

basics

location

Houston: 70 miles
Galveston: 120 miles
Austin: 157 miles
Dallas: 171 miles

area

31.2 miles²,
30.9 miles² of
land, .3 miles²
of water

population

35,078 folks,
10,266 houses
a bunch of pets

taxes

city sales: 1.5%
county sales: .5%
state sales: 6.25%
gas: 20¢ a gallon
hotel/motel: 7%

Joe Rooted

So you wanna know more about Huntsville, huh?

Here's 20 facts about
Huntsville that you just gotta
know:

- [1] It's the seat of Walker County.
- [2] It is located 70 miles north of Houston, 170 miles south of Dallas, 120 miles from Galveston and 157 miles from Austin.
- [3] Pleasant and Ephraim Gray founded the town in 1835 or 1836. It was established as an Indian trading post.
- [4] The Grays named it after Huntsville, Alabama where they used to live.
- [5] Many tribes close by to Huntsville,

- including the Bidai, Alabama and Coushatta Indians, traded in Huntsville.
- [6] General Sam Houston made his home in Huntsville.
- [7] In fact, his family home still stands today and his grave site is here.
- [8] His four daughters were born here in Huntsville and Houston retired here.
- [9] Huntsville is home to the second-oldest daily newspaper in the state's history, The Huntsville Item, continuously publishing since 1850.
- [10] Huntsville is the central home to most of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

sam says...

IF I WERE
ALIVE TODAY,
I'D BE 214
YEARS OLD!

- [11] TDCJ employs over 6,000, making it the largest employer in the county.
- [12] It's also home to the busiest death chamber in the nation.
- [13] Seven of the state's 100 prisons are located here in Walker County.
- [14] The Texas Prison Museum, located here, also houses the state's electric chair which was used to execute prisoners until the 1970s.
- [15] It's nickname is "Old Sparky."
- [16] Huntsville is home to Sam Houston State University,

- one of the oldest universities in the state.
- [17] Started as Sam Houston Normal Institute, SHSU has been educating since 1879.
- [18] While Huntsville only makes up about 4 percent of the area of Walker County, it constitutes a little over half of the county's entire population.
- [19] Huntsville Independent School District is one of the largest school districts in the state, serving over 6,000 students.
- [20] Huntsville rocks!

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