The City of Boerne is named for Ludwig Börne, who inspired many to leave Germany in the 1840’s and travel to the new world. Some of these German pioneers created a settlement called “Tusculum” near present day Johns Road. The town of Boerne was founded a mile south of this settlement in 1852 when Gustav Theis and John James drew up a plat along the Cibolo Creek. 

As businesses grew and stagecoach routes began to appear in the area, Boerne itself began to develop, as well. A post office and stage stop was opened by August Staffel in 1856. William Dietert established Boerne’s first business, a gristmill and sawmill on the Cibolo Creek. Soon the town was in possession of a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, a butcher shop, a saloon and a general store. Professor Karl Dienger even created a private school in the 1860’s.

Boerne is a historical delight to visit in its beautiful setting along the Cibolo Creek in the Texas Hill Country. The German immigrants brought with them their own language, customs and music, which are still very much alive, more than 160 years later. The pioneer settlers suffered extreme hardships; exposure, disease, primitive living conditions as well as Indian raids. The Germans came to colonize and through hard work, they created a town and built unique buildings that have been treasured, preserved and restored. These are the lovely homes, churches, schools and businesses that you are visiting today!
**Downtown Boerne Tour**

1. The Boerne Hotel/Hey Kundall Inn/Th€ Kundall* (1859) - 128 W. Blanco (Photo) Originally built as a private home and later expanded as a hotel and stagecoach stop, it is now a destination hotel and both a Texas and a National Landmark.

2. Dimebox Building* (1894) - 210 S. Main

   It has been a grocy, residence, restaurant, office, Boerne Public Library. Now retail, cafe and event venue.

3. Main Plaza (1852) - 100 N. Main (Photo)

   Originally known as the Common Area used to water livestock awaiting a cattle drive. Main Plaza is now the site of many festivals and town gatherings.

4. Carstanjen Building (1901) - 105 S. Main

   The property was used as a livery stable prior to the construction of the building. Once built, it was used as a pharmacy for many years. Now retail.

5. Fabra Smokehouse* (1897) - 194 S. Main (Photo)

   Was part of the Fabra Grocery and Butcher Shop. The building that is now the Bandera ISD Research Center was built around the Smokehouse to preserve the historic structure.

6. Old Citizen's State Bank (1928) - 210 S. Main

   Originally part of the Fabra complex of buildings, a confectionary store until 1935. Then converted to a bank. Now retail.

7. H.O. Adler Building (1902) - 206 S. Main (Photo)

   Originally a single story general store. Replaced in 1911 by the current structure where the owners resided upstairs.

8. Thews House* (1888) - Newton Alley (Photo)

   One of the oldest structures in town. Hard hewn beams and pilers are held together with wooden pegs, mud and daub construction visible. Restored by Ruby and Edgar Bergmann.

9. Wendler-Houston House (1879) - 717 N. Main

   Built by Henry Wendler, a cabinet maker and early Boerne business man.

10. Wendler-Vollbrecht Tin Shop (1903) - 322 S. Main

   Built by Henry Wendler, later acquired by his brother-in-law, Louis P. Vollbrecht, a tin smith who stayed active in the shop until 1943 at the age of 90. Now retail.

11. Staraff-Shumard Building* (1850s) - 334 S. Main

   This building served as a livery stable office and Boerne’s first post office. Later was used as Boerne’s first telegraph office. Now retail.

12. Ed Clemens Houses (Early 1800s) - 424, 438 & 448 S. Main

   Very active in Boerne politics and religion, Wilhelm Kuhfuss owned a large portion of what is now North Main St. In the 1860’s, this house served as the courthouse.

13. Sach’s Garage (1927) - 470 S. Main

   Property was a car dealership and repair shop until Mr. Sach died. Remained vacant for a time and was then opened as an antique shop in 1989. Now retail.

14. Vogt-Richter House (1914) - 124 Pecan

   Another Ed Clemens house with Victorian porch and columns.

