

City of Erin

TRAVEL GUIDE



Including Houston County & Tennessee Ridge



2019

The Official City of Erin Houston County Travel Guide



Welcome! Houston County, Tennessee, the cities of Erin and Tennessee Ridge, make for an incredible exploration into the beauty of Tennessee's countryside. Whether looking for a trip to the water, a glimpse into Tennessee's rich history or simply a relaxed visit to a unique small town, this is the place for you!



*Dedicated to the memory
of lifelong Houston County
Historian*

Bob McKinnon

1927-2017

*without whose work this
publication could not be
possible.*

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Shock waves riveted ancient Houston County approximately two hundred million years ago when a meteor, nearly 1,000 feet in diameter, shattered the earth. When the mushroom cloud of fine rock dust and debris cleared, a crater, four miles wide and one-half mile deep, was left behind.

Scientists estimate the meteor must have weighed 100 million tons and could have traveled at more than 10 miles per second, to have pene-

No matter where you are from, where you've been or where you are going...Houston County feels like home.

trated 2,000 feet before exploding.

Wells Creek Basin was so named in 1869 when Tennessee State Geologist J. A. Stafford was called in to study the area. As railroad engineers in 1860 discovered rock formations, in vertical layers rather than the typical horizontal layers, it became evident a violent event had occurred. As workers neared Wells Creek, more of the unusual rock formation was found. By 1874, geologists attributed the odd rock formations, along with the fact that rocks found usually on the surface were discovered hundreds of feet below surface, to a meteor strike.

In 1963, NASA granted funds to Vanderbilt University to study the crater in preparation for their moon voyage.

Shatter cones and breccia, rock formations found throughout the world at meteor sites, can be found at the site.

Cumberland City is located at the northern side of the basin, Erin at the southern edge, with the Cumberland River cutting through the northern end.

Today, cattle graze on the peaceful terrain. Time and running water have smoothed the scare, making the area appear as if nothing impactful ever happened there.





River adventures along the Tennessee River and the Cumberland River are far and wide. Flowing north, the Tennessee River traverses the great state, meandering into Alabama to the south. Houston County is bordered to the west by the river and travelers following the Tennessee River Trail will also find McKinnon Air Field a short hop away.



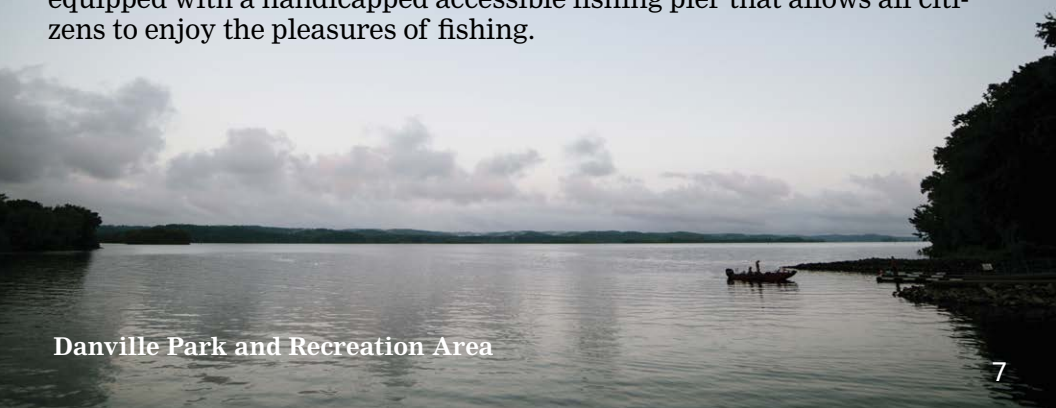


Millions of years ago, middle Tennessee was covered by ancient shallow seas. As water subsided, the rocky formation left behind, known as the Tennessee Ridge, was created.

