Hwy 71
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-2600

Hampton Inn

1624 W. State Hwy 71
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-4900
www.lagrange.hamptoninn.com

The Oak Motel

227 S. Jefferson Street
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-3133
www.oakmotel.8m.com

River Valley Motor Inn

1575 W. State Hwy 71
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-8314
www.rivervalleyinn.com.

RV Parks

Colorado Landing RV, Inc.

64 E Bluff View
La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-9465
979-968-9055
www.coloradolanding.com

Suncatcher RV Park

3033 S. US Highway 77
La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-6868
www.dixielandrmpark.com

S&H RV Park

3517 Post Oak Rd
La Grange, TX 78945
979-249-2050

Bed & Breakfasts

Ammansville Cottages

9018 FM 1383
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 561-8691

Bed & Breakfast on Main

512 S. Main Street
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-9535

Big Tin Flag Bed & Breakfast

714 E. Radhost School Road
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 247-4770
www.bigtinflag.net

Blue Willow Farm B&B

1412 S. US Hwy 77
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-5964

Brendan Manor Bed & Breakfast

345 E. Travis Street
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-2028
www.brendanmanor.com

Guest House at Dos Lagos

3045 Valenta Road
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 247-4465
www.shroyco.com

Heaven's Gate Ranch

9200 Hwy 77 N
La Grange, TX 78945
(281) 491-2122

Lodge on Lake Siesta

5145 FM 153
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 732-1256
www.lodgeonlakesiesta.com

Longhorn Frog Ranch

5145 FM 153
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 242-5496

Skyrunner Guest house

340 FM 155
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 966-9698
www.skyrunnerguesthouse.com

Waldhutte

1613 Guenther Rd.
La Grange, TX 78945
979-247-4802
www.centraltexascabin.com

Did You Know?

When the Congress of the Republic of Texas established Fayette County in 1837, La Grange became its seat of government. The county had been named after the Marquis de Lafayette, and the county seat took its name from his chateau in France.



Restaurants

Bistro 108

108 S. Main Street
(979) 968-9108

Bodega Wine Market

201 W. Travis
(979) 968-3964

Dairy Queen

311 N. Jefferson St.
(979) 968-5861

Golden Chick

312 E. Travis St.
(979) 968-8939

Gold'n Crisp Fried Chicken

922 E. Travis St.
(979) 968-3033

Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant

403 N. Jefferson
(979) 968-5935

Hank's Express

154 S. Jefferson
(979) 966-0500

Holman Valley Steakhouse

10204 FM 155 La Grange
(979) 263-4188

Kasper's Steak House

710 W. Travis St.
(979) 968-5720



*Mmmm...salad with
chicken salad on top!*

La Marina Restaurant

1502 W. State Highway 71
(979) 968-2065
(979) 968-2607

Las Fuentes

658 S. Jefferson St.
(979) 968-8957
(979) 968-8958

Latte On The Square

219 W. Travis St.
(979) 968-9545

Legal Tender Brisket and Brew

3932 Highway 77
(979) 242-2458

Lukas Bakery

135 N. Main St.
(979) 968-3052

McDonald's

2304 W. Highway 71
(979) 968-5098

Pizza Hut

2230 W. State Highway 71
(979) 968-3125

Prause Meat Market

253 W. Travis St.
(979) 968-3259

Reba's

539 E. Colorado
(979) 968-3100

Riverside Cafe

1225 Carroll Ln.
(979) 968-5506

Sealand Seafood

2359 Highway 71 W.
(979) 968-6139

Saigon Pho

2409 W. Travis / Highway 71
(979) 639-5055

Sonic Drive-In

717 E. Travis St.
(979) 968-6421

Subway

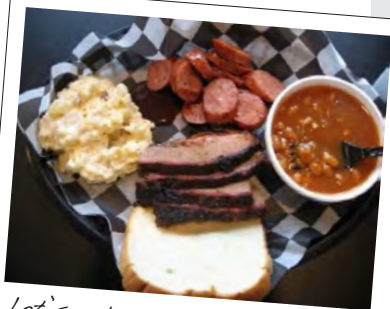
at Walmart
1915 W State Hwy 71
(979) 966-0600
109 S. Jefferson
(979) 966-0724

Taco Bell

2201 W. State Hwy 71
(979) 968-3401

Taqueria Rio Verde

1330 N. Jefferson
(979) 968-2074



Let's get sauced!

Taqueria Sergio's

1432 W. State Highway 71
(979) 968-2826

The Back Porch BBQ

1602 N. Jefferson
(979) 968-1580

Texas One Stop BBQ & Bakery

1704 E. Highway 71 Bypass
(979) 968-8100



Gotta Love a Kolache!

Weikel's Bakery

2247 W. Highway 71 Business
(979) 968-9413

Whataburger

1800 E. State Highway 71
(979) 968-9868

Year-Round Events



Join us all year-round for fun community events!
Visit www.visitlagrangetx.com for more information.

