

Jefferson is known as “The Bed and Breakfast Capital of Texas” and entertains a global visitor base. But, did you know that Jefferson is also recognized as “The Bigfoot Capital of Texas” and one of the most haunted cities in the country. That’s right, you can search the thicket around Jefferson in search of the elusive creature, visit the most haunted house in Texas, and go on a guided ghost



Visit our  
website for all  
the exciting events and attractions in  
Jefferson:

**VisitJeffersonTexas.com**

Mardi Gras Upriver  
Diamond Don's Vintage Motocross  
History, Haunts, and Legends  
Farmer's Market  
Historical Pilgrimage  
4th of July Celebration  
Corvette Car Show  
Bigfoot Conference  
Taste of Jefferson  
Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards  
Candlelight Tour of Homes

## LIVING HISTORY



As you tour Jefferson, you walk the same streets as the families that populated the town during the mid-nineteenth century. You can visit the homes where they lived and take a horse drawn carriage through town, a steam train ride along the bayou, or a riverboat trip. If you planned it right, you'll even see a Civil War reenactment, car show, or catch a festival.

### VISIT JEFFERSON TEXAS

305 E. Austin St, Jefferson, Texas 75657

VisitJeffersonTexas.com | 903-665-3733

tourism@cityhallofjefferson.com

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## VISIT JEFFERSON TEXAS

Jefferson is located in the Piney Woods of East Texas, 2 ½ hours east of Dallas.

Jefferson is the site of hundreds of authentic historic landmarks, well-preserved homes from before the Civil War, restored buildings, museums and attractions that seem to transport it's visitors back in time.



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A favorite account of the locals sums up Jefferson, Texas, seamlessly: "It just makes me happy." And it's no wonder. The pre-Civil War town is teeming with scenic streets, charming restaurants, quaint bed and breakfasts, and picturesque landscapes sure to send you back in time and beckon you to stay and relax awhile.

Jefferson is an idyllic location for a quiet weekend getaway. Stroll down Polk Street where



boutique and antique stores delight and surprise. You're sure to find a favorite chotsky or one-of-a-kind heirloom to commemorate your East Texas trip. Jefferson is dotted with charming, cozy lodging options. The Excelsior House Hotel has been in continuous operation since the 1850s and has housed notables from General Ulysses S. Grant, Lady Bird Johnson and Oscar Wilde.

Ecotourists can take to the outdoors and experience the mystique of Big Cypress Bayou on a hiking trail, fishing expedition or boat tour that drifts through the Cypress trees and Spanish moss.



DESCRIBED IN IT'S DRAMATIC RISE TO PROSPERITY IN THE 1800S, AS THE STATES' LARGEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT RIVERPORT. SHE WAS AND REMAINS,

'THE QUEEN OF THE BAYOU'



## LEGEND HAS IT...

No one knows for certain exactly when Jefferson was founded. Many descriptions place the town's birthdate in 1836, however, further research points to the early 1840s as the first time Jefferson was mentioned as a settlement.

One of the legends surrounding Jefferson involved Jay Gould, the railroad magnate. The legend goes that Gould wanted to bring his railroad through Jefferson but the town leaders refused because they had the river traffic. Gould responded by putting a curse on Jefferson and saying that grass would grow in the streets without the railroad. Gould is even given credit for supporting the removal of the 'Red River Raft' and the subsequent decline of Jefferson as a river port. The Garden Club obtained Gould's railcar and it is displayed as a tourist attraction in downtown Jefferson.

