

Heart of Texas- Family Itinerary

Just off I-20 in the eastern part of the region sits a rural area known for its cowboys, antique cars, trains and most importantly Dr. Pepper. Explore the family friendly activities in Stephenville, Dublin, De Leon, Brownwood and San Saba - 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.

Dublin

Next, travel southwest on US-377 to Dublin, Texas. Your kids will be sure to thank you for letting them experience **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 cherry flavored soda is still a huge part of the history of the company. Dublin Bottling works offers an informative tour that boasts one of the world’s largest collections of soda memorabilia.

If you haven’t had your fill of sugar after your visit to **Dublin Bottling Works**, your next stop is also sugar filled at **Old Doc’s Soda Shop and Museum**. Their sodas, just like **Dublin Bottling Works** are made with pure cane sugar and you can surely taste the difference. The best part about Old Doc’s, is they allow taste testing – giving guests the opportunity to experience a wide variety of flavors. If you’re really feeling like a rebel, feel free to add ice cream to your soda of choice to make a float. This tasty treat won’t leave you disappointed. You can even grab some lunch if you’re not already full of soda on your way out of Dublin to DeLeon.

De Leon

Just west of Dublin, off TX-6 N is the small town of De Leon. 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 most exclusive cars in the collection is the 1901 Coffin Steam Carriage, which was the only one of its kind 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 HWY 16, then US-377 to Brownwood.

Brownwood

Your first stop in Brownwood is the **Lehnis Railroad Museum**, which encompasses the history of the railroad in Brownwood and the great American Southwest. The museum offers the sights and sounds of trains, allowing your family to enjoy exhibits, model trains, a children’s play area and mini train rides on Saturdays.

Grab dinner to cook on the grill and head to **Lake Brownwood State Park** to stay the night in one of

their cozy cabins. Their four person cabins include a fireplace, patio and picnic table for you to enjoy the great outdoors with your family while not exactly roughing it. Check the state park calendar to see if

there are any educational Ranger Programs available while you are there. Wake up refreshed the next morning and enjoy some of the other activities the park has to offer such as, fishing, hiking, and bird watching before you head to the **Pecan Bayou Paddling Trail**.

Located on Park Road 15, your family will have a blast kayaking the **Pecan Bayou Paddling Trail**. Start your water adventure by renting kayaks from **Pecan Valley Kayaks**, who will shuttle you back and forth from the paddling trail. Not only will you see beautiful scenery on your float, but you'll also see birds and wildlife on your trip down the river.

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.

The last stop on your trip 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Brownwood State Park
200 State Hwy Park Rd 15, Brownwood, TX 76801
(325) 784-5223
www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lake-brownwood

Pecan Valley Kayaks
(325) 647-6799

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

Brown County Historical Museum
Museum: 212 N. Broadway, Brownwood, Texas 76801
Education Center: 209 N. Broadway, Brownwood, Texas 76801
www.browncountyhistory.org/bcmoh.html