

Concho City Area- Retiree 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 all of the activities and attractions San Angelo has to offer by starting with the **International Waterlily Collection** at Civic League Park.

San Angelo

Ken Landon put his heart and soul into this breathtaking 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.

On your next stop, you'll enjoy a couple of the treasures of San Angelo, the Concho River, and Lake Nasworthy. **Tule Princess Steamboat Co.** allows you experience the water in a unique way. The Tule Princess is the only full sized Walking Beam Steam Engine powered Side Wheel Paddle Steamboat anywhere in the world. Get some fresh air and decompress while on an excursion before you head out for lunch at the cozy **Peasant Village Restaurant**.

Here, you'll savor an affordable, gourmet lunch. Walk through the front door of what looks like a house from the outside and you're welcomed by walls filled with murals and a quaint atmosphere. At **Peasant Village Restaurant**, you'll experience a variety of foods from both the old and new world that are filled with flavor and are presented in a way you won't see anywhere else. Take a minute to sit back and enjoy each other's company before your next stop, the **Aermotor Windmill Factory**.

When is the last time you've seen a real working windmill? Before the 1920s, there were over 700 companies that manufactured windmills, but now one of the few remaining is in San Angelo. The windmills made at the Aermotor Windmill Factory are entirely American made and the 30,000 square foot factory and its dedicated employees are really something special.

From the windmill factory, head north on South Chadbourne Street to the **Railway Museum of San Angelo**. Visitors may tour the historic passenger depot and browse railroad artifacts, model railroad layouts and displays, and historic photos and documents. Make sure to stop and look at the trains outside the museum including a famed Santa Fe caboose.

Next, go less than half a mile, and arrive at the **San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts**. The uniquely shaped museum is right off the Concho River near downtown San Angelo and has a rooftop sculpture terrace with breathtaking views of the Concho River.

While you're in the downtown area, make sure you see some of the **Historic Murals of San Angelo**. There are currently 14 murals that depict the history of San Angelo and if you want information on the mural, it's just a phone call away with the cell phone audio tour.

Also in downtown is **Eggemyer's General Store**. It's sure to catch your eye from a block away. They pride themselves on providing an extraordinary shopping experience that anyone can enjoy. The Eggemyer family takes great pride in their work, and you can see that throughout the entire store. You could spend hours browsing the shelves and acting like a kid again, but you've got to eat sometime, and your next stop is lunch at **Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum and Restaurant**.

If you're not starving, feel free to take the tour of the museum first. The historic building still has the original floors and ceiling that date back to 1896 but in 1902, a recently divorced Ms. Hatton decided to convert the space into a bordello. It was closed in 1952 and opened in the 1970s as a museum with some of the original furnishings, including the bed frames. After the tour, walk down the street to the restaurant and grab some fried zucchini or onion rings while you look over the menu to decide which delicious entrée to have.

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 museum, exhibit halls, offices, visitor center, and archives for much of the surviving artifacts related to Fort occupation. 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 or celebrations.

End your day at the **Inn at the Art Center** in north San Angelo. This bed and breakfast is quite unique, with rooms that used to be chicken coops and feed silos. Kick your feet up and relax so in the morning you can see the more artistic side of San Angelo at the **Chicken Farm Art Center**, just outside your front door.

Step outside and start your morning off by letting your imagination run wild at the **Chicken Farm Art Center**. In 1971, the abandoned chicken farm was established as a place where artists could live and create unique artwork. Today, the Center has grown to house two galleries and 15 studios. Stroll along and see all the different art mediums being perfected by the artists. You can see everything from pottery and paintings to vintage clothing. If you happen to be there on the first Saturday of the month, you can experience the spirit of art as the center invites other artists to display their works, while resident artist studios remain open. Additionally, local musicians play and the local blacksmiths set up shop in the forge.

Paint Rock

Your next stop is a short road trip away at 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.

