

JOHNSON CITY

Your Perfect Hill Country Getaway

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. Or, extend your visit to a week and use Johnson City as your hub to the other nearby areas either in the Hill Country, as we are centrally located from the other towns in the Texas Hill Country.

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, Spring Creek Bed & Breakfast, or our newest facility; Songbird Meadows B & B, with trails, private cottages, and breakfast delivered to your door. There are also vacation rentals at the Lighthouse Hill Ranch, which is now featuring availability in the Lighthouse - a fabulous new structure, that you can't miss, located atop one of the highest points in Blanco County, just off Highway 281.

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) who offers not only fine art, but wine tasting as well, A. Smith Gallery, Copper Roof Art Studio (by appointment only) and LMC

Murals and Fine Art. We also have artisans, such as Two Moons Hye Jewelry, where you can treat yourself to one of kind jewelry! 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. Nearby, in Stonewall, you can also visit the Western White House, the home of LBJ and Ladybird, where several rooms are now available to tour.

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. Also located along the banks of the Pedernales River is our newest park provided for you through the LCRA; The Pedernales River Nature Park, where you can enjoy nature, do a little fishing, or picnic under some gorgeous live oaks on the banks of the Pedernales River. This park is a day use park only and there is no fee. 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 hike 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 along the way. 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. 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, 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, and 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, Lacey's Feed Mill, Dairy Queen, and others from Mexican to famous Texas BBQ. Also we're delighted to announce that our very own brewery; Pecan Street Brewery, a combination restaurant and brew pub will officially open for business on the last weekend of June. The brew pub is located on the square across the street from the Courthouse. A short drive into Blanco and you can partake in fabulous dining at the Uptown Blanco Restaurant. Prefer to create your own picnic meal? Just head down to the local Super S grocery store for whatever you desire; also inside the Super S is a new Ace Hardware for your convenience.

Located in Johnson City is the Texas Hills Vineyard, providing a tasting room to sample their award winning wines, a gift shop, an event facility, and a delightful setting in the Hill Country just a few miles from town. If you head toward 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. Those farms include Hummingbird Farms, M & J Gifts and Lavender, The Meadows at Flat Creek, and Miller Creek Lavender 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 you'll ever taste.

Garrison Brothers is not only dedicated to making the best bourbon available, they are also committed to using Texas product, such as corn and grain etc... Tours are available at the distillery, contact them for details.

Music is also prevalent here in Johnson City and in nearby towns, from Thursday evenings at the Silver K Café, to weekends at the Friendly Bar Bistro, Friday & Saturday evenings at Lacey's Feed Mill where you can dine with live music, 2nd Sundays complimentary brunch and gospel music at Taste Wine+Art (Kirchman Galleries), and many other musical events in or near Johnson City, where you can spend a wonderful evening listening to some great artists.

Once you visit our spectacular little piece of the Hill Country, 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.

Check out the events calendar on our website to see what's going on when you plan to visit.

Be sure to stop by on your way to or from the 7th Annual Blanco Lavender Festival on June 11th & 12th. On June 25th you are invited to attend our 4th Annual Johnson City Antique Engine and Tractor Pull-the proceeds from this event benefit the Blanco County Fair Association-check out our website for details. If you don't have plans for the 4th of July, then plan on spending it with us. Why? Because we have the best fireworks display in the Hill Country. Not only do we have fireworks, we have a 4th of July Parade, food, beverages including beer and wine, games for children and adults, washer pitching tournament, live music-fun for the entire family. There is no entry fee for our fabulous fireworks display, however contributions are accepted at the entry gate. If you haven't been to our 4th of July Spange Dangle Celebration, you are missing out on a lot of fun and a spectacular fireworks show! For more details on Johnson City visit their website at johnsoncitytexaschamber.com or call the Johnson City Texas Visitor Center at 830-868-7684. Come spend the weekend, the week, the month, or forever, with us — you'll be glad you did.