

Post-conference tour

Sept. 13-19, 2009

PWT's Hill Country Adventure, the post-conference tour will welcome NFPW members to the Texas Hill Country. We'll leave bright and early on Sunday morning, Sept. 13, 2009, after conference concludes on Saturday night.

You'll see the part of Texas that is home to Presidents, cowboys, barbeque, live music and some of the prettiest scenery in the great State of Texas.

We will begin the tour by traveling first to Austin, the State Capital and the city that stands as the gateway to the scenic Hill Country. Here the powerful and influential meet to make the laws for tomorrow's Texas while the movie industry and cutting-edge new technology bring fame and fortune.

We will first arrive at the Lady Bird Johnson Research Center created by Lady Bird Johnson. This is a native plant botanical center with nature trails and beautiful display gardens. A coffee shop is available and there will be time for shopping.

Next we'll drive down Congress Avenue and see the historic architecture of the beautiful "Sunset Red Granite" Capital Building, the visitor's center and the elegant Governor's Mansion, where restoration should be complete after a fire.

We'll visit the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library where you will see exhibits that chronicle the political life and times of the 36th President of the U.S.

The Bob Bullock State History Museum was created for everyone in Texas and the Texan in everyone – visitors and Texans alike. It features three floors of dynamic exhibits, a special effects Texas Spirit Theater, museum store and a great café where we will have lunch on our own. We'll view the IMAX showing of "Texas the Big Picture."

We'll check into our hotel about 4:30 for a few minutes of rest time before we head out for dinner on our own in the historic Sixth Street area that is known for its live music entertainment and great restaurants.

Monday morning we'll have breakfast on our own before boarding the motorcoach to head further into the Hill Country that once was home to the Comanche Indians. Our guide will relate much of the interesting history of the area.

We will arrive in Johnson City, the small town were LBJ's family once lived and drive around the boyhood home then stop at Whittington's General Store to explore the choices of All Natural Beef and Pork Jerky that the store is famous for as well as Texas gourmet foods and unique Texas gifts.

We'll arrive at the LBJ Ranch Visitor Center at mid-morning to pick up permits to visit where LBJ was born, lived and is buried. A highlight will be to go into the office of the Texas White House and see many of the family's personal things.

After a short drive we'll arrive in Fredericksburg, a gem of living history founded by German immigrants. It is a charming community that retains touches of its Old World Heritage. We'll have lunch on our own in one of the many eateries, then head to Becker Winery for a tour and wine tasting. This unique winery also grows fields of lavender and hosts a festival every year.

After sipping wine we travel on to the Wildseed Farm that was the idea of Lady Bird Johnson. It now is the largest of its kind in America and seasonally has acres of wildflowers growing in various fields.

We'll check in at our hotel in Fredericksburg, then enjoy a German meal with strudel at the Auslander Restaurant. After dinner you can walk across the street to the Silver Saloon to enjoy live music. Monday is Blues night.

Tuesday we'll have a deluxe Continental breakfast at the hotel and time to see the historic Nimitz Hotel Museum or for shopping in the quaint shops filled with antiques, handmade items and Texana handicrafts. We'll have early lunch before heading to Luckenbach, made famous by Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson's song, "Luckenbach, Texas". There are only three buildings in town, but we'll stop at the post office/tavern/general store, an experience you won't soon forget.

We'll arrive back at El Tropicano Hotel about 3 p.m. in time to begin a trip home. Don't forget to make room reservations if you will be staying overnight before departing San Antonio.

Cost of the tour is \$375 based on doubles or \$595 for a single room. Any questions can be directed to Donna Hunt, 903-465-8412 or d.hunt_903@yahoo.com.