

Heart of Texas- Retiree Itinerary

Just off I-, in the east part of the region, sits a rural area known for its cowboys, pecans, trains and most importantly Dr. Pepper. Explore what Stephenville, Dublin, De Leon, Brownwood and San Saba have to offer starting with the Cowboy Capital of the World.

Stephenville

Because of the number of world champion cowboy residents, Stephenville is known as the “Cowboy Capital of the World.” It’s only right that they recognize the significance of this with their very own **Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame**. You may not recognize many of the names, but they encompass the western spirit and passion of the professional cowboy. Taking some time to stroll down the walk of fame is the perfect way to enjoy historic downtown Stephenville.

Your next stop is the **Stephenville Museum** nestled right off Washington Street. The museum consists of 12 buildings filled with artifacts and period furniture from Stephenville and Erath County. Take some time to step back in time and walk through the grounds to see log cabins, a ranch house, a chapel and even an old fashioned outhouse.

Dublin

Next travel southwest on US-377 to fill your tank (stomach) at **Old Doc’s Soda Shop** in Dublin. Their sodas are made with pure cane sugar which makes all the difference. The best part about Old Doc’s, is they allow taste testing! If you’re really feeling like a rebel, add ice cream to your soda of choice to make a float, you won’t be disappointed. Their lunch menu is also delicious, so don’t fill up on sodas and ice cream if you can help it.

Continue your sugar high at **Dublin Bottling Works**. This family owned business knows what they are doing, as they are the oldest soda bottling factory in Texas and have been around for more than 120 years. **Dublin Bottling Works** is famous for being the first facility to ever bottle Dr. Pepper and even though they don’t bottle it anymore, the cherry flavored soda is still a huge part of the history of the company. Carve a few moments out to take their tour and see one of the world’s largest collections of soda memorabilia.

Now that you’re all sugared up, head over to the **Ben Hogan Museum**. Not only is Dublin the former home of the original Dr. Pepper, but it’s also the birthplace of the one and only Ben Hogan. Ben was born in Dublin in 1912 and from there became one of the best golfers the world has ever seen. See the story of the life of Ben Hogan told through memorabilia, video interviews and massive storyboards at the museum.

The **Dublin Historical Museum** is the next stop on the list. This museum has a wonderful collection of Dublin memorabilia and history. See things like a wooden wagon, comic book collection, more exhibits on Ben Hogan, antique signs and more!

De Leon

Rest your feet on the car ride to De Leon, just west of Dublin off TX-6 to see the **Terrill Antique Car Museum**. Just up the street from the old train depot is the Terrill Antique Car Museum, which houses a variety of classic cars. One of the exclusive cars in the collection is the 1901 Coffin Steam Carriage, which

was the only one ever made. Other cars at the museum include a 1909 Brush Runabout, a 1915 REO Speedwagon and 1925 Ford Model T Touring. After taking a step back in time at the museum, load up and head south on TX-16 to Comanche to get an afternoon snack at **Durham-Ellis Pecan Company**.

Comanche

Tucked snugly away in the hills of Comanche County is the **Durham-Ellis Pecan Company**. Since 1928, they have been providing the freshest pecans in the area, and they pride themselves on the quality of all of their products. Stop in and taste their variety of nuts and grab some to take home and share with your friends and family who couldn't make the trip!

Next, check out the **Comanche County Historical Museum**. This rustic building holds artifacts from Comanche and the surrounding towns. Exhibits include a blacksmith shop, filling station, doctor's office and even a replica of the saloon where notorious outlaw and gunslinger John Wesley Hardin killed a deputy in 1874.

Your stomach is probably growling after your afternoon adventures, so stop into **Star Beau's** for some good old fashioned food. If you love sourdough bread, make sure you try one of their sandwiches. Oh, and be sure to save room for pie, It's just as good as the ones your grandmother used to make! Once you've rested up and filled your stomach, head to **Brennan Vineyard** for a wine tasting.

Brennan Vineyards is in one of the oldest homes in west-central Texas, the McCrary House. The house was built in 1876 by James Madison McCrary out of limestone from around the Austin area. The beautiful house now holds a tasting room for the delicious wines from the vineyard and the adjacent Austin House is a spacious event center. Stop by and see the breathtaking landscapes of Comanche County while enjoying what are sure to become some of your favorite wines.

Dublin

After the wine tasting, head to **Patrick Street Inn Bed and Breakfast** to rest up for your next fun filled day. Step back in time in this Victorian style bed and breakfast and leave your worries at the door. Enjoy the relaxing peace and quiet, wake up refreshed and eat a homemade breakfast on their second story porch overlooking beautiful pecan trees.

