

# Downtown Rockport



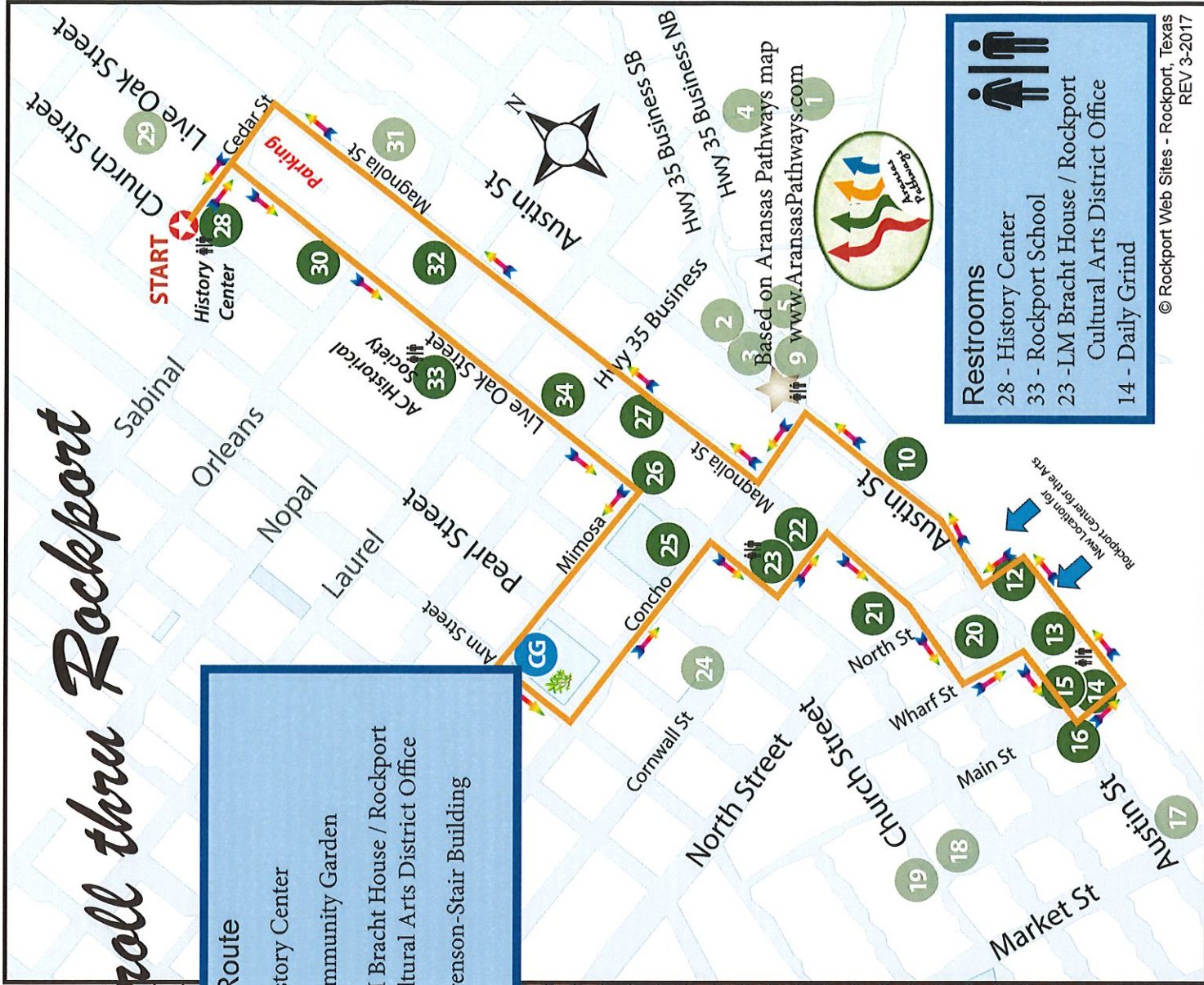
## Historical Sites in Downtown Rockport

1	Rockport Big Blue Crab
2	Hoopes-Smith House
3	Fulton-Bruhl House
4	Rockport Spirit Columns
5	Texas Maritime Museum
6	Rockport Center for the Arts
7	Rockport Marine Lab
8	Rockport Aquarium
9	Woman's Club of Aransas County
10	Rockport Seafood Industry
11	Rockport Harbor
12	The Packeries of Rockport
13	Rockport Wharves and Pavilions
14	Site of Aransas Hotel in Rockport
15	Rockport's Grand Hotels
16	Sorenson-Stair Building
17	Rockport Shipyards
18	First United Methodist Church
19	Moore House
20	The Rockport Pilot
21	The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad
22	The Wood House
23	Leopold M. Bracht House / Rockport Cultural Arts District Office
24	Sacred Heart Catholic Church
25	Aransas County Courthouse
26	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
27	A.L. Bracht House
28	History Center - 801 E. Cedar @ Church
29	Baldwin-Brundrett House
30	Joe & Bertha Harper House
31	Smith-Brundrett House
32	Wood-Jackson House
33	Rockport School / Aransas County Historical Society
34	First Presbyterian Church
★	Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

