
Title: **Bankhead history tour goes mobile**
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PARKER COUNTY

Bankhead history tour goes mobile

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Relive the original Texas road trip and travel through time with the Texas Historical Commission's new mobile tour, "Historic Bankhead Highway."

In the early and mid-1900s, the Bankhead Highway linked the U.S. from San Diego to Washington, D.C. The tour features an interactive map, videos, and photos from more than 200 sites in 31 cities and towns between El Paso and Texarkana. Users can revisit familiar places like Dallas' Fair Park and discover nostalgic gems among the vintage diners, cafes, motels, hotels, museums, and attractions along the roughly 850-mile route. Here are three destinations to explore on the next adventure.

At the turn of the 19th century, Arlington was an agricultural marketplace known for its medicinal mineral waters. The arrival of the Bankhead Highway in the 1920s connected Dallas to Fort Worth through Arlington, and the city grew rapidly as a destination for tourism and manufacturing. Top O'Hill Terrace opened during the Prohibition era as a restaurant and tea room. However, the legitimate businesses operated alongside a covert casino and brothel until closed by the Texas Rangers

in 1947. The property is now home to Arlington Baptist College, and public tours are available to view many of the original structures still on the property.

Foodies and gearheads can experience the best of both worlds at the Vintage Grill and Car Museum in Weatherford. Located in the original McDavid dealership, visitors can dine on southern cuisine and explore the museum's collection of vintage cars, including two that belonged to President Lyndon B. Johnson.

If looking for a last-minute weekend escape, take a trip west to Big Spring for a range of Bankhead Highway highlights. The Municipal Auditorium and City Hall have been an integral part of Big Spring community life since 1932 and hosted concerts by Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. Other tour stops showcase the car culture that developed along the route.

"Historic Bankhead Highway" is free and available at <http://texastimetravel.com/get-guides>. The tour joins the THC's additional mobile tours, "African Americans in Texas" and "Red River War of 1874-1875: Clash of Cultures in the Texas Panhandle," allowing users to plan engaging trips to connect with Texas heritage and history.

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FILE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Bankhead Highway runs through Parker County and includes one of the longest stretches in the nation still going by that name. This abandoned stretch is south of Willow Park.