



The ladies of Ms. B. Havin' set up shop at Round Top's spring antique fair

Round Top Road Trip

Cy-Fair's Choice for Quick Getaways and Unique Antiques

Written by Jana Ross

Searching for a relaxing escape that offers great shopping and culture at your fingertips? More and more Cy-Fairians are hitting the road to discover the find of a lifetime in Round Top. With antiques festivals in the fall and spring, and an international music festival and Shakespeare performances every summer, gear up for a year of Round Top fun.

The charming little town is located approximately 75 miles west of Cy-Fair between La Grange and Brenham. Round Top's population marker displays a whopping 77, but what the town lacks in population, it more than makes up for in charm, landscape, antiques, arts and crafts, and good times.

Rich Heritage

Round Top was first settled in the early 1820s by wealthy plantation owners and developed strong German roots that are still evident today with an influx of German immigrants in the 1830s and 1840s. The town was named after the "house with the round top," which was a stagecoach mileage designation from where settlers could watch for incoming stagecoaches. Over the years, the town has held tight to the past and its heritage, making it a rich cultural experience for all those who pass through.

Weekend Retreat

Weekdays ramble quietly along in Round Top, with town folks enjoying their much slower pace and elbow room to spare. On weekends, however, the sleepy town is transformed into a bustling area with shoppers, nature enthusiasts, or those just looking for a change, migrating mostly from Cy-Fair, Houston, and other surrounding cities. With so many weekend visitors, quaint area bed and breakfasts abound.

Linda Brunson moved to Round Top from Houston seven years ago and is now the owner of the Wellspring Retreat and Bed and Breakfast. "It is like living on vacation," she says. At this lovely retreat, you can choose to stay at the main house, the art barn, which is well equipped for those who love to scrapbook or quilt, or even a renovated turn-of-the-century railroad depot. Or you may like to relax and hang your hat in a different type of setting. If you would enjoy indulging in horseback riding lessons while taking a step back into the old west, the bunkhouse is the place to go.

Those who would rather just sit on a porch and take in an authentic German environment can find a relaxing atmosphere at Elisa's Sunday Haus. Elisa Henderson, born and bred in Germany's Black Forest, has created a retreat that is walking distance from town. You can enjoy a moonlit soak in the outdoor jacuzzi, a nature walk through the woods, or just relax and do nothing. "To sit on the porch in the evening and listen to the frogs and cicadas is simply magical," she says. There are over 70 wonderful places to stay in the area, so whether you want to indulge in nature, the old west, arts and crafts, spiritual renewal, or just resting between shopping outings, there is something for everyone.

Fantastic Finds

If you're looking for a great place to pick up some wonderful antique or artsy finds, then Round Top's the place for you. The town hosts antique and crafts festivals in the fall and spring, with the next show set for the first full weekend in October. The tradition began with only a few dealers back in the late 1960s. Today, the festivals have grown into the largest in the nation. Exhibitors from all over the country, as well as other parts of the world such as Mexico, Canada, and Europe, come to sell their wares.

These festivals have grown so much, in fact, that they now include towns within a 10-mile radius of Round Top.



Shoppers can browse a variety of vendor booths during the town's spring and fall antique fairs



The Round Top Chamber of Commerce is a great resource for visitors



Round Top's fairs feature everything from jewelry to antiques

Pastures from miles around are filled with tents and booths that test the stamina of even the most experienced shopper. You can find anything from crafts, jewelry, and the latest fashions, to furniture, tools, and collectibles. While the festivals officially start on Friday, there is lots of fun to be had earlier in the week.

Year-Round Fun

Round Top hosts several other events throughout the year. Along with unique shopping, the town is also home to the well-known Round Top International Festival Institute for aspiring young musicians. The institute hosts many extraordinary European-style music events in Round Top year-round.

Whether you are in the mood to go antiquing, listen to music, see a play, or just get away from the hustle and bustle of city life, Round Top will not disappoint. After all, sometimes the best things in life come in small packages. CFM

JANA ROSS is the owner of an educational consulting firm, is married to Rex, and is the mother of Jake and Kyler.

UPCOMING ROUND TOP EVENTS

Round Top Music Festival

June 12 – July 17
The Round Top Festival Institute hosts its summer music festival throughout June and July, complete with workshops and concerts for the public.

Summer Antiques Show

June 26-27
Find the best in furniture and home décor in a variety of styles at locations across the area.

Shakespeare at Winedale

July 14 – Aug. 8
The plays of Shakespeare come alive at the Winedale Historical Center, with public performances of *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, and *Henry VI* scheduled.

Fall Antique Fair

Sept. 30 – Oct. 3
Discover unique items from home furnishings and décor to jewelry and arts and crafts during the annual event, which encompasses locations in Round Top and surrounding areas.

Do you have a favorite town for weekend getaways?

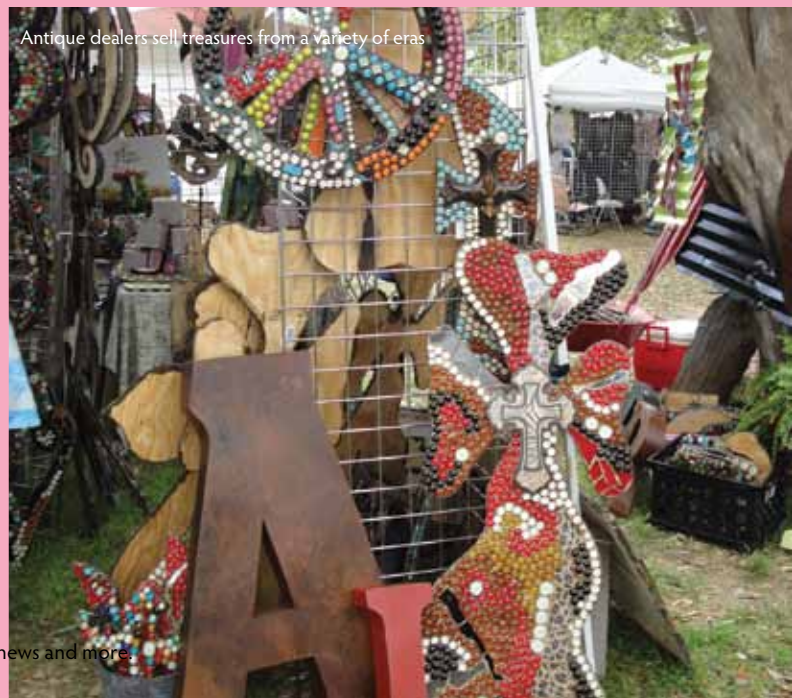
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Prissy Pants Children's Clothing and Accessories braces for a busy day at the spring antique fair



Round Top's festivals have grown so much, they now include surrounding towns



Antique dealers sell treasures from a variety of eras