# Stroll thru Rockport

## 4 Mile Route

- 28 History Center
- CG Community Garden
- 23 LM Bracht House / Rockport Cultural Arts District Office
- 16 Sorenson-Stair Building



**Restrooms**

- 28 - History Center
- 33 - Rockport School
- 23 - LM Bracht House / Rockport Cultural Arts District Office
- 14 - Daily Grind

# Downtown Rockport Walking Tour

Have a little fun with the Scavenger Hunt listed below. Bring six or more items into the Visitor Center at 319 Broadway in Downtown Rockport for special commemorative logo cup.

**1. Rockport Big Blue Crab** – Listed as the World's Largest Blue Crab in Roadside America, the Blue Crab is located on Laurel & Seabreeze Dr. near the Beach. It was built by David Allgood.

Scavenger Hunt: Sea Shell

**2. Hoopes-Smith House** – Prominent businessman and land developer James M. Hoopes's home built in late 1800s. Later served as a hotel and boardinghouse. Located at 417 N. Broadway across from Rockport Harbor. Scavenger Hunt: Pinch of sand

**3. Fulton-Bruhl House** – Built about 1868, this vernacular early Texas home was purchased in 1872 by James C. Fulton, early business and civic leader. He sold it to his son-in-law, Albert L. Bruhl where it remained in the Bruhl family for more than eight decades. Located at 409 N. Broadway across from Rockport Harbor. Scavenger Hunt: A portion of a palm from a palm tree

**4. Rockport Spirit Columns** – These granite "Spirit Columns", located on Laurel St. near Little Bay, were donated to the community in the spirit of volunteerism by the late artist Jesus Bautista Morales. Scavenger Hunt: Oyster Shell

**5. Texas Maritime Museum** – In 1987 the Texas Legislature named it the official Maritime Museum of the State of Texas. It is a must see. Located at Rockport Harbor. Scavenger Hunt: Photo of the Texas Navy Flag on grounds

**6. Rockport Center for the Arts** – In 1983, through a generous donation, the Rockport Art Association acquired the historic (1890) Bruhl/O'Connor home and moved it to the Rockport Harbor. The building and the mindset behind it began to operate fulfilling an early mission to provide a center where many art activities revolve. Scavenger Hunt: Something showing art in any way, shape or form.

**7. Rockport Marine Lab** – Located on Rockport Harbor is the golden colored brick building housing the Coastal Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Scavenger Hunt: Anything representing a fish that might have been caught in our bays.

**8. Rockport Aquarium** – Located on the eastern side of Rockport Harbor, the Aquarium houses more than 22 tanks, where only two contain non-native fish. Fish are donated from local resources such as Texas Parks and Wildlife and licensed bait stands and shrimpers. Scavenger Hunt: A photo of Marley the Eel.

**9. Woman's Club of Aransas County** – It formed in 1948 with a vision of making the community a better place while having fun. Their building, the recreational building of Humble Oil Company at Ingleside, Texas was moved by barge in three sections to the present location. Scavenger Hunt: Something from something old.

**10. Rockport Seafood Industry** – Special sign at site.

**11. Rockport Harbor** – Special sign at site.

**12. The Packeries of Rockport** – After the Civil War, Rockport became an important cattle ranching and shipping center. Cattle were shipped to New Orleans on the Morgan line. Scavenger Hunt: Anything that deals with shipping.

**13. Rockport Wharves and Pavilions** – In 1866, a long wharf extended out into Aransas Bay from "Rocky Point" (the landmark from which Rockport gets its name). Scavenger Hunt: A photo of an old photo of downtown Rockport.

**14. Site of Aransas Hotel in Rockport** – In 1888, the Rockport City Council approved an ordinance to sell the tract of land known as Merchants Square to the Aransas Pass Land Company for \$500. The hotel was to be "four stories high including the roof story." The Aransas Hotel opened in 1889. In the 1890s, it was the hub of Rockport social life. There were parlors where guests visited and played cards while orchestras performed. Later the name was changed to the Hotel Del Mar and became nationally famous. The building burned in March 1919. Scavenger Hunt: Toothpick to remind you of the all wood structure.

