

**FP-057**

**TEXAS STAR FERRIS WHEEL**

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That's not just any Ferris Wheel you're looking at. That's the largest Ferris Wheel in North America!

Towering 21 stories high and weighing more than 678 thousand pounds, the Texas Star Ferris Wheel debuted at the 1985 State Fair of Texas. The ride was actually built in Italy at a cost of 2.2 million dollars and sports 44 gondolas that carry a total of 264 riders. It only operates during the State Fair, but is, by far, the most popular ride at the State Fair.

The Texas Star makes one-and-a-half revolutions each minute, and if you buy a ticket, you'll be able to spend a full 12 minutes enjoying the panorama that is the State Fair. In fact, on a particularly clear day you can see the downtown Fort Worth skyline, some 35 miles away. It takes a staff of 18 to manage the Texas Star when it is in operation. For 22 years it was lit at night by 160 thousand incandescent bulbs in red, white and blue. Those who prefer to be "green" will be happy to know the owners replaced that system in 2008 with LED lights that are far more energy efficient.

Want to experience an all-time "high"? When the State Fair rolls around, be sure to board the Texas Star Ferris Wheel.

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