Comanche

Before you leave town the next morning, make sure to stop by the **Fleming Oak** in the southwest corner of the **Comanche Courthouse Square**. This big, beautiful oak tree was spared in the mid-1800s when the tree was threatened to be cut down for the paving of a town square. Martin Flemming saved the tree because it once saved him from a band of hostile Indians. The tree now stands taller than ever and pays tribute to the former Texas Ranger and Confederate soldier.

Brownwood

The next town on the trip is just about half an hour north east on US-377. First, stop by Comanche's **Santa Fe Depot** and **Harvey House**. The **Harvey House** is home to the **Brownwood Visitors Center** so you can pick up some brochures while you're there and the Brownwood store where you can browse Texas themed gifts. Upstairs you can tour the **Gordon Hall of Champions**, named after the renowned

Texas high school Coach Gordon Wood. The Hall even includes a reenacted dorm room from the famous Harvey Girls.

Learn more about the history of Brownwood at the **Brown County Historical Museum**. The outside of the building will definitely catch your eye because it looks like a castle, but the inside is just as cool. This four-story building is full of intriguing traveling and permanent exhibits covering local history.

This museum is all about trains, trains, and more trains! The **Lehnis Railroad Museum** encompasses the railroad history of Brownwood and the great American Southwest with the sights and sounds of trains. Exhibits include railroad lanterns, model trains of all sizes and ages, railroad equipment, interactive telegraph equipment, railroad videos, and lots of photographs.

Now that you've worked up your appetite, head on over to the most unique place to eat in Brownwood - **Runaway Train Café**. You'll know you've arrived when you get there because it's in a real life train car! When you walk through the door, it looks like you've stepped into an authentic dining car on a train. The staff is always friendly, and their food is always fresh, so take up a seat at the old-fashioned ice cream bar and grab a delicious burger and fries.

Cross Plains

Your last stop on your trip is about 30 minutes north of Brownwood in Cross Plains. The **Robert E. Howard Museum** came to be in 1989 when Project Pride, a community organization bought the Howard House, restored it and made it into a museum. Howard, one of the world's most highly acclaimed writers of fantasy and adventure, pounded out stories of many genres in the little, white house on the western edge of Cross Plains, where he lived with his parents from 1919 until his death in 1936. Although he created many other characters, Conan the Barbarian has probably become Howard's most well-known conquering hero.

Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame
187 West Washington, Stephenville, Texas 76401
(254) 965-5313
www.cowboycapitalprcarodeo.com/walk-of-fame/

Stephenville Museum
525 East Washington Street, Stephenville, Texas 76401
(254) 965-5880
www.stephenvillemuseum.org/index.html
Donations appreciated

Old Doc's Soda Shop
105 E Elm St, Dublin, TX 76446
(254) 445-3939

Dublin Bottling Works
221 S Patrick St, Dublin, TX 76446
(254) 445-3466
www.dublinbottlingworks.com

Ben Hogan Museum
121 E Blackjack St, Dublin, TX 76446
(254) 445-4466
www.benhoganmuseum.org/

Dublin Historical Museum
116 West Blackjack, Dublin, Texas 76446
(254) 445-4550

Terrill Antique Car Museum
500 N. Texas St, De Leon, Texas 76444
(254) 893-3773
www.deleontexas.com/chamber/tacar.php

Durham-Ellis Pecan Company
308 South Houston, Comanche, TX 76442
(800) 732-2629
www.durhampecan.com/

Comanche County Historical Museum
402 Moorman Rd, Comanche, TX 76442
(325) 356-5115
www.comanchecountytxmuseum.com/

Star Beau's
134 W Central Ave, Comanche, TX 76442
(325) 356-2869

Brennan Vineyards
802 S Austin St, Comanche, TX 76442
(325) 356-9100
www.brennanvineyards.com/

Patrick Street Inn Bed and Breakfast
512 N Patrick St, Dublin, TX 76446
(254) 445-4922
www.patrickstreetinn.com/

Fleming Oak 101 West Central Avenue, Comanche, Texas 76442

Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House
600 East Depot Street, Brownwood, Texas 76804
(325) 646-9535

Brown County Historical Museum
212 North Broadway, Brownwood, Texas
76801 325-641-1926
www.browncountymuseum.org/

The Martin & Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum
700 E Adams St, Brownwood, TX 76801
(325) 643-6376
www.brownwoodtexas.gov/228/Lehnis-Railroad-Museum

Runaway Train Cafe
3600 Stephen F Austin Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801
(325) 646-3333
www.runawaytraincafe.com

Robert E. Howard Museum
625 West Highway 36, Cross Plains, Texas 76443
(254) 725-6562
www.crossplains.tx.com/howard/museum.htm