

## Concho City Area- Family Itinerary

The southwest region of the Texas Forts Trail holds many of the region's hidden treasures. San Angelo rests in the midst of West Texas and is a vibrant community with sites and attractions for everyone. Explore the many family-friendly activities San Angelo has to offer by starting with the **San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts**.

### San Angelo

Right off the Concho River near downtown San Angelo is the **San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts**. This uniquely shaped building houses permanent as well as traveling exhibits, but don't forget to see the rooftop sculpture terrace overlooking the river for one breathtaking view.

Next, take the **Sheep Tour**. Yes, that's right. Around the city of San Angelo, sheep statues brighten up the streets by displaying the work of local artists on the sheep. Each sheep is uniquely designed and can only be seen in San Angelo – making this one of the most unique sights of the Texas Forts Trail.

While you're walking around looking for sheep, stop by **Eggemyer's General Store** downtown. They pride themselves on providing an extraordinary shopping experience that even those who hate shopping will enjoy. The Eggemyer family takes great pride in their work, and you can see that throughout the entirety of the store. It won't be easy to get the kids out of here, but you can tempt them with a juicy and flavorful burger from **Twisted Root**.

**Twisted Root Burger Company** boasts great tasting burgers with an even better atmosphere. This is your chance to fill up your tank (stomach) before heading to the **San Angelo Nature Center**.

The Nature Center is home to a variety of animals that are native to the southwest as well as several educational exhibits. The cozy building houses many species, and if you're lucky, they'll let you pet a skunk, a prairie dog, or a snake. Group interpretive sessions are interactive and staff members are available to answer questions you might have about the animals at the Center. If you have time, just outside the nature center is the dock of the **Tule Princess Steamboat**. The steamboat offers you a chance to experience the Concho River on the only full sized Walking Beam Steam Engine powered Side Wheel Paddle Steamboat anywhere in the world.

After visiting with the native animals of the southwest, make your way to Civic League Park to see the breathtaking, premier **International Water Lily Collection**. Ken Landon put his heart and soul into the collection and prides himself on preserving the heritage of waterlilies for generations to come. If you have time, stop by the park at different times of the day to see the changes that the waterlilies go through.

Head on over to **Fort Concho** for a guided or self-tour of the national historic landmark. Despite its closure in 1889, surviving structures include twenty-three original buildings, now restored and preserved as a National Historic Landmark. Barracks, headquarters, the hospital, and officer residences serve as a museum, exhibit halls and visitor center. The landmark Fort also hosts a re-creation of Company A of the 10th Cavalry, the infamous Buffalo Soldier regiment comprised entirely of African American enlisted men. Reenactments, performed by volunteers, include uniforms and procedures accurate to the period. Make sure to check their calendar of events throughout the year to catch one of their lively festivals and celebrations. The kids will love being immersed in what it was like to live on a

frontier fort and the openness of the central west Texas Country side.

Next stop is the **Angelo State University Planetarium**. This is your chance to see space like you've never seen it before. See over 500 million stars and celestial objects in HD projected on the dome ceiling.

After exploring the universe from the edge of your seat, take a break at **Paisano Restaurant** and enjoy their delicious, authentic Mexican food. It may be a hole in the wall, but the food will transport you and your taste buds to a five-star atmosphere.

Next, head southwest on US-67 N to **San Angelo State Park**. The group bunkhouses will allow you to enjoy the outdoors while not exactly roughing it. Plus, you can wake up the next morning and get right to exploring the park.

After your morning hike, make your way to **The Bosque on the Concho**. This brand new miniature golf course is sure to keep the kids busy for a while. Other activities available are paddle boarding, chess, bocce ball, sand volleyball, and washers. If you have little ones, you can also stop by the huge **Kids Kingdom** playground.

### **Paint Rock**

Stop on your way out of town and grab a bite to eat before you take a road trip to the **Paint Rock Indian Pictographs**. From San Angelo, go north on US-67 to Ballinger, then head south on US-83 for 16 miles. There, just north of the town of Paint Rock is one of Texas' great pictograph collections. A half-mile of limestone cliffs features scattered, colorful illustrations of animal and human figures, geometric shapes and handprints. Through the years, it has been vandalized and weathered but it is estimated that some of the oldest pictographs date back over a thousand years.