The ridge forms a dividing line between the Tennessee River to the west and south and the Cumberland River, to the north. In Houston County, the Tennessee Ridge spans 23 miles with an elevation ranging from 700 to 870 feet above sea level. The city of Tennessee Ridge received its name from the structure that zigzags through Tennessee.

The area of Danville, located at the end of Highway 147 in Stewart, was once a thriving town on the Tennessee River. The old Danville Grain Elevator is still in the water as a reminder of days gone by, along with part of the old L&N Railroad Bridge that once spanned the river connecting Middle and West Tennessee.

Recently the Danville Landing has undergone major upgrades to its facilities. It offers boating, fishing and recreational enjoyment for all. The boat docking facility has been replaced with a new four-boat docking area that is now secured on a hinge so that it will rise and fall with the water level. The landing has been repaved and striped. The Danville area is equipped with a handicapped accessible fishing pier that allows all citizens to enjoy the pleasures of fishing.





Betsy Ligon Park

Because the railroad was such an integral part of Erin's beginning, the Betsy Ligon Park in the downtown area is a special place in the hearts of Houston County residents.

Rail cars on display are colorfully painted and visitors may explore the cars or have a picnic in close proximity. A nearby playground for children presents the opportunity for a relaxing time. Under the Railroad Memorial Pavilion are plaques to commemorate those that worked on the railroads.

Many of the community's events are held at Betsy Ligon Park including Relay for Life, Toys for Tots, Irish Day Events, 4th of July Celebrations and the Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree.



Hensley-Midway Park

Nestled in the corner of Midway Drive and Rocky Hollow, the Hensley-Midway Park has a small ball field, picnic pavilion, two basketball courts, and playground equipment for younger children, sidewalks and restroom facilities. It is enhanced with beautiful trees and ample shade. It is located where the W. H. Hensley School was situated from 1925 -1965. Originally Hensley School was grade one through eight. Later when grades nine and ten were added, the school name changed to Hensley Jr. High school.

Herb Gould Veterans Park

Dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2016, the Herb Gould Veterans Park is located next to the Tennessee Ridge City Hall.

Armory Park

Located in Tennessee Ridge, it is one of the larger parks in our area. Host to three large baseball/ softball fields and concession stand, it stays occupied with many of the county's Dixie Youth during the ball season. There are batting cages, picnic pavilion, playground equipment and tennis courts at this large park available year round.

Rotary Park

Rotary Park is in a well-shaded corner, next to Town Creek, off Highway 49. It is at the end of the parking lot to the Houston County Middle School. Two tennis courts are located there along with picnic benches, a pavilion and playground equipment.



Sponsored by the Houston County Area Chamber of Commerce, the Houston County Farmers & Artisan market highlights locally grown fruits, produce, small livestock, honey, baked goods, preserves and Artisan Crafts. We also sell USDA fresh pork and locally caught catfish. The Market runs May 13th through October 28th. Vendors from Houston, Stewart, Dickson and Humphreys Counties are accepted.



In homage to the Irish workers who named the city and built the railroad, "Doc" the leprechaun, dressed in railroad attire, stands watch over Betsy Ligon Park, making his way into selfies and other tourist photos.



Also pictured on cover:

The Limestone Quarry located off Main Street and Metcalf Drive is a lovely four acres. In the 1940s while mining for limestone, workers hit a spring. Local legend is that workers were barely able to get out before the area flooded, leaving their equipment behind. In 2013, three scuba divers were permitted to explore the area and they found no man-made structures left from the mining operation.



THE LIMEKILNS

These kilns were erected around 1870 when the lime industry began to flourish in Houston County. History records that John Conroy of Clarksville was the first to operate a limekiln in this vicinity. The kilns were constructed of chiseled stone, by skilled stone masons, with the use of mortar, and the fire chambers were lined with brick. Limestone was loaded at the top, fired by wood to a high temperature then pulverized to a fine powder. This product was 99.9% pure and shipped to several cities in the United States for the purpose of water purification. The lime industry played a large part in the economy of this county until the early 1940's when the high quality of limestone was depleted.

