

SELF GUIDED RIDE SUGGESTIONS

Canton Trade Days is also called First Monday Trade Days.

During Wing Ding it is open from August 31 (Tuesday) to September 3 (Sunday). Canton is approximately 80 miles from the convention center. It is about 1.5 hours to reach Canton. When you get to the cross roads of Highway 19 and Highway 64 you are in the center of Canton. About 3 blocks north (on Highway 19) is the start of the Trade Days facilities. You cannot miss it. Unless you are real lucky be prepared to pay for a parking spot. If it is old or just unusual you will find it in Canton. This is one of Texas largest

IT ALL BEGAN ... in the 1850's when the circuit judge stopped in Canton on the FIRST MONDAY of each month. This was the day the Judge held court. People from the area came to town on that day to conduct their business, stock their pantries and sit in on court proceedings ... and watch a few "hangings". History relates one incident where a man was hung for stealing his partner's wagon of goods for trading. He is buried facing south (not east) in Hillcrest Cemetery by the First Monday grounds.

Quite naturally, many also brought their own goods, produce and livestock with them to sell or trade. This took place just off the west side of the courthouse square. Most history versions include the trading of wild horses, which were rounded up in the region and brought to Canton to sell.

By 1965, FIRST MONDAY had outgrown the Town Square, It was then that the City of Canton purchased six acres just two blocks north of the courthouse. FIRST MONDAY was moved off the square.

Originally, FIRST MONDAY only "happened" on the first Monday of each month. However, if you take a look NOW at the calendar, you will note that Monday has been excluded. Even though the event goes from Thursday – Sunday, the name is now and will forever be known as: FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAYS.