15. The Kutzer Home (1890) - 208 E. Theissen

   Members of the Kutzer family lived in this home for 35 years until they moved to live in their commercial building (206) on this tour. There was a cotton gin attached to this house. Albert Kutzer had the first gasoline distributorship, sold automobiles and was mayor of Boerne.

16. Joe Vogt Building (1912) - 256 S. Main (Photo)

   Originally a grocery and dry goods store. Now a cafe and bakery.

17. Gottlieb-Weiss House (1887) - 106 E. Theissen (Photo)

   Mr. Weiss was a German pioneer blacksmith with his shop in the back. Was in the same family for over 100 years. Now commercial.

18. Schrader-Hartmann House (1880) - 115 E. James

   A lovely historic Boerne home. Note the unusual porch and woodwork.

19. Luchenbach Houses (1899) - 118 & 124 E. James (Photo)

   Sold from foundation to gallery. Renovations at 124. E. James bear the “Ringold Rhine” Signature Mark and date of 1668.

20. Albert Kutzer Garage (1910) - 205 S. Main

   One of the first automobile garages in Boerne in a time of transition from horse and carriage to automobiles. Now retail.

21. Ort Saloon & Bakery (1890s) - 209 S. Main (Photo)

   Owners lived upstairs. Now retail and restaurant.

22. St. John’s Lutheran Church (1902) - 217 E. Rosewood

   Rock church was built in 1902 with the tower added at a later date. Now in use.

23. Ziegler Building (1902) - 179 S. Main

   Was a hardware store with a basement and an elevator that accommodated large merchandise. Buggies were stored on the roof. Was also used as residential rental property. Now retail.

24. Kuhfuss-Blattendorf Building (1908) - 129 S. Main

   Originally a bank and has been moved several times with different uses.

25. Historic Kendall County Courthouse

   Second oldest Texas courthouse in continual use. The front portion of the courthouse.

26. Kuhfuss-Gilliat Building (1908)

   Also used as residential rental property. Now retail.

27. Joe Vogt Building

   Originally a bank and has been moved several times with different uses. Now is a museum and open for tours with the Kuhlmann-King House.

28. Wendler-Houston House

   Originally a tin shop.

29. A.S. Toepperwein-Wilcox House

   Now is a museum and open for tours with the Kuhlmann-King House.

30. Beseler-Harz House

   Originally a bank and has been moved several times with different uses.

31. St. Helena’s Episcopal Church

   St. Helena is the oldest church in Kendall County. The church is located on the corner of N. Main and E. Blanco.

32. Foots-Hawkins House

   This house was built by Mr. Foots, a hotel owner who died of smallpox. Note unusually steep roof and the 2 windows of staggered height.

33. Kuhfuss-Schweppie House (1895) - 515 N. Main

   Very active in Boerne politics and religion, Wilhelm Kuhfuss owned a large portion of what is now North Main St. In the 1890’s, this house served as the courthouse.

34. Luckenbach House (1880) - 265 N. Main

   Originally a lap cabin, the house was purchased as a retirement home by Jacob Luckenbach who is often incorrectly called the founder of Luckenbach.


36. Old Boerne Public School* (1870) - 402 E. Blanco

   The first Boerne public school. The two room school house was restored, and used as the City Hall annex until 2020.

37. Kuhfuss-King Historical House* (1885) - 402 E. Blanco

   Built for Wm. Kuhfuss, a German immigrant, and later owned by Salina King from England. The house and kitchen are operated by the Historical Society and available for tours from 12:00-3:00 pm on 2nd Saturdays.

38. Henry J. Graham Building* (1891) - 402 E. Blanco

   Originally a bank and has been moved several times with different uses. Now is a museum and open for tours with the Kuhfuss-King House.

39. Old Boerne City Hall

   Originally a lap cabin, the house was purchased as a retirement home by Jacob Luckenbach who is often incorrectly called the founder of Luckenbach.

40. St. Helena’s Church

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41. Joe Vogt Building

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