

2022 Texas Miata Courthouse Challenge



Sponsored by Classic Mazda & the Lone Star Miata Club



Drive to each of the designated points in Texas. Take a picture of you, your Miata, and the specified destination. If both driver and co-pilot are participating, both can appear in the same picture or a picture of each person, your Miata, and the destination. Group pictures are also allowed as long the picture clearly shows all participants and all their cars. Participants must drive to locations 1 through 10. Sites are shown on next pages. Entries with all 10 required destinations will receive a specially designed pin. T-shirts will be available for purchase. Pins will be presented at the Texas Miata Roundup or mailed after the Roundup. Pictures can be submitted by email, online, or in prints that are no larger than 4"x6" on photo quality paper. Mail or turn entries in to Craig Woolheater by Oct 31, 2022, see address below.

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Name _____ Email _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____

Questions :

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1. Bexar County Courthouse

One of San Antonio's claims to fame is its historic architecture (hello, Alamo), and if you walk through the downtown area, you'll see all sorts of spectacular examples of this. Yet if you've stuck to the River Walk area, you've probably never seen the Bexar County Courthouse. Built in 1896, the courthouse looks like a reddish-orange medieval European castle. Rounded arches, two towering pillars, and all the architectural flair of the Romanesque Revival style combines with red sandstone to create one of San Antonio's most spectacular buildings.

City: San Antonio



2. Caldwell County Courthouse

Many of Texas' courthouses showcase the finest elements of European architecture while also taking advantage of local materials to create something a community could be proud of. There are few better examples of this than the 1894 Caldwell County Courthouse. Limestone walls accented by red sandstone are capped by mansard-style domes and an intricate clock tower that sports a bright orange Lone Star on each side.

City: Lockhart



3. Coryell County Courthouse

Drive about 40 miles west on Highway 84 from Waco and you'll reach the small town of Gatesville, home to one of the prettiest courthouses in Texas. Coryell County's courthouse has a rough limestone façade accented by red sandstone, four red-domed towers, and pearl-white Greco-Roman statues that stand in front of an ornate clock tower. Yet the most impressive characteristic just might be the bright reddish-orange columns that stand above the three-arched entryway.

City: Gatesville



4. Dallas County Courthouse

Speaking of stunning sandstone structures, the (former) Dallas County Courthouse is a true architectural gem in Big D's downtown. The magnificent Romanesque Revival structure has rounded conical towers, arched windows, a massive clock tower, and four terra cotta wyverns perched on the roof. Step inside and you'll see more than 100 colorful stained-glass windows and a grand staircase that has been restored to how it appeared in 1892. The courthouse is the Old Red Museum today and is a great place to go if you want to learn about North Texan history and culture.

City: Dallas



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5. Denton County Courthouse

The state of Texas is full of beautiful courthouses (more than we can capture in this list), few are more eye-catching than the Denton County Courthouse. Four ogival roofs placed on the corners of the courthouse are replicated on the central clock tower, which features a dome inspired by the Florence Cathedral. Meanwhile, the rough limestone façade features Roman-style columns, triangular pediments, and arched entryways. Today, the structure is home to the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum, a repository of local history that's well worth a visit when you're in Denton.

City: Denton



6. Ellis County Courthouse

Ellis County's impressive courthouse a complex and captivating structure that is one of the most photographed buildings in Texas. Set within Waxahachie's charming downtown square, the nine-story-tall pink granite and red sandstone courthouse can be seen from some distance away. Get up close and your eyes can feast on all the details, such as the floral patterns carved into the stone at the top of the columns, or the pyramidal roofs.

City: Waxahachie



7. Fayette County Courthouse

Although it was common practice to use multiple types of stone to create an appealing design, Fayette County's courthouse takes it to another level. Blue sandstone walls are accented with red sandstone and limestone, a combination that creates a checkerboard pattern across the exterior. Look closely and you'll see a ton of other intricate details, including a bald eagle carved on a five-by-14-foot slab of stone. The main entryway is framed by short sandstone columns, an aesthetic reflected on the clock tower.

City: La Grange



8. Tarrant County Courthouse

With its pink granite walls, Roman-style columns and pediments, and an attention-grabbing copper-domed clock tower make Tarrant County's courthouse look as if it should be a state capitol. That's no accident, as it was modeled after the Texas State Capitol building in Austin. Located just a short walk from the Trinity River in downtown Fort Worth, the courthouse is notable for being one of the first buildings in the Southwest built with a steel frame. Come check out the courthouse, then pay a visit to one of the many restaurants or bars in downtown Fort Worth.

City: Fort Worth



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9. Victoria County Courthouse

On first glance, you might think the Victoria County Courthouse is an ancient castle built by an eccentric European prince. However, this three-story civic building was constructed in 1892 by the same architect who crafted the Fayette County Courthouse (J.R. Gordon). Arched windows and doorways, triangular roofs, and other small details set this courthouse apart, while a five-story clock tower stands on the east side toward the town square.

City: Victoria



10. Wharton County Courthouse

Nestled in the center of Wharton's quaint town square stands a courthouse that looks as if it was plucked from a French city. A white clock tower will capture your attention but look further and you'll notice how the green mansard roofs and triangular towers complement the tan brick façade. Snap a few shots of the building, then check out the shops and restaurants in Wharton's town square. If you time it right, you can even catch a comedy, drama, or musical at the historic Plaza Theatre.

City: Wharton



Bonus: Presidio County Courthouse

Off to West Texas we go for the last courthouse in our list: the Presidio County Courthouse in the small town of Marfa. Aesthetically, the 1889-built courthouse shares some traits with other Second Empire-style structures in Texas. Bright blue mansard roofs slant over pavilions that project from the four corners of the building. The massive white clock tower at the top is an attention-grabber, but what makes this building stand out is its salmon-painted stucco walls that cover the original brick.

City: Marfa



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