

Voices ▾

Search

Hi, Juliana Mathews ▾

Mail

[Entertainment](#) [Auto](#) [Business](#) [Creative Writing](#) [Health](#) [Home Improvement](#) [Lifestyle](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Tech](#) **Travel** [All Categories](#)

Local

King Ranch in Kingville, Texas

Weird, Wacky, and Wonderful Roadside Attractions



[Juliana Mathews](#), Yahoo Contributor Network
Mar 26, 2014

12



Flag

Post a comment

No trip to south Texas is complete without visiting the famous King Ranch.

When I arrived in Texas I heard regular mention of "King Ranch": King Ranch Ford trucks, King Ranch clothing, King Ranch accessories, etc. What started as a small cattle operation over 150 years ago is now a major cattle breeding and merchandising empire.

Merchandise sporting the King Ranch logo includes: Clothing, office accessories, hats (cowboy, of course), boots, and a special line of Ford trucks. Owning something with the King Ranch logo is a status symbol somewhat akin to owning a Coach handbag or an Armani suit. There aren't many BMWs or Mercedes in the Texas country, but there are plenty of King Ranch Ford F-350s, standardly equipped with a Ranch Hand bumper, leather seats and distinctive two-tone paint.

It wasn't until sometime later I learned King Ranch is more than a fancy brand name, it's a working cattle and horse ranch - and quite a large one at that. With over 35,000 cattle and 200 horses, King Ranch is one of the largest ranches in the world. It encompasses over 825,000 acres in South Texas alone. How the ranch began is an intriguing story that starts with a young runaway.

A Brief History of King Ranch

The story begins in the 1830's with Richard King, an 11 year-old indentured into the service of a harsh New York jeweler. His independent nature already taking hold, he stowed away on a south-bound ship. He eventually became captain of a steam boat, moved to south Texas, and started a shipping line on the Rio Grande River with his friend Mifflin Kenedy.

In 1853, King purchased 15,500 acres with business partner Gideon Lewis, the first piece of the King Ranch. Over the years, adjacent land has been purchased, as well as all over the U.S. The ranch specializes in breeding some of the finest cattle and horses, and is also the largest producer of orange juice in the country. Add to that: pecans, publishing, hardware, and hunting.

Of course, it is in a town called Kingsville. Wouldn't you name a town after yourself if you could?

See the ranch via a 1.5-hour van ride around the grounds, or a 4-hour special interest tour. Several hunting tours are also available. Visit www.king-ranch.com for more info. And don't miss the small King Ranch museum on 6th Street in downtown Kingsville.

Come along on the next adventure as I visit a giant squirrel in Sinton, Texas.

To see many more photos, [follow more of my weird, wacky, and wonderful RV adventures on Flickr](#).

[Read how it all began: Strange RV Encounters: An Introduction.](#)

Published by [Juliana Mathews](#)

In the summer of 2011, Juliana bought an RV, gave up most of her possessions and began traveling around the country with her cat, seeing all the weird, wacky and wonderful roadside attractions. She writes... [View profile](#)

Related Content

[Top Travel Destinations for Seniors in the U.S.](#)

[Travel Destinations for a Second Honeymoon](#)

[Top 5 Travel Destinations in Bolivia](#)

[The King Ranch in Texas, Largest Spread in the Country](#)

[Top 5 Travel Destinations in Nicaragua](#)

[Your Best Travel Destinations for Fitness and Health: The Top 5](#)

[Best Travel Destinations in Germany](#)



Unique Travel Destinations in South America

A guide to unique travel destinations in the South American continent.



Unique Travel Destinations in Oceania

A guide to unique travel destinations in Oceania.



Wikitravel: Researching Your Tra...

Top 5 Travel Destinations in South Florida

Traveling to South Florida? Read on for five of the best travel destinations for south Florida.



Frommer's Top Travel Destinations of 2007

Frommer's Travel Guides experienced travel editors have circled the globe to search out the best of travel destinations in the world

What Are the Germiest Travel Destinations in the World?

In the restaurant business, great effort is made to keep the most germ laden part of it, the restroom, clean. But there are some travel destinations that seem to like to be germey.

[Block All Comments](#)

Post a Comment as Juliana Mathews

Post Comment

MONITOR YOUR CAR FROM YOUR PHONE

SAFE DRIVER CAR CONNECTION™

\$10 30-DAY SERVICE PLAN

GET IT NOW

See offer for details.

YAHOO VOICES

Entertainment

Auto

Business

Creative Writing

Health

Home Improvement

Lifestyle

News

Sports

Tech

Travel

Slideshow Library

Video Library

ALSO ON YAHOO

Autos Mail Shine

Celebrity Maps Shopping

Finance Movies Sports

Games Music Travel

Groups My Yahoo TV

Health News Contributor Network

All Yahoo Services »

YAHOO CONTRIBUTOR NETWORK

Help Community

Resources

Blog

Forum

Promotional Tools

User Search