Christoval

From Paint Rock, travel 50 miles to Christoval, which is 18 miles south of San Angelo and home to the **Brown Ranch Hummer House**. The Brown House is the summer home of Texas's largest concentration of breeding black-chinned hummingbirds. Located right off the Concho River, you can take in this rare oasis full of natural beauty and thousands of tiny hummingbirds. While you're in town, grab some traditional TexMex at **Hidalgos** before finishing out your day in Ballinger.

If you're traveling on the weekend, stop by the **Christoval Vineyards and Winery** while you're in town. With live music on most Saturdays, owners Drex and Nancy Vincent want the winery to be a place for people who love wine and the great outdoors to enjoy both, together.

Ballinger

From there, travel northeast on US-67 N to see the **Charles H. Noyes Statue** at the **Runnels Country Courthouse** in Ballinger. This beautifully sculpted statue depicts a life-sized Noyes, who died in a range accident and his horse and is dedicated to the "Spirit of the Texas Cowboy."

From there, stretch your legs and walk 5 minutes to the **Santa Fe Depot**. Ballinger owes its existence to the creation of the railroad terminal built in 1886 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The depot now houses the city hall, and the limestone structure is still as strong as ever after its latest renovation.

From there, walk a block to the **Carnegie Library of Ballinger**. This historic limestone building with welcoming columns was built in the early 1900s by a grant from Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American philanthropist who gave away most of his fortune before he died in 1919. Ballinger was one of 32 communities in Texas to receive a grant to build a library and still serves as a temple of learning, just as Carnegie wanted.

Bronte

After that, travel west on TX-158 to the city of Bronte and the Home of **Fort Chadbourne**. It seems like the middle of nowhere, 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 through that 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. The surely will be worn out as there is so much countryside to enjoy.

Now that you've seen one of Texas' biggest pictographs collections, set sail on a steamboat, and seen how artistic San Angelo really is, 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.

International Waterlily Collection
2 S Park St, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 657-4450
www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com

Tule Princess Steamboat Co.
7407 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, TX 76904
(325) 340-4400
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

Peasant Village Restaurant
23 S Park St, San Angelo, TX 76901
(325) 655-4811
www.peasantvillagerestaurant.com

Aermotor Windmill Factory
4277 Dan Hanks Ln, San Angelo, TX 76904
(325) 651-4951
www.aermotorwindmill.com/history/

Railway Museum of San Angelo
703 S. Chadbourne Street, San Angelo, Texas 76903
(325) 657-4880
www.railwaymuseumsanangelo.homestead.com

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

Historic Murals of San Angelo
118 S Chadbourne St, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 944-1443
www.historicmuralsofsanangelo.org

Eggemeyer's General Store 35 E Concho Ave, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 655-1166
www.eggemeyers.com

Miss Hattie's Museum
18 E Concho Ave, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 653-0112
www.misshatties.com
Admission: \$6/person
\$5-Seniors/Military
Free- Children

Miss Hattie's Restaurant and Cathouse Lounge
26 E Concho Ave, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 653-0570
www.misshattiesrestaurant.com

Fort Concho
630 S Oakes St, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 481-2646
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

The Inn at the Art Center
2503 Martin Luther King Dr, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 659-3836
www.innatheartcenter.com

Chicken Farm Art Center
2505 Martin Luther King Dr, San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 653-4936
www.chickenfarmartcenter.com

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

Brown Ranch Hummer House
21301 Toe Nail Trail, Christoval, Tx 76935
(325) 255-2254
www.hummerhouse.com

Christoval Vineyards and Winery
5000A Cralle Road, Christoval, TX 76935
(325) 315-8077
www.christovalvineyards.com/Home_Page.html

Charles H. Noyes Statue
613 Hutchings Avenue, Ballinger, Texas 76821

Santa Fe Depot
Railroad Ave and 7th Street, Ballinger, Texas 76821

Carnegie Library of Ballinger
204 North 8th Street, Ballinger, Texas 76821
(325) 365-3616

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