

Land of the Frontier Spirit



owboys, cattle and wide-open spaces — for many, it's Texas of the imagination. In the Texas Plains Trail Region,

this daydream landscape is reality, where cowboy culture and ranching heritage come to life.

This 52-county southern stretch of the Great Plains has always attracted self-reliant folks — Native Americans, Spanish explorers, ranchers, farmers and oilmen — who lived off the land and left their mark behind. Archeological sites reveal 12,000-plus years of human occupation. Paleoindians used projectile points including Folsom and Clovis types to hunt ancient bison and mammoth. Apache tribes were here from the 16th century until after 1700, when Comanches arrived on Spanish mustangs, dominating life on the plains until the late 1800s.

Naming the area Llano Estacado, or staked plains, Spanish conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado arrived in 1541 searching for gold and silver. According to legend he marked his route across the treeless plains with stakes.

Residents of Northern Mexico, in what is now New Mexico, hauled goods in oxcarts from Santa Fe to trade with the Comanches. Freighter Josiah Gregg dubbed the traders Comancheros. By the 1840s, Anglos traveled along the Santa Fe Trail in wagon trains, trading goods hauled between Fort Smith, Arkansas and Santa Fe.



LIPSCOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Where history and culture blend

Discover frontier life, diverse cultures and the pioneer spirit in dynamic museums, unique historic buildings and vibrant festivals.

By the 1870s, tensions climaxed between settlers and Native Americans. Commercial hunters increasingly killed huge numbers of buffalo for the hide market, and U.S. troops arrived to patrol the Santa Fe Trail. When Native Americans attacked twice in or near an abandoned trading post called Adobe Walls, the U.S. Army launched the Red River War of 1874–75, which ended the nomadic life of Southern Plains Indians. They were forcibly relocated to reservations in present Oklahoma.

With Native Americans no longer in the area, Hispanic sheepherders called *pastores* arrived from New Mexico. Trail-hardened cowboys drove millions of cattle from South Texas to Northern markets, spawning the state's most iconic figure — the Texas cowboy.



12,000 B.C.

Archeological sites reveal 12,000-plus years of human occupation. Lubbock Lake Landmark, shown above.



1541–1601

Spanish explorers Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and Juan de Oñate searched for wealth in the High Plains.



1830–1875

The life and culture of Plains Indians depended on vast buffalo herds for survival.

Cattlemen such as Charles Goodnight established large ranches. Their branded longhorn cattle roamed the open range, a practice brought to an end beginning in the 1870s with the invention of barbed wire. The region still has working cattle ranches, some paying homage to their cowboy heritage by offering tours, lodging and dude ranch activities.

The 1880s brought two other major advances — the windmill and the railroad. Windmills pumped water from underground aquifers, allowing wider settlement of the otherwise arid region.

The state attracted railroads by donating public lands for new rail lines, offering the region improved access to distant markets.

During the early 1900s, many large ranches were divided into cotton and wheat farms. Gasoline-powered tractors began increasing agricultural production in the decades before World War II, and the economy further benefited by oil discoveries and the development of all-weather highways, including legendary Route 66.

History is not the only attraction to the Texas Plains Trail Region. From the wide-open spaces and playa lakes to big skies and stunning sunsets, the beauty of this area is one of its many secrets. Most of the region sits on a flat plateau called the Caprock — a hard layer formed millions of years ago atop sedimentary deposits. The eroded eastern edge of this 36,000-square-mile mesa forms ravine-like breaks and canyons plunging 300 to 800 feet, most notably in Palo Duro Canyon, the second largest canyon in the United States.

Today, this rugged beauty, paired with the numerous historic and cultural sites sprinkled throughout the region, offers an incomparable experience for every traveler. Hike canyon rims to Texas' only national monument, watch archeologists excavate prehistoric artifacts and view Native American rituals. Discover frontier life, diverse cultures and the pioneer spirit in dynamic museums, unique historic buildings and vibrant festivals. Grab this travel guide, get in the car and catch the spirit of the Texas Plains Trail Region.



AMON CARTER MUSEUM, FORT WORTH

1870s

Branded longhorn cattle roamed unfenced open range, a tradition ended by barbed wire fencing in the 1880s.



Early 1900s

During the early 1900s, many large ranches were divided into cotton and wheat farms. The Museum of Agriculture in Lubbock, shown above.

AMARILLO

New Mexican shepherders of the 1880s christened the place *Amarillo*, Spanish for “yellow,” probably for the yellow soil along the creek banks or the yellow wildflowers that are abundant during the spring and summer. Later a cattle-shipping point, this Texas Main Street City now serves as the Panhandle’s commercial and cultural center.

The American Quarter Horse Museum uses interactive exhibits, video presentations, artifacts and live demonstrations to honor the quarter horse, a faithful mount during the Texas open-range era. View a vintage chuck wagon, trace the breed’s evolution or mount a saddle in a race-track starting gate.

Housed in a replica Pueblo Indian kiva (underground ceremonial chamber), the Kwahadi Kiva Indian Museum features replica Native American regalia, artwork by Thomas E. Mails and Indian dances by the Kwahadi Dancers, a local Boy Scout group.

The English Field Air & Space Museum is housed in two 1930s airport hangars. It boasts a dozen Korean War and Vietnam War period helicopters and airplanes, including the F-84F Thunderstreak, as well as NASA’s Mars Lander craft.

Learn why Amarillo is the “Helium Capital of the World” at the Don Harrington Discovery Center, a hands-on children’s science center with more than 100 exhibits on natural history and core sciences. Outside the center is the helium monument, four helium-filled steel columns fitted with time capsules.

The Texas Pharmacy Museum at Texas Tech University’s School of Pharmacy offers informative guided tours on the changing



Above: Amarillo Museum of Art
Inset: Hutchinson County Historical Museum, Borger

roles of the old-fashioned drugstore and the pioneer pharmacist. Antique pharmacy cases contain vintage beakers, bottles and scales.

The 24,000-square-foot Amarillo Museum of Art showcases permanent and traveling collections — including watercolors by noted artist Georgia O’Keeffe (who once taught art in Amarillo and Canyon), plus Asian art and Middle Eastern textiles. Just west of town, Cadillac Ranch pays homage to the golden age of driving. Ten Cadillacs (1949–1963), buried nose down in a cornfield, are covered with names and graffiti spray painted by visitors.

Get a glimpse of the old glory days in the U.S. Route 66 Sixth Street Historic District. This colorful area preserves about a mile of the “Mother Road” and houses eateries, antique stores and specialty shops.

BIG SPRING

The town’s namesake spring once drew buffalo, Native Americans and adventurers — a dynamic history preserved in the Heritage Museum. This “collection of collections” includes 50 early phonographs, an extensive doll exhibit, plus one of the world’s largest set of longhorns, boasting a 10-foot-6-inch span.



Hangar 25 Museum

Big Spring’s aviation heritage takes flight at the Hangar 25 Museum, where artifacts retell stories of the World War II-era Big Spring Army Air Corps Bombardier School and the later Webb Air Force Base.

BORGER

Oil discoveries of the 1920s formed this petroleum town, but two battles at an abandoned buffalo hunters’ camp and trading post called Adobe Walls put the area on the historical map. The Hutchinson County Historical Museum details these pivotal events, and includes colorful characters such as dancehall owner Mattie Castleberry, oilfield firefighter



*...it was all so far away...
there was a quiet and untouched feel
to the country and I could
work as I pleased.*

— Georgia O’Keeffe, artist, painter and sculptor

Tex Thornton and artist Thomas Hart Benton, whose famous painting of boomtown Borger is displayed. Also featured is the nationally recog-nized WPA Post Office Mural “Days Mail.” Outside, the museum boasts a rare, cable-tool oil drilling rig used from 1926 to 1947. Near the museum, the 1947 Morley Theater, restored in a downtown revitalization project, offers current movies.



Wildlife surrounds the Julian Bivins Museum, Boys Ranch



BOYS RANCH

First settled by New Mexican shepherders called *pastores*, Tascosa was the raucous cowboy town of the 1880s. Tascosa was the Oldham County seat (1880–1915) but became a ghost town after the railroad bypassed it. Vestiges of Old Tascosa remain at Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch, a residential childcare facility established in 1939 by Amarillo businessman Cal Farley. Old Tascosa’s 1884 courthouse is now the Julian Bivins Museum. Exhibits recount Panhandle history, the story of Boys Ranch and include one of the nation’s largest collections of barbed wire with 750 types. Nearby, several 1880s gunfighters are buried in Boot Hill Cemetery. Museum viewing and tours of Boys Ranch are available year round.

BROWNFIELD

Named for Col. Benjamin F. Terry, Confederate leader of Terry’s Texas Rangers, Terry County was among many High Plains counties carved out of the Bexar District in 1876. In 1904, Brownfield became the county seat and grew rapidly with the addition of automobiles and the railroad. The Terry County Heritage Museum has exhibits on the county’s many inhabitants — Native Americans, buffalo hunters, ranchers, railroaders and settlers. Housed in the 1928 home of town namesake A.M. Brownfield, museum artifacts include an 1865 harmonium, 1870s square grand piano and 1920s fireless stove. The grounds also feature two relocated wooden structures from the 1910s — the county’s first jail and the town’s Santa Fe depot.

CANADIAN

Nestled in the Canadian River Valley, this county seat was laid out in 1887 when the Southern Kansas Railway built a bridge over the Canadian River. In 1916, the Canadian River Wagon Bridge was completed and today offers a half-mile hiking trail. The River Valley Pioneer Museum chronicles area history with exhibits from prehistoric archeology to the pioneer period. A recreated bunkhouse and historic photos depict early ranching, and an exhibit shows that local cowboys held one of the state’s first commercial rodeos on July 4, 1888, a tradition which continues annually. Canadian’s downtown offers a historic courthouse, dining and lodging in historic buildings, as well as movies at the 1909 Palace Theater.



The 1916 Canadian River Wagon Bridge

CANYON

This Texas Main Street City is the gateway to the state’s largest canyon, Palo Duro Canyon, and home to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Featuring a 1930s Art Deco building, the museum preserves three million artifacts on natural and cultural heritage. Ranching exhibits include reconstructions of cattleman Charles Goodnight’s log cabin and the 1870s T-Anchor Ranch House. A replica pioneer town showcases late-19th-century lifestyle artifacts. The museum also displays oil field equipment, windmills, wagons, and firearms as well as works by New Mexico and Texas artists.

For centuries, water and wood attracted wildlife and people to what is now Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Stretching 120 miles long, 20 miles wide and 800 feet deep, it is the most spectacular landscape feature in the Panhandle. Multicolored canyon walls surround miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, as well as tent, cabin and RV camping. The park also boasts a replica dugout of the Panhandle’s first rancher, Charles Goodnight, and a historical musical drama, “Texas Legacies.” Near the park, Elkins Ranch offers canyon jeep rides, historical tours and Western entertainment and dining.



Palo Duro Canyon State Park

CHILDRESS

Named for George C. Childress, co-author of the Texas Declaration of Independence, this town was created in the 1880s when the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway was built. Located in a 1935 downtown post office, the Childress County Heritage Museum displays artifacts on the county's cattle, cotton and railroad heritage. It also features room settings filled with memorabilia donated by area families to depict early home and business life, and honors the World War II-era Childress Army Air Field and Bombardier School. Down the road, the 1939 Childress County Courthouse presides over the town square.

CLARENDON

Irishman John Adair and cattleman Charles Goodnight formed the Panhandle's first ranch nearby, and a town quickly followed. Early cowboys called the saloon-free, church-filled place Saints' Roost. Adair's wife Cornelia opened a hospital in 1910 to care for ranch hands, and today it's the Saints' Roost Museum, a repository for county artifacts. Exhibits range from prehistoric specimens of local fossils to the art of noted Western painter and native son Harold D. Bugbee. Downtown, the elegant Romanesque Revival 1894 Donley County Courthouse presides over historic buildings and brick streets. Cowboy traditions come alive at nearby Bar H Dude Ranch and every September at the Col. Charles Goodnight Chuckwagon Cook-off. Another outdoor local attraction

*Donley County Courthouse,
Clarendon*



Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon

is the Sandell Drive-In movie theater, which operated from 1955 to 1984, then re-opened in 2002.

CLAUDE

Housed in historic downtown buildings, the Armstrong County Museum highlights the Red River War and Coronado's expedition. It also honors the cattle barons, Hereford cattle, barbed wire and wheat farming of the region. The annual Charles Goodnight Celebration features programs at the historic Gem Theatre, a chuck wagon barbecue, crafts and an art show.

Twelve miles away is the community of Goodnight, where Charles and his wife Mary Ann are buried in the Goodnight Cemetery.

COLORADO CITY

In 1900, rail shipments of cattle and buffalo hides and bones made Colorado City one of the largest towns between Fort Worth and El Paso. Today, this Texas Main Street City houses The Heart of West Texas Museum, which chronicles the boomtown era and early West Texas history. Mammoth tusks, ribs and vertebrae, as well as the standing skeleton of a prehistoric *Bison antiquus*, present natural history, while another exhibit honors Kiowa Chief Lone Wolf, who fought the U.S. Cavalry and negotiated with politicians. A few blocks from the museum, a downtown "branding wall" mural displays more than 200 cattle brands from Mitchell County ranches.



Descendants of Charles Goodnight's buffalo herd include one of the last pure remnants of the original Southern Plains herds.

COWBOY COUNTRY

Despite all that has been said of him, the old-time cowboy is the most misunderstood man on earth.

— Charles Goodnight, in tribute to his own cowhands

CROSBYTON

The Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum incorporates a furnished replica of the 1877 rock house of Hank and Elizabeth Smith, the first permanent settlers of the county. On display are Smith family mementos — including a Sharps buffalo rifle, handmade shoes and a silver napkin ring — representing varied realities of frontier life. Other exhibits include a 23,000-piece Native American artifact collection, a diorama of Blanco Canyon and a replica dugout — early housing dug into the treeless plains. Thousands of artifacts characterize family, farming and business life.

Ten miles west of Crosbyton, the town of **Ralls** began when John R. Ralls divided his large ranch into 160-acre farms and sold them to Midwesterners arriving by train. Housed in a historic former bank, the Ralls Historical Museum recounts the town's development through the display of thousands of heirlooms donated by local families. Each of 16 upstairs rooms carries a theme — from farm tools to military mementos, a barbershop and a funeral parlor.

DALHART

In 1882, the Texas Legislature gave three million acres of state land to Illinois investors to find a new Capitol building in Austin. The land became the XIT Ranch, which initially covered part or all of 10 different counties. A model of an XIT division headquarters is among ranching exhibits at Dalhart's XIT Museum. Housed in a 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival building, the museum portrays the lives of XIT cowboys who herded cattle along a 200-mile stretch of the Texas-New Mexico border. Room scenes furnished with period artifacts recreate an early kitchen, parlor, bedroom and chapel, while dozens of historic photos retell the area's development. Dalhart's XIT Ranch Reunion and Rodeo, held annually since 1936, serves a colossal free barbecue dinner. Its downtown offers the Classical Revival 1922 Dallam County Courthouse and live theater at the LaRita Performing Arts Theatre, a 1920s movie palace.



XIT Museum

DIMMITT

Prairies provided grasses for early ranchers and rich soil for early farmers who turned ranchland into farmland around 1900. This cattle-to-cotton story is told at Dimmitt's Castro County Museum, housed in the 1909 home of area resident Jeff Gilbreath. Period farm implements are housed in two World War II barracks relocated from a prisoner-of-war camp 20 miles away at Hereford. Five of the 7,000 Italian prisoners held at the POW camp died during captivity and were buried at a prisoner-built

chapel, which features magnificent Italian paintings. Former POWs who later revisited the site have donated mementos and letters to the museum.

DUMAS

In 1891, land speculator Louis Dumas bought railroad survey properties and platted a town. Big ranches but few people existed here until oil was discovered in 1927. Rail lines arrived four years later and the population grew rapidly. This boom tale is documented at the Window on the Plains Museum. A replica early-1900s street scene has a general store, post office and clapboard house, while another exhibit highlights the evolution of the clothes-washing machine. The complex also houses the Art Center, which shows local artwork and hosts workshops.

FLOYDADA

Artifacts on display at the Floyd County Historical Museum suggest that Spanish explorer Coronado led his 1,000-person expedition through the area in 1541. A display features a chain mail glove, 16th-century horseshoe nails and copper crossbow points found in nearby Blanco Canyon. Housed in a 1912 hardware and implement store, the museum also displays more recent artifacts — a rope-making machine, a chart used by a traveling professor to identify character traits and a Depression-era toy train made from tin cans and jar lids. The adjacent Mary Lou Bollman History and Genealogy Center attracts researchers from across the country.

FRITCH

The Lake Meredith area harbors the world's only outcrop of Alibates flint, a beautiful, multi-colored flint which prehistoric people knapped into a variety of tools. At Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Texas' only National Monument, National Park Service rangers guide visitors to shallow quarry pits and discuss the site's geologic and cultural importance. Lake Meredith's amphitheater annually stages a historical musical drama called "Lone Star Rising." In nearby Fritch, the Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum features dioramas of local wildlife specimens and aquariums with local fish.



Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument Park Ranger

Opposite page, background: Deaf Smith County Museum, Hereford. Insets from top: Melissa Dora Oliver-Eakle, pictured with her daughter, was a successful real-estate developer in the Texas Panhandle, photo credit: THC; Cowboys dubbed Mary Ann Goodnight as the Mother of the Panhandle, photo credit: Panhandle-Plains Museum. Women often had to work the fields, photo credit: Texas A&M University.

L Independence and Verve

Life was hard for pioneer women in the Texas Plains Trail Region. Men were often absent for weeks or months, so women kept the homestead running. They cleared land, felled trees for cabins, dug wells, fought prairie fires and planted and harvested crops. If they didn't already have survival skills, they learned them. Though strong and independent, they were plagued by loneliness and isolation, often quilting or writing in journals in place of conversation. Their desire for socialization and normalcy spearheaded community gatherings for church services and school, held wherever there was room. Some women even breached the male-dominated business world in real estate development and philanthropy. Today, these pioneer women are credited with softening and settling this once-remote region.



HALE CENTER

Texas has led the nation in cotton production nearly every year since 1880. The Hale County Farm and Ranch Museum preserves cotton farming and other agricultural farm implements, including an 1897 steam engine that pulled large plows, a 1920 Waterloo Boy kerosene tractor and a local inventor's grain drill that revolutionized agricultural practices. The museum recalls railroad heritage in a restored 1911 Santa Fe Depot and pre-Depression family life in the 1907 William Pinkerton house. Many buildings in downtown Hale Center feature historical murals depicting farmers at work, Native Americans hunting buffalo, Coronado's expedition and homesteaders in covered wagons.

HEREFORD

Dubbed the "town without a toothache" due to low incidence of dental decay attributed to natural fluorides in the water supply, Hereford offers visitors a charming downtown anchored by the Classical Revival 1910 Deaf Smith County Courthouse.

The Deaf Smith County Museum preserves county history in a 1927 Catholic school building. Indoor exhibits recreate life in 1900 through a well-stocked general store and stylish family parlor. A collection of "guns that won the West" boasts an official U.S. Army Springfield rifle and a Colt .45, the preferred handgun of the frontier. A unique display offers scale-model circus scenes made by a local barber to entertain families during the 1930s Depression. Outdoors are farm equipment, the original county seat's steel-cage jail cell and a replica of an 1890s dugout home.

LAMESA

In 1903 founding fathers called this flat land Lamesa, Spanish for "the table."

In 1926, one of the finest hotels between Dallas and El Paso was built — the Dal Paso Hotel, which now houses the Dal Paso Museum and the Lamesa Chamber of Commerce. The restored hotel lobby retains its grand period appearance. Each upstairs room chronicles a different historical topic including ranching, banking, home life, sports, medicine and agriculture.

One room contains the original witness stand and judge's bench from the Dawson County Courthouse. Local memorabilia include a speaker from the 1945 Sky-Vue Drive-In theater, which continues to show double features at the edge of town.



Dal Paso Museum

LIPSCOMB

Storekeepers platted Lipscomb in 1887 anticipating the railroad's arrival. The train never came, but ranchers and pioneers did. The Wolf Creek Heritage Museum retells their stories through mementos and photographs. Artifacts include 12-year-old Augusta Bell Mugg's side saddles which she rode in 1893 as her family relocated from the Guadalupe Mountains. The area's German heritage is highlighted with historic photos, cookbooks and religious items.

Frontier ranch dances were often held on platforms made of lumber brought by wagon or train to the treeless plains. Lipscomb's Naturally Yours Gallery revives the tradition each summer with platform dances featuring fiddle bands. The 1916 Classical Revival Lipscomb County Courthouse remains the heart of the town.

LUBBOCK

The epicenter of the South Plains, Lubbock owes its growth to the railroad, a rich agricultural area and Texas Tech University, which was established in 1923. The university's National Ranching Heritage Center traces ranching from the 1700s to the early 1900s. More than 38 relocated and restored ranch and pioneer structures offer visitors a walk back in time. The museum's annual Ranch Day features period-dressed experts demonstrating frontier skills.

The Museum of Texas Tech University has more than two million items on the arts, humanities and sciences. Offerings include dinosaur skeletons, historic photos, diverse artwork and planetarium shows.



National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock

Opposite page, background: Vibrant sunsets and scattered windmills envelop the region. Inset from top: American Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock; vintage postcard of cotton pickers.

Where Cotton is King -

Early attempts at farming were made in the Texas Plains Trail Region during the early 1880s. Devastated by unusually severe winters and summer droughts in the mid-1880s, farming had to wait for another generation for a new beginning. As cattlemen placed their large ranches on the market, cheap land and no boll weevils made the region particularly attractive to cotton farmers. By the late 1800s the High Plains emerged as a major area for crop production. With the development of cotton varieties adapted to the harsh plains environment, the planting of hard, red winter-wheat varieties, and the widespread adoption of the tractor and the one-way disk plow, the High Plains became one of Texas' premier areas for both cotton and wheat production by the end of the 1920s.



The museum also operates Lubbock Lake Landmark, an archeological and natural history preserve with an unbroken 12,000-year record of human activity. An interpretive center depicts how people adapted to changing conditions while nature trails highlight native plants and animals.

Learn about High Plains farming at the American Museum of Agriculture. Artifacts feature horse-drawn and gas-powered equipment (1880s–1950s), hand tools, household items and one of the nation’s largest collections of toy pedal tractors.

Windmills dotted the area in the late 1800s, pumping water from underground aquifers. The American Wind Power Center displays nearly 130 vintage windmills and explains how harnessing the wind allowed pioneer families to survive the arid climate.

Another wind-powered machine soared overhead during World War II at South Plains Army Air Field, where at 6,000 pilots learned to fly gliders. These non-motorized planes are honored at the Silent Wings Museum, housed in a 1950s-era airport terminal. A glass-walled hangar preserves the war’s standard combat glider.

Lubbock’s most famous musician rocks on at the Buddy Holly Center. Exhibits recall Holly’s life and music through personal items such as guitars he played and even the glasses he wore during his fatal 1959 plane crash. Housed in the 1925 Fort Worth & Denver Railroad Depot, the center also boasts the Texas Musicians Hall of Fame, an art gallery and a gift shop complete with art-inspired merchandise and 1950s memorabilia.



Museum of Texas Tech University

MATADOR

Born out of a trading post at Matador Ranch, this town was founded and settled by cowboys. Housed in the 1928 Traweek Hospital, the Motley County Historical Museum presents Matador Ranch and county history through donated relics and photographs. A scale model of downtown depicts Matador life from 1890 to 1913. Another popular attraction is Bob’s Oil Well, a de-commissioned 1930s service station and cafe beneath a 65-foot oil derrick.

The nearby community of **Roaring Springs** features the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers’ Reunion and Ranch Rodeo, held annually since the 1920s.

McLEAN

From its beginning, barbed wire was dubbed the “devil’s rope” as unwary cattle often got tangled in the new fencing. The Devil’s Rope & Route 66 Museum demonstrates how barbed wire ended open-range ranching. Displays feature thousands of barbed wire examples and dozens of fence-making tools — plus famous ranch brands, military and agricultural uses of wire and even barbed wire sculptures. Located on historic Route 66, the museum also features Route 66 memorabilia, including signage, photos and a mock roadside cafe. Five blocks west is the state’s first Phillips 66 service station, built in 1927.



The 1927 Phillips 66 service station

MIAMI

Nestled in a cottonwood-tree-lined valley, Miami is home of the National Cow Calling Championship and the 1913 Classical Revival Roberts County Courthouse. Miami found its roots as a worker camp for the Southern Kansas Railroad. Today, its 1888 depot houses the Roberts County Museum, offering paleontology, archeology, history and art exhibits. Native American exhibits include pottery dating from 1200, baskets and textiles of Southwestern tribes and Kiowa silk-screen prints from the 1920s. Other exhibits feature a mounted wildlife display, four-room pioneer house, replica 1870s dugout and barn with blacksmith and ranching artifacts. The museum also interprets the Red River War’s Buffalo Wallow Fight of 1874.

MOBEETIE



In 1875, a trading post and buffalo hunter camp sprang up near Fort Elliott, one of Texas’ last frontier forts. The settlement grew into Mobeetie, one of the Panhandle’s earliest towns and the original Wheeler County seat. Mobeetie’s colorful history is retold through artifacts and photographs at the Old Mobeetie Jail Museum. A restored 1886 jail and three other historic structures house exhibits on the Red River War’s Battle of Sweetwater Creek, as well as life at Fort Elliott. The fort’s original parade grounds flagpole stands out front, while a half mile away, a granite historical marker pinpoints the original site of Fort Elliott.

Opposite page, background: Floyd County Historical Museum, Floydada. Inset from top, clockwise: Motley County Historical Museum, Matador; American Quarter Horse Museum, Amarillo; River Valley Pioneer Museum historic photo, Canadian.

A Cowboy's Life

During the late 1800s, the wide open landscape of the Texas Plains Trail Region lay ripe for development. Cattlemen like Charles Goodnight established ranches and soon much of the terrain changed from raw frontier into a rancher's domain. Goodnight's JA Ranch, established with his partner James Adair, was the first privately owned ranch in the Panhandle, while the XIT ranch was the world's largest fenced ranch in the 1880s, covering three million acres and portions of 10 counties. The success of early corporate ranching also attracted excessive investment, leading to overstocking, bad management and depressed prices. Though many ranches failed, well-managed ones survived, and a far better-organized industry emerged. It became the foundation for today's ranching industry that remains integral to the economy and culture of the region. Numerous historic ranches are still in operation including JA, XIT, SMS, 6666, Pitchfork and Matador.



MORTON

Cochran County remained sparsely settled until the 1920s. Development came when early ranches were divided into farms, and a local oil boom occurred in the 1930s, cushioning the effects of the Dust Bowl era and expanding the population. The Texas Last Frontier Museum interprets the county's late-blooming history. On display are early maps and fliers touting cotton land "with no boll weevils" for \$20 an acre. One photo recalls Morton's "wet and wild" era (1938–1940) at the Busy Bee Tavern, where walls, ceiling and bar are covered with beer cans. To celebrate the last frontier's African American Buffalo Soldiers, the museum annually hosts a Buffalo Soldiers Encampment.

MULESHOE

With a mule's shoe as its brand, the Muleshoe Ranch was carved out of the historic XIT Ranch. The railroad pushed through in 1913, and a town formed at the ranch's cattle-loading pens. The Santa Fe depot is now part of the Muleshoe Heritage Center, along with an 1897 XIT (later the Muleshoe Ranch) cookhouse, two 1915 mail-order ranch houses and an early 1900s hotel. The 27-foot-high "World's Largest Muleshoe," erected as an Eagle Scout project, looms over the complex. Muleshoe also boasts a life-sized mule statue as a tribute to the animal's role in World War I.



Muleshoe Heritage Center

PAMPA

Picturesque brick-paved streets and charming shops welcome visitors to Pampa. At the chamber of commerce, pick up a walking tour guide of historic locations around downtown, including "Million Dollar Row" — several buildings built in the 1930s anchored by the elegant Beaux Arts-style Gray County Courthouse.

Pampa, Spanish for "plains," gained stability due to an early land speculation company, the White Deer Land Company. Its two-story 1916 office building now houses the White Deer Land Museum, which recreates early-20th-century settings including a barbershop, Western Union office and phone switchboard. Museum exhibits cover prehistoric stone tools, Native American art and the Red River War's Battle of McClellan Creek.

The Freedom Museum USA displays a small collection of vintage military aircraft and equipment. The museum specializes in World War II artifacts including a model of the Pampa Army Air Field flight training school and a wedding dress made from a parachute.

PANHANDLE

The Carson County Square House Museum encompasses several structures, including the 1887 N Bar N Ranch house, 1912 Conway Community Church, 1928 Santa Fe caboose and recreations of a windmill and half-dugout. Exhibits interpret regional history from prehistoric hunters and Spanish explorers to the railroad and the 1920s oil boom, while a replica bunkhouse displays typical farm and ranch equipment.

Panhandle's refurbished downtown includes the Texan Hotel, continuously operated since the oil boom, and the city hall housed in a restored Santa Fe depot.

PERRYTON

The state's northernmost county seat was founded in 1919 when pioneers relocated to the new rail line. Some 10,000 artifacts at the Museum of the Plains chronicle the heritage of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Locally found imperial mammoth bones can be viewed as well as an exhibit on a pre-Columbian farming culture that lived nearby in large pueblo-like structures now known as the "Buried City." Other artifacts include early wagons and cars, a Kiowa teepee, collections of projectile points and a homemade steam tractor.

PLAINVIEW

Rustic brick streets and a 1910 Beaux-Arts courthouse welcome visitors to this Texas Main Street City. Located at Wayland Baptist University, the Museum of the Llano Estacado traces human activity of the region from prehistory to the 1930s. Archeological exhibits feature ancient Native American tools and an imperial mammoth kull from Castro County. A water-well rig rises to the ceiling near a ranch tack room, blacksmith shop and windmill wheel. Other exhibits highlight Spanish explorers and Buffalo Soldiers.



Carson County Square House Museum



Museum of the Llano Estacado

POST

In 1907, cereal magnate C.W. Post established his namesake town as a model farming community. The Garza County Historical Museum explores Post's life and displays equipment he used for surveying and rain-making experiments. Located in a 1910 sanitarium, the museum features archeological finds, Native American relics and ranching and farming artifacts.

C.W. Post's 1911 office houses the OS Ranch Museum. The art gallery showcases paintings, sculptures, textiles, porcelain and jewelry collected worldwide by Giles C. McCrary and family, descendants of early OS Ranch owners.

A Texas Main Street City, Post offers the 1920 Garza Theatre for live entertainment and historic lodging at the 1915 Hotel Garza.

One of the state's most scenic drives, State Highway 207 winds north for 150 miles along the Caprock escarpment and passes numerous natural depressions, called plays, which capture rainwater.



C.W. Post statue

HISPANIC HERITAGE ON THE HIGH PLAINS



Spanish explorers and Mexicans trekked across the Texas Plains Trail Region surveying the land, trading goods and molding the area's future. Today, travelers to the area are surrounded by a unique combination of Hispanic heritage. Community names such as Amarillo, Vega, Romero and Tascosa reflect Spanish influence, while terms associated with natural features and landmarks — playa lakes, Palo Duro and Tule Canyons, Rita Blanca Creek — signify early Hispanic impact. Historical markers commemorating important people, events and exploration routes are scattered along highways. Regional festivals celebrate Diez y Seis de Septiembre, ballet folklórico and Cinco de Mayo, and museums display local materials derived from Hispanic ancestors.

The Potter County Courthouse is often described as Pueblo Deco architecture, a Southwestern Art Deco style inspired by Hispanic and Native American influences.



PANHANDLE PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM



TEXASCOURTHOUSES.COM

The arrival of the railroad to the Panhandle Plains brought a new wave of Hispanic settlement.

PANHANDLE PLAINS & LLANO ESTACADO



State Highway 207 winds along the Caprock escarpment near Post.

QUANAH

Quanah Parker was the son of Comanche Chief Peta Nocona and kidnapped Anglo settler Cynthia Ann Parker. Quanah led the last Comanche band to roam the High Plains, then helped his people transition to reservation life in present-day Oklahoma. Today, this Texas Main Street City pays tribute to its namesake with a granite monument on the square. The Beaux-Arts-style 1908 Hardeman County Courthouse and commercial historic district rounds out this quaint town.

In 1860, Cynthia Ann Parker was recaptured by Texas Rangers near the site of today's Copper Breaks State Park. Named for copper found on site, the park offers camping, hiking, boating and wildlife viewing, plus a small natural and cultural history museum. Four rounded hills near Quanah, known as Medicine Mounds, were revered by Comanches as spiritual places.

QUITAQUE

North of town sprawls the picturesque 14,000-acre Caprock Canyons State Park, once part of the historic JA Ranch established by Charles Goodnight. Descendants of wild bison that Goodnight saved from extinction in the 1870s reside in the park as part of the Official Texas State Bison Herd.

The park's Caprock Canyons Trailway runs 64 miles from Quitaque to Turkey along an abandoned 1920s rail line. The hike-and-bike trail passes through the 700-foot-long historic Clarity Tunnel, home of more than 50,000 Mexican free-tailed bats October through April.

Kiowa dancer at an archeology fair



SEAGRAVES

After the town was founded in 1917 as a cattle shipping point, Model T Ford dealer C.M. Armstrong built a brick building with its own water system. The building was one of only two structures to survive a devastating fire in 1928. Today, it is home to the Seagraves-Loop Museum and Art Center. Displays include 2,000 projectile points from Clovis, Plainview and Folsom periods, as well as a local newspaper repository (1930s–1990s). A brand book from a local cattle inspector chronicles hundreds of area brands. The site also features a ranch bunkhouse, milk house and outhouse.



Seagraves-Loop Museum and Art Center

The wind that blows across this sacred land carries the voices of my ancestors... they have told me to protect this land, our home...

— Quanah Parker, Chief of the Quahadi Comanche



Caprock Canyons State Park, Quitaque

Opposite page, background: Buffalo were essential for the survival of the Southern Plains Indians, photo credit: Russell Graves. Insets from left: Quanah Parker, photo credit: Panhandle-Plains Museum; art from a late-19th-century Kiowa ledger.

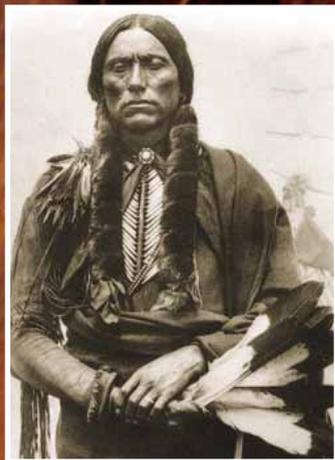
1874 Plains Indians



In the summer of 1874, the U.S. Army launched a major campaign against the Comanche, Kiowa, Southern

Cheyenne and Arapaho Native Americans to relocate them onto Oklahoma reservations. This conflict, waged largely in the Texas Panhandle, is known today as the Red River War of 1874–75. Characterized by multiple military engagements and supply problems on both sides, the war officially ended in June 1875 when Quanah Parker, leading the Quahadi Comanche, surrendered. A significant event in Texas and Southern Plains history, the conflict contributed to the virtual extinction of the southern herd of buffalo, the conquest of prevailing Native American tribes and the opening of the Texas Panhandle to permanent settlement.

Recognizing the historical significance of the Red River War, Texas Historical Commission archeologists began investigating the battles in 1998. They located and documented six of the more significant battle sites, and recovered thousands of artifacts. For more information on site and exhibit locations, download the *Red River War in the Texas Panhandle* brochure at www.thc.state.tx.us.



SEMINOLE

Platted in 1906, the county seat experienced an oil boom and was incorporated in the 1930s. Seminole's Gaines County Museum preserves colorful county history through locally donated artifacts and photographs. Interesting items include a large typewriter collection, a combination dentist-barber chair and a barbed wire collection. One photograph tells the story of Seminole's three Sullivan brothers who served together during World War II. Unsuccessful efforts were made to split them up, but all three survived.

SHAMROCK

Immigrant Irish sheep rancher George Nichel named this town Shamrock in the 1890s for good luck and courage. The 25-room Reynolds Hotel accommodated travelers and peddlers during the 1920s and now houses city and county memorabilia as part of the Pioneer West Museum. The museum also includes a restored 1930s Magnolia Oil gas station and a 1920s justice of the peace office. One exhibit features NASA items and a display on Apollo astronaut Alan Bean, who lived in nearby Wheeler.

An eye-catching stop on historic Route 66 is Shamrock's Tower Conoco Station and U-Drop Inn Cafe, a 1930s Art Deco structure housing the chamber of commerce.

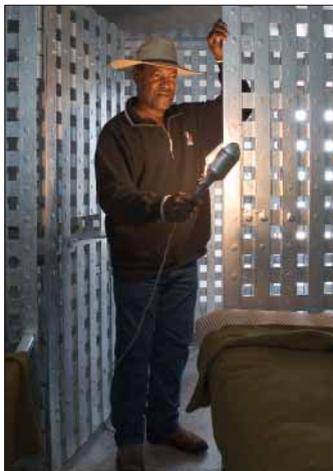


Tower Conoco Station, Shamrock

SILVERTON

In August 1891, Olivia G. Porter, wife of town founder Thomas J. Porter, named this county seat supposedly from silvery reflections she saw on local playa lakes. Three years later, a two-story jail constructed of rock from nearby Tule Canyon was erected. Its first occupant, the county sheriff, was locked up during the grand opening ceremony as a joke. Today, the restored 19th-century jail serves as the Old Jail Museum, which offers a realistic look at frontier justice.

North of Silverton, State Highway 207 offers breathtaking scenery as it crosses Palo Duro and Tule Canyons.



Old Jail Museum, Silverton

SLATON

Rich in railroad, farming and German heritage, Slaton offers visitors a friendly, hometown atmosphere. Located at Slaton Airport, the Texas Air Museum celebrates military aviation from the early 1900s to the present. Its collection features more than 60 vintage aircraft, including tanks, military vehicles and weaponry. A large World War II collection features artifacts from Allied and Axis forces, such as rare German and Japanese artillery and aircraft. Many of these World War II aircraft are flyable. The museum hosts a popular air show each summer.

SNYDER

Buffalo-hide dwellings sprang up around a trading post here in 1878. A tent city sprang up 70 years later during an oil boom. The Scurry County Museum, located at Western Texas College, interprets this rich heritage and chronicles area geology and town development. A key exhibit details the 1907 ride in a six-cylinder "motor driven stage coach" by inventor W.B. Chenoweth, inaugurating intercity bus service between Snyder and Colorado City. The museum also boasts a leather shop that once catered to cowboys and an early telephone exchange originally housed in the operator's home.



Scurry County Museum, Snyder

SPEARMAN

As early cattlemen fenced their ranches, some pastures were cut off from natural springs or creeks, so ranchers began drilling wells and harnessing the wind to pump water for their cattle. Without windmills, settlement of the arid plains would have been impossible. In the 1960s, J.B. Buchanan began collecting historic windmills. Today, more than 20 of his restored windmills stand on wooden and steel towers at the J.B. Buchanan Windmill Park. The park features a rare 1915 Aeromotor model with a 12-foot-diameter wheel that actually pumps water from a deep well. A lighted walking trail winds through the five-acre site.

STRATFORD

After a hotly contested election in 1901, Stratford replaced Coldwater as the county seat. It grew into a two-railroad town and shipping center for cattle and cotton. Housed in the 1931 Santa Fe depot, the Sherman County Depot Museum preserves the county's farm and ranch history. Graphic photos depict sun-blocking sandstorms of the 1930s Dust Bowl. A unique display shows memorabilia from rancher Wendell Flores, including his 1920s polo equipment. Panhandle ranch hands sometimes formed polo teams and competed against neighboring ranches.



TAHOKA

The Tahoka Pioneer Museum showcases a 23-foot-long diorama by local artist Bill Craig depicting an 1850s Comanche encampment at Tahoka Lake. One hundred residents gathered at the lake in 1902 and voted to organize Lynn County and a county seat named Tahoka, a Native American word for “fresh water.” The museum recalls county history through donated artifacts and photographs. One photo captures a “stag dance” where cowboys celebrated a round-up by playing music and, faced with a local “woman shortage,” danced with each other.

TULIA

Reconstructed inside the Swisher County Archives and Museum, the five-room Elegant House recreates the Victorian style of the early 20th century. The museum also houses a complete blacksmith shop and a large photographic display on pioneer life. Lifestyle artifacts are arranged in home, school and business scenes, and outside exhibits include the 1917 Jowell House and a JA Ranch cabin. Tulia’s downtown square boasts an Ozark Trails marker erected in 1920 along one of America’s early designated driving routes. The tall concrete obelisk is one of two in Texas still in their original locations.

TURKEY

After his family moved to Hall County in 1913, Bob Wills learned to play the fiddle from ranch dance musicians and the blues from African American cotton pickers. He joined the Light Crust Doughboys before forming the Texas Playboys, which pioneered Western swing music. The Bob Wills Museum honors the “King of Western Swing” with photo displays and personal items donated by his family. Every April, the town echoes with live Western swing music during its annual Bob Wills Day. Bed-and-breakfast lodging is available at the Hotel Turkey, operated since 1927. Halfway between Turkey and Quitaque, more nostalgic entertainment awaits at the Midway Drive-In, a 1950s outdoor picture show.



Bob Wills Museum, Turkey

VEGA

In the 1920s, Route 66 offered Americans a new way to discover the country. The “Mother Road” went from Chicago to Los Angeles, passing through the Texas Panhandle. At Vega, travelers stopped for gas at the Magnolia Station, built in 1924. The restored station is now a drive-by attraction located next to the Oldham County Courthouse.

Another Route 66 attraction lies 14 miles west at Adrian, located at the midpoint of the historic route. A replica of a period American Automobile Association (AAA) sign, proclaims “1,139 miles to Chicago — 1,139 miles to Los Angeles.” Across the street is the 1928 Mid Point Cafe, where locals and tourists mix over pie and coffee.

WELLINGTON

Tourists detour here to see mementos left behind by the criminal duo Bonnie and Clyde. In 1933, a speeding car with Bonnie Parker, Clyde Barrow and his brother Buck, plunged into the nearby Salt Fork of the Red River. The outlaws kidnapped responding lawmen, but left behind a clip from Clyde’s gun and a glove from Bonnie’s right hand. Both are at the Collingsworth County Museum. The museum preserves a wide variety of unusual county artifacts — from early highway survey equipment to a rare leather license plate.



Ozark Trails marker, Wellington



Caprock Canyon State Park and Trailway

Endless horizons, frontier folklore
and Texas hospitality — weave
through the historic fabric of the
Texas Plains Trail Region.

GET YOUR KICKS
ON ROUTE 66

The spirit of Route 66 is alive in Texas. Stretching from Chicago to Los Angeles, the “Mother Road” offered Americans a new way to discover the country by car. From 1926 to 1970, Texas’ mystique prompted travelers to set their sights on the Lone Star State. Small towns provided Texas hospitality at roadside cafes and charming motor lodges. Progress left many Route 66 towns in the dust, but the soul of a bygone era is still found in the winks and nods of folks in places like McLean, Adrian and Shamrock. For those who feel the urge to “go somewhere,” the Mother Road will forever be calling.



THE
MOTHER
ROAD



Buddy Holly Museum, Lubbock

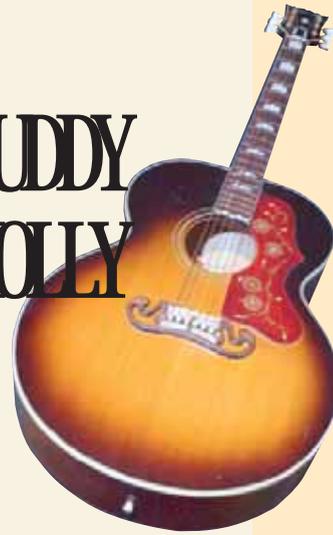
*Cadillac Ranch is located
on historic Route 66 in Amarillo.*



“Texas Legacies” at Palo Duro Canyon State Park

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

BUDDY
HOLLY



FROM BOB WILLIS
SWING TO BUDDY
HOLLY BE-BOP

From Western Swing to Rock ‘n’ Roll, the wide-open spaces of the Panhandle Plains ring with music history. This tradition keeps beating on with numerous festivals held around the region. To order a free copy of *Sites & Sounds: A Texas Music Road Trip*, please write to TxDOT, Travel Division, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249.

- Bob Wills Day, Turkey, April
- Lubbock Music Festival, Lubbock, Labor Day Weekend
- Mobeetie Music Festival, Mobeetie, July
- “Texas Legacies,” Canyon, June–August
- Tule Creek Bluegrass Festival, Tulia, July
- West Texas Western Swing Music Festival, Snyder, June

REGIONAL STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES

Travelers to the Texas Plains Trail Region can visit the area's beautiful parks and historic sites owned and operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife. For more information on the following sites, please call 800.792.1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

- Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon
- Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, Quitaque
- Copper Breaks State Park, Quanah
- Big Spring State Park, Big Spring
- Lake Colorado City State Park, Colorado City



Visitors to Palo Duro Canyon enjoy scenic vistas and colorful wildflowers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Texas Historical Commission offers free travel brochures on the real people and real places that shaped Texas history.

To request copies, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel or call 866.276.6219.



TEXAS MAIN STREET CITIES

Visitors can stroll the sidewalks and peruse shops in one of the region's eight Texas Main Street cities. Partnering with the Texas Historical Commission, these communities work to revitalize their historic commercial area, which is often the heart of a town.

- Amarillo
- Canyon
- Colorado City
- Levelland
- Plainview
- Post
- Quanah
- Spur

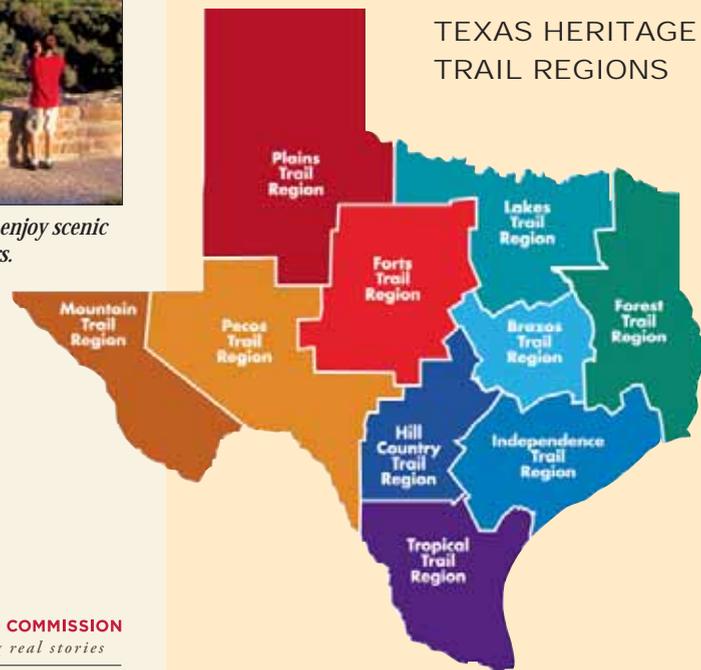


TEXAS SPUR NEWSPAPER

Parade in downtown Spur

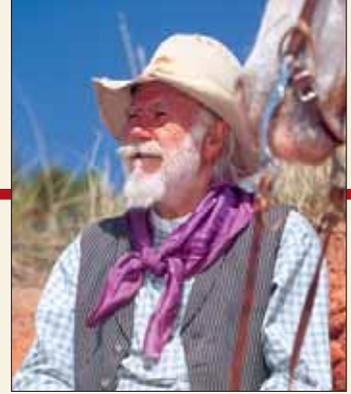


TEXAS HERITAGE TRAIL REGIONS



COMMUNITIES IN THE TEXAS PLAINS TRAIL REGION

For more information on the sites in this brochure, and other communities in the region, refer to the *Texas State Travel Guide* or contact the sources listed below for site locations and hours, as well as details about events and other local attractions. Many information centers are closed weekends; please contact in advance. To obtain a free *Texas State Travel Guide*, call 800.8888.TEX or visit www.TravelTex.com.



AMARILLO
Convention & Visitors Bureau
800.692.1338
www.visitamarillotx.com

BIG SPRING
Chamber of Commerce
800.734.7641
www.bigspringchamber.com

BORGER
Chamber of Commerce
806.274.2211
www.borger.com

BOYS RANCH
Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
806.372.2341
www.calfarley.org

BROWNFIELD
Chamber of Commerce
806.637.2564
www.brownfieldchamber.com

CANADIAN
Chamber of Commerce
806.323.6234
www.canadiantx.com

CANYON
Chamber of Commerce
800.999.9481
www.canyonchamber.org

CHILDRESS
Chamber of Commerce
940.937.2567
www.childresstexas.net

CLARENDON
Chamber of Commerce
806.874.2421
www.clarendonedc.org

CLAUDE
Armstrong County Museum
806.226.2187

COLORADO CITY
Chamber of Commerce
325.728.3403
www.coloradocitychamber-ofcommerce.com

CROSBYTON
Chamber of Commerce
806.675.2261
www.crosbyton-tx.com

DALHART
Chamber of Commerce
806.244.5646
www.dalhart.org

DIMMIT
Chamber of Commerce
806.647.2524

DUMAS
Chamber of Commerce
806.935.2123
www.dumaschamber.com

FLOYDADA
Chamber of Commerce
806.983.3434
www.floydadachamber.com

FRITCH
City Hall
806.857.3143

HALE CENTER
Chamber of Commerce
806.839.2642
www.angelfire.com/tx3/hale-center/index.html

HEREFORD
Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce
806.364.3333
www.herefordtx.org

LAMESA
Chamber of Commerce
806.872.2181
www.pics.net/~lamesaedc/ledcmain.html

LIPSCOMB
Wolf Creek Heritage Museum
806.852.2123
www.wolfcreekheritagemuseum.com

LUBBOCK
Convention & Visitors Bureau
800.692.4035
www.visitlubbock.org

MATADOR
Motley County Chamber of Commerce
806.347.2968
www.motleycountychamber.org

MCLEAN
City Hall
806.779.2481
www.mcleantexas.com

MIAMI
Economic Development Corporation
806.868.2202
www.miamitexas.org

MOBEETIE
City Hall
806.845.3581

MORTON
Chamber of Commerce
806.266.5200

MULESHOE
Chamber of Commerce
806.272.4248
www.muleshoe.org

PAMPA
Chamber of Commerce
806.669.3241
www.coc.pampa.com

HIGH PLAINS



Childress County Heritage Museum



*Buffalo Soldier reenactor
at Lubbock's National Ranching
Heritage Center*



PANHANDLE
Chamber of Commerce
806.537.4325

PERRYTON
Chamber of Commerce
806.435.6575
www.perryton.org

PLAINVIEW
Chamber of Commerce
800.658.2685
www.plainviewtex.com

POST
Commerce and Tourism Bureau
806.495.3461

QUANAH
Chamber of Commerce
940.663.2222

QUITAQUE
Chamber of Commerce
806.455.1456
www.quitaque.org

SEAGRAVES
Chamber of Commerce
806.546.2609

SEMINOLE
Chamber of Commerce
432.758.2352
www.seminoletxchamber.org

SHAMROCK
Chamber of Commerce
806.256.2501
www.shamrocktx.net

SILVERTON
City Hall
806.823.2125

SLATON
Chamber of Commerce
806.828.6238
www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org

SNYDER
Chamber of Commerce
325.573.3558
www.snyderchamber.org

SPEARMAN
Chamber of Commerce
806.659.5555
www.spearman.org

SPUR
Chamber of Commerce
806.271.3363
web.caprock-spur.com/
-chamber/

TAHOKA
City Hall
806.561.4211
www.tahokatx.com

TULIA
Chamber of Commerce
806.995.2296
www.tuliachamberofcommerce.com

TURKEY
Chamber of Commerce
806.423.1033
www.turkeytexas.com

VEGA
Oldham County Chamber
of Commerce
806.267.2828
www.oldhamcofc.org

WELLINGTON
Collingsworth Chamber
of Commerce
806.447.5848

WHEELER
Chamber of Commerce
806.826.3408
www.wheelertexas.com



*Elkins Ranch, outside Palo Duro
Canyon State Park, offers authentic
chuck wagon cookouts.*



*Hale County Farm and
Ranch Museum, Hale Center*



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

www.thc.state.tx.us/travel
www.texasplainstrail.com

The Texas Historical Commission promotes the highest national standards for historic preservation and does not endorse the relocation of historic structures without thorough documentation of the building on its original site. The professional processes required for such action are intended to record and preserve historic properties for the full enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

All photos by Randy Mallory unless otherwise credited.

Wheeler County Courthouse, Wheeler



TEXASCOURTHOUSES.COM

TEXAS PLAINS TRAIL

R E G I O N

This travel guide is made possible through the Texas Historical Commission's partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, Office of the Governor – Economic Development and Tourism, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Texas Historical Commission, the state agency for historic preservation, administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program

The Texas Historical Commission is a leader in implementing and promoting heritage tourism efforts in Texas. The Texas Heritage Trails Program is the agency's award-winning tourism initiative.

For additional copies of this brochure, call 866.276.6219.



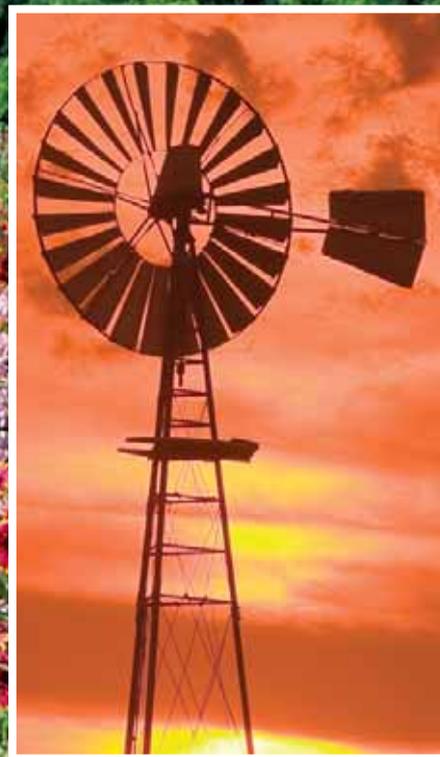
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE 512.463.6100 • FAX 512.475.8222
www.thc.state.tx.us



I t's like a whole other country.

Funding provided through TxDOT's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program
Copyright © 2006, Texas Historical Commission. Printed in Texas. 2/06-450M
Background photo credit: Wyman Meinzer



EXPLORING THE HERITAGE OF THE PANHANDLE PLAINS