

Heart of Texas- Young Couples & Friends Itinerary

Just off I-20 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**, which is 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.

After you’ve worked up an appetite walking around the museum and walk of fame, head to **Hard 8 BBQ**. You’ll know your close when you start to smell the amazing bbq aromas in the air. Yes, you’ll get your typical BBQ entrees and sides and the juicy flavor of the meat will not disappoint. Make sure you save room for their peach cobbler, it’s simply to die for.

Dublin

Next, travel southwest on US-377 to Dublin, Texas to **Dublin Bottling Works**. This family owned business certainly 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 famous Texas soda is still a huge part of the history of the company. The company offers a tour where you will see one of the world’s largest collections of soda memorabilia.

Not only is Dublin the former home of the original Dr. Pepper, 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. You can see the story of the life of Ben Hogan told through memorabilia, video interviews and a massive storyboards at the **Ben Hogan Museum**.

If you’re not already all sugared up from your visit to **Dublin Bottling Works**, grab dinner at the one and only **Old Doc’s Soda Shop**. Their sodas, just like **Dublin Bottling Works** are made with pure cane sugar and this makes all the difference for an unforgettable taste. The best part about Old Doc’s, is they allow taste testing, allowing you to experience a wide variety of flavors. 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.

After dinner, 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

After your time in Dublin, head southwest on US-377 to the small town of 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!

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.

After hanging out in the old Comanche Saloon replica, head over to the southwest corner of the Comanche Courthouse Square and see the **Fleming Oak**. 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.

Your stomach will probably be growling after your morning adventures, so stop into **Star Beau's** for some good old fashioned lunch. 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 to enjoy what is sure to become some of your favorite wine while taking in the breathtaking landscapes of Comanche County

Brownwood

After grabbing a couple of bottles of wine to take home, make your way down US-377 to Brownwood. Your first stop is the historic **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.

Your next stop is the **Lehnis Railroad Museum** which is right across the street. The museum encompasses the rail 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.

The last stop of the night is the **Brown County Historical Museum**. The outside wall 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. There is also a children's area at the museum that you won't want to overlook.

Relax after your long, adventurous day and enjoy dinner at **The Turtle Restaurant**. They pride

themselves on their slow cooked, fresh food and want their customers to slow down while eating to

have conversation centered meals with friends and family. Their menu changes with the seasons but you can certainly find something for everyone regardless of the time of the year. **The Turtle Restaurant** is also home to the **Gelateria**, so stop on your way out and take some gelato to go.

Kick your feet up and decompress at the **Star of Texas Bed and Breakfast** just 4 miles north of Brownwood. The Bed and Breakfast sits on a secluded 20 acres and lets you truly enjoy nature. Spend the end of the night or the beginning of your day sitting on the porch taking in all the sights and sounds of the great outdoors.

San Saba

After breakfast is brought to your door at 9:00 a.m. get ready for your day and head south on FM 45, then to US-190 E to the town of San Saba and the **San Saba County Historical Museum**. Step back in time and walk into Grandma's Attic, Grandpa's Tack Room or stand at the window of the original post office. If you have time, ask for a guided tour and tour guides will provide a memorable experience on your visit.

If you love the outdoor and leisurely riding your bike, the **San Saba Bicycles Trails** are the perfect outdoor adventure for you. There are six trails offered from beginner to advanced levels and the routes will take you through the scenic countryside of central west Texas. It is the perfect way to end your weekend getaway.

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

Hard 8 BBQ 1091 Glen Rose Rd, Stephenville, TX 76401
(254) 968-5552
www.hardeightbbq.com/index.html

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/

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

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

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/

Fleming Oak
101 West Central Avenue, Comanche, Texas 76442

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/

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

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

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

The Turtle Restaurant
514 Center Ave, Brownwood, TX 76801
(325) 646-8200
www.theturtlerestaurant.com/

Star of Texas Bed and Breakfast
650 Morelock Ln, Brownwood, TX 76801
(325) 646-4128
www.star-of-texas.com/

San Saba County Historical Museum
271 S. Thomas Stewart Dr, San Saba, Texas 76877 www.sansabamuseum.org/home

San Saba Bicycle Trails
San Saba Chamber of Commerce,
302 East Wallace, San Saba, Texas 76877
(325) 372-5141