February

- ★ Best Little Quilt Show in Texas

March

- ★ Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas
- ★ La Grange Uncorked, Wine & Food Festival

April

- ★ BP-MS150, Fayette County Fairgrounds

May

- ★ May Fest

August

- ★ Fayette County Sheriff's Posse, Bull Riding & Rodeo Event

September

- ★ Patriot Day Ceremony
- ★ Texas Heroes Day
- ★ Fayette County Fair

October

- ★ Muziky, Muziky – Celebration of Czech Music & Culture
- ★ Trick or Treat on the Square

December

- ★ Schmeckenfest – Christmas & Wassail Tasting Festival
- ★ Trail of Lights

Historic Casino Hall

In 1858, ten German immigrants met in La Grange and organized the Casino Association of La Grange. The Society raised private funds and in July 1880 they contracted to build a structure for \$12,000 which would serve as a multipurpose venue to include a performance hall, gathering space, and school.

By 1884 there were two hundred students attending the Casino School. Although there were still regular theatrical performances, education had become its primary purpose.

After the school moved out in 1924, renovations were made in order for the Casino Hall to become the home of the Fire Department and City Hall.

After sharing with the Fire Department for forty years, City Hall was moved into its new building next door in 1968. In 1992, after sixty-seven years in the Casino Hall, the Fire Department moved into its new headquarters directly across the street.

The Senior Center remained in the Casino Hall until the building closed in 2006. Over the next eight years, the building remained vacant. The renovation project finally began in 2014 when the City Council voted to approve the City funding the \$3.7 million dollar renovation itself. The finished two-story building will encompass 9,615 square feet of space and will house the La Grange Visitors Bureau and a performing arts center as well as office space for the La Grange Economic Development Corporation.

The Casino Hall never served as a gaming hall rather it was built with the intention of being a gathering place for the community.



Shopping Areas

Antique Shops

The Antique Mall

561 E Colorado St.
(979) 702-0407

Iceplant Antiques & Estates

531 E Colorado St.
(979) 966-2918

Mart's (*Mary Ann's Rare Treasures & Antiques*)

308 N Washington St.
(979) 966-3134

Off the Beaten Path

462 E. Guadalupe St.

Old World Imports & Antieks

5414 Texas 71
(512) 575-0022



Specialty Stores

The Busy B

2204 East State Hwy 71
(979) 249-5132

Los Pinos Imports

111 SH 92 SPUR
979-968-2200

Mantiques

603 E State Hwy 71
(979) 249-6519

The Swap

755 S. Jefferson Street





Historic Downtown

Cottage Gatherings

152 N. Washington St.
(979) 966-0555

Coffee Roastery/ Noble Swede

107 W. Colorado St.
(979) 308-6005

Flair & Company

127 W. Travis St.
(979) 968-6860

Green Door Art Gallery

213 W. Travis St.
(512) 581-2849

Heritage Hallmark

240 W. Colorado St.
(979) 968-8555

Julie B.

134 N. Washington St.
(979) 639-5034

Le Petite Gourmet Shoppe

226 W. Colorado St.
(979) 968-4000

The Mustard Seed

142 N. Washington St.
(979) 968-2794

Schmidt Jewelry

118 N. Washington St.
(979) 968-5149

Silver Barn & Company

130 N. Washington St.
(979) 968-9100

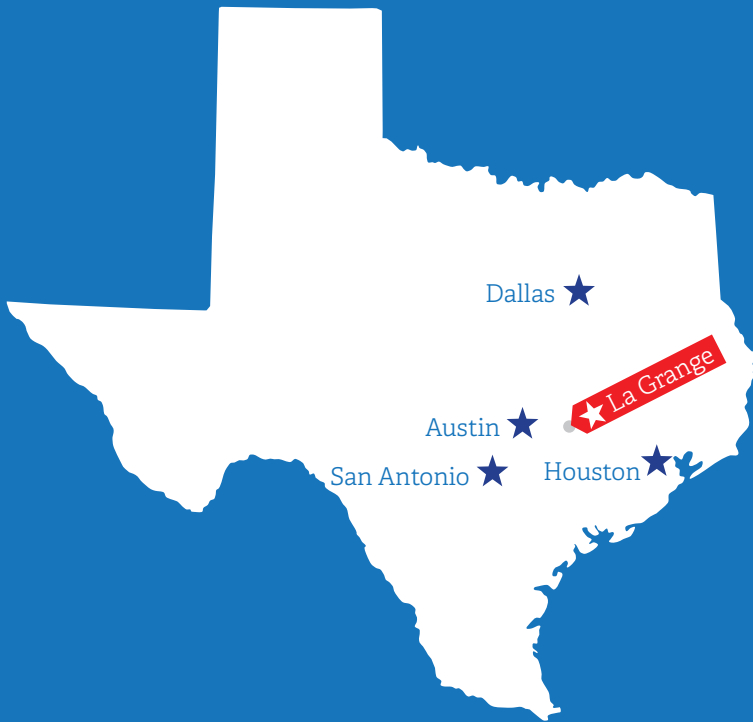
Tara's Boutique

123 N Main St.
(979) 968-3900

The Quilted Skein

126 W. Colorado St.
(979) 968-8200

We're Definitely
★ Day Trip Worthy! ★




LA  GRANGE
MAIN STREET & VISITORS BUREAU

171 S Main Street | La Grange, TX 78945 | 979-968-3017

www.visitlagrangetx.com

 www.facebook.com/LaGrangeMainStreet

 @lagrangemainstreet or tag us with #lgmainstreet

 www.pinterest.com/lgvisitorsbureau

About the cover: This photo was an entry in our Wild About Wildflowers Facebook photo contest. It was taken by Blaise McKinzie and depicts spring wildflowers in La Grange.