Houston County Historical Society 2006
William M. Mason, Editor No. 200

Water purification for Houston in the late 1800s began with limestone pulverized in the lime kilns. Constructed of chiseled stone by skilled stone masons around 1870, fire chambers lined with brick allowed the high temperatures necessary to create a fine powder, 99.9 percent pure. Several cities in the United States of America used the lime through the 1940s when the high quality of limestone in the area was depleted.

Twin kilns, approximately 23 to 25 feet in height and 19.5 feet square at the base, are situated between two roads on commercial land near modern buildings. Trapezoidal in shape, the tops measure approximately 14 feet square. Debris scattered between the structures make the original height of the kilns undetermined.

Two lime kilns in Erin are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Quarry Lime Kiln, off Highw 49, one-fourth mile east of Denmark Road, and the Double Stack, next to the Mason's Lodge on McMillan Street. Two other lime kilns are the Cook Hollow Lime Kiln, near Briarwood Road, and the Stewart Lime Kiln, located off Highway 147 in Stewart. Documentation from the Department of the Interior notes "When the lime kilns were operating, there would have been an earthen ramp between them. This ramp facilitated the feeding of wood into the two fire chambers of the kilns." There are four kilns in Houston County.

88 Steps to Knowledge

Erin Elementary and High School was built in 1911 high upon a hill. Students and teachers climbed the 88 steps everyday until buses were able to travel up and down the winding road. The 88 Steps to Knowledge were used until 1958 when the high school was relocated to West Main Street. Most of the older generations in Houston County would use these steps going to and from gym class each day. When you get a chance, step to the top. There is a bench at the top to rest before you have to come back down.

Celtic Quilt Trail

The Houston County Celtic Quilt Trail was organized to guide folks through the natural beauty of our towns and countryside and is meant as a salute to Houston County's Celtic heritage and history, and the art of quilting. In following the Celtic Quilt Trail, take time to appreciate the beauty, rural charm and historic landmarks along the way.

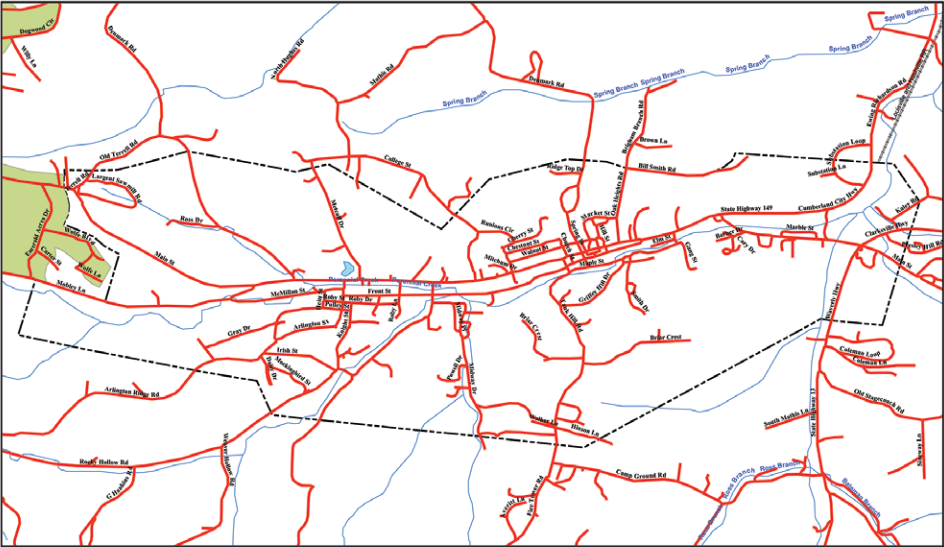
The trail boasts a total of 17 stops, three of the blocks, "Lough Corrib," "The Children of Lir" and "Kell's Knot," were designed by renowned quilter Philomena Duncan and used by permission. Some of these blocks are on downtown businesses and some may be found in the rural countryside on barns and out buildings. Use caution and take appropriate safety measures when stopping, these are mostly located on public roadways. Please show respect to the blocks on private property and view these from the roadside.