### **Bronte**

After stopping to see the pictographs, head north on US-83, then west on TX-158 to the city of Bronte and home of **Fort Chadbourne**. There may not be much around the fort, but the drive is worth it. This registered national historic site is not known for its short 16-year military history, but for providing a safe stopover for the Butterfield Overland Mail Company in a hostile area for many years. As the area became farmland, the buildings crumbled and the site was in ruins by the late 1900s.

Since being taken over by the **Fort Chadbourne** Foundation, most of the site has been restored or reconstructed and over 500,000 artifacts have been recovered to help tell the tale of the fort and the region to its visitors. Tour the grounds and let the kids run around before getting in the car for the drive home. This time at the fort will wear them out as there is so much countryside to enjoy.

Now that you've seen one of Texas' biggest pictographs collections, explored the universe, forts and the animals of the Southwest, it's time to get back to reality. Don't forget; there are still more forts to see and more adventure to be had along the rest of the Texas Forts Trail.

San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts  
1 Love St, San Angelo, TX 76903  
(325) 653-3333

[www.samfa.org](http://www.samfa.org)

Admission: Adults: \$2.00

Children accompanied by an adult (18 and under): FREE

Seniors: \$1.00

Members, Military, Angelo State University and San Angelo ISD SU students are FREE.

San Angelo Sheep Tour

[www.downtownsanangelo.com/sheeptour.php](http://www.downtownsanangelo.com/sheeptour.php)

Eggemeyer's General Store

35 E Concho Ave, San Angelo, TX 76903

(325) 655-1166

[www.eggmeyers.com](http://www.eggmeyers.com)

Twisted Root Burger Company

333 S Chadbourne St, San Angelo, TX 76903

(325) 653-7668

[www.twistedrootburgerco.com/sanangelo](http://www.twistedrootburgerco.com/sanangelo)

San Angelo Nature Center

7409 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, Texas 76904

(325)-942-0121

[www.cosatx.us/departments-services/nature-center](http://www.cosatx.us/departments-services/nature-center)

Admission: Ages 13 and older - \$3

Ages 4 - 12 - \$2

Age 3 and younger – free

Tule Princess Steamboat Co.

7407 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, TX 76904

(325) 340-4400

[www.tuleprincess.com/index.html](http://www.tuleprincess.com/index.html)

Admission: Adult- \$15

Military, Military Spouses & Senior Fare - \$13.00

Youth (age 9-17)- \$9.00

Child (age 2-8)- \$1.00 per age

Children under 2 yrs old- free.

International Waterlily Collection

2 S Park St, San Angelo, TX 76903

(325) 657-4450

[www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com](http://www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com)

Fort Concho

630 S Oakes St, San Angelo, TX 76903

(325) 481-2646

[www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com)

Self-Guided tours: Adults \$3

Seniors and military \$2

Children ages 7 - 17

Ages 6 & under Free  
Guided Tours (Saturday & Sunday): Adults \$5  
Seniors and military \$4  
Children ages 7 – 17 \$3  
6 & under Free

Angelo State University Planetarium  
Vince Nursing-Physical Science Building 2333  
Vanderventer Ave, San Angelo, TX  
(325) 942-2136  
[www.angelo.edu/dept/physics/planetarium.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/physics/planetarium.php)

Paisano Restaurant  
1406 S Chadbourne St, San Angelo, TX 76903  
(325) 659-8529

San Angelo State Park  
3900 Mercedes Road, San Angelo, TX 76901  
(325) 949-4757  
[www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/san-angelo](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/san-angelo)

The Bosque on the Concho  
393 South Irving Street, San Angelo, Texas 76903

Kids Kingdom  
290 West River Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903

Paint Rock Indian Pictographs  
Highway 83, 16 miles south of Ballinger Paint Rock, Texas 76866

Fort Chadbourne  
651 Fort Chadbourne Rd, Bronte, TX 76933  
(325) 743-2555  
[www.fortchadbourne.org](http://www.fortchadbourne.org)  
Admission is free, but they suggest an \$8.00 donation per person