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TEXAS TRIO

Presidential Libraries, BBQ, & Bluebonnets

March 31 - April 3, 2025

April showers bring May flowers! Isn't that how the saying goes? It is certainly true in Texas, where the winter rains bring the beautiful wildflowers of spring. Around these parts, bluebonnets begin to bloom each March and reach their peak covering North Texas roadsides and pastures through April, depending on the unpredictable weather patterns also associated with our neck of the woods. It is during this time that many gardeners begin to imagine that sea of blue in their own home landscapes. If you have had that same thought, or maybe even tried to establish your own wildflower meadow with limited success, you might want to join us on the breath-taking adventure. Along with the beautiful Texas Bluebonnets, we will visit the Presidential Libraries of Lyndon B. Johnson (#36), George H. W. Bush (#41), and George W. Bush (#43). We will even enjoy some good Texas BBQ along the way.

DAY 1 – March 31, 2025: Tyler to Austin (TX)

We will begin our day departing out of **TYLER (TX)** at **6:00am**. Today's adventure takes us from Northeast Texas into **COLLEGE STATION (TX)** before ending our day in **AUSTIN (TX)**. Along the way, we will tour the **GEORGE W. H. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUESUM**. This amazing library and museum, located on the campus of **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** preserves and makes available the records and artifacts of the **41st PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**. We end our day in Austin with time to freshen up before a relaxing time at dinner.

HOTEL: Drury Inn & Suites, Austin North

MEALS INCLUDED: Lunch & Dinner

DAY 2 – April 1, 2025: Austin to Marble Falls (TX)

This morning, we focus on the life of **LYNDON B. & LADY BIRD JOHNSON**. We start the day with a visit to the **LYNDON B. JOHNSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM**. Lyndon B. Johnson was a force of personality, a master of power and the political process, and had a boundless appetite for social reform. Intent on fulfilling the promise of America, he signed an unparalleled 200+ landmark laws during his five years in office. There is no question that our country still stands in the wake of LBJ's America. Gain an intimate understanding of the 36th President of the United States. Learn about his early years, family life, and more. Next, we visit the **LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER**. The LBJ Wildflower Center is the official Texas state botanic garden and arboretum. Lady Bird Johnson, our former first lady, and actress Helen Hayes founded an organization in 1982 to protect and preserve North America's native plants and natural landscapes. This special place exists to introduce people to the beauty and diversity of wildflowers and other native plants. Every day, the Wildflower Center brings life to Mrs. Johnson's vision in its public gardens, its woodlands and sweeping meadows. Today is not over just yet!! After lunch, we take a **SCENIC TEXAS HILL COUNTRY DRIVE** looking for the **WORLD-FAMOUS TEXAS BLUE BONNETS** before ending our day in **MARBLE FALLS (TX)**. After checking into our hotel with time to freshen up, we will enjoy a wonderful dinner at the **BLUE BONNET CAFÉ**. If you like **OLD-FASHIONED PIES**, this will be **PURE DELIGHT TO YOUR TASTE BUDS!** Established in 1929, the Blue Bonnet

Cafe is one of the oldest running restaurants in Texas. Specializing in southern 'comfort food', the menu offers classics like chicken fried steak (the owner's favorite) and burgers along with weekly specials, delicious breakfasts, and huge variety of pies.

HOTEL: *Hidden Falls Inn, Marble Falls (TX)*

MEALS INCLUDED: *Breakfast & Dinner*

DAY 3 – April 2, 2025: Marble Falls to Ennis to Richardson (TX)

Today should prove to be **TEXAS BLUEBONNET OVERLOAD** as we meander our way back towards East Texas. Today's primary focus will be the **BLUEBONNET FIELDS** surrounding **ENNIS (TX)**. After lunch at BUBBA'S BBQ, we will enjoy the beautiful scenery known as the **ENNIS BLUEBONNET TRAILS**. These trails are NOT a destination you plug into GPS and go to. They ARE a route you drive to see bluebonnets in the countryside surrounding Ennis. For the uninitiated, Ennis Bluebonnet Trails wind visitors through 40 miles of picturesque wildflowers. Ennis was named the Official Bluebonnet Trail of Texas and the Official Bluebonnet City of Texas by the 1997 State Legislature, and Ennis' trails are the oldest known trails in the state. As today adventure winds down, we will depart Ennis in time to arrive back in **RICHARDSON (TX)** in time to freshen up before a relaxing dinner.

HOTEL: *Drury Inn & Suites, Richardson (TX)*

MEALS INCLUDED: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

DAY 4 – April 3, 2025: Richardson to Tyler (TX)

WOW ... have we seen some beautiful **FIELDS OF BLUEBONNETS** and **WILDFLOWERS** or what!! But there is still more! Today, we begin with the **GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY**. As the 13th presidential library, the George W. Bush Presidential Library promotes an understanding of the American presidency, examines the specific time in history during which President Bush served, and provides access to official records and artifacts from the George W. Bush Administration. The 9/11 terrorist attacks killed 2,977 people and changed the world as we knew it. President George W. Bush led the national response in the uncertain days after the attacks, comforted a grieving nation, and demonstrated to the world the strength of American resolve. After lunch, we make one last tour stop at the **DALLAS ARBORETUM**. Named by Southern Living as one of "The Best Places to See Stunning Spring Blooms Across the South," the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden presents Dallas Blooms, the largest annual floral festival in the Southwest. As our tour comes to an end, we will depart Dallas with plans to be back in **TYLER (TX)** about **6:00pm**. **MEALS INCLUDED:** *Breakfast & Lunch*

ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEVEL 2:** This tour requires average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to walk some stairs and walk reasonable distances, possibly over uneven ground, and cobblestoned streets.

SPECIAL NOTE: For the trip to make, we will be looking for a total of 20 registered passengers. If trip is cancelled by American Tours due to low registration numbers, ALL funds are fully refunded.