The **Houston County Archives** is where a concentrated effort is being made to collect and preserve local historical records and family genealogical records. The Archives is located in the basement of the Houston County Courthouse and is open Monday-Friday for researchers. The county records and genealogical records date back to the founding of the county in 1871.



The Archives may be reached by phone at 931-289-4839, by mail at the address: The Houston County Archives, P.O. Box 366, Erin, Tennessee, 37061 or by email at: houstoncountyarchive@gmail.com





101 Holladay Blvd., Suite 100
Erin, Tennessee 37039

CITY OF ERIN
HOUSTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles





3rd Saturday in March

Irish Day



In 1963, O.S. Luton and Beverly Price conceived of the idea of a celebration of Erin's Irish history and traditions. They petitioned the Chamber of Commerce, other local leaders, and interested citizens to help in this endeavor. The focus of this annual event was to be the welfare, progress and promotion of the town and county. The local population went in the venture rather slowly. They liked the idea, but some felt it may be a bit too big for such a small body of citizens. However, the "Wearing of the Green" was a successful event

that year and has continued each year to grow in interest and attendance. From the Grand Parade, Leprechauns and banquets to carnival rides, pageants and arts & craft booths, there is something for everyone. Relive the spirit of St. Patrick at one of the top ten celebrations in the United States!

From wee tots to wise old leprechauns, Irish Day has something for everyone. We invite you to join us in our celebration of heritage, family and fun! Don't forget to wear green!



Join us on each year on the third Saturday in March, as we celebrate and be Irish for the Day! This celebration is the culmination of week-long festivities. Held in downtown Erin, TN, our parade travels from the Houston County Middle School to the Houston County Community Hospital. A wonderful carnival is set up on Front Street. A plethora of food and craft vendors can be found in the Erin Square, Front Street, Spring Street, and Adkins Street, as well as entertainment on the Square Stage.



Irish Day

3RD SATURDAY IN MARCH



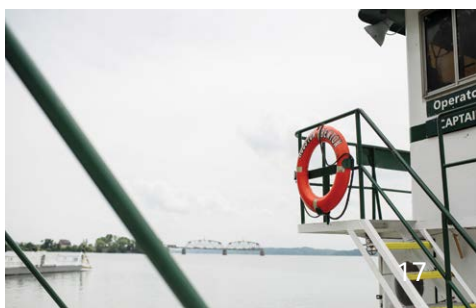


To the west, at the Tennessee River, Danville Lake provides wildlife viewing and water fun. Danville was the main steamboat landing on the Tennessee in the late 1800s. Today, a ferry is in operation offering visitors a ride back and forth across the historic waterway.

Instead of a 90-minute drive, take a seven minute ride from Houston to Benton County. Operated by River Marine Services, Inc., and owned by the State of Tennessee, the Ferry crosses the Tennessee River at McKinnon.

The ferry operates 365 days a year and runs Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Houston, Stewart, Henry, and Benton county residents may ride the ferry for 75 cents a day. Non residents may ride for \$2.00.

For more information, call 931-721-2776.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Restaurants

Paul's Pizza Palace

36 S. Spring St.,
Erin, TN 37061
931-289-4045

Danville Bait Shop & Grill

12550 Highway 147
Stewart, TN 37175
931.289.3034

El Paso Mexican Restaurant

5921 E Main St
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3007

Fitz's Restaurant

5985 Highway 49
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3034

Flood Zone

203 Tennessee
Highway 149
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5606

Gao's Garden

5923 E Main St
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5518

Lance's Pizza

938 Highway 49
Tennessee Ridge, TN
37178
931.721.2750

Mazatlan

35 Mazatlan Dr
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5300

Nan's Diner

3591 W Main St
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.2100

The Ridge Restaurant

1990 S Main St
Tennessee Ridge, TN
37178
931.721.4110

Southernaire Restaurant & Motel

50 Overlook Lane
Stewart, TN 37175
931.721.3321

Subway

5925 E Main St
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3998

Toasted Dough

6805 Highway 13
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5151

General

Accents by Bonnie

8 S. Spring St.
Erin, TN 37061
931-289-4580

Archie's TV & Appliance

24 Court Square,
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4125

Arnold Plumbing & Electric

2211 West Main St.,
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4301

Auto Plus D & C Parts Co

25 Arlington St., Erin,
TN 37061
931.289.4181

County Line Tire & Auto

5325 Hwy 49
Tennessee Ridge, TN
37178
931.721.2200

Price Florist

17 E. Market St.
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3347

Rye's Automotive

3787 W. Main St.
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5451

EMERGENCY DIRECTORY

Emergency? Dial 911

Non-Emergency, 931-289-2911

City of Erin Maintenance, 15 Hill St., 931-289-4108

**Houston County Ambulance Service, 2400 W. Main St.,
931-289-4711**

Erin City Police, 1163 Hwy 49, 931-289-2727

Houston County Sheriff, 3330 Hwy 149, 931-289-4613

REPORT A FIRE:

Houston County Fire Department, 931-289-4460

City of Erin Fire Department, 15 Hill St., 931-289-3210

Tennessee Ridge Fire Department, 1435 North Main Street, 931-721-3382

HEALTHCARE

Houston County Community Hospital

5001 East Main
Street
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4211

Houston County Health Department

Court Square
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3463

Covenant Care

21 Roby Drive
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.2450

Hillcrest Clinic

4891 East Main
Street
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4201

Healing Hope Family Medicine

5917 E Main St.
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4325

Erin Family Dental

4889 East Main
Street
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4228

Signature Health Care of Erin

278 Rocky Hollow
Road
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4141

Tennessee Quality Homecare & Hospice

322 Church St.,
Erin, TN 37061
931.232.8013

For Your Family Health Care

1511 Donelson
Pkwy, Dover, TN
931.232.5555

SCHOOLS

Houston County School System

Houston County Board of Education
6460 State Route 13, Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4148

Houston County High School

2500 State Rt. 149
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.4447

Erin Elementary School

6500 State Rt. 13
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.3127

Houston County Middle School

1241 W. Main St.
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5591

Tennessee Ridge Elementary School

135 School Street
Tennessee Ridge,
TN 37178
931.721.3777

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post #73
Disabled American Veterans
Erin Rotary Club
Friends of the Houston Co. Public Library
Houston County Arts Council
Houston County Chamber of Commerce
Houston County Coon Club
Houston County Historical Society
Houston County Imagination Library
Houston County Lions
Houston County Recreation Club
Houston Stewart Beekeepers
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Utilities and Services Companies

City of Erin Water

15 Hill Street
Erin, TN 37061-0270
931.289.4108

City of Tennessee Ridge Water

2300 S. Main St.
Tennessee Ridge, TN 37178
931.721.3385

TEC

Telephone & Internet Services

4587 West Main Street
Erin, TN 37061
www.tec.com
931.289.4221, 800.832.2515

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative Electricity

4574 West Main Street
Erin, TN 37061
www.mlec.com
931.289.3311

After Hours: 888.879.6038

Houston County Landfill

Firetower Road
931.289.4595

Jean's Trash Service

5825 Bateman Branch Road
Erin, TN 37061
931.289.5412



*Houston County –
Feels Like Home.*

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Houston County Chamber of Commerce
4 Court Square | P.O. Box 603 | Erin, TN 37061
HoustonCoChamber.com • 931-289-5100