**15. Rockport's Grand Hotels** – Special sign at site

**16. Sorenson-Stair Building** – Simon Bulrup Laurits Christian Sorenson, a native of Denmark, bought a wooden two-story store on this site in the late 1880s. In 1890, the Finish, a saloon, caught fire and many wooden buildings, including the Sorenson store, burned. Simon Sorenson rebuilt his business in a new two-story brick building. Three generations of Sorenson's hoisted weather signal flags on a tower pole behind the store. Local artist Estelle

Stair bought the building for an art gallery. The tower pole is used today in the circle at the end of the Beach for our lighted Christmas Tree. Scavenger Hunt: Photo of pole in the circle at the beach.

**17. Rockport Shipyards** – Shipping industries flourished by the 1880s. At the height of construction, over 900 men were employed at this shipyard. Scavenger Hunt: Something from a boat.

**18. First United Methodist Church** – The Methodist Church has been in existence since about 1870. Located at 801 E. Main. Scavenger Hunt: A leaf from a windswept Live Oak Tree.

**19. Moore House** – Owner Ed Moore, Mayor 1920s-1940s, is known for establishing a yacht basin and our beach. He helped plan a modern sewer system for the town. Located at 413 S. Church Street. Scavenger Hunt: Something you find at the beach.

**20. The Rockport Pilot Newspaper** – The earliest newspaper in this area. Historical Marker on site. Located at 1002 Wharf. Scavenger Hunt: A newspaper clipping

**21. The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad** – In its early years Rockport relied on Gulf shipping for goods. After the arrival of the San Antonio/Aransas Pass Railroad in 1888, the town's economic focus changed to include rail shipping and a burgeoning tourism industry. The town's population grew from 600 in 1888 to 2,500 by 1890. Located at 105 S. Magnolia. Scavenger Hunt: A brochure from a local attraction.

**22. The Wood House** – Built in 1867, this home has been restored to a vacation home today. Located at 203 N. Magnolia. Scavenger Hunt: A Texas Bay Leaf.

**23. Leopold M. Bracht House / Cultural Arts District Office** – Victorian home of the late 1800s has been restored to its 1890's elegance and is now Angel Rose Bed and Breakfast. Originally the home of Leopold and Clara Bracht. Located at 902 E. Cornwall. Scavenger Hunt: A rose of any kind.

**24. Sacred Heart Catholic Church** – Roman Catholic priests visited as early as 1838. The first Mass in the town of Rockport was celebrated in the home of County Judge John Hynes in 1860. The first church building was not erected until 1889. Located at 704 N. Cornwall. Scavenger Hunt: A wildflower petal.

**25. Aransas County Courthouse** – Located at 301 N. Live Oak. Look for the signs and photos of the original Courthouse.

**26. Former St. Peter's Episcopal Church** – Now Heritage Place Wedding Venue located at 412 N. Live Oak. Diocese of Texas dedicated St. Peter's Episcopal Church in 1871. Scavenger Hunt: A clipping from a native plant.

**27. A.L. Bracht House** – Adolph L. Bracht opened a wholesale and retail grocery in 1899. He was a charter member of the Intra-coastal Canal Association. Located at 409 N. Magnolia. Scavenger Hunt: Photo of a vegetable.

**28. History Center** – Located at 801 E. Cedar is a must see. Check for hours. Scavenger Hunt: Something historical.

**29. Baldwin-Brundrett House** – Located at 1028 N. Live Oak. Built in the 1890's. Scavenger Hunt: A printed copy of anything of the 1800s.

**30. Joe & Bertha Harper House** – Located at 811 N. Live Oak, the former home of Judge Harper and his beloved wife, Bertha. Scavenger Hunt: A photo of a gavel.

**31. Smith-Brundrett House** – Marker sign at site.

**32. Wood-Jackson House** – Located at 701 N. Magnolia. Scavenger Hunt: A photo of Seafood of any kind.

**33. Rockport School / Historical Society** – Located at 619 N. Live Oak. Built in 1935, during the era of the Great Depression. One of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs to combat the Depression, workers built the Rockport School and local bonds helped to subsidize the government project. Scavenger Hunt: Photo of a book of any kind.

**34. First Presbyterian Church** – This congregation traces its history to 1869. Located at 514 N. Live Oak and SH 35. Scavenger Hunt: An acorn representing all the wildlife living here.

**35. Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center** – Located at 319 Broadway across from Rockport Harbor. Built in 1960, formerly Rockport City Hall, has the original vault for city records. Scavenger Hunt: Take photo with Rocky-Fulton, the Pelican near the southern most entrance.