

# JOHNSON CITY

## *Come Spend the Weekend With Us*

By Belinda Nagy,  
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce

Johnson City is located in the heartland of the Texas Hill Country, 48 miles west of Austin, 60 miles north of San Antonio, and 30 miles east of Fredericksburg. Johnson City provides the perfect weekend getaway, where you can spend a few days visiting our historic areas, enjoying our art galleries, visiting our local vineyard where you can partake in wine tasting, or shop in one of our many stores and boutiques.

Looking for somewhere to stay while you're here? No problem, we have a Best Western as well as the Hill Country Inn. Thinking more of a Bed & Breakfast? We have many to select from including the Chantilly Lace Country Inn, Country Cabins Bed & Breakfast, Lighthouse Hill Ranch, The Pickett House Bed & Breakfast, The Sandy Road Guest Haus, or Spring Creek Bed & Breakfast. We also offer several conveniently located RV Parks and Resorts, including Miller Creek RV Resort, Road Runner RV Park and Pedernales Falls State Park. Looking for something unique? We have that too -- check out the Exotic Resort Zoo where you can choose from one of 5 cabins, all of which have covered porches overlooking the large lake with over 80 species of wild animals roaming the ranch, as well as phenomenal hill country views. If you choose to stay here, you will also receive a free tour of the zoo as well as other amenities.

There is something for everyone in Johnson City! We are home to many fabulous contemporary artists and several extremely high quality Fine Art Galleries. Many nationally and internationally recognized artists show in our galleries. You can also visit The Benini Sculpture Ranch, or enjoy the galleries on Nugent Street, including Taste Wine + Art (Kirchman Gallery), A. Smith Gallery and LMC Murals and

Fine Art. If you want to take a short drive to Blanco, you can also check out what's going on at Uptown Blanco Art Center during your visit, as they have many special events, shows, and classes.

Be sure to take time to visit our historical area, the LBJ National Historical State Park, which includes LBJ's boyhood home and the Johnson Settlement. Guided tours are provided at the boyhood home at no cost. You can also explore our state parks, including Pedernales Falls State Park, located along the banks of the scenic Pedernales River and featuring picturesque waterfalls, abundant animal and bird life, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking and horseback riding. Maybe you would like to hunt exotics during your visit: that too, is possible. Benson Farm and Ranch offers guided hunts, as well as fishing and lodging.

If you like to stay fit and desire a place to walk, Johnson City has a newly constructed 1.8 mile round-trip hiking trail from the Johnson City Community Park, past the Courthouse Square to the LBJ Park Visitor Center. You can extend the hike on both ends by walking through the parks and sidewalks. Walking and roller skates only- no bicycles or skate boards. Water fountain and memorial park benches are located along the way. The path is not yet lighted at night. If you enjoy water recreation, be sure to visit the Johnson City Water Sport Area, located on the Pedernales River at the bridge on Highway 281 just north of town and next to the Blanco County Show Barn. It offers an easy launching area- ideal for kayaking, canoeing, picnicking, and fishing. There's convenient parking at the launch area and there is no charge for use of the water area or parking.

Shopping is abundant in Johnson City, and there's something for everyone, from Suzy Q's gift shop, Mainstreet Boutique (ladies apparel and accessories), Whittington's Jerky, Black

Spur Emporium and Gallery, Deleon's Outpost (cedar furniture & décor), The Pearl Antique Mall, Pieces of the Past, and numerous others. While enjoying all the activities available, you're sure to work up an appetite! There are several places for you to fill up including AJ's Pizza Shoppe, the Chrome Cactus, Friendly Bar Bistro (open evenings Thursday through Sunday, including live entertainment), Hill Country Cupboard, Silver K Café, Texas 290 Diner, Dairy Queen, and others from Mexican to famous Texas BBQ.

Also located in Johnson City is the Texas Hills Vineyard, providing a tasting room to sample their award-winning wines, a gift shop, and a delightful setting in the Hill Country just a few miles from town. If you head towards Stonewall, you can also take in Becker Vineyards who also have a tasting room, gift shop, and a fabulous outdoor porch where you can enjoy the views overlooking their vineyard and lavender farm while you enjoy wine and cheese available for purchase inside. Speaking of lavender, there are several lavender farms in Johnson City who welcome your visit: some also sell lavender products at the farm.

Want to do something different while you're here? Contact Los Senderos Studio, and make an appointment to record your own high quality CD at the best prices anywhere! If you're celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or special day, we also have a florist who can deliver an arrangement of your choosing- just contact AJ's Flower Shop. We also have several different denominations of churches for you to attend while visiting, as well as non-denominational. Did you know that we have the "only" Bourbon Distillery in the great state of Texas? Just down the road in Hye Texas is Garrison Brothers Distillery. Not only are they purveyors of bourbon, but according to several reliable sources, it's the best bourbon they've ever

tasted. Garrison Brothers is not only dedicated to making the best bourbon available, they are also committed to using Texas products such as corn and grain etc... Tours are available at the distillery- all you need to do is call in advance. So, give Dan a call and stop by.

Once you visit, you just might decide you want to come back to stay. If you do, we have several realtors ready to assist in the purchase of your piece of the Hill Country. Feel free to contact Anders Realty Group, Carol Bigott, Century 21 Town Creek Properties, Janice Fox, Home Ranch Realty, or Star of Texas Real Estate. Their information can be found at the chamber website noted below.

On Thursday, February 10th, Johnson City Chamber of Commerce will host Old West Casino Night. This event will be held at the Blanco County Fairgrounds Show Barn, where you can put on your best western attire and head back to the Old West for the evening. The tickets are only \$25 per person in advance, and include a catered dinner by Silver K Café, drinks, and casino style gambling including black jack, poker, craps and roulette. If you plan to be in town, you won't want to miss this event! Tickets can be purchased with credit cards by phone through the Chamber of Commerce, (830)868-7684, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Also on March 26th, Johnson City will host the Annual Texas Men's State Chili & BBQ Championship Cook Off. An event that draws folks from all over Texas-make reservations early as lodging fills up quickly! There will be vendors, activities for everyone and the best chili and BBQ in Texas! For more details on Johnson City, visit their website at [www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com](http://www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com) or call the Johnson City Texas Visitor Center at (830)868-7684. Come spend the weekend with us-you'll be glad you did.