

# WEST TEXAS REGIONAL TOUR

## TOUR THE FRONTIER OF TEXAS

### *Day 1* *Abilene*

Begin your tour at **Frontier Texas!** and meet – at least figuratively – some of the real people who lived and died on the Texas frontier between 1780 and 1880. **The Grace Museum** houses three museums: a historical museum, the active children's museum and art museum. Next door is the **National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature**, the first of its kind in the nation, which features art exhibits from children's books. The **12th Armored Division Memorial Museum** displays and interprets the Division's historical collection. Lunch, shopping and galleries fill the downtown. Tour the **Paramount Theater** and **Center for Contemporary Arts**. **Feed a giraffe at the Abilene Zoo**. The Zoo features a wetlands exhibit, discovery center, creepy crawler exhibit and black rhinos. For dinner, fill up on local flavor with **great BBQ, ribs and steaks**.

### *Day 2* *Abilene*

Optional tours of boots, saddles and custom-made hats can be arranged. Depart for **Buffalo Gap Historic Village**, just 8 miles south of Abilene, and experience the last fifty years of the Texas Frontier. Explore the original Taylor County Courthouse and jail, historic collections, plus 20 buildings from the founding of the area. Enjoy lunch at **Perini Ranch Steakhouse**, a true Texas favorite! See longhorns and buffalo at the **Abilene State Park**.

*Depart Abilene for Lubbock*

Along the way, be amazed by the miles of wind power generators. This is the largest concentration of them in the world! Stop in Snyder, home of the White Buffalo, to enjoy lunch and the pleasures of a small family ranch at **Windmill Ranch Preserve**. Take a wagon ride to a prairie dog town and enjoy the antics of these famous prairie animals. Then continue the scenic drive to Post, founded by the cereal magnate C.W. Post. This Texas Main Street City is located on the edge of the Llano Estacado Caprock. While you are here, enjoy a performance at **Ragtown Gospel Theater**, tour the **Garza County Museum** or view the personal world art collections of rancher Giles McCrary at the **OS Museum**. Have an afternoon tea and coffee break on the patio of the historic **Hotel Garza**. Continue on to Lubbock to check into your hotel and enjoy a traditional western meal with the locals at **Cagle Steaks**.

### *Lubbock*

Revisit the West this morning at the **National Ranching Heritage Center**, where the story of ranching in North America is told through 47 authentic structures such as dugouts, bunkhouses, ranch headquarters and much more. The galleries feature rotating exhibits of western art and artifacts. Have lunch at **Gardski's**, a 1920's Tudor-style home which features unique historic photographs of Lubbock. After lunch, tour the **American Wind Power Center**, with over 120 rare and fully restored windmills (and a modern wind power turbine) and learn how they helped to settle the west by providing water in this arid landscape. Dinner is your choice.

### *Day 3* *Lubbock*

Make a landing at the **Silent Wings Museum** and hear the stories of the U.S. Combat Glider Pilots and their crucial roles in World War II. The museum features one of the few fully restored World War II gliders in existence. At the **Buddy Holly Center**, take part in the 50th Anniversary of "The Day the Music Died." Relive the childhood and all too short career of Lubbock's hometown musical legend, followed by a lunch at **La Diosa Cellars** in the Depot Entertainment District. Spend your afternoon touring the wineries of the South Plains and sampling the products of **Cap Rock or Llano Winery**.

*Depart Lubbock for Midland*

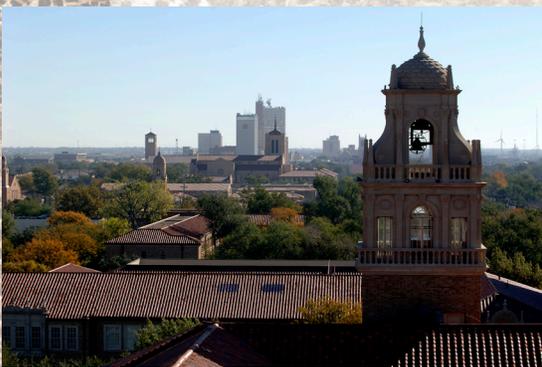


Photo by Artie Limmer

## Midland

Arrive in Midland to a **Red Carpet Welcome Reception** followed by a nature walk and lesson at **Sibley Nature Center**. Enjoy nature trails and examine wildlife habitats at this center for environmental education. We will then tour the **American Airpower Heritage Museum**, including the world's largest collection of aviation nose art from planes flown in World War II. Wind down with a barbecue dinner at **The Hog Pit Pub & Grub** (where the ribs literally fall off the bone) and line dancing lessons.

## Day 4 Midland

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel, then tour the **Bush Childhood Home** where we will explore the lives and home of two presidents, two governors, and two first ladies. Next we will tour the **Museum of the Southwest** to view exhibits of art and archeology. Then on to the **Haley Library** for a lesson in Texas history. Afterward, tour the **Permian Basin Petroleum Museum** and experience Midland's past through interactive exhibits. We will have a catered lunch, then explore the world's largest collection of antique drilling equipment.

*Depart Midland for San Angelo*

## San Angelo

Tour the **International Lily Garden**, a brilliant display of lilies from around the world. Mosey on down San Angelo's portion of the **Bootmaker Trail**, making stops at famed custom boot makers; ML Leddy, Brest Boots & JL Mercer. Learn about boot, saddle and chaps making. Our next stop is at **Legend Jewelers** where we learn about the Concho Pearl, unique to our lakes & rivers in a 50 mile radius of San Angelo. Next door is **Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum**. The ladies of Miss Hattie's entertained San Angelo's gentleman for 50 years before being closed by Texas Rangers in 1946. Spend your afternoon shopping in the historic downtown, taking in the historic murals and our wonderful **San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts**. End your day at **Fort Concho**. After your tour, experience an authentic Dutch oven dinner prepared by Fiddle Fire.



Photo by Wes Aldridge, courtesy of Journal Communications Inc.

## Day 5 San Angelo

Depart for Paint Rock to see **Indian Pictographs**. Afterwards, make a quick stop at **Ingrid's Hand Woven Rugs**. **Aermotor Windmill** has made windmills since 1888 & is the only windmill manufacturer in the USA. Our next stop is the **Chicken Farm Art Center** where you will take in unique collections of studios & galleries.

*Depart to return home*

*For more information, to book this tour or create a custom itinerary, please